



Ridgetown District High School, 9 Harold Street North, Ridgetown, ON 519.674.5449

November 2020 Newsletter

Visit our website @ <https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8>

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/RDHS712>

Message from the Office

November brings about the time of year for Progress Reports and Parent- Teacher Interviews or Student Led Conferences. Progress Reports will be sent home with students on Friday, November 13th. This year parent teacher interviews will take place via a scheduled Google Meet, or phone call. These interviews will take place between Monday, November 16th and Friday, November 27th. Please watch for more information regarding interviews to come home with your child's Progress Report.

Remembrance Day

Traditionally RDHS staff and students have attended the Remembrance Day service at the cenotaph. This year due to COVID restrictions and safety precautions, gatherings for Remembrance Day have been cancelled in favour of small and virtual ceremonies. We will observe Remembrance Day within individual classrooms at RDHS.

Treaties Recognition Week

In 2016, Ontario passed legislation declaring the first week of November as Treaties Recognition Week. This annual event honours the importance of treaties and helps students and residents of Ontario learn more about treaty rights and relationships. By learning more about our collective treaty rights and obligations, we can create greater understanding and nurture these relationships.

Weather Change

The weather has begun to change as we approach winter. Students are reminded to bring appropriate clothing for outdoor recess including hats, mittens, and coats. We ask that once students begin to wear snow boots to school that they change into indoor shoes in order to keep our classrooms clean and free of possible slipping hazards due to melted snow, etc.

Library News

This month we kicked off Maker Mondays and virtual Coding Club! We made paper turkeys for Maker Monday and are working on a Halloween-themed project in Tynker as our coding project. Classes also had the opportunity to participate in a horror-themed virtual escape room as part of our Halloween celebrations. Maker Monday and Coding Club will continue into November and Virtual Book Club will be starting as well!

Each morning class are enjoying our TV Trivia, in which they are challenged to identify shows from present or past by a short clip of the theme song. Currently Mr. Terry's class is undefeated!

Staffing Changes

We would like to welcome Ms. Tiffin to RDHS! She is taking on the role of Elementary Supervision Support. Ms. Tiffin is a familiar face from NRPS for our Grade 7 students. We would also like to welcome Ms. Shepley as our new clerk in the office.

Important & Up Coming Dates:

November 2-6	Treaties Recognition Week
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 13	Progress Reports go home
November 16-27	Parent-Teacher Interviews
November 20	PA Day
December 21-January 1	Winter Break

Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals will most often employ progressive discipline strategies to help a student take responsibility for their actions, learn from their mistakes, and make better choices in the future.

In more extreme cases however, when a student's behaviour poses a potential threat to their own or others' well-being, the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA) supports principals in taking further steps to safeguard everyone.

The VTRA protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening incidents including but not limited to: possession of a weapon or replica weapon, bomb threat or plan, verbal or written (including electronic) threats to harm oneself or others, other threats of violence, and fire setting.

The initial response team is likely to include the Principal / Vice-Principal, police, and board staff. Should conditions warrant, a Community Threat Assessment Team will be convened. This community team includes representatives of community agencies who work with schools and boards to keep our students and staff safe, such as local police and children's mental health organizations. Parents and guardians will be notified if their child will be discussed through the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol.

If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment may still proceed.

Link to Fair Notice Communication Regarding Violent Threat Risk Assessment Protocol:

https://www.lkdsb.net/Pages/newsitem.aspx?ItemID=366&ListID=1cb83139-1d39-452b-8ab2-b6cfab6c2ba7&TemplateID=Announcement_Item

School Council

The school council meets at different times throughout the school year. Our meetings will be conducted virtually for the foreseeable future. These meetings are open to any parent, guardian or community member who is interested in attending. Our new School Council Chair is Cindy Warwick, and our Vice- Chair is Lynn VanMaanen. The secretarial duties will be shared by a number of school council members this year. Our future school council meetings are scheduled for Wednesday, December 2, Wednesday, February 2 and Wednesday, May 5 at 6:30pm via Google Meets. The join link for meetings will be available the week of the meeting via our school website, Facebook page and School Messenger email.

Staying Connected with RDHS

For the most up-to-date information, please consider following us on Facebook. Our Facebook page is intended to be an information page that gives reminders about upcoming events. This page is information only and does not take comments or messages. Should you ever need more information regarding an item posted on our Facebook page, please contact the office. In addition to this our school website can be found at [https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.lkdsb.net/school/RDHS/7-8/Pages/default.aspx#/=). You can find information about upcoming important dates, and our newsletters will appear on this page.

Staff Contacts

Staff	Position	Email
Bernadette Bruette	Principal	bernadette.bruette@lkdsb.net
Heather McFarland	Vice-Principal	heather.mcfarland@lkdsb.net
Rachel Martens	Elementary Clerk (Attendance)	rachel.martens@lkdsb.net
Greg Terry	Grade 7/8	gregory.terry@lkdsb.net
Nick Stenton	Grade 7/8	nicholas.stenton@lkdsb.net
Jeff MacDougald	Resource/Grade 7&8	jeff.macdougald@lkdsb.net
Kristin Jacobs	Lunaapeew Language	kristin.jacobs@lkdsb.net
Sarah Gauthier	French/Other	sarah.gauthier@lkdsb.net
Samantha Kerr	French/Other	samantha.kerr@lkdsb.net