



April 2023 Newsletter

School Motto: Work Hard. Be Respectful. That's our Lion Pride.

From the Office

The season of Spring may have already arrived but the weather we have been experiencing lately has not been very spring like. We are certainly looking forward to the warm and sunny weather ahead! Please be sure to check the weather forecast and dress appropriately for the changing weather conditions.

Staffing Update: We are always grateful to the staff that work so closely with our students and community and would like to wish Mrs. Goman all the best as she moves into a new role on Monday April 3rd as an Instructional Coach with the LKDSB. Congratulations Mrs. Goman! The news is bittersweet as we will miss having her at ELES but are happy for her as this is an incredible opportunity. As a result, we will be welcoming Miss Hollingsworth to our school next week. Miss Hollingsworth is very familiar with our school, and we are looking forward to learning alongside her.

As we wish Mrs. Goman best wishes in her new role, please join me in welcoming Miss Hollingsworth to our school community.

Attendance Reminder: Success in school is affected not only by participation in daily instructional and assessment activities, but also by the provision of opportunities for youth to develop and maintain appropriate peer relationships that form when youth have regular contact with each other. We do recognize that some absences are unavoidable, and that student illness is responsible for limited school absences from time to time; however, an inconsistent pattern of attendance puts the student's ability to have a successful school experience at risk.

The office routinely has conversations with parents/guardians about the importance of regular school attendance and sometimes attendance letters of concern are shared with families.

If your child is absent from school, we would appreciate a phone call with the child's name, their homeroom teacher and the reason for their absence. If this information is not received by the school (phone call or School Messenger app), a Safe Schools call will be made to determine the reason for the absence and that the parent is aware of the student's absence. According to Board attendance regulations, if there is no call and the office cannot reach a parent about a reason for absence, the child's absence is recorded as truant.

Upcoming Events:

AUTISM AWARENESS: Wear Blue on Monday, April 3. April is World Autism Month: an annual opportunity for a dedicated conversation and celebration of Autism.

Monday, April 3: School Council Meeting at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons. These meetings are open to any parent or guardian who is interested in attending.

Popcorn Days: Wednesday, April 5, 12, 19, 26

Pizza Days: Thursday, April 6, 13, 20, 27

Wednesday, April 5: Grade 8 Parent Graduation Meeting @ 5:30 pm. Grade 8 parents interested in being part of the Graduation committee are invited to join us in the Learning Commons prior to our School Council Meeting.

Friday, April 7: Good Friday (no classes)

Monday, April 10: Easter Monday (no classes)

Wednesday, April 12: New to FDK open house from 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm at ELES

Wednesday April 19 – Friday April 21: Grade 8 Muskoka Woods Field Trip

Friday April 28: PD Day (no classes)



Count Me In LKDSB Student Demographic Data Census

The Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) has released the results from the *Count Me In LKDSB* Demographic Data Student Census for elementary and secondary students, which was conducted March 1-April 8, 2022.

The LKDSB conducted the *Count Me In LKDSB* Student Census to collect information to better understand its students and school communities in support of equity, inclusion, student achievement and well-being. This initiative is part of the LKDSB's commitment within its Strategic Priority of "Inclusive Diversity: Championing anti-oppressive education."

Of the total LKDSB enrolment in the 2021-2022 school year (14,591), parents/guardians participated on behalf of 784 elementary students (5.3% of total eligible elementary students) in the student census. There were 2,394 secondary students (34.3%) who participated in the student census of the total enrollment of 6,981 students.

The LKDSB recognizes there were challenges for the administration of the survey and not all eligible students or parents/guardians may have been able to complete the census.

Read the elementary and secondary reports on the [LKDSB website](http://www.lkdsb.net). To ensure the confidentiality of respondents, only aggregated data is available.

This voluntary and confidential survey gathered demographic information about students, such as languages, Indigenous identity, ethnic/cultural background, racial identity, citizenship status, religious/spiritual affiliation, gender identity, sexual orientation, and (dis) abilities.

The census is directed and supported by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the LKDSB is authorized to collect personal information from students by the Anti-Racism Act (ARA s.6(2)), Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA s.28(2)), and the Education Act (265(1)(d), 169.1(1)).

“We are pleased with the results of the inaugural *Count Me In LKDSB Student Census*. The results from the Student Census provide us a better understanding of the diversity of our student population and this will help us develop programming and make informed decisions on how to best support students moving forward,” said Director John Howitt. “This is just the start of this work and we look forward to our continued engagement with students, staff and parents/guardians to ensure the best outcomes for all students.”

In alignment with the LKDSB’s Strategic Priority of “Inclusive Diversity: Championing anti-oppressive education,” the LKDSB’s [Operational Plan](#) outlines strategies to remove barriers to education. The *Count Me In LKDSB Student Census* is another data resource to help educators and education workers to ensure they are meeting individual needs and promote schools that are welcoming, inclusive and safe learning spaces for all students.

The LKDSB plans to conduct a follow-up student census in fall of 2024.

Reminders/Information for Parents:

Kindergarten Registration: If you know of any families that may have missed our Kindergarten registration, please have them contact the school.

Yard Supervision: For the safety of all, students must not arrive before 8:50 a.m. when yard supervision begins.

Playground Equipment: The Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange advises the closure of school playgrounds throughout the winter months. All playground equipment remains closed until it has been inspected and the base surfacing below the equipment has been properly prepared from winter settling. If your children are visiting the school property during the evenings, on weekends or during holidays, kindly remind them to stay off the equipment until we receive notification that it is safe to use.

End of Day Dismissal Routines: Thank you for always keeping the classroom teacher informed of changes to end of day dismissals. Please also be sure to keep the office informed of these changes as sometimes homeroom teachers are away, and messages do not get communicated to the office.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices: All electronic devices, such as cell phones, media players, digital game devices, computers and cameras are not to be used while the student is on school property before, during, or after school without the permission of school personnel and only for educational purposes. If a student carries a cell phone, he/she is responsible for the cell phone at all times. At no time will students use electronic devices for digital, audio or video recording without permission from the teacher. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen property.

Inclement Weather: East Lambton School is in Zone 1. Please listen to local radio stations, visit www.schoolbusinfo.com, or download the My SBI Mobile App to receive updates on bus delays or cancellations due to inclement weather or other. Busses in the morning that have been cancelled in the morning due to inclement weather **will not** return students to school in the afternoon. If parents drive students to school in the morning, they are responsible to pick their children up and take them home in the afternoon. Busses that have been cancelled in the morning due to fog **will** operate in the afternoon and to return students to their homes. ***Please remember to call the school if your child will be absent due to bus cancellations.***