



April 9, 2018

**Message from Director Costello re: Humboldt tragedy**

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are deeply saddened by the tragic news of the bus accident involving youth from Humboldt, Saskatchewan.

We recognize this incident resonates locally, as our students are not isolated from media reports and conversations on social media. Our thoughts go out to students, parents, staff and community members who are impacted by this event.

The Lambton Kent District School Board is supportive of any school decisions regarding public displays of empathy, such as wearing athletic jerseys to honour the victims. Decisions about such responses will be made at an individual school level.

In honour of the lives lost, we will be lowering all flags to half-staff across the LKDSB until the end of day on Friday.

It is natural that many students and parents will have questions about transportation safety in our school system. As you know, student and staff safety is a top priority for us. I am confident that our existing protocols mitigate risks and support the safety of students.

Should you have any concerns about a student's wellbeing related to their understanding of this event, we encourage you to contact your school to learn more about supports available to students or visit the LKDSB website to learn more about [mental health resources](#). Staff members are encouraged to access the [Employee and Family Assistance Program](#), [Tips for Supporting Children and Youth after a Crisis Event](#) and [Canadian Centre for Threat Assessment & Trauma Response](#) documents are helpful resources.

On behalf of LKDSB senior administration, I want to thank you for supporting a safe and caring learning environment for all of our students and staff members.

Sincerely,

Jim Costello  
Director of Education  
Lambton Kent District School Board