

Wildcat ROAR

Harwich Raleigh Public School

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November 2022

The school year is rolling along

We are now two months into the 2022-23 school year, and to many it may seem that there was never a summer. We are full swing into everything; academics, extra-curriculars, character education and supporting our student's mental health needs.

Some of our Cross Country runners qualified for and ran in the District meet in Sarnia on October 26th, despite the rain, wind and cooler weather. Results for the three runners include 11-year-old-boys: Gavin L. 8th out of 61 runners, 12-year-old boys: 1st Noah V. out of 51 runners and 9-year-old-girls: 5th Leith M. out of 65 runners. This really is a sport for the toughest athletes. We have Senior Boys and Senior Girls volleyball teams currently practicing and building their skills for their upcoming season. Junior boys and Junior girls volleyball groups have met and are working at learning the ropes and gaining valuable court time to improve. We have a choir taking shape, our Recycling Crew is helping to keep our environment healthy, and the Drama club is starting to act up!

We were excited to have our first ROARS assembly of the year on Friday, October 28th. This allowed the students to be together in the gymnasium to celebrate the hard work of many students, as well as welcoming parents and guardians back to see the celebrations.

Food Days

Please continue to access School Cash online to place orders and pay for food days. Currently, there are the November orders accessible there and then the December orders will follow in a timely manner.

Christmas Fundraiser

Beginning November 1st, parents will be able to log onto School Cash Online to place orders for poinsettia coupons. Plants will be available in four sizes to appeal to different environments as well as price points. Coupons will be provided to each student/seller based on the number of each size of plants which were purchased. The final day to place orders, quantities permitting, is **November 11th**. The tickets will be sent home with students on November 17th. If parents prefer, the tickets can be picked up from the office during Student Led Conferences in the afternoon/evening of November 17th, or the morning of November 18th. Make sure that you get your orders in without delay to avoid disappointment if sizes sell out.

Scholastic Book Fair

Early in December, the Scholastic Book Fair will be arriving to the school. The specific dates and times have yet to be determined. If you would like to volunteer your time assisting with the Book Fair, please contact the principal at Heather.VanderPol@lkdsb.net to put your name forward. This will be an excellent opportunity to purchase books and gifts ahead of the holiday season.

Take Your Kid to Work Day

On November 2nd, Grade 9 students across the province can accompany their parent or another trusted adult to their job for the day. This allows the student a chance to see what people do throughout their workday, in hopes of helping them select a path for their post-secondary journey. We will be hosting some Grade 9 students here in the school. This day is also a special day for our Grade 8 students. On November 2nd, our Grade 8 students will travel to their prospective highschool (either BDHS or CKSS for our French Immersion students) where they will be participating in some learning and fun activities.

Photo Re-take Day

Lifetouch photography will be back at the school on November 2nd for photo re-takes. If your student missed the original photo day, or if their initial photos were unsatisfactory, please ensure they are prepared to have their photos taken on November 2nd.

Grade 8 Meeting

Mr. Jackson, Mme. Purdy and Mrs. Gillett will be hosting a meeting on Thursday, November 3rd, at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons. This will be a chance to hear about the year end trip possibilities, about the costs which will be associated and the fundraising ideas to help offset the cost. Input from parents is crucial to make this successful for our students. Please make time that evening to attend, share your thoughts, and gain information from the group.

Daycare Parking Area

There are approximately 10 parking spots on the north side of the main driveway which are devoted to Daycare parking. In both the morning and afterschool, there are several parents who are not using the parking spaces, but rather just pulling their vehicle up close to the fence/gate area, dropping off, or picking up. While the distance may be greater, you need to park and walk to the corridor. This ensures the safety of everyone, instead of taking shortcuts and having something dangerous happen. Please be considerate of everyone and follow the expected procedure.

Treaty Recognition Week

The Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) commemorates Treaties Recognition Week from October 31st to November 4th, joining school boards across the province in promoting education and awareness about treaty rights and treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Ontario. Beginning on Monday, October 31st, our school will participate in school wide virtual announcements where an alternate version of the Territory Acknowledgement is shared through the video screen. This is something that is part of our School Improvement Goal for the 2022-23 school year, where students will have the chance to see and hear how alternate Territory Acknowledgments are made, and then create their own version. This is something that I encourage parents and guardians to ask their students about, to bring awareness to the learning that is taking place related to our Indigenous Education and Anti-Oppressive Education goals.

Progress Reports and Student Led Conferences

Progress Reports (Grade 1-8) and Initial Observations (JK and SK) will be coming home with your child(ren) on November 11th. These important tools help to have parents understand how their child(ren)'s year has begun. Although there are no numeric or letter grades on this communication tool, this is a great time to connect with teaching staff about how you may be able to support your learner(s) in areas where they may be experiencing difficulty.

During the evening of November 17th and the morning of November 18th, each student will have the opportunity to lead their parent or guardian in a conference with their teacher(s). The length of the conference will be 20 minutes, and there is potential for up to four families to be in each classroom during the 20 minute time slot. Conferences can be scheduled with teachers who teach rotary subjects, such as Music, Art, Drama, Dance, Physical Education, Science, and French. Please review the available slots below and click on the button to sign up. We look forward to seeing students and parents in the building. Please follow the link

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0D4BA5AF2BAAFA7-student>

to the Sign Up Genius to schedule times which work for your family.

School Council Meeting

School Council HRPS met for the second time this year on Tuesday, October 18th. During the meeting, results from the School Climate survey were shared and discussed, as well as the School Improvement Plan that will guide the academic and extra-curricular activities within the school over the course of the year. Our next meeting is scheduled for **January 24th at 6:30 pm** in the Learning Commons/Library. If you are interested in participating and don't want to commit to the whole year, you are always welcome to come to a single meeting. The council is always looking for new members as well as folks who are willing to give of their time for special events.

Remembrance Day Ceremony

Once again, we are permitted to hold a Remembrance Day ceremony. This is a time when students can reflect upon the sacrifices of those who came before us and give recognition to the men and women who fought so that we can have the freedom we do today. We will observe a moment of silence as part of this ceremony.

Salvation Army Coat Drive

As part of their Social Studies learning, our Grade 5/6 French Immersion class has been collecting coats to donate to the Salvation Army. The students collected outerwear each morning from those who were able to donate, and then organized the donations in the front hallway. Their goal had been to collect 100 coats, and already they have surpassed their goal. We are thankful for the support of the families who were able to make donations.

School Climate Survey

The Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) has released results from the “Every Voice Counts” School Climate Survey conducted October 12-29, 2021. The survey gathered input from students in Grades 4-12, staff and parents/guardians to assist with planning programs and decision-making related to supporting safe and inclusive school environments.

The LKDSB is pleased with increased participation rates in the 2021 online survey in comparison to previous years. A total of 9,559 students in Grades 4-12 completed the survey, along with 2,954 parents/guardians and 626 staff. The surveys included a variety of questions on topics such as student routines, mental health, well-being and bullying. The surveys were developed with input from students, parents/guardians; school and Board administration, including Mental Health, Safe Schools and Indigenous Education representatives, and Chatham-Kent Public Health and Lambton Public Health.

Visit the LKDSB website for more information about the board-wide data: www.lkdsb.net/survey

Bus Cancellations

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