



# News from the Dog Pound

H. W. Burgess Public School  
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April 2022

## **Covid Screener**

In order to continue to maintain a safe and healthy environment for our staff and students, we are asking that families continue to complete the Covid School Screener (<http://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>) if your child is not feeling well. The screener has been updated to current standards and details exactly what you should do, who needs to quarantine, the duration, etc. If you are unsure of how to interpret what the screener is telling you, please call the school office for clarification.

## **Masking**

Currently, masking is voluntary and optional within schools. Staff, students, and visitors are welcome to wear masks while in the building but are not mandated to. If students would like a mask and do not have one, the school can provide one for them to wear.

## **Rapid Antigen Tests/PCR Tests**

If you are in need, we have both Rapid Antigen Tests and PCR tests available for you at the school. We will not administer them here but will send them home for you to use. If you would like kits sent home, please contact the school office.

## **Spring Banquet**

Our annual Spring Banquet is back on our schedule, after a 2-year interruption. We will be holding this school wide celebration on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup> for our students.

Staff and students are encouraged to wear their best spring attire as we celebrate our year together and the coming of spring.

We will require many parent volunteers to help that day with setting up, serving and clean up; if you are able to help, please contact the school at 519-627-3822 or respond to your child's SeeSaw message.

Many thanks to our Home and School Association for putting this special lunch on for our students to enjoy.

## **School Treats and Anaphylaxis**

Just a reminder that we do not bring in food treats to share with classmates due to the number of anaphylactic allergies we have within our school. In order to keep everyone safe, we ask that no food is brought in for sharing at any time – this includes holidays and birthdays.

Currently we have allergies in the building to all tree nuts, ground nuts and milk/milk products.

## **Parking**

Just a reminder that we have a lot of congestion at the end of the day, with cars in both of our parking areas.

Please remember to keep both the bus lane and the crosswalk free from cars so that both are free from obstructions. We also ask that you spend some time talking to your children about safety around cars, so they are better prepared when navigating around a lot of parked and idling cars. We will continue to do the same here at school.

## **Playground Equipment**

Even though the temperature is rising and spring is in the air, the playground equipment is not yet safe enough to go on. The pea gravel underneath the equipment has been pressed down and compacted over the winter months, reducing its' ability to protect children who fall into it. The LKDSB grounds crews will be travelling around through the months of April and May and rototilling the pea gravel to loosen it and make it safe to play on once again. Please encourage your children to stay off of the equipment before and after school until this maintenance work has been completed.

## **EQAO**

Once again, the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) will be conducting an assessment of grade 3 and 6 students in Ontario. The dates for the assessment are May 4<sup>th</sup>-June 22<sup>nd</sup>. As a school team, we will choose 4 days within that window for each grade to complete the assessments.

The assessment has changed considerably and will now be conducted in an online format. It has also been significantly shortened from previous assessments.

We know that due to the pandemic and the movement between in-person and online learning, there will be gaps in student's knowledge and skills. Completion of this assessment will allow us to identify where these gaps are, so that we can make plans to close them in the upcoming years.

If you have any questions about the assessment or how it is run within the school, please contact the office.

## **Office Calls**

The office appreciates knowing when students need to leave early for appointments and families have been terrific about placing these notes in the planners, communicating through SeeSaw or calling the office.

However, we are seeing an increase of calls between 3:00-3:30 which is the busiest time of the day. These calls are frequently regarding end of day instructions and our fear is that we may miss a message or the opportunity to deliver one, which could place students in an unsafe position. We ask that you avoid calling the school during this half hour unless it is an emergency as we are unlikely to answer the phones after 3:15.

## **School Council and Home and School Association**

Our next meetings will be on Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, with School Council starting at 6:30 pm and Home and School beginning at 7:30 pm. Both meetings will be held in the Learning Commons (Room 4).

All parents are welcome to attend this meeting.

## **DATES TO REMEMBER THIS SPRING**

April 14 – Spring Banquet

April 15 – Good Friday (no school)

April 18 – Easter Monday (no school)

April 28 – Spring Photos

April 22 – Bulldog Day

May 13 – Jersey Day

May 23 – Victoria Day (no school)

May 27 – Campfire Day

June 10 – PA Day (no school)

June 17 – Rainbow Day

June 21 – National Indigenous Peoples Day

June 27 – Grade 6 Celebration

June 28 – Last Day of Classes

June 29 – PA Day (no school)