

# F.E.S. Family Connections

February 27<sup>th</sup>- March 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Vision:** F.E.S students will be passionate life-long learners who contribute as responsible leaders in the global community.

<b>Monday, February 27<sup>th</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Staff Appreciation Week!</li><li>○ Grade 1 Open Gym</li><li>○ Great Rothesay Food Bank Challenge!</li></ul>	<b>Thursday, March 2<sup>nd</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Grade 4 Open Gym</li><li>○ Chess Club-Grade 1</li><li>○ Winter Carnival</li></ul>
<b>Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Grade 2 Open Gym</li><li>○ Lego Club- Grade 5</li><li>○ Art Richard school wide performance</li><li>○ Great Rothesay Food Bank Challenge!</li></ul>	<b>Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Grade 5 Open Gym</li></ul>
<b>Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Grade 3 Open Gym</li><li>○ Student Led Clubs-Grade 2</li><li>○ Tinker Tray Play-Grade 3-5</li><li>○ Last day of Great Rothesay Food Bank Challenge!</li></ul>	<b>Upcoming Dates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ March 2<sup>nd</sup>- Winter Carnival</li><li>○ March 3<sup>rd</sup>- Last day before March Break</li><li>○ March 6<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup>- March Break</li><li>○ March 13<sup>th</sup>- First day back 😊</li></ul>

## Information Items:

- **DRESS FOR THE WEATHER – WE TRY TO GO OUTSIDE EVERYDAY** and only remain inside if it is colder than -20 °C or raining heavily. **There is no bad weather only inappropriate clothing!** Outdoor play is valuable and fresh air is healthy. Our students have three opportunities daily to be outside (early morning when they arrive, recess and lunch) as well as times planned by teachers throughout the week. We believe in outdoor play and education and encourage students to enjoy their environment. We strongly recommend a warm jacket, snowpants, snow boots, toque, mittens/gloves, warm socks, and even neck warmers or Balaclavas. Keeping extra socks and mittens in the bookbag is encouraged. Children love the snow! They make snowpeople, slide in the accumulation of snow, roll around, and even cover themselves. There is nothing worse than being outside and realizing you're not dressed warm enough to handle the temperatures and enjoy the activities!
- As you know we have **three drop off zones** for families who drive their children to school in the morning.
  - ✓ Option #1- Drop off circle in front of our gymnasium. Cars remain single file with children exiting passenger side of vehicle to the sidewalk that leads in front of the school to the playground. Adults remain in the vehicle and circle around to exit through the same driveway that you used for entry.

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- ✓ Option #2- Pull into a parking spot in front of Dreamland, park, exit vehicle and help/watch children as they enter through the gate directly to the playground. Be careful when backing out on to the roadway.
- ✓ Option #3- Drive beyond the telephone pole at the end of the playground parking area, do a U-turn, and pull up parallel to the fence across from the grade 3-5 door (where games are painted on the pavement). Like Option #1, students exit the passenger side with adults remaining in the vehicle. Proceed back into traffic carefully.

**There have been safety concerns with families who use Option 3 but without following the safety protocols.** Several people doing drop off do a u turn directly in front of the fence instead of proceeding to the location beyond Dreamland where it is safe to turn around. Vehicles also pull in and park perpendicular to the fence exiting their vehicle to help children. This blocks the third drop off zone and creates an unsafe traffic flow with people backing out of the parking spots in front of Dreamland, people backing out from this area where they shouldn't be parked, and those attempting to access and leave Option #3 appropriately.

School zones often have a lot of traffic, stressed drivers (especially if families are running late), and distracted children. Unsafe driving practices such as speeding, distracted driving, parking in the no parking zones, or not following other safety protocols can be a recipe for disaster in terms of child safety. It's simply not worth taking safety risks. Remember to keep calm, have patience, and always put the safety of children at the top of your list.

- We are excited to share that we are planning a **Multicultural Night** for early May! F.E.S. families and staff will gather to celebrate our school community's rich diversity with interactive cultural booths created by students and families, student artwork, delicious food samples, entertainment, and more. We invite families to partner with classes to create cultural booths representing your family's culture or history. Families who have lived abroad are encouraged to participate too - you do not have to be originally from another country to be able to present and celebrate it. We apologize for not sending home additional information this week. Please expect it early next week.
- We are on the home stretch for the **Great Rothesay Food Bank Challenge!** The last day to bring in food for the KV Food Basket is Wednesday, March 1<sup>st</sup>. Thank you to all families who have already sent in nonperishable foods.