



# Ernestown Secondary School

## Principal's Message

Jan/Feb, 2024

Hello Eagle Families!

It has been an exciting few months at ESS! Be it the academic accomplishments, personal growth, or simple moments of resiliency and determination, this time of year always allows us to reflect on the achievements and progress we have made at the end of Semester 1. We also are fortunate to look ahead to what possibilities still await us in these final months of the school year - the development of new skills, finding new and innovative ways to serve our community and our individual contributions to the collective success of our school. This is the true essence of being an Eagle.



These pages will showcase the many ways that our school is bringing light to the world. Whether it is through our LLF Music Celebration or our Limestone Skills Competition Gold Medalists, our Eagles are making their mark on the world. We are so proud of them. And we have no intention of slowing down in the latter part of the year, with our spring sports seasons starting up and our school musical "The Wizard of OD-essa" rehearsals already underway! Amid all of these activities, at the heart of our school lies a sense of belonging and care for one another. As we navigate the challenges and triumphs of each day, let us always remember that we are part of a community that values compassion, empathy, and support for one another.

As always, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to all of you for trusting your children with us and for your support and dedication to our school community each and every day. We wish you all a restful and rejuvenating March Break filled with joy, laughter, and cherished moments and look forward to returning refreshed and ready to embrace the plethora of opportunities that await us in the spring.

Warm regards,

*Shannon*



# Upcoming Events

## FEBRUARY 28

- PINK SHIRT DAY

## MARCH 4-8: SPIRIT WEEK

- MONDAY: TYE DYE DAY
- TUESDAY: TWIN DAY
- WEDNESDAY: STAFF VS STUDENTS DODGEBALL
- THURSDAY: TEACHER/STUDENT SWAP DAY
- FRIDAY: ANYTHING BUT A BACKPACK DAY

## MARCH 11-MARCH 15

- SPRING BREAK

## MARCH 19

- GRADUATION PHOTOS

## MARCH 27

- PARENT/GUARDIAN-TEACHER NIGHT

## MARCH 29

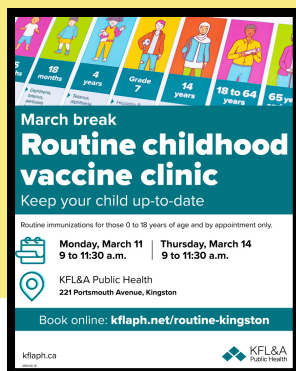
- GOOD FRIDAY

## MARCH 31 + APRIL 1

- EASTER SUNDAY + MONDAY

## APRIL 3

- SCHOOL COUNCIL 6:30PM



March Break  
Vaccination  
Clinic

# Gr. 8 Information Night Open House!

Ernestown Secondary School was thrilled to welcome prospective families to our Grade 8 Information Night Open House! Future Eagles were able to tour the school, meet staff and teachers, and learn about all the academic programming, school clubs, and athletics available at Ernestown!



Thank you, to School Council,  
for arranging a gift basket draw  
on this evening!



# Welcome

...to the Ernestown Family!

Thanks to the generosity of our many school partners, we were fortunate enough this semester to welcome some new families to Ernestown SS in a truly special way with an amazing welcome basket full of treats, artisan crafts, and gift certificates from local businesses in Loyalist Township and L&A County! When you join the Ernestown family, you become part of the larger community; thank you to the following businesses and organizations for proving just how true this really is:

*Foodland Amherstview, A Girl and her Puppy Pottery Studio, Jiffy Grill Restaurant, Papa's Pizza, Lakeside Studio Gallery, Anderwood Studio, Loyalist Township, The Giddy Goat Cafe, Odessa Home Hardware, Books on Main, Beachside BBQ, Changes Hair & Esthetics Salon, The Lodge Coffee House, MacKinnon Brothers, Lennox & Addington County, Maplescapes Farm Odessa, and Amherstview Family Dental 😊*



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

### ESS celebrates birthdays!

On their special day, each Ernestown student receives a birthday card, a cupcake, and a familiar song from their classmates! This is one of the many things that makes Ernestown the small school with a big heart!



## SOARing Eagles!

Congratulations to Madden, Gabe, Tee, Gabby, Logan & Reagan for demonstrating our SOAR motto of Self-Discipline, Optimism, Action, and Respect. Students who exemplify these traits are recognized for their dedication to SOARing as Ernestown Eagles!



