

Wildcat ROAR

Harwich Raleigh Public School

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March 2024

Spring is arriving soon

You will have seen and heard about the upcoming Total Solar Eclipse which is happening on Monday , April 8th. Where we live, attend school and work, is within a direct path of the eclipse. Many factors played a part in the LKDSB determining that there would be a change in the academic calendar which would make Monday, April 8th a PA Day, which is shifted from Friday, April 26th. This means that on Monday, April 8th, students will be at home with their parents or in the care of someone other than the school to safely observe the solar eclipse. We are encouraging all families to take some time ahead of the eclipse, do some learning and determine a way you can see this incredible phenomenon safely. On Friday, April 26th, school will function as a regular school day.

The athletics at HRPS are moving along nicely. Our Sr. Boys and Sr. Girls Basketball teams are involved in playoff action beginning this week. The teams have had an opportunity to participate in exhibition games, tournament play as well as league play and these times have allowed for much improvement, excellent skill development and fostering a sense of being a committed team member. The coaches are proud of all these athletes have accomplished this season. Congratulations on successful seasons, Wildcats! A huge thank you to the coaches who give up their own time to ensure these students have athletic opportunities.

March Break is a time when families can spend time together, creating, exploring, playing, and most importantly, recharging their batteries before the final portion of the school year from mid-March to the end of June. Please take note that March Break is March 11th to 15th, and students will return to regular classes on Monday, March 18th.

We are busy planning for next school year already by welcoming our newest Wildcats to the school during our KinderSTART events. If you know of any families who plan to move to the Blenheim or south CK area in the spring or over the summer, please let them know we would like to plan for their arrival by being aware they are coming. Have them call the school office at 519-676-5481.

Our second KinderSTART event is coming

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 Wednesday, April 3rd, 2024 from 4:00pm – 7:00pm.

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!

Wildcats celebrated Black History Month

Throughout the month of February, our students were exposed to many Chatham Kent locations and personalities who have played an integral part in the rich Black history in our area. Our daily announcements featured significant individuals, both past and present, who have helped to make their ancestry known and the dreams of their forefathers and mothers alive. On Wednesday, February 28th, the whole school participated in synchronous learning and celebrated Black History within the LKDSB.

VIP Graduation

Special Constable Brenda Koldyk has been leading and instructing the Grade 5 students in the program entitled Values, Influences and Peers (VIP). This program focuses on teaching positive lifestyle choices to students in Grade 5. Teachers and police officers' partner to teach lessons on topics from drug abuse to healthy friendships. We congratulate these students as they finish this program, and sincerely hope they carry their learning forward as they grow.

Family Fun Night

With thanks to some parent volunteers from School Council, and made possible by the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) grant, our school will be hosting an ultimate family MATH night April 9th. Our gym will be transformed into an interactive family fun experience. Families will have the opportunity to get moving, engage with others in our school community and have fun with math together. This event is scheduled to take place between 6 and 8pm, so please plan to attend. More information is attached in the flyer and will also come in the April newsletter.

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.

Safe Travel To and From School

With the nicer weather upon us, more students and families are choosing to travel to school by walking, riding bikes or scooters, or rollerblades. While this is a great way to get exercise before or after school, it brings some additional risks travelling in the community. We are reminding students and parents to work together to determine which route is the safest to take, and to use municipal crosswalks at intersections, including crosswalks which are activated by pedestrians.

We would also like to remind you that supervision on the school yard begins each morning at 9:00AM and that students shouldn't be arriving by any method prior to that time. If students arrive by vehicle, they need to remain in the vehicle with their caregiver until the opening bell rings at 9:00AM. We want to make sure that each student is arriving to and departing from school safely and we thank you for your cooperation in this effort.

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

Spring Fundraiser is coming

To raise funds for field trips, guest speakers, enhanced technology, and the like, we continue to fundraise throughout the school year. In the spring, we will be partnering with the Flowerbed Greenhouse to allow families, friends, neighbours and relatives to purchase tickets for annuals. Then, the tickets will be distributed and redeemed at the garden centre to help add some colour and interest to your desk, porches, patios and gardens for the spring and summer ahead. More details will come next month.

Dental Screening

On Tuesday, March 26th, the Chatham-Kent Public Health Unit will be at the school to conduct dental screenings for students in JK, SK, Grade 2 and Grade 8, as well as any students whose parents would like them screened. Information was sent home electronically on February 22nd with all students in the school to help parents understand this process. If your child is not within the group that has planned screenings and you feel this is something that you would like to happen on March 26th, please contact the school office and have your child(ren)'s names added to the list of those who will be screened that day.

IEPs and Universal Supports

Families of students with Individual Education Plans (IEP) will receive proposed updated plans on or before March 22nd. This is an important part of the school year. As students with the greatest learning needs are prioritized, undoubtedly every student receives what they need. Often accommodations found on IEPs are great universal supports for all learners. As educators strive to make the accommodations on IEPs come alive, students without IEPs benefit from these universally beneficial learning accommodations as they are just great teaching practices. Every learner has unique needs. Even if your child doesn't have an IEP, consider contacting your child(ren)'s teacher(s) to discuss your child(ren)'s unique learning needs and how they are being

met in the classroom. Consider providing insight into things you have discovered about your child while learning with them in your home. Remember, you are always the expert on your child, and we become better at supporting your child as deep, rich conversations between home and school take place.

School Council Meeting

Our next meeting is scheduled for **March 26th at 6:30 pm** 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 determine responsibilities for this event which will be held April 9th from 6-8pm. We would love to have as many parents and guardians as possible to assist with this event.***

Upcoming Important Dates:

March 5th – VIP Graduation

March 6th – Grade 5/6 to Grade 8 – Field Trip to Boler Mountain

March 8th – Hat Day – Please bring \$2 donation to wear a school appropriate hat

March 10th – Daylight saving time begins, Spring forward

March 10th – Ramadan begins at sundown

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

March 21st – First day of Spring

March 22nd – Term 2 IEPs sent home

March 29th – Good Friday

April 1st – Easter Monday

