



Dear Families,

School Climate Surveys

The Ontario Ministry of Education asks all school boards in Ontario to conduct an anonymous school climate survey on a regular basis so boards of education can help schools. The Lambton Kent District School Board is required to conduct a school climate survey of students, school staff and parents at least once every two years as they all play a key role in contributing to a positive school climate. We are requesting that you, as a parent/guardian of LKDSB student(s) go you're your child's school website at

[https://www.lkdsb.net/school/grandbend/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.lkdsb.net/school/grandbend/Pages/default.aspx#/=) or the Lambton Kent District School Board website at www.lkdsb.net and follow the School Climate Survey link to help us build and sustain a positive school climate within your school community. The survey is open until Friday, April 5th. Thank you for taking the time to participate in this important voluntary survey. All feedback collected will remain anonymous and confidential.

Improving Student Achievement

Students from Grades 1-7 will begin working on the narrative form of writing part way through April and will continue to do so until the end of June. A narrative can be written either as a fictional or non-fictional piece which entertains the reader by telling a story. It progresses sequentially, includes characters, is usually written in the past tense, has a setting, a plot, and contains dialogue and descriptive language. Students in Grade 8 will begin working on the persuasive form of writing part way through April and will continue to do so until the end of June. A persuasive writing piece is written to present an argument or point of view. It begins with a position statement that is supported by evidence and examples, attempts to persuade by using logic and appealing to the reader's emotions or sense of moral justice, can include research data, and may compare and contrast differing viewpoints. Have your child share their writing pieces with you.

Supporting Your Child(ren) With Homework: How Can Parents Help Their Child(ren) With Homework?

"As you know, some of the challenges facing parents with helping their child(ren) with homework are: busy schedules, kids don't want their parents involved, they would rather watch T.V. or use their electronic devices than do homework, their friends/peers don't value school work, and parents aren't sure how to help their child(ren).

Parents can help their child(ren) with homework by: communicating regularly with them about their school work, setting realistic goals, establishing a routine, helping them get organized, never doing your child(ren)'s homework for them, praising their progress and efforts, and focusing on building on their strengths and working on the areas where they need improvement. Setting a consistent time and place for your child(ren) to do their homework is also extremely important."

EQAO for 2023-2024

"The Assessment of Reading, Writing and Mathematics, Primary and Junior Divisions, assesses the reading, writing and mathematics skills students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 3 and Grade 6. The administration window this year is Wednesday, May 8 to Wednesday, June 12, 2024. This year students will again complete the assessment using the e-assessment system. EQAO has designed the system to make EQAO assessments more flexible for schools, and to improve the experience for students. Schools can schedule the assessment sessions at any time within the assessment window. Only students attending in person will participate in the assessments. EQAO will only report outcomes on students who participate in the assessments. For schools: Flexibility in administration: EQAO's online assessments offer longer administration windows and more flexibility to schedule sessions, and a shorter assessment. For students: A sample test where they can familiarize themselves with the platform, including various types of questions and the features (e.g., rough notes, calculator). An introductory session that will help familiarize them with the online assessments, breathing exercises to help them remain calm and focused, built-in accessibility tools such as zoom-in and zoom-out, a text-to-speech reader and a high-contrast view, which are available for **all** students to use during the assessment, engaging and interactive content such as a variety of types of questions (e.g., multiple-selection, drag and drop, drop down menu), along with single-selection and open-response questions in the language component only.

Open-response questions can be completed digitally or on paper.” More information about the assessments can be found online at www.eqao.com. Our Grade 3 & 6 students will be completing EQAO Common Practice Language sessions during April 2-12 and the Math sessions during April 15-25.

New JK and New SK Registration for 2024-2025

Since New JK and New SK registration for the 2024-2025 school year will take place again on Wednesday, April 3 from 4:00-7:00 p.m. at Grand Bend P.S. we would appreciate it if you contacted the school to inform us of any age appropriate students (JK – Students born in 2020 & SK – Students born in 2019) residing in Grand Bend P.S.’s attendance catchment area that are planning to attend Grand Bend P.S. in September 2024 for the first time.

This will help us with our planning purposes for the upcoming 2024-2025 school year. **Please note that current Grand Bend P.S. JK/SK students do not need to re-register. We are encouraging families (new JK & new SK students only) to come to Grand Bend P.S. to register their child(ren) on this day from 4:00-7:00 p.m.**

This is a special event for parents/guardians to register their child(ren) for Kindergarten. It is also a great opportunity for parents/guardians and children to learn more about school together. More information and the online registration portion of the Kindergarten Registration process can be found at www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten.

