

Hi everyone,

Here are a few updates relevant to the next few weeks here at Ernestown. Additionally, you'll find information about booking an appointment for Parent Teacher Conferences which are now open on School Day.

Kind regards,

Mr. Wilson & Ms. Hamilton

Washroom Update

In response to an increase in reports of vaping, socializing, and vandalism in school washrooms, EISS school administration recently undertook a series of steps aimed at promoting positive and responsible use of student bathrooms. The first of these steps was to solicit student voice by launching a listening campaign in which students gave feedback on areas for improvement in washrooms and provided insight into the reasons for concerning bathroom behaviours. Student responses were compiled and shared with students at the last secondary Grade Forums. Beyond sharing this student voice data, these Grade Forums were an opportunity to reiterate expectations for bathroom use, and to clarify consequences for students who are socializing or vaping in the washroom. These consequences will include detentions, and may include suspensions for students who are repeatedly in bathrooms for any reason other than to go to the washroom. School administration also shared news at Grade Forums of plans to create a future lounge area in the school, and to add activities/games to the cafeteria to provide a more appropriate place for students to congregate.

Student safety is paramount, and acceptable use of washrooms is necessary for this to occur. We appreciate your support in ensuring the safety of all students by finding time to connect with your student(s) to reiterate the sole and obvious purpose of using a washroom.

Parent Conference Bookings Open on School Day

Parent/Teacher Interviews: Wednesday, April 9th 2025 from 6:00pm to 8:00pm

Teachers will be ready to welcome our Eagle families on this night in the gym. Teachers' tables will be arranged alphabetically and additional staff will be available to assist with directions. Guidance counsellors, members of our student success team, and administrators will also be available this evening.

We are again using the [School-Day](#) program for interview sign-ups. **If you have not already signed up for your account, you will need to do so before you can sign up for Parent Night.** To obtain your child's school day Secure Match code, please call our main office and ask Karen, Nicole, or Kim for help with this.

Once you have a School-Day account:

1. Go to the "**Parent Conference**" menu item on the left side.
2. You will see the "**Spring 2025 Parent Teacher Conference**" Conference listed.
3. Click on the date (April 9).

4. Click on the times under each teacher that you wish to book. It will be helpful to have your student's timetable showing the course codes with you to make sure you are seeing the correct courses/teachers.
5. Once you are done, you can print a list of the appointments that you have made by clicking the button to the right called "**Parent Conferences**"

Interviews are limited to **5 minutes** long and spaces are limited. If you require more time or are unable to attend, please contact the teacher directly via email ([see our website](#)) to make alternative arrangements.

You may change your bookings any time prior to the closing date, by re-visiting the School-Day website. We are pleased to offer you this opportunity to discuss your child's progress at school, and we look forward to meeting you on this important evening.

You're Invited—Parent Council Event Presented by Frontenac & Module de L'Acadie

Families are invited to a screening of *The Screen Trap: Helping Teens Thrive in a Digital World*. A two-part workshop series designed to support parents and teens in navigating screen use, digital habits, and tech-related challenges. For more information, [see Clip](#).

- **Workshop 1:** April 15, 2024 A shared learning opportunity for parents and teens, featuring an interactive presentation.
- **Workshop 2:** May 1, 2024 A parent-only strategy session featuring expert guests from The Maltby Centre and KFL&A Public Health.

The first 50 registrants will receive a free copy of *The Family Smartphone Guide* by Margot Denomme—a practical, easy-to-read resource to help guide screen-time conversations at home. Workshop Registration Link: [The Screen Trap](#).

Grad Photos: Retakes Still Available

If you are a grade 8 or 12 student and missed the previous round of grad photos, don't worry we have retakes scheduled for Wednesday, April 23rd. Grads are encouraged to wear white collared shirts for photos. Images will be available for viewing in the coming days after the photos.

Have You Rode the Loyalist Link Yet?

Do you know there's a new way to get around Loyalist Township? Take a ride on the Loyalist Link, connecting Bath, Odessa, Amherstview to Kingston! See [link](#) for more information.

