



News from the Dog Pound

H. W. Burgess Public School
(519) 627-3822
www.lkdsb.net/school/hwburgess
Twitter: @hwburgessps
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We acknowledge that the land on which our school sits and on which we gather each day is a part of the traditional territory of the Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi and Delaware Nations.

These Indigenous Nations, known as the Anishinaabeg and Lunaapeew, agreed through their ancestral languages to the mutual sharing of the land, with obligations and responsibilities to the environment.

October 2021

From Mrs. Byatt-Millington

Fall is officially here and can we ever feel it! Our Bulldogs are having a great time playing outside at recess and in phys ed classes. With our mornings so cold and the afternoons so lovely, it's hard to know how to dress for school; we're seeing lots of layers – good job parents. Don't forget to label those layers though so we can get your child's clothes back to them at the end of the day. Please remember that we also are outside on wet days as well, which means wet shoes, so packing an extra pair of socks is another great idea.

Student Absences

There are now 3 options available to families to report their child's absence:

1. Visit <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/> and register yourself (make sure to use the email address we have on file at the school)
2. Download the School Messenger app (blue logo) from the iTunes App Store or Google Play (make sure to use the email address we have on file at the school)
 - a. iTunes: <https://apps.apple.com/us/app/schoolmessenger-infocenter/id978894818>
 - b. Google Play: <https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.schoolmessenger.recipient>
3. Call the toll-free Attendance Reporting Number at 1-844-487-3695. You will be required to create a PIN the first time you call the system.

Please do not call the school attendance line moving forward. It will soon be disconnected. All student absences must be reported through School Messenger Safe Arrival.

If you need any assistance or need to verify the email address we have on file, please call the school at 519-627-3822.

Screening

Thank-you to our parents/guardians for assessing your child(ren) daily and reporting whether they are experiencing any signs of illness. Please refer to the Ontario screening tool <http://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> The screening tool will advise you whether you should send your child(ren) to school or not and will also advise you of next steps. All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not attend school and should seek appropriate medical attention as required.

School Cash Online

A reminder to all families that we are no longer able to accept cash in the school. As we look forward to a return to many things that may cost money (hot lunches, Spirit Wear, field trips), please ensure that you have set up your School Cash Online account.

Instructions for setting up your account can be found at:

[https://www.lkdsb.net/Board/BudgetFinance/SchoolCashOnline/Pages/default.aspx#/=](https://www.lkdsb.net/Board/BudgetFinance/SchoolCashOnline/Pages/default.aspx#/)

Your account can be accessed at: <https://lkdsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

If you are having any trouble with this, please contact the office and Mrs. Aubie would be happy to assist you.

School Council/Home and School Association

The first School Council meeting of the year was held on Monday, September 27. We discussed school organization, Special Education Advisory Committee and the Covid-19 protocols within the school. The Home and School Association discussed goals for the upcoming year, including the sale of Spirit Wear and a return of hot lunches in November. Our next meeting is on Monday, October 25 at 6:30 – if you are interested in attending, please contact the office.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

Thank-you to everyone for participating in the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As a school community, we participated in a school wide (virtual) gathering to honour the day and learn more about it. Classroom teachers engaged in many book talks and viewed first-person accounts of the impact of the residential school system in Canada. The school community created an art installation for the front hall so that we could be reminded that this impact is felt every day, not just once a year.

2021 School Climate Survey

Every voice counts.

We want students and parents/guardians to share your thoughts about our school climate and whether you consider our school to be a safe and welcoming environment. The Lambton Kent District School Board is conducting a School Climate Survey October 12-29, 2021 to gather input from students in Grades 4-12, parents/guardians and staff to inform program planning and support safe, welcoming and inclusive school environments.

All students in Grades 4-12 will be invited to participate in the online survey during school hours. Any parent/guardian who does not wish for their child to participate should contact the school principal prior to October 7, 2021.

Parents/guardians: You are also invited to share your thoughts on the Parent/Guardian School Climate Survey from October 4-22, 2021. The link will be distributed to parents/guardians with an email on file. The link will also be posted on our school website. Surveys will be anonymous and individualized results will be kept confidential; however, aggregated school and Board responses will be shared publicly (except in cases where individuals may be identified). It is expected the survey results will be publicly available in Fall 2021.

More information about the School Climate Survey is available here: www.lkdsb.net/survey

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.

Administering Medication at School

Just a reminder that medication, both prescription & non-prescription, should not be administered to students by school staff without appropriate paperwork. Specific criteria must be met for staff to administer prescription medication when it cannot be administered at home. An “**Authorization for the Administration of Oral Medication**” form, (available from the office) must be completed by the parent/guardian and physician, then forwarded to the Principal for each school year. This includes the administration of occasional use medications as well. If your child has a prevalent medical condition (for example, anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy), a specific Prevalent Medical Condition form will need to be completed. **This form is available from the school office – if you send a note with your child and we can send a copy home.**

Bus Cancellations- Zone 5

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. HW Burgess is in ZONE 5. To check for any bus cancellations during the school year, please tune into the local radio stations or click this link: <http://www.schoolbusinfo.com/>

Student Accident Insurance

The LKDSB does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries. Families may wish to voluntarily purchase an insurance plan to provide supplemental coverage. Learn more at: insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437.

Online Platforms- See Saw/Google Classroom

Our teachers have all set up online platforms for communication/schoolwork purposes. If you need this information, please contact your child's teacher. We encourage everyone to be set up with the online platform for your child's class if their class is required to move to remote learning at any time this year.

Upcoming Dates

- 5 – Staff and Volunteer Appreciation Day
- 8 – PA Day (no school)
- 11 – Thanksgiving Day (no school)
- 22 – School Climate Survey closes – please respond by this date
- 25 – School Council/Home and School Meeting – 6:30
- 28 – Fall Photo Day – wear your best smile!
- 31 – Hallowe'en