

# Wildcat ROAR!

## October 2021-Harwich Raleigh Public School

Website: <http://harwichraleigh.lkdsb.net>. School Twitter: @harwichraleigh  
School Telephone: 519- 676-5481 School Fax: 519-676-5482

***All the Good News from HRPS!***

### **From the Office**

It is hard to believe that the first month of school is over! Our students have settled nicely into their classes, and new friendships have been established. Our students have once again shown remarkable efforts with protocols and procedures related to COVID-19. Thank-you to our entire staff for working so diligently with our students, and to our custodians for their efforts with frequent cleaning. Thank-you also to our parents/guardians for speaking to your child(ren) about the importance of wearing masks, frequent hand hygiene, and the need to maintain social distancing while at school. We appreciate everyone working together on these important COVID- 19 initiatives to help keep our school community safe. **A reminder that Friday, October 8<sup>th</sup> is a PA Day for students and October 11<sup>th</sup> is Thanksgiving.** Happy Thanksgiving to our Wildcat Families, students, and staff!

### **Truth and Reconciliation Week-September 27-October 1st**

Thank-you to everyone wearing orange on September 30<sup>th</sup>, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, in honor of survivors of residential Schools and to those students who never returned home. Our educators used a variety of resources provided by our Indigenous lead teacher at the LKDSB, such as rich read alouds which included "The Orange Shirt Story" ,"I am Not a Number", "Stolen Words", "The Secret Path", "Fatty Legs," and " I Lost My Talk" etc., to help our students learn about the truth, and how we can help reconcile the events of the past. As a school community we engaged in a collaborative Orange Shirt project so that a strong visual would be a reminder to our students that Every Child Matters and that our learning journey will need to continue throughout the school year. Our learning even extended to our youngest learners in our Kindergarten classes, in which one of our classes, learned that some children were lost to residential schools. These students learned those children's names and said them out loud because Every Child Matters. Our kindergarten class used orange ribbon to tie to the school fence as a visual reminder of our past, and how we are moving forward in reconciliation. We know that we have much work to do on our learning journey towards reconciliation, but we will work hard to increase our educators' and students' knowledge, and listen to Indigenous voices.



## HPRS Sense of Belonging

During the month of September our staff have been working hard at establishing a sense of belonging at school as students returned to face-to-face instruction after many months of remote learning. As a staff, we accessed the Everyday Mental Health Classroom Resource in the School for Mental Health Ontario document. <https://smho-smsso.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/The-First-10-Days.pdf>

Specifically, as a staff we focused on the first 10 days of school resource which included a number of activities that focused on relationship, connections, and community. These activities were created to help students ease back into school routines and allow students time to cope with emotions, thoughts that they were feeling. Some of the themes outlined in the First Ten days and beyond included; “You are Unique and Valued”, “Welcome” activities, “Stress Management and Coping”, “Healthy Relationships”, “Positive Motivation and Perseverance”. As parents/guardians, you might also find some of these activities listed in the School Mental Health Resource helpful for your child(ren) as we move through this school year.

During September, we engaged in a collaborative school project in which students from FDK to Grade 8, were invited to create individual or classroom posters/banners which highlighted our theme of “Sense of Belonging”. Students talked about what this theme means to them, and how we can work together so students feel safe, welcomed, and connected. These posters/banners are now posted in all areas of our school to remind our students, that that they are valued, that they are important, they matter, and they belong (just a few examples included below). We will continue to work on building relationships so students feel connected to one another and to the school. We’ll also remind our students that our school has safe, caring adults that are here to listen and support them each day. In addition, our HRPS Student Wellness Council will be initiating some special days, announcements, and activities soon for our school community.



## Authorization for Medication

Just a reminder that medication, both prescription & non-prescription, should not be administered to students by school staff without appropriate paperwork. Specific criteria must be met for staff to administer prescription medication when it cannot be administered at home. An “**Authorization for the Administration of Oral Medication**” form, (available on school website) 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.

