

Wildcat ROAR

Harwich Raleigh Public School

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February 2024

We are halfway through the school year

Term One finishes this week, specifically on Thursday, February 1st as Friday, February 2nd is a PA day. The official start of Term Two is Monday, February 5th. These dates are used to assist with the writing of Provincial Report Cards for Grades 1-8 and the Communication of Learning for our JK and SK students. This point in the school year has provided time for our staff to really understand how your child participates in learning activities within their classes, how they interact with peers outside on the school yard and where their strengths and needs exist. We try as best as we can to focus on the gains which our learners make while keeping in mind how to best support that progression moving forward. The hope is that through the reading of their report cards, you as supporters can understand how their days at HRPS are and support them to the best of your ability at home. If you would like to discuss the report card once you've received it with any of the teachers, please contact the teacher(s) directly to make a time for a phone conversation or an in person meeting.

We are looking forward to welcoming our newest wildcats next week during our KinderSTART event which will take place on both Thursday, February 1st and Friday, February 2nd. More information is contained in the newsletter.

Leaving this quote with you to ponder: "If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant: If we did not sometimes taste adversity, prosperity would not be so welcome." — Anne Bradstreet

KinderSTART Registration Event

Registering your child for Kindergarten is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Log onto and find our school.
2. Complete the online registration form www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten in advance.
3. Come and meet our caring staff on Thursday, February 1st, 2024 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm or Friday, February 2nd, 2024 from 9:00am – 3:00pm.

Remember to bring:

- Birth certificate or proof of Canadian Citizenship or Residency Status (if appropriate)
- Proof of residency (e.g. utility or tax bill, lease/rental agreement, etc.)
- Your child

We look forward to meeting our new Wildcat families and students!

February is Black History Month

Within the LKDSB, the Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and Justice team is supporting staff in continued commitment to including Black experiences, perspectives, heritage, and futures throughout the curriculum and throughout the school year. This includes school specific announcements which feature past and present local individuals that are of historical significance. The LKDSB has invited local Black historic sites to join in an online presentation that all classes will tune into towards the end of the month, during our Black History Month initiative this year. We are thankful for the work of the Josiah Henson Museum of African-Canadian History, the Buxton National Historic Site & Museum, and the Black Mecca Museum for their involvement. We are very proud of the local Black history and perspectives that will be woven into this celebration.

Student Attendance

Student academic and social success is directly connected to regular attendance at school. While we understand that students will encounter some illness over the course of the year, and we certainly want students to be home when they are unwell, having students at school, on time, as regularly as possible is our goal. Part of the School Improvement Goal, which is required by the LKDSB program department, the school team develops a set of goals each fall and works continually at those goals over the course of the year. Improving student attendance and putting support into place to help students attend more regularly and on time continues to be something our whole staff is working towards. You may have had contact with your child(ren)'s teacher when your child has been absent, asking about the well-being of your child and seeing if there was anything that our school team could help with to get them back to school without further delay. This is part of our School Improvement Goal. Additionally, for some students with a high number of absences or late arrivals, a letter expressing the concerns and next steps will be coming home with the Term 1 Report Cards/Communication of Learning, on February 16th.

Term One ends, Term Two begins

The official end of Term One occurs on February 1st which is followed by a Professional Activity Day on February 2nd where staff are working on finishing the Provincial Report Cards for Grade 1 through 8 and the Communication of Learning for JK and SK students. This means that Term Two begins on February 5th and will run through June 27th. Term One report cards and Communication of Learning will come home on Friday, February 16th. After receiving that important document, you may have questions for one or more of your child's educators. Please reach out to them directly and ask questions about the information contained and how you might be able to assist your learner with home support.

Gracious donation and huge “Thank you”

Our Grade 8 students typically take on a large amount of fundraising to make their three-day field trip toward the end of the year affordable. This year, the teaching staff appealed to community groups to determine if there might be some financial support to assist with this large endeavor. As we returned to school after the winter holiday break, we were delighted to have received a substantial financial donation. We would like to recognize the donation of \$14, 415 from Ridge Landfill Community Trust, and presented to the students and staff by Ms. Julie MacDonald. We are grateful for the financial support which was received.

