

**Dear Families,**

### **Improving Student Achievement**

**In Writing**, we are continuing with the Narrative writing form in Grades 1-5 as a vehicle to build the elements/traits of writing. Students in Grades 6-8 continue to work on expository writing. These writing forms will be worked on until mid-April. Learning Goals and Success Criteria are being developed with the students. There will be descriptive feedback and ongoing assessment for learning given throughout their work, as well as opportunities for students to apply this feedback. Self-assessment based on the Success Criteria is also encouraged.

**In Math**, students are learning Math games and various strategies they can use to do computations and which ones can be more efficient. Math continues to be an area of focus with all classes focusing on Number Talks in an effort to strengthen our students' number sense skills.

### **March Break**

This year March Break runs from March 11-15. Have a wonderful holiday!

### **School Council**

The next School Council meeting will be held on Thursday, April 4, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 109A at Grand Bend P.S. All Grand Bend P.S. parents/guardians are welcome and are encouraged to attend. The minutes from our previous meeting are attached. Thank you to those parents/guardians and School Council member volunteers who volunteer their time to make pizza and sub day lunches possible for our students. Thank you.

### **Grade 8 Graduation**

This year's Grade 8 graduation will take place on Wednesday, June 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Huron Shores United Church located at 25 Main Street, Grand Bend. Pictures will begin at 6:30 p.m. and a dance for our Grade 8 graduates will be held following the conclusion of the ceremony. More information will follow at a later date.

### **Grade 8 Graduation Photos**

Grade 8 graduation photos will take place on Wednesday, March 6, 2024 in the Room 107 beginning at 9:15 a.m. For best results, our photographer encourages and recommends that students wear a white collared shirt for pictures and that the male students also wear a tie. "A white collared shirt with a tie makes a classic look, but **wear whatever makes you feel great!**" The photographer will take 4 photos on 2 backgrounds. **Approximately 2 weeks after photo day, your proofs will arrive at the school. Please place your order online at [www.edgeimaging.ca/order](http://www.edgeimaging.ca/order).** **Reminder:** In addition to your photo day portrait session, you also have the option to purchase a 13 x 9 Class Composite in a customized folder. Go to [www.edgeimaging.ca/mycomp](http://www.edgeimaging.ca/mycomp) to purchase using the school code which will be provided to you with your proofs. **Note: Your composite MUST be purchased before the photo order due date which will be listed on your proofs.**

### **Grade 8 Valentine's Day Candy Gram Fundraiser**

The Grade 8 class made a profit of \$954.27 from their recent Valentine's Day Candy Gram fundraiser. The profits will be used to help offset the cost of Grade 8 end of the year activities and initiatives. Thank you for your support of this fundraiser.

### **School Cash Online**

School Cash Online is the accepted method of payment for purchases made through the school (e.g., hot lunches, fundraising, field trips, etc.). As such, you are asked to sign up as soon as possible if you have not already done so. If you have already signed up, then there is no further action required on your part at this time. Thank you. Should you not yet be signed up, please call the school and speak to Ms. Goodhand who can assist you through this process as you will require your child's unique Student ID #.

### **Bus Information**

Our school is located in ZONE 1. Please listen to your local radio station or check [www.schoolbusinfo.com](http://www.schoolbusinfo.com) for bus cancellations. Swan bus families are asked to check [www.ourschoolbuses.ca](http://www.ourschoolbuses.ca) on inclement weather days for bus cancellations. Thank you.

### **Character Education**

This month Grand Bend P.S. staff and students will be working on the character trait of "Honesty" which means "We are trustworthy, sincere, and truthful."

### **Kindergarten Registration**

Thank you to the families who took the time to register their child(ren) for FDK. Thank you as well to Ms. Goodhand and our FDK teams for all of their efforts around our first two Kindergarten registration days! Reminder to families that if you have not yet registered your child(ren) for FDK next year, please register online at [www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten](http://www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten). Note: Current JK and SK students do not need to re-register.

### **Daylight Savings Time**

Please remember to turn your clocks ahead 1 hour on Sunday, March 10 as per Daylight Savings Time.

### **April PD Day Rescheduled Due to Total Solar Eclipse**

After significant and thoughtful consultation with local emergency service partners and public health units, Lambton Kent District School Board and St. Clair Catholic District School Board have made the decision to change the Professional Activity Day scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2024, to Monday, April 8, 2024. The decision is due to the number of direct safety concerns associated with the total solar eclipse, which will affect the region between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024.

### **Interested in Becoming a Foster Parent?**

There is currently a dire need for foster parents across the province and Sarnia Lambton is no exception. They are especially looking for homes who will take in teenagers, however, they are looking for foster parents who will foster and potentially adopt children of all ages. Find out how you can make a difference in a child and their family's life by calling Sarnia Lambton Children's Aid Society at 519-336-0623 Ext. 504 or by email to [aarbour@slcas.on.ca](mailto:aarbour@slcas.on.ca). Call now to start the application process.

### **Fragrance Free Reminder**

In the interest of creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for Lambton Kent District School Board employees, students, volunteers, visitors and contractors, all Board locations should be fragrance/scent-aware. This applies even when in the absence of an identified allergy/health concern. As such, please consider the following: avoid or reduce the use of scented personal products; consider the substitution of scented products with unscented alternatives; if scented personal products are used, consider a guideline that scents are not detectable from more than an arm's length away. Your cooperation in creating and maintaining a safe and healthy place to work and learn is appreciated.

**Student Safety**

To help ensure the safety of everyone, we are asking students to carefully check both ways before crossing the street and to use the crosswalk, where applicable. As well, walkers should use the sidewalks for their safety. Students riding skateboards, scooters, bicycles, etc. should ensure that they are locked while at school to the bike racks. They should also ensure that they are wearing a helmet, and that they are following proper traffic and safety requirements. I have been encouraging students who are not walking, to ride on the side of the road, to respect the laws, and to respect drivers, neighbours, etc. Parents/guardians are asked to please reinforce these rules and expectations with your child(ren). Thank you for your assistance.

**Students in Grades 6-8 Leaving School at Lunch**

If your child(ren) is/are in Grades 6-8 and leave school to go out for lunch please speak to them about the importance of being good community citizens, respecting our neighbours and local businesses, etc. Please also remind and encourage them to cross safely when crossing the road and our busy area streets and highways. Leaving school at lunch is a privilege and the expectation when leaving school property at lunch time is that the students leave property, eat their lunch, properly dispose of their garbage and recyclables, and then return to the school on time for the next instructional block. Thank you to those students who are being safe and respectful when leaving school property, and returning to school on time each day.

**Forest Area Family of Schools Transition Committee Update**

A reminder that all Forest Area Family of Schools Transition Committee Meeting agendas, Records of Action and related announcements are posted to the LKDSB website at [www.lkdsb.net](http://www.lkdsb.net) under Board/Accommodation Review/Forest Area of Schools/Transition Committee. Ministry of Education approval documents and 2023/2024 scheduled committee dates are also posted on this site. Any parents/guardians or community members with questions regarding the Forest K-12 school can submit them via email to [arc@lkdsb.net](mailto:arc@lkdsb.net).

Future Forest Area Family of Schools Transition Committee Meeting dates are:

April 24, 2024 at Aberarder P.S. at 5:00 p.m.

June 12, 2024 at Bosanquet Central School at 5:00 p.m.

As always, please feel free to contact the school at any time.

Sincerely,

Mr. A. Parnham  
Principal