**If your child has a prevalent medical condition (for example, anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy or a plan of care), a specific prevalent medical condition form will need to be completed. These forms must be completed by a parent/guardian and signed by a physician. The forms for this purpose are available on our school website. You can also send a note with your child and we can send a copy home.**

### **Terry Fox School Run-October 6-7th**

Our students and staff will honor the memory of Terry Fox by participating in our annual Terry Fox Run at the school. Our classes will be participating at different times over the course of two days to respect social distancing. Thank-you for considering to donate funds online to support cancer research. Please use this link for all donations;

<http://www.terryfox.ca/HarwichRaleighPSBlenheim> .

Your help in honoring one of Canada's great heroes is very appreciated! Thank-you to Mr. Jackson for organizing the details for this special event.

### **Bus Cancellations- Zone 7**

During the fall we might experience some heavy fog in which there could be the potential for bus cancellations. **During the fall season, when there are bus cancellations due to fog, busses will not run in the morning but will run in the afternoon. HRPS is located in ZONE 7.** To check for any bus cancellations during the school year, please tune into the local radio stations or check the following website: [www.schoolbusinfo.com](http://www.schoolbusinfo.com)

### **ROARS-Character Education**

Harwich Raleigh staff and students will continue to focus on acronym ROARS as a way to incorporate our code of conduct, the learning skills from the Provincial Report Card and the 10 character traits that our school focusses on each year. The acronym ROARS stands for:

- **RESPECT** - We will care for self, each other, and our community.
- **OWNERSHIP**—We will be accountable and take pride in positive behaviour and actions.
- **ATTITUDE**—We will be courteous and committed to doing our best.
- **RESPONSIBILITY**—We will meet personal, classroom, school, and community expectations.
- **SAFETY**—We will work to support the health and well-being of all.

Teachers will be acknowledging some students within their class that have demonstrated the ROARS traits of Respect and Honesty at the end of October. We appreciate our students' efforts in displaying our character traits every day!

### **Online Platforms- See Saw/Google Classroom**

Our teachers have all set up online platforms for communication/school work purposes. If you need this information, please contact your child's teacher or let us know in the office. We encourage everyone to be set up with the online platform for your child's class in the event that our school/board has to move to remote learning at any time.

### **LKDSB School Climate Survey**

The Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) is conducting a School Climate Survey of students in Grades 4 to 6, and a separate survey of students in Grades 7 to 12 from October 12-29, 2021. Students will be asked to fill out the survey online, during the school day. The questions will focus on students' experiences and thoughts related to health, well-being, equity and inclusion, and safe schools. The purpose of the survey is to seek feedback from students to help inform effective healthy living and mental health programming and services to support safe, welcoming, and inclusive schools. The results will also be used to provide individual schools with the information necessary for ongoing student support planning. In addition, this is an opportunity for students to have their voices heard on these important topics. The 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). Participation is strictly voluntary. Teachers and staff will not be aware of individual student responses. Please contact the school or your child's teacher directly, by Thursday, October 7, 2021 if you do not want your child to participate in the survey.

The LKDSB is committed to community engagement and supporting safe, welcoming and caring schools. Parents/guardians are invited to share their thoughts on the Parent/Guardian School Climate Survey October 12-29, 2021. Survey link can be located on [www.lkdsb.net](http://www.lkdsb.net) website during the timeframe noted. Parents/guardians are invited to complete one survey per child/school (i.e. if an individual's children attend more than one school, respondents can complete the survey for each school their children attend).

As part of the LKDSB's Mental Health Strategy, we want to engage our students and families by providing opportunities, such as this one, so that we continue to promote positive mental health and well-being in our schools. We thank you for your support of student success and well-being.

### **Student Accident Insurance**

The Lambton Kent District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities, including extracurricular sports. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any costs not covered by their Government Health Insurance Plan or their employer's health care plan. The Board encourages all parents/guardians to review this or other available Student Accident Insurance plans, especially those with a child(ren) participating in medium to high-impact physical activities (both during school and outside of school hours). The insuremykids® student accident insurance program offers three plans with a variety of benefits and affordable rates. Their most affordable plan is available for as little as \$17 per year. All plans provide 24/7 coverage. For more information or to purchase insurance, please visit [www.insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com) or call 1-800-463-5437.

The 2021/2022 Student Accident Insurance Program was available for purchase, beginning August 1, 2021 and expires September 30, 2022 no matter when it is purchased. For example: if someone purchases a new plan on October 2, 2021, it still expires September 30, 2022.

### **LKDSB-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#/=)