Please bring a printed copy of the online registration form, original documentation showing proof of age for the child(ren) being registered (e.g., Birth certificate or proof of Canadian Citizenship or Residency Status (if applicable), and Proof of Residency (e.g., utility or tax bill, lease/rental agreement, etc. Note: Cell phone bills are not acceptable for registration purposes. These items must be presented at the time of registration in order for your child(ren) to be “officially” registered and able to begin school in September 2024.

New JK & New SK students who have already registered for school at Grand Bend P.S. for September 2024 are also invited to attend the school on Wednesday, May 29 for a “drop in” type visit during the hours of 4:00-7:00 p.m. with their parents/guardians to take an optional tour one of our Kindergarten classrooms and/or participate in an optional outdoor activity with one of our Kindergarten teams (teacher and ECE) and principal. Note: Attending this evening session is optional for our Kindergarten teams (teacher and ECE), so it might just be the principal in attendance on this evening. New to JK and New to SK student registrations will also be welcomed on this evening as well.

Grade 8 Graduation Photo Retake Day

Grand Bend P.S. Grade 8 students will have the opportunity to have their individual graduation photos retaken on Tuesday, April 16 if they need to. Parents/guardians are not obligated to purchase photos if they choose not to. After Picture Day, the easiest way to order pictures is by following the directions provided to you by the photographer. For best results, our photographer encourages and recommends that students wear a white collared shirt for pictures and that the male students also wear a tie.

Dress Code – Spring Has Arrived!

Please review the dress code with your child(ren). This can be found in the school planner which is posted on the school website. The dress code always seems to become a challenge for some students during the warmer weather. When shopping for spring and summer clothes for school, please keep this in mind as students are expected to dress appropriately when attending school. Thank you for your cooperation and support on this matter.

School Council

Everyone is welcome to join us for our next School Council meeting on Thursday, April 4 at 7:00 p.m. in Room 109A. All Grand Bend P.S. parents/guardians are welcome and are encouraged to attend. School Council will be running a hanging basket Spring Fundraiser from April 8-22, 2024 in conjunction with Westland Greenhouses. Purchases can be picked up between April 29-June 15, 2024 directly at Westland Greenhouses. More information will be shared shortly on School Cash Online. Profits from this fundraiser will be used to fund teacher “Wish List” items.

Bicycle/Skateboard/Scooter Helmets

Student safety is our primary concern. With the return of nice weather, more students are riding their bicycles to school or using their rollerblades, skateboards and scooters. All students need to wear helmets (it is the law). Students are not to be riding their bikes, wearing their roller blades or riding their skateboards on the school yard. Students need to bring locks for their bikes, scooters and skateboards as they are not able to be brought into the school for Health and Safety reasons. It is also important that they follow the rules of the road and be respectful to both vehicle and pedestrian traffic.

Lost and Found Items

Students and parents/guardians are encouraged to look for any lost or missing items at the Lost and Found located in the main entrance of the school across from the office. We continue to accumulate a large quantity of items that have been lost and/or misplaced. Items not claimed are donated to those less fortunate. Thank you.

Easter

Good Friday takes place on Friday, March 29 and Easter Monday takes place on Monday, April 1. As such, there will be no school on these days.

Character Education

This month Grand Bend P.S. will be working on the character trait of "cooperation" which means "We value the opinions of others as we work together for a common purpose."

April PD Day Rescheduled Due to Total Solar Eclipse

After significant and thoughtful consultation with local emergency service partners and public health units, Lambton Kent District School Board and St. Clair Catholic District School Board have made the decision to change the Professional Activity Day scheduled for Friday, April 26, 2024, to Monday, April 8, 2024. The decision is due to the number of direct safety concerns associated with the total solar eclipse, which will affect the region between 2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 8, 2024.

Outdoor Activities and Ticks

We are asking all parents/guardians to check their child(ren) for ticks and to monitor them for signs of infection after attending any outdoor class activity due to possible exposure. Note: That "not all ticks carry Lyme disease. The American dog tick, which is the most common tick found in Lambton County, does not carry Lyme disease."

