

**February Newsletter 2021**

# A Message from the Office

February marks the half-way point in our year. With this comes Kindergarten registration. Even though our event this year will be virtual, it is always exciting to be able to welcome our newest Eagles into the school and get to meet them and learn about them during our KinderSTARt days. If you know of any families who have children turning 4 this year, please tell them about KinderSTARt and let them know to register their child with us online.

**KinderSTARt**

It is still not too late to register your child into JK for next school year. On Thursday, February 4th from 4pm to 7pm and Friday, February 5th from 9am to 3pm, we will be accepting registrations for new students to Full Day Kindergarten. Typically, this would be for children turning 4 in 2021. Please contact the school if you have any questions at 519-683-4457 as you will need to have a pre-booked meeting as well as a Google Meet link in order to meet our staff.

**Inclement Weather and our Bus Zone 6**

Winter often brings snow and ice which result in poor visibility and icy conditions. Please listen to Radio CKSY or CFCO or 99.1 between 7 & 8 AM to see if buses are running in Zone 6. Some of our students live in Zone 5. If buses are not operating in Zone 6, they will not be picking up students in Zone 5 or 6. If Zone 5 is closed, buses will not go into that Zone to pick up students. There is also the Bus Info APP available through our board’s web page.

**Virtual School Council Meeting**

Our next School Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 23at 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.

**Change in the Weather**

With the changing weather, please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately with hats, boots, mittens, etc. Students play outside, most days, for 2-twenty minute recesses, so please dress for the weather.

**Masks for Gr. 1-3 Students**

When we return to school in a face-to-face setting, the Ministry of Education has made mask wearing for all students in Gr. 1-8 mandatory. This will be a change for our Gr. 1-3 students as before Christmas it was only suggested they wear one. Masks must cover from the bridge of the nose to the chin so that both the nose and mouth are covered. A face shield is not a suitable replacement for a mask. Face shields can also be worn along with a mask if a student chooses, but it does not replace a mask being worn. Please ensure your child has a mask every day before coming to school. Masks will now also be required when playing outside if students are not able to maintain 2 metre distance from their classmates. Please send extra masks with your child. We have several requests daily for a mask and we only have a very limited supply.

**Automated safe arrival calls**

Effective January 11, Lambton Kent District School Board will be implementing an automated ***attendance*** messaging system for Dresden Area Central School. The system will notify parents/guardians if your child has been marked absent *and the school office has not been notified of the reason for the absence.*

The system will contact the first 2 contacts on file, ie parent/guardian phone numbers and email addresses.

You can help by ensuring that the school has been called to inform of us the reason for your child’s absence, also, if your child is NOT a bus student, on snow or fog days, call the school to let us know they will be at home, etc.

Your most updated contact information should be on file so please call us to update as needed.

Please note: School voicemail messages are checked regularly.

**Daily COVID-19 Screening Tool**

Thank you to our parents/guardians for assessing your child(ren) daily and reporting whether they are experiencing any signs of illness. Please refer to the Ontario screening tool <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/schoolscreening/> . The screening tool will advise you whether you should send your child(ren) to school or not and will also advise you of next steps. All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not attend school and should seek appropriate medical attention as required.

**Visitors to the School**

You must have a pre-arranged appointment to enter the school. Currently, due to COVID-19 restrictions, there are no visitors permitted in the school. When you arrive to pick up or drop off your child(ren), or for any other reason, buzz the office at the main door and we will assist you when you arrive.

**Report Cards**

Our first term report cards will be sent home on Thursday, February 19th. These report cards will cover areas of achievement, growth and areas to focus on for the remainder of the year.

**February is Black History/African Heritage Month**

The Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) acknowledges the ongoing impacts of anti-Black racism in our communities, which cause harm, trauma, violence and the loss of Black lives. We know that the intersections of racism and other social and institutional inequalities result in the ongoing oppression and marginalization of the Black community. As an education system, we are committed to change and focusing on championing anti-oppressive education.

As we approach Black History/African Heritage Month in February, the Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) is committed to recognizing the historically erased role of Black Canadians in our history and society. This year, the focus for Black History/African Heritage Month will be Black Lives Matter.

Stating that Black Lives Matter does not imply that other lives do not matter; it is intended to focus on and centre the lives of Black people who have historically and systemically been marginalized and excluded in Canadian society and globally. This has direct impacts on economic, social, education and health outcomes for Black people. By focusing on Black Lives Matter, it reiterates the importance of the human rights of all individuals and acknowledges that those rights have not always been extended to all Canadians, specifically Black people.

Throughout the month of February, the Black Lives Matter banner will be posted on the Board and school websites, social media accounts and shared classroom resources such as Google Classroom and SeeSaw.

Visit the LKDSB website (www.lkdsb.net) for more information about how LKDSB is recognizing Black History/African Heritage Month in February and throughout the school year.

**Important Dates**

Feb 4-5: KinderSTARt registration

Feb 5: PA Day

Feb 15: Family Day (No school)

Feb 19: Report cards go home