



News from the Dog Pound

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November 2021

Progress Reports

The Elementary Progress Reports for students in Grades 1-6 will go home on Friday, November 12th. The Kindergarten Initial Observations for our Full Day Kindergarten students will also go home on this day.

The Progress Report and Communication of Learning shows a student's development of the learning skills and work habits during the fall of the school year, as well as a student's general progress in working towards the curriculum expectations in all subjects.

Parent-Teacher interviews will look a little different this year. Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we cannot welcome parents into the building. Instead, you will be given the opportunity to speak with your child's teachers either by Google Meet or via a phone interview. Please complete the request form already sent home and return it to your child's teacher by Tuesday, November 9th. All interviews will occur November 18th and 19th.

If you need additional information about your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher and arrange a mutually agreeable time for a more in-depth conversation.

Remembrance Day

We will be holding a Remembrance Day Service, at school on Monday, November 11th. Our hope is to be able to hold our service outside, where we can gather as a school community. Should the weather not cooperate that day, the ceremony will be live streamed into each classroom from the office to allow us to celebrate together. Each class will be taking part in a school wide art project to help commemorate Remembrance Day – look for photos and videos of this art project on our social media accounts and on your child's online classroom.

Poppies have again been provided by the Royal Canadian Legion and will be given to students on the morning of November 11th. As we are currently not able to have money coming into the school, we have set up an option with School Cash Online for you to donate. We will then take all the donations received and submit them to the Legion on behalf of the school.

As well, each classroom teacher has received information from the Royal Canadian Legion that is being used to supplement the teaching and learning that surrounds Remembrance Day.

Wreath Orders

Once again, the Home and School Association are selling wreaths from Sloan's Nursery as a fundraiser to help support the events they sponsor for our students. These events include the Spring Banquet and subsidizing the cost of field trips.

Wreath orders are due to the office on November 16th. Payment is to be made using School Cash Online and can be submitted as one lump sum.

Wreaths can be picked up from the school parking lot on December 2nd in the afternoon or after school.

Pizza Days/Hot Lunches

Hot pizza has returned to the school. Many thanks to the Home and School who have organized this, in cooperation with Bill's International Pizza.

Members of the Home and School are currently sourcing other options for hot lunches that are both delicious and support local businesses.

School Cash Online

We are excited to get everyone re-started with School Cash Online as we can offer more opportunities to students than we did last year. Attached to the back of this newsletter are instructions on how to sign up for a School Cash Online account.

If you are having trouble setting your account up or submitting an order, please call the office and Mrs. Aubie will happily give you a hand.

Covid-19 Safety Protocols

Thank you to parents who have been diligently following the guidance provided by the online Covid-19 school screening tool. The best defense we have available to us to keep the sick out of the school. By keeping your children home when they are unwell, you are making our school safer for everyone.

If you've lost the link, you can access the screening tool at: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

If you would like a paper copy of the screening tool, please let the office know.

Masks

Students have been doing a great job wearing their masks, they should be commended for how well they are following the expectations set out.

With the colder weather approaching, we would suggest you send 3-4 masks with your child. As they breathe in and out in the cold weather, their masks get very wet and very dirty. They will need to change their mask after each recess.

We don't have very many extra masks in the office, so any extra you are able to send helps your child and avoids the office having to call home for a new one.

Meet the Teacher

Thank you to all the families who were able to come out and meet their children's teachers. We enjoyed getting to put some faces to the names and are hopeful that you'll be able to join us for Parent-Teacher Interviews later this month.

Sports Update

We've just wrapped up our Cross-Country season and had an excellent showing this year. We had many students coming every morning before school for practices and all of their efforts led to 7 of our students qualifying for the District Meet in Sarnia. These runners made us extremely proud as they gave their best effort, competing against students from every school in the LKDSB – from Wheatley to Grand Bend.

Thank you to parents for getting your children to practice and meets and to our coaches, Mr. Lozon and Mrs. Salasso, for giving your time so willingly.

At this time, interschool Junior indoor sports are on pause until we can determine how to safely have unvaccinated cohorts mix. We will hope for a return to indoor sports soon.

School Council and Home and School Association

Our next meeting will be on Monday, November 29th, beginning at 6:30. This meeting will be held in person. Anyone interested in attending the meeting must show proof of double vaccination before entering the school and must also wear a mask. If you are interested in attending the meeting but are unable to make it to the school, we will live stream through Google Meet as well. Please contact the office for a join code.

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.

Inclement Weather

Just a reminder that we are in Zone 5 for student transportation. You have multiple means of finding out more information about bus cancellations or school closures:

- Listen to 99.1 FM
- Visit <https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/>
- Download the MySBI app to receive updates
- Check out our updates on Twitter and Facebook pages

DATES TO REMEMBER IN NOVEMBER

November 11– Remembrance Day Service

November 12 – Progress Reports Sent Home

November 16 – Wreath Orders due to the office

November 16 – Picture Retake Day

November 18 – Pizza Day

November 18/19 – Parent Teacher Interviews

November 19 – PA Day

November 25 – Pizza Day

November 29 – School Council – 6:30 – Home and School Assoc. 7:30