



News from the Dog Pound

H. W. Burgess Public School
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March 2022

Morning Routines

Due to the altering of Covid protocols, we will be changing our morning entry routine into the school, returning to a morning gathering time before school starts. This takes effect on Monday, March 7th.

Students may arrive at the school between 8:55-9:10 and go to their side of the playground, as they have been doing. There will be staff outside on yard duty, supervising the students until their entry into the school at 9:10.

At this time, **parents/guardians are not permitted past the gates at either end of the school.** This measure is being introduced to help maintain social distancing on the yard to continue to keep everyone safe. This should also help to alleviate any parking lot congestion as parents/guardians are being asked to “Kiss and Drop” at the gate instead of waiting for the 15 minutes for students to be let in.

We will still be enforcing outdoor co-horting, keeping the possibility of transmission to a minimum. This is like the recess cohorts that are currently in place. Teachers will be reviewing this with students next week in our lead up to morning gathering.

At the 9:10 bell, students will line up in their assigned places, just as they do at recess time and will be welcomed into the school by their teachers.

Count Me In!

The LKDSB is conducting its first voluntary Student Census March 1- 25, 2022.

Demographic data will be gathered from parent/guardians of students from JK – 8 and directly from students in Grades 9 – 12.

The Student Census findings are intended to help the Board, schools, and school communities to:

- 1) Better understand student populations and school communities;
- 2) Identify and eliminate barriers to student success, inclusion, and well-being; and
- 3) Establish effective programs and allocate resources to where they are most needed.

Results from the Student Census will facilitate action in the board’s strategic priority Inclusive Diversity: Anti-Oppressive Education. The Student Census also supports the work of the Ontario Ministry of Education’s Ontario’s Education Equity Action Plan the Ontario Anti-Racism Directorate’s to Ontario Anti-Racism Strategic Plan better understand the experiences and impacts of systemic discrimination and marginalization.

Bracelet Making

We are excited to extend an invitation to learn more about bracelet making and beading. We will be hosting an evening learning session for our families on March 24th. Families will be provided with the materials necessary to create their own beaded bracelet ahead of time and then invited to a Google Meet to learn how to assemble the bracelet and the meaning behind each of the parts. Stay tuned for further information on how to sign up for this event – spaces will be limited, so you don’t want to miss out!

Pancake Day

Many thanks to our Home and School Association for putting on Pancake Day for all our students on Tuesday, March 1st. Although we weren't able to gather in the gym, as we usually do, it was wonderful to have students celebrating Mardi Gras with their classmates and eating their fill of pancakes. We loved being able to welcome volunteers back into the school, especially as they treated our students to a spectacular treat!

March Break

This year, the March Break falls from March 14-18th. We hope that our students will have the chance to relax and refresh themselves as they prepare for the last third of the school year. The school will reopen on Monday, March 21st.

Welcome

We have a couple of new staff members here at HW Burgess and we wish them a big Bulldog welcome. Mrs. VanWagner is teaching during the afternoons as a prep teacher to several of our classes, filling in for Mrs. McTavish. Mrs. Lavoie is teaching full time in our Grade 3/4 class in Room 8, replacing Mrs. Markovich.

Spring Banquet

This year's Spring Banquet will be held on Thursday, April 14th. This event is put on by the Home and School Association each year for our students. We aren't yet certain how this event will unfold, given that we are living with ever changing Covid protocols. However, the H&S have several contingency plans in place to host this event for our school community.

School Council and Home and School Association

Our next meeting will be on Monday, April 5th, with School Council and Home and School having a combined meeting starting at 6:30 pm. The meetings will be held in the Learning Commons (Room 4). At this time, anyone attending is required complete the school screener upon entry. However, if provincial guidelines have changed by the meeting date, this will also be altered. All parents are welcome to attend these meetings.

LKDSB Inclement Weather Policy

Buses are cancelled means classes will be open for students, but buses will not pick up students at home or school. Parents may drop off and pick up their children.
Schools are closed means that students and staff are not to come to school.
Please listen to CKXS 99.1 FM or go to <http://www.schoolbusinfo.com/> to learn about bus cancellations and/or school closures. We are in **Zone 5**.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN MARCH

March 1 – Pancake Day
March 14-18 – March Break (no school)
March 21 – Rock Your Socks for Down Syndrome Day
March 24 – Bracelet Making workshop