Pediculosis

As the weather and temperatures continue to fluctuate, and students are wearing coats, hats and mitts we feel that it is important to remind parents/guardians to check your child(ren) regularly (2 to 3 times per week) for head lice and nits. Catching them early is the key to limiting the spread within your household and at school. If head lice are found on a student at school, a letter is sent home with students in that class to alert parents/guardians that the condition is present. Students with nits (eggs) and/or live lice must be treated with a head lice shampoo. Additional information on head lice is available from the school office should you require it. We remind parents/guardians to please notify the office if their child(ren) has/have nits and/or lice so that we can try and limit and prevent the spread.

Forest Area Family of Schools Transition Committee Update

A reminder that all Forest Area Family of Schools Transition Committee Meeting agendas, Records of Action and related announcements are posted to the LKDSB website at www.lkdsb.net under Board/Accommodation Review/Forest Area of Schools/Transition Committee. Ministry of Education approval documents and 2023/2024 scheduled committee dates are also posted on this site. Any parents/guardians or community members with questions regarding the Forest K-12 school can submit them via email to arc@lkdsb.net.

Future Forest Area Family of Schools Transition Committee Meeting Date is:

Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at Aberarder Central Public School at 5:00 p.m.

Book Fair

The school will be holding another Scholastic Book Fair during April 3-5, 2024. Students will be able to preview books for sale on Wednesday, April 3rd, and make purchases on Thursday, April 4th and Friday, April 5th. Further information will be shared prior to this event.

Go CODE Girl

Go CODE Girl provides an exciting opportunity for girls and non-binary youth in Grades 7-10 to learn about the exciting world of coding and software development. The purpose of the event is to expose students to the engineering profession, and to further develop skills in coding. Participants will do hands-on coding activities and have mentorship opportunities. Participants will also receive lunch, refreshments, and swag giftbags. Parents and guardians are invited to tag along too! This is presented by Western University Engineering Outreach.

Date: Saturday, April 6th, 2024

Time: 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM

Audience: Grade 7-10 girls and non-binary youth (and their parents/guardians)

Location: Western Sarnia-Lambton Research Park, 1086 Modeland Rd., Sarnia, ON N7S 6L1

Cost: FREE (plus lunch, refreshments, and swag giftbags)

See the attached poster for the QR Code on how to register.

LKDSB Parent Involvement Committee

The LKDSB Parent Involvement Committee invites school communities to a virtual event series featuring Ann Douglas, Parenting Author & Speaker.

The next virtual event takes place on Tuesday, April 16th. The Truth About Teens (parenting a teenager) is the topic for this evening. The Zoom link for everyone to join can be found on the www.lkdsb.net website and each presentation will be held from 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the virtual event series.

Parent's Guide to Ontario's Education System

The Ministry of Education has launched the Parent's Guide to Ontario's Education System. This new resource will provide parents with helpful information that allows them to have a stronger role and actively participate in their children's education. The guide covers a number of subjects such as knowing how their child is doing in school, learning about suspension and expulsion processes, attending a school council meeting or parent involvement committee meeting, and knowing about specialized supports to help all children succeed.

This initiative is part of the government's recent efforts to increase transparency and accountability in our school system.

The full guide, translated into 10 different languages, can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/your-childs-education-parent-guide-our-school-system>.

Fragrance Free Reminder

In the interest of creating and maintaining a safe and healthy environment for Lambton Kent District School Board employees, students, volunteers, visitors and contractors, all Board locations should be fragrance/scent-aware. This applies even when in the absence of an identified allergy/health concern. As such, please consider the following: avoid or reduce the use of scented personal products; consider the substitution of scented products with unscented alternatives; if scented personal products are used, consider a guideline that scents are not detectable from more than an arm's length away. Your cooperation in creating and maintaining a safe and healthy place to work and learn is appreciated.

Students in Grades 6-8 Leaving School at Lunch

If your child(ren) is/are in Grades 6-8 and leave school to go out for lunch please speak to them about the importance of being good community citizens, respecting our neighbours and local businesses, etc. Please also remind and encourage them to cross safely when crossing the road and our busy streets and highways. Leaving school at lunch is a privilege and the expectation when leaving school property at lunch time is that the students leave property, eat their lunch, properly dispose of their garbage and recyclables, and then return to the school on time for the next instructional block. Thank you to those students who are being safe and respectful when leaving school property and returning to school on time each day.

As always, please feel free to contact the school at any time.

Sincerely,

Mr. A. Parnham,
Principal

