



October 2020 Newsletter

Principal's Message: As the second month begins, staff and students are settling in nicely with routines and learning. Students have adjusted to our new Covid safety measures amazingly well. Things have gone quite smoothly over the month of September as we have all gotten used to new classrooms, teachers and support staff. A huge thank you to parents for following the new procedures, keeping children home when displaying Covid symptoms and following the set pathways of entry back into the building. These are difficult times that we are operating under and I know that it is not easy. Your cooperation to help keep our learning community as safe as possible is greatly appreciated.

Character Education: This month the character trait of focus is resiliency. Resiliency is the ability to recover quickly from difficulties, adversity or hardship. There is no time like the present to develop resiliency! Students will be learning about this trait and strategies to strengthen this trait in the month of October. At the end of the month, teachers will recognize Star Students within their classroom and celebrate them with the whole school virtually.

Upcoming Events:

Fire Safety Week: The week of October 5th is Fire Safety Week. Our local fire chief will be here on October 7th to observe our third fire drill of the fall. Classes will view a fire safety video in their individual classrooms as part of fire safety prevention.

Halloween: Halloween is fast approaching. We ask that the students wear orange and black on Friday, October 30th to celebrate the day. Our primary classes are also welcome to wear a costume to school. If choosing this option, please send children to school already in costume with a bag to store the costume in after 1st block. Please keep the costumes simple in order to ensure minimal loss or damage. Remember: no weapons allowed! It would also be helpful to have all pieces of the costumes labeled with your child's name. Children will not be able to do a costume parade with other classes as in the past, but can enjoy classroom activities and celebrate within their own room.

Reminders/Information for Parents:

Generous Donations: Tim Hortons in Watford again chose our Snack Program as the recipient of their Smile Cookie Campaign. THANK YOU to our school community for buying Smile Cookies that week. We are always appreciative of these extra dollars to help fund our daily snack program and eagerly await a final total. The Watford Rotary Club has made another very generous donation of \$2000.00 to support Literacy in our school. We are very fortunate to live in such a giving community.

Safety Measures During COVID: Many safety measures have been put into place this year to help keep staff and students safe while attending school Face to Face. Below is a list of some of these safety protocols.

- Staggered recess and designated areas for recess cohorts to play
- Physical distancing as much as possible while at school
- Regular hand washing/hand sanitizing on all transitions and throughout classroom activities
- Maximum capacity limits in washrooms
- Mandatory masks Gr. 4-8
- Staff wear PPE (masks, shields)
- Contact tracing
- Fountains are bagged and closed
- Direction arrows and physical distancing stickers
- Designated entrance and exit doors to avoid mixing of cohorts
- Assigned seating on buses
- Only essential visitors entering the building
- Staff and student completion of the provincial covid self-assessment tool and staying home when showing COVID symptoms
- HVAC systems in all rooms that do not have air conditioning

Provincial Self-Assessment Tool and Pathways Back to School: A reminder that the provincial self-assessment tool should be completed with students each day before entering school. The assessment tool can be accessed at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>. If students are displaying symptoms on the screening tool and are directed not to attend school, please contact the school to let us know this result. There are three pathways back to school. These are: a doctor's clearance to return, a negative covid test or 14 days at home. Please communicate the pathway back to school to the office by either telephone or email (Suzanne.Thorne@lkdsb.net or Carla.Wilson@lkdsb.net).

Emergency Drills: Drills and Student Safety: Our school is required by law to hold a number of drills and practices to ensure that students are safe in emergency situations. As a result of this, we hold Fire Drills, Severe Weather Drills, and Emergency Procedure Drills such as a Lockdown. These drills are put in place to help students prepare for emergency circumstances that they may find while here at the school. Our classrooms also may have evacuation plans in place depending on the classroom circumstances. These plans are also practiced occasionally, preparing students in advance for circumstances which could happen in their classrooms. Students are always debriefed after such drills, questions are answered and students are encouraged to express issues should they exist. These drills will still be practiced this year, while adjusting things slightly given physical distancing requirements. If you have questions or comments about our safety practices here at school, please call the school and speak with Mrs. Wilson.