Vaccination Records with CKPHU

Parents and guardians have the responsibility to report their child’s vaccinations to the Chatham Kent Public Health Unit, as part of ensuring that all school aged children are up to date on their vaccinations. If this process is not completed, students’ risk being suspended from attending school effective March 5th, 2024. To avoid this headache and give families plenty of time to report the vaccinations which have already taken place, or to schedule to receive the vaccinations in time, information is being shared with all parents and guardians now. In the same location on the school website where the monthly newsletter is posted, and being sent home in the same School Messenger broadcast is more in-depth information about this process. For any questions, please contact CKPHU directly at 519-352-7270 ext. 2457

Supporting students in co-curricular activities

Over the course of the years, there are many ways the school staff support students with activities in addition to the grade level curriculum. This could be in the way of the Recycling Club, the Choir, the Art Club, Puzzle Club, and many more that have existed in the past or currently run during nutrition break times and without the need for parent permission. Based on student voice and initiative, as well as the School Improvement Goals for the 2023-2024 year, our school will be offering an optional club to students in grades 6-8. The purpose of this group is to unite 2SLGBTQIA+ and allied youth to build community and develop a safe space where they feel accepted and safe in their school and communities. Our school has been working with Board level personnel to learn about effective ways to support our students who have brought this idea forward to our staff. We would like to thank Mme. Woods, Mme. Ryall and M. Durepos for volunteering to facilitate this school activity. The club will meet weekly during lunch and recess, for 40 minutes. This opportunity aligns with the LKDSB’s Strategic Priorities, specifically related to Inclusive Diversity – Champion Anti-Oppressive Education. More details about the LKDSB’s Strategic Priorities can be found at www.lkdsb.net

Choose Love campaign

For the month of February, students and staff of Harwich Raleigh are “Choosing Love!” Choose Love is a nonprofit organization that looks to provide and support refugees and displaced children and families across the globe. With the ongoing occupying war situations throughout countries around the globe, Choose Love works to provide vital support with things like lifesaving search and rescue boats, to food and supporting the education of children. Our goal as a school is to purchase all of the available items valued at \$750. Participating in this opportunity allows us to support the lives of children and families affected by situations greater than our understanding. Using School Cash Online, you can select a donation amount of your choice: \$2, \$5, or \$10. You can donate as much as you would like and whatever quantity you desire. Any donation will be much appreciated! Please use and share this link for those who are not connected to School Cash Online, including family, friends and neighbours.

<https://lkdsb.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/38911/197/False/True>

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Head lice is a nuisance and difficult to deal with both at school and at home. Periodically throughout the year, typically following a break, the staff will perform head checks to ensure that no students have either live head lice or the nits that lead to live head lice. We ask that parents routinely check their children for head lice. If your child happens to be affected by this nuisance, please inform the office and we will help you with the next steps. Following the notification to the office, our staff will perform those classroom checks to make sure there are no other students in the class affected. Correspondence will be sent from the office if there is a case within the class that you need to be made aware of and then continue to monitor your child(ren). We certainly appreciate the cooperation that we have from our families at home.

Parent/Guardian Input Requested

The LKDSB has created a survey for parents/guardians and members of our school communities in order to better grasp the wants and needs of those who frequent our LKDSB website.

Please consider following the link below to answer a few questions which will be used moving forward. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=iem_Sw7fwkqv77D8mWd6EEzAnO3tlDIbtjDR3qRfVnFUM0ZBR1FZRIRZVE81WDZMOUJRVzgyTEVGOC4u

School Council Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26th, 2024 in the Learning Commons/Library. The council is always looking for new members as well as folks who are willing to give of their time for special events. Please contact Heather Vander Pol by email (Heather.VanderPol@lkdsb.net) if you have questions. ***Parents who are interested in volunteering to organize and run a school wide event to engage students and families will be meeting at 5:45 pm, ahead of the council meeting, to brainstorm ideas, and determine responsibilities for this event which will be held in the springtime. We would love to have as many parents and guardians as possible to assist with this event.***

Upcoming Important Dates:

Thursday, February 1st – Graduation Photos, grade 8 students and staff

Friday, February 2nd – PA Day, no classes for students

Monday, February 12th – Special hot dog lunch day, 2nd break

Friday, February 16th – Term One report cards and Communication of Learning sent home

Monday, February 19th – Family Day holiday

Monday, March 11th to Friday, March 15th – March Break

Monday, March 18th - Special nacho and cheese lunch day, 2nd break

Tuesday, March 26th – PRO Grant meeting, 5:45pm, School Council meeting, 6:30pm

Friday, March 29th – Good Friday

Monday, April 1st – Easter Monday