# Equity and Diversity Matters at ESS

## Dates of Significance

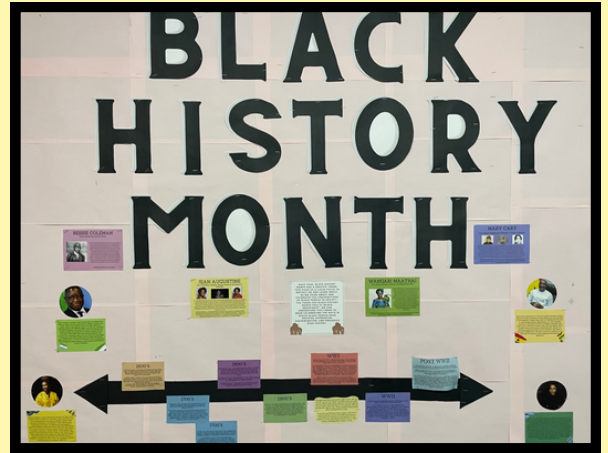
### JANUARY

- World Braille Day (Jan 4)
- 50th Anniversary of the Brunswick Four (Jan 5)
- Orthodox New Year (Jan 14)
- Martin Luther King Jr. Day (Jan 15)
- Birthday of Guru Singh (Jan 17)
- Lincoln Alexander Day (Jan 21)
- World Day for African and Afrodescendant Culture (Jan 24)
- International Holocaust Remembrance Day (Jan 27)
- National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack And Action Against Islamophobia (Jan 29)

### FEBRUARY



- *Black History Month*
- Eating Disorders Awareness Week (Feb 1-7)
- White Cane Week (Feb 4-10)
- Isra and Mi'raj (Feb 6-7)
- Lunar New Year (Feb 9-10)
- International Day of Women and Girls in Science (Feb 11)
- Non-Profit Appreciation Week (Feb 12-16)
- National Flag of Canada Day (Feb 15)
- Family Day (Feb 19)
- World Day of Social Justice (Feb 20)
- Pink Shirt Day (Feb 28)



Above is the Black History Month display created by Ayesha Bukhari and the MOSAIC Club. Items celebrating our diversity are included daily on the Morning Announcements and on the school's sign.

LDSB PRESENTS:

## RACIALIZED & INDIGENOUS YOUTH CAREER FAIR

FULL DAY TRIP AT THE KINGSTON TETT CENTER! MARCH 5TH, 2024

Hear from panel speakers, have one on one discussions, and a free lunch! Connect with career pathways in university, college, trades, business, and the arts.

**SPEAKERS INCLUDE:**

- Queens University Professors
- St. Lawrence College Professors,
- Members of the Queens University Arts Program
- Local businesses and CEO's,
- Experts in the trades
- And more!

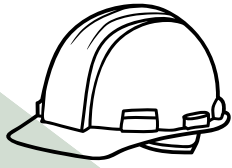
An illustration of a group of diverse young people standing together, smiling. They are wearing various styles of clothing, including a hat, a jacket, and a dress. The background is a simple, light-colored wall.

LDSB's first ever Racialized & Indigenous Youth Career Fair, organized by ESS Student Ayesha Bukhari, will be held on March 5th!





# LDSB Skills Competition



LDSB SKILLS COMPETITION PROMOTES THE SKILLED TRADES & TECHNOLOGIES AS A VIABLE, FIRST-CHOICE CAREER OPTION TO STUDENTS. THIS YEAR, THERE WERE 32 SECONDARY & 7 ELEMENTARY COMPETITIONS AT SLC, BSS, AND NDSS. ERNESTOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL WAS THRILLED TO BRING HOME GOLD IN THE 'TEAM OF FOUR HOMEBUILDERS' CATEGORY. **WAY TO GO EAGLES!** 🏆



## Congrats



GOLD MEDALISTS (L-R):  
NICK SPARKES, KEIRAN MILLER,  
CADE MCFARLANE, AND DAMIEN  
RICHARDSON



Another year, and another ESS Blood Team donation in the books! Thank you, to our first time donors, Dax and Sophie! 🩸





## Tom Pinkerton

### What is your favourite memory at Ernestown?

Coaching a Senior Boys Soccer team to KASSAA final.

### Are you currently working on any special projects?

Currently, we are working with Meta Quest VR Headsets in my classes. In computer programming, we learn to create our own game demos for the headsets. We also use them in the tech design course to do virtual 3D modelling which is really fun. Oh, and sometimes we use them to play games too!

### If you could have dinner with anyone famous - living or dead - who would it be, and why?

Shigeru Miyamoto, Japanese video game designer. He is a very creative and productive individual...and a bit of a wild man! Plus, I really like Japanese food!

### At a Glance...

**Role:** Computer tech teacher

**Time at ESS:** 18 years

**Favourite movie/book:**

TRON: Legacy

**Lucky number:** 17

**Hidden Talent:** Of my few talents, none are hidden.

# Meet our staff!

## Wendy Forbes



### What is your favourite memory at Ernestown?

I have loved being an Assistant Coach for Volleyball and making many OFSAA Volleyball appearances over the years. I've also enjoyed spending many hours helping students prepare for the Literacy Test and later learning that they were successful!

