



East Lambton Elementary School

East Lambton is Bus Zone 1
Principal: Kari Aubertin
Secretary: Suzanne Thorne
Phone: 519-876-2610

October 2021 Newsletter

Principal's Message: As the second month gets underway, staff and students are settling in nicely with routines and learning. Thank you to everyone for your understanding and patience during our recent class organization. It is not an easy process, but everyone handled the changes very well and showed a great deal of resiliency.

I also appreciate the continued support from parents and guardians, with regards to speaking with your child(ren) about the importance of wearing masks properly, frequent hand hygiene, and the need to maintain social distancing while at school. The provincial government has updated the COVID-19 school screening daily assessment tool, which is available here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

The updates include adjustments to the type and number of symptoms needed for a child to stay home and seek medical advice. The new tool also includes revised instructions about when returning to school is appropriate. All students (or parents/guardians on behalf of students), staff and visitors must complete the screening before attending a Lambton Kent District School Board school or facility.

Together, we will continue to support safe and healthy schools.

Character Education: The character trait we will be focusing on for the month of October is Resiliency coupled with the learning skill of Self-Regulation. Resiliency is the ability to recover quickly from difficulties, adversity, or hardship. Students will be learning about this trait and strategies to strengthen this trait.

Self-regulation is a process that assists students in **managing their thoughts, behaviours, and emotions** to successfully navigate their learning experiences. It also refers to a child's ability to **deal with stressors** effectively and efficiently and then return to a baseline of being calmly focused and alert. (Shanker, 2012)

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.

We are also very appreciative to Jill Joris from Cater to Computers for the very generous donation of computer keyboards and mice to our school.

THANK YOU to the Staples for Education in Partnership with Kiwanis (Petrolia and Area) for their recent donation of school supplies to our school. Another big thank you to the families who have donated extra school supplies and backpacks.

We are very fortunate to live in such a giving community!

Upcoming Dates:

October 4-8 – Fire Safety Week
October 6 – Picture Day
October 7 – Terry Fox Run
October 8 – PA Day (no classes for students)
October 11 – Thanksgiving Day (school closed)
October 15 – IEP's to go home
October 19 – Conference Cross Country Meet

The school calendar of events can be accessed through our website. Please visit our website often, as updates will be added to the site on a regular basis. A copy of the newsletter will also be posted on the website. To access the website, please visit

<https://www.lkdsb.net/school/eastlambton/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

Upcoming Events:

Fire Prevention Week: The week of October 4th is Fire Prevention Week. Our local fire department will be onsite this week to assist with a fire drill. Please take some time to create a fire safety plan for your family and practice it routinely.

Terry Fox Run: Students will be participating in our annual Terry Fox Run on Thursday, October 7. East Lambton Elementary School Fundraising Link: <http://www.terryfox.ca/EastLambtonESWatford>

School Climate Survey: We want students and parents/guardians to share your thoughts about our school climate and whether you consider our school to be a safe and welcoming environment.

The Lambton Kent District School Board is conducting a School Climate Survey October 12-29, 2021, to gather input from students in Grades 4-12, parents/guardians and staff to inform program planning and support safe, welcoming and inclusive school environments.

All students in Grades 4-12 will be invited to participate in the online survey during school hours. **Any parent/guardian who does not wish for their child to participate should contact the school principal prior to October 7, 2021.**

Parents/guardians: You are also invited to share your thoughts on the Parent/Guardian School Climate Survey from October 4-22, 2021. The link will be distributed to parents/guardians with an email on file. The link will also be posted on our school website.

Surveys will be anonymous and individualized results will be kept confidential; however, aggregated school and Board responses will be shared publicly (except in cases where individuals may be identified).

It is expected the survey results will be publicly available in Fall 2021. More information about the School Climate Survey is available here: www.lkdsb.net/survey

Reminders/Information for Parents:

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.

Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals will most often employ progressive discipline strategies to help a student take responsibility for their actions, learn from their mistakes, and make better choices in the future.

In more extreme cases however, when a student's behaviour poses a potential threat to their own or others' well-being, the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA) supports principals in taking further steps to safeguard everyone.

The VTRA protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening incidents including but not limited to possession of a weapon or replica weapon, bomb threat or plan, verbal or written (including electronic) threats to harm oneself or others, other threats of violence, and fire setting.

The initial response team is likely to include the Principal / Vice-Principal, police, and board staff. Should conditions warrant, a Community Threat Assessment Team will be convened. This community team includes representatives of community agencies who work with schools and boards to keep our students and staff safe, such as local police and children's mental health organizations. Parents and guardians will be notified if their child will be discussed through the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol.

If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment may still proceed.

Link to Fair Notice Communication Regarding Violent Threat Risk Assessment Protocol:

[https://www.lkdsb.net/Pages/newsitem.aspx?ItemID=460&ListID=1cb83139-1d39-452b-8ab2-b6cfab6c2ba7&TemplateID=Announcement_Item#/="](https://www.lkdsb.net/Pages/newsitem.aspx?ItemID=460&ListID=1cb83139-1d39-452b-8ab2-b6cfab6c2ba7&TemplateID=Announcement_Item#/=)

Parents/Visitors to the School: During COVID restrictions, parents and visitors to the school are asked to continue to pre-arrange appointments/visits to the school. It is very important to us that open lines of communication continue. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher or the office through SeeSaw, Google Classroom, telephone, or email.

COVID Screening:

Prior to attending school, all students, staff and visitors must complete and follow the directions of the daily COVID-19 School Screening assessment tool. <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not attend school and should follow the directions of the COVID-19 School Screening assessment tool. Staff members will continue to follow COVID-19 health and safety protocols so that appropriate action can be taken if students develop symptoms during the day. Students who arrive at school with symptoms or develop symptoms during the day will be sent home. Students should follow the directions of the daily COVID-19 School Screening assessment tool. Public Health authorities will advise on individual return to school conditions and timelines for students.

Allergies: Please be aware that we are a “Nut Free” school and as a result, we ask that parents not send foods containing nuts (including peanuts and tree nuts), to school to protect the safety of all members of our school community. This includes any peanut substitution products, as once the product leaves your home, it is impossible to tell the difference. We recognize that this is an inconvenience for some families but thank you in advance for respecting the health needs of others. For great suggestions on nut free lunches, visit www.eatrightontario.ca.

Inclement Weather: East Lambton School is in Zone 1. Please listen to local radio stations, visit <https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation>, 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 or report through School Messenger if your child will be absent due to bus cancellations.***

Medication: Medication, both prescription & non-prescription, should not be administered to students by school staff. Specific criteria must be met for staff to administer prescription medication when it cannot be administered from home. An “**Authorization for the Administration of Oral Medication**” form (available from the office), must be completed by the parent/guardian and physician, then forwarded to the Principal for each school year. This includes the administration of occasional use medications as well. Should your child have a medical need (such as a severe allergy) that requires special emergency attention please inform the school and an “**Individual Medical Emergency Plan**” will be put in place. The forms for this purpose are available in the office.

School Cash Online: Please remember to sign up for school cash online; info available on our East Lambton website and the LKDSB website. Pay school fees online as a convenient option. <https://lkdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

School Messenger: Many of our families use School Messenger to report absences. If you have not signed up for School Messenger yet, information can be found on the school board website <https://www.lkdsb.net/SchoolMessengerDocs>

Water Bottles: Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle to school each day and bring it home to be washed at the end of each day. Water fountains are closed this year, but our water bottle filling stations remain open.