Dramafest Update!

Congratulations to the cast and crew of *Consolation over Cocktails* and *Smarty Pants* on their performances at NTS DramaFest in Gananoque last week! Students had a wonderful time attending workshops and performances. Special congratulations to the following award winners:

- District Adjudicator's Award: Austin Beckett and Kiwi Cutcliffe, Playwriting
- District Awards of Excellence: Johnny Greene, Directing; Keileigh O'Rourke, Acting, Sam Winter, Acting
- District Awards of Distinctive Merit: *Smarty Pants*, Ensemble Cast, Liv Jackson, Acting, Gabe Kalyn, Acting

Math Contest Update

ESS students have been busy participating in a variety of math contests offered by the University of Waterloo, including a record number of grade 9 participants. Offered throughout the school year, students across Canada (and the world!) compete in these prestigious contests. Congratulations to our top scorers in each grade: Lucas De Wolfe Geyer (9), Rachel Crausen (10), and Thomas Harvey (11). Stay tuned for more results as our grade 12 students participate in the Euclid contest in April. Next up, our junior students will travel to the math league tournament held annually in May at Regi, where they will compete as a team against schools from all across our region. Go Eagles!

Social Science—Field Trip Spotlight

The Social Science classes have been busy attending exciting field trips this semester! In February, a few senior classes attended the Let's Talk the Brain Neuroscience Symposium at Queen's University where students were able to experience a university style lecture and participate in interactive activities exploring brain anatomy and psychology.

Just last week, the Human Development and Parenting classes visited the Queen's University Clinical Simulation Lab where they performed prenatal and postnatal assessments and observed a simulated birth - an unforgettable experience!

This month, the Canadian Law class will visit the Kingston Superior Court to tour the courthouse and witness a trial.

We are proud to offer these enriching educational experiences and extend our gratitude to our community partners for making them possible!

Drama Field Trip—A Few Spots Left!

Drama and Music students are travelling to Stratford field trip on May 20-21, and there are still a few spots left. Students will be seeing *Macbeth* and *Annie* and participating in a stage combat workshop. The cost is \$204 and includes coach bus transportation, overnight accommodations and tickets to the two shows/workshop. Currently, the trip is only open to students taking Music and Drama, see Ms. Ellis for more info.

Calling All Families - Host an International Student!

Have you ever considered welcoming a student from another country in your home? The Limestone DSB and Ernestown SS have a proud tradition of hosting students from other countries, and we are looking to continue this growth next year!

Hosting an international student is a highly rewarding experience! Limestone schools host more than 120 international students each year from countries such as Brazil, Italy, China, Germany, Czech Republic, Thailand, Hong Kong, Japan, Korea, Mexico, Spain, Slovakia, Vietnam, Rwanda and others. Many life-long friendships have developed out of Limestone's international student homestay program. Some students come for one semester to improve their English and experience living in a new culture; others come for a longer period to prepare for entering a Canadian college or university. International students range in age from 12 to 17. We are currently looking for host families for all lengths of stay from four months to two years. Participating families are compensated with a tax-free monthly stipend of \$1,075/month (this amount will increase again in September 2026) at the beginning of each month. For more information please call (613) 544-7745 (ext. 290) or visit <https://internationalel.limestone.on.ca> for application forms.

Reminders from Student Services: Grad Requirements

All students are reminded to submit their community service hours to Student Services. Any graduates intending to return to school next year should go to Student Services to get a "Request to Return" form. As well, if you are planning not to complete an online course, please complete an e-learning waiver form replacing your e-learning grad requirement.

At a Glance—Events Coming up at Ernestown Intermediate & Secondary School

Wednesday, April 2: School Day Bookings Open for Parent/Guardian-Teacher Night; School Council Meeting at 6:30pm in the Commons

Tuesday, April 8: Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test

Wednesday, April 9: Parent Teacher Conference

Friday, April 18: Good Friday

Monday, April 21: Easter Monday

Friday, May 9: Midterm Report Cards go Home

June 26: Secondary Graduation (Save the Date!!)