### Are you currently working on any special projects?

I am working on helping sell old yearbooks to ESS Alum! We have copies from many years back if people still need one!

### If you could have dinner with anyone famous - living or dead - who would it be, and why?

Barak Obama, because he is such an interesting, eloquent, and charismatic person.

### At a Glance...

**Role:** Educational Assistant

**Time at ESS:** As a student and EA, over 30 years!

**Favourite movie/book:** American Dirt

**Lucky number:** 19

**Hidden Talent:** I am even-tempered and consistent for students every day.



# Limestone Music Celebration



ON FEBRUARY 21ST, HIGH SCHOOL MUSIC STUDENTS FROM ACROSS LIMESTONE ASSEMBLED AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY FOR A DAY OF MUSIC MAKING, CULMINATING IN A CONCERT EXTRAVAGANZA FEATURING THE MASSES CHOIR, MASSES STRING ENSEMBLE, MASSES GUITAR ENSEMBLE, AND MASSES CONCERT BAND. THE FINALE WHICH BROUGHT TOGETHER ALL ENSEMBLES IN ONE PIECE WAS COMPOSED BY ESS MUSIC TEACHER, TIM STIFF. THE DAY ALSO SAW STUDENTS WORK WITH INDUSTRY PROFESSIONALS ON THEIR PARTICULAR INSTRUMENTS IN WORKSHOPS ACROSS THE CAMPUS. TWENTY STUDENTS FROM ESS PARTICIPATED! CONGRATULATIONS TO EACH OF THEM AND TO MR. STIFF!





# A view from the classroom



Ernestown Secondary School is excited to welcome a brand new program to the school. Our Hair and Aesthetics program is one of only two in Limestone!

This very exciting opportunity is allowing our students to experience the beauty industry and use their creative skills. Students have been learning about various careers, salon safety, hair textures, braiding, and so much more!



As the semester progresses, students will learn techniques for washing hair, blow outs, and Updos. They will also explore the aesthetics side of this course by diving into facials, make-up application, and nail care and design. Students will also welcome industry experts who will bring with them a wealth of knowledge and experience to share with students!



# E-TOWN SPORTS

WE HAVE JUST WRAPPED UP THE KASSAA WINTER SEASON, FINISHING WITH OUR JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL & SENIOR BOYS BASKETBALL TEAMS WINNING THE 'A' EOSSAA BERTHS. OUR WRESTLERS HAD A GREAT EOSSAA TOURNAMENT WHERE 4 WRESTLERS (MAX KARDASSIS, SAMSON DAVY, LONDON MIDDLETON AND ASHTON LAVOIE) QUALIFIED FOR THE OFSAA CHAMPIONSHIP IN HAMILTON AT THE BEGINNING OF MARCH!

## Congratulations All-Stars!

JUNIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL:  
KARLY GUIDON & HAYLEIGH KNETSCH  
SENIOR GIRLS VOLLEYBALL: PEYTON YOUNG

### Eagle in Profile



#### MAX KARDASSIS

Max has been a part of our soccer, volleyball and wrestling programs.

This year he has taken on a leadership role with the wrestling team, and has demonstrated an outstanding work ethic, a positive attitude and a competitive spirit.

Max will be heading to OFSAA in March to compete at the provincial championship!  
Congratulations & good Luck, Max!



### Stay in the loop...



<https://twitter.com/ESSRecLead>



<https://www.youtube.com/@ernestownathletics3201>

**STARTING  
SOON...**



# News from Student Services

## COURSE SELECTION

It's been a busy few months in Student Services. We held grade meetings in early Feb. to help students navigate course selection. Thank you to those who completed their course selection on MyBlueprint. Timetables for next year will be distributed in June.



## GRADE 8 VISITS



Ms. Stinson and Mrs. Matheson visited our feeder schools to talk with our incoming grade 9s. Students from Bath PS, Amherstview PS, Fairfield and Odessa PS received their registration packages and entered their course requests for next year. We are so excited to welcome our new Eagles next year. Keep a lookout for information to come about a Grade 8 day at ESS in the spring and also grade 9 Orientation at the end of August.

*Welcome*

## GRAD PHOTOS!

The last opportunity to have graduation photos taken is March 19th. The link to sign up for a session has been posted on the grad google classroom.

**2024**



**OUAC and OCAS applicants please check your Academic Records. Semester 1 final marks have been uploaded.**

## COMING UP!

- Timetabling
- Graduation planning
- Gr. 8 Transition Meetings
- Parent/Teacher Night
- College and University Acceptances



# ERNESTOWN EAGLES

*Think you know Ernestown?*

*Snap the QR code or click  
the picture below to see our  
newest School Profile!*



## ERNESTOWN SECONDARY SCHOOL



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[www.ernestownss.limestone.on.ca](http://www.ernestownss.limestone.on.ca)