

**April Newsletter 2021**

**Welcome Back**

We would like to welcome back Mrs. Stokes, who will be returning to her role as Principal at Dresden Area Central School starting on April 19. Mr. Beasley will be moving to the Virtual Elementary School and assuming a Vice Principal role within that school.

**Student Moves**

The final moves for student movement between face to face and virtual have been finalized and all families involved in these moves have been notified. This was the last chance to make a move for this school year. We have been fortunate at DACS this year to avoid any major disruptions to our classrooms and with this last round, we have been able to move students into existing classrooms without any more disruptions. This is welcome news at it means no students will need to be moved to new classrooms this year.

**Spring Break and Easter**

The Easter weekend this year falls on April 2-5. The school will be closed on April 2 and April 5. This year’s Spring Break will be from April 12-16. The school will be closed during this time.

**Jump Rope For Heart**

DACS will be participating in this great event again this year. With Covid-19 restrictions, there will be virtual components as well as online fundraising components. We are hoping to have our big day on May 7, 2021. There will be more information going out to all families as we get closer to this date.

**Kindergarten Registration**

There is still time to register your child for kindergarten for the 2021/2022 school year. If you have a child who turns 4 this year and you would like them to attend Dresden Area Central School, please call the office at 519-683-4457 and we can help you through this process.

**School Climate Survey**

The Lambton Kent District School Board is conducting a School Climate Survey May 3-21, 2021 to gather input from students in Grades 4-12, parents/guardians and staff. This will inform/assist program planning and support safe and inclusive school environments. Every Voice Counts and we are looking for input from all 4-12 students, staff and parents. Additional information will be sent home in April or visit – [www.lkdsb.net/survey](http://www.lkdsb.net/survey)

**New Gaga Ball Pit**

With the support of school council funds, DACS was able to purchase a second gaga ball pit for our yard. This will provide our students with more chances to play this very popular game during their recess time.

**Dresden Shines Community Event**

Spring has sprung and Earth Day is April 22, 2021!

This year`s theme is “Restore Our Earth”. More than 1 billion people in 192 countries participate in Earth Day Activities, making it the largest civic observation in the world! We can do our part!

Dresden Shines Community Participation- the Spring Edition: Operation Clean Sweep is being planned as our local Earth Day initiative. This operation will focus on engaging everyone in the community to clean up litter and trash in parks, public spaces, sidewalks, neighborhoods, around businesses and our rural roadways. We are looking for volunteers to lead, organize and promote the event.

This is a great family activity- parents and children can work together to clean up their neighbourhood block, street, or park- instilling a sense of civic pride in our youth. Just contact us to let us know what area of town you would like to help with!

You can get more information about Operation Clean Sweep at dresden.ca, our facebook page @Dresden Shines, or our facebook event page.

Want to help? You can email volunteers@dresden.ca!

**Virtual School Council Meeting**

Our next School Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4at 6:30PM. Currently, all School Council Meetings are being held virtually. If you are interested in joining our next meeting, please contact the office to get added to the list and receive the meeting link.

**Daily COVID-19 Screening Tool**

There are 2 major changes that have been made recently to the Provincial School Screening Tool which includes new provincial directives. Please ensure you are completing the self screener tool with your family every day before sending your child to school. This is a vital step in helping keep our school safe.

1. Students with any new or worsening symptom of Covid-19 (even if it is only one symptom as indicated in the screening tool) must stay home until one of the following:
	1. A negative Covid-19 test result is received.
	2. An alternate diagnosis by a healthcare professional is received.
	3. It has been 10 days since the symptom onset, and the student is feeling better.
2. All household members living in the same household (e.g. siblings) of symptomatic individuals must stay at home (not come to school) for 10 days or until one of the following:
	1. The symptomatic individual receives a negative Covid-19 test result;
	2. The symptomatic individual receives an alternate diagnosis by a healthcare professional or
	3. The symptomatic individual is cleared by the Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit.

The link for the online screening tool which can be found below must be accessed each and every morning before attending school.

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

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**Cut-off time message**