



The Wolfpack

November 26, 2021

Principal's Message

As many of you are aware, Principal Stewart has been absent from school. The Lambton Kent District School Board has asked me to temporarily take on the principal role in his absence. My name is Phil Warner and to give some background, I have experience as principal at NLSS in Forest and LCCVI in Petrolia, along with roles in the Board Office. I have been at GLSS for the month of November and will stay until Principal Stewart is able to return. We wish him the best and I hope to *hand things off* to him soon.

By the way, the staff and students have been outstanding in welcoming me to the Wolfpack! Thank you everyone!

Cell Phones

We are all quite pleased to be back to in-person learning after a long bout of virtual learning. With virtual, asynchronous learning, many habits crept into everyone's routines that are not necessarily conducive to positive face-to-face learning. One of those habits involves cell phone use.

In 2019, the Ministry of Education banned the use of cell phones in classrooms, unless the use is for an educational purpose with the approval of the teacher. There are legitimate uses such as taking a picture of a diagram or checking an assignment on Google Classroom; however, things like Snapchat, Instagram, Facebook, surfing, texting, among others are rarely used for educational purposes. We as a staff need to emphasize the importance of staying on task while we are trying to establish positive learning environments.

Also, parents, please understand that your child will not be able to respond to a phone message during school hours, with the exception of the lunch break of 10:50-11:30. If there is an urgent message to be delivered to a student, please call the school office and we can convey the message.

We all need to work together to reestablish productivity in our classrooms.

Lates

The number of students arriving late (both in the morning and after lunch) on a daily basis is impacting the learning environment significantly. It is very difficult for our teachers to commence a lesson, as students trickle into class. We are investigating options to address this internally, but we are also looking to parents for some assistance. Numerous students are even being dropped off at the school after the bell for the start of class. Students are expected to be in class prior to 8:10. Parental assistance in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Grade 9 Math EQAO Assessments

Our Grade 9 students will be taking part in the provincial Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics created by the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO). This assessment is administered to all students in Grade 9 mathematics in Ontario's publicly funded school system.

Students enrolled in a **week A** grade 9 math course this semester, will be writing **Tuesday December 14th and Wednesday December 15th**.

Students enrolled in a **week B** grade 9 math class this semester, will be writing **Wednesday January 5th and Thursday January 6th**.

The assessment is online and completed during their regularly scheduled math class with their regular teacher. EQAO assessment questions are directly based on the expectations set out in *The Ontario Curriculum*, which is what teachers teach in the classroom every day. Therefore, your child does not need to prepare in any special way.

As a school community, we use these results, along with other information, to guide our school improvement initiatives. This benefits not only your child but all the students in our school. The results are also used by our school board and the Ministry of Education to direct attention and resources where they are needed.

For more information about EQAO and to view a sample of the assessment, you are encouraged to visit www.eqao.com.

Yearbooks

2020-2021 Yearbooks - Last year's yearbook is not quite finished yet and will be delivered to students once it's here. You can still order these books (limited quantity) through School Cash Online - no cash sales at the school. There will only be pre-ordered books available, no extras to purchase once the books are here. Don't miss out on your chance to get a copy! Contact Ms. Bruce (ellen.bruce@lkdsb.net) for more information.

2021-2022 Yearbooks - This yearbook isn't in production yet as we finish the previous book. If you have pictures to contribute to this book, please get them to Ms. Bruce (email above) as soon as you can. Watch for this book to be for sale later this school year, once last year's book is finished and delivered.



Rapid Tests

We are pleased to inform you that the Ministry of Education is planning on providing us with a supply of rapid covid tests for all of our students. The plan is for students to receive 5 tests which can be used regularly over the 2-week holiday break. Although test usage is voluntary, we highly encourage all students to use them. This process should assist us in having a healthy return to learning in January.

Culminating Activities

Note that all courses assign 30% of the final mark for Culminating Activities which occur in the latter portion of each course. For the courses which have a final examination, please note how the courses will operate when we return from the holidays.

Other Key Dates

Feb 21 Family Day
 March 14-18 March Break
 April 15-18 Easter Weekend
 June 10 PD Day

Second Semester

The Ministry of Education has given permission for Boards to work towards scheduling a 4-period second semester. Please note however, that the local Health Units are involved in the planning of any such move. The Board and both the Lambton and Kent Health Units are still in discussion on how to make second semester safe. As such, we do not know any details at this point. That is why mid-term reporting, etc. are not included in the Key Dates section.



January/February				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
3	4	5	6	7
B-Week Classes				
10	11	12	13	14
A-Week Classes				
17	18	19	20	21
B-Week Classes				
24	25	26	27	28
B-Week AM Evaluation Day	B-Week PM Evaluation Day	A-Week Classes		
31	1	2	3	4
PD Day	A-Week AM Evaluation Day	A-Week PM Evaluation Day		Second Semester Begins

Notes

- ALLP Life Skills Classes run until Wednesday, February 2
- Evaluations start at 8:30am on Evaluation Days
- Buses run on their regular schedule on Evaluation Days
- If buses are cancelled on January 24 or 25, the B-Week Evaluations would be delayed one day, necessitating January 26th being used as an Evaluation Day
- If buses are cancelled on February 1 or February 2, the A-Week Evaluations would be delayed one day. Second Semester would still commence on February 4

School Bus Cancellations

The Lambton Kent District School Board has changed the policy with regards to bus cancellations, so please note:

- If buses are cancelled due to snow or freezing rain, buses will be cancelled for both morning and after school runs. That has not changed.
- However, in the past, schools were still open to students. That has changed for secondary schools ONLY. Now when the buses are cancelled for both the morning AND afternoon runs, secondary schools will be closed to students and secondary teachers will switch to remote learning for the day.

Note that this change does not apply to morning only cancellations due to fog or to elementary schools.

So, in summary, if buses in zone 2 are cancelled all day, students stay home and learn remotely. If buses are cancelled only in the morning, GLSS is open for students to learn on site.