



## May Newsletter

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

**Principal's Message:** Wow! It is hard to believe we only have two months left in the school year. Despite the many challenges this year has brought with it, our staff and students continue to work hard and maintain a constant state of resiliency each day. I am pleased to announce that our new Gaga Ball Pit has been installed. Prior to the break, our students were having lots of fun learning the game and putting it to good use. Our character trait this month is **Cooperation**. Cooperation involves working together for a common purpose. Students will be learning about this character trait in the month of May. At the end of the month, teachers will recognize Star Students within their classroom and celebrate them with the whole school virtually.

### **Mental Well-Being Tip of the Month:**

#### Have Fun!

"Doing things we enjoy is good for our health. It helps us feel refreshed and helps us feel good about ourselves. Then it is easier to cope with stress and other problems. When we feel sad or worried, we often stop doing the little things that make us happy. This makes us feel worse. Make a list of the things you do each day that make you happy. Then give yourself time for these activities. Use your problem-solving skills to find ways to add more of these activities in your life. Here is an example. You may put "reading funny books" on your list, but you think that you do not have time to read. After doing some problem solving, you might start bringing your book to work or school to read during your lunch break."

From: <http://www.heretohelp.bc.ca/factsheet/tips-for-good-mental-health>

We know that these are very difficult times for everyone and nothing is as we wish it to be. Try sitting down as a family and making a list of fun activities (tell a joke, play a board game, go for a family bike ride, eat ice cream sundaes...) and choose one to do each day.

### **Upcoming Events:**

**Jump Rope for Heart:** We encourage all students to sign up for Jump Rope for Heart at [jumpropeforheart.ca](http://jumpropeforheart.ca). In addition to fundraising, students earn points for eating healthy, getting active, decreasing screen time and drinking water! Prizes are awarded online in the form of gift cards to Walmart, Indigo, ToysRUs and Amazon. On Friday, May 21<sup>st</sup>, teachers will schedule some time for students to get out and get active in support of The Heart and Stroke Foundation's Jump Rope for Heart event.

[KickOff Assembly Video](#)

[Jump Day Video May 21](#)

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

## Reminders/Information for Parents:

**School Climate Survey:** The School Climate Survey that was originally set to go live on May 3<sup>rd</sup> has been put on hold until staff and students are back in the building face to face. I will keep you up to date once I have additional information.

**Reaching out:** We understand that these are stressful times for everyone. If the stress and the workload of remote learning is too much, please reach out to myself or your child's teacher. We are here to help develop a plan that will work for both home and school.

**Class Organization 2021-2022:** At this time of year a significant amount of time and energy is exerted in order to organize classes for the next year. Several important factors to maximize each student's school success will be considered:

Balance: Each class needs to be balanced in terms of strengths, needs and gender. No classes are "streamed" with only strong or weak students in any of the grades. Research has demonstrated that heterogeneous grouping, where students from a range of levels work together, provides the best learning opportunities for all involved.

Learning and Teaching Styles: Children learn in a variety of ways compatible with the way they make sense of their work. Teachers teach students using a multitude of teaching approaches and classroom management styles. It is our belief that a variety of teachers is beneficial to students as they proceed through their elementary years.

Peer Relationships and Group Dynamics: While feeling included in peer relationships is important, sometimes being with friends is not a productive experience that enhances learning. Who gets along with whom? Who should be separated? What kinds of individuals could best come together as a group and develop? Who needs a situation to extend himself/herself and grow in social relationships? We attempt to answer these questions as we construct each classroom.

Straight vs Combined Grades: As usual, combined or split grades will be the norm of the East Lambton organization for next year. Sometimes parents feel that straight grades are better than split grades. However, in actual fact all classes are in effect "blended" because the teacher will be addressing the needs of the students in each class at varying instructional levels.

With the involvement of classroom teachers, resource teachers and administration, careful consideration of each child's placement will occur. If you feel there are circumstances that we need to be aware of when considering class placement, please contact your child's teacher or the office. If you are moving over the summer, we would appreciate knowing this information.

**Safe Arrival Reporting Using SchoolMessenger:** At the Lambton Kent District School Board, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring students have arrived safely at school every day. **A reminder that, effective March 1, 2021 all LKDSB Elementary schools are using SchoolMessenger Parent/Guardian Reporting Tool for you to notify the school about your child's absence or late arrival.** If you have not already done so, please sign up now using the e-mail that matches the school's records.

**Option 1:** Set up an online SchoolMessenger account and login to schedule and report absences. To create your account or login in [click here](#)

**Option 2:** Download the free SchoolMessenger app (blue) to your smart phone or tablet to schedule and report absences. Click here to [Download the app for Apple devices](#). Click here to [Download the app for Android devices](#).

**Option 3:** Call the LKDSB toll-free Attendance Reporting number 1 (844) 487-3695 and follow the prompts to report your child's absence. **For your security it is recommended that you set a PIN.**