



LANSDOWNE
Public School
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November 2020 Newsletter

Principal Message

A couple of staffing changes have happened this past month. Mrs. VanBunderen is on parental leave for the rest of the year. Welcome to Mrs. Fraser who has been supplying in the Grade 1-2 classroom and will continue until the position has been filled with a long term teacher for the rest of the year.

Best wishes to Mr. Mitchell, our Vice Principal, as he becomes Principal at London Road beginning November 2! Congratulations Mr. Mitchell. We will miss you. However, we are very fortunate to welcome Mr. Nick Nienhuis into our Lansdowne School community as our new Vice Principal. He, too, will begin his position on November 2nd. We look forward to working with you!

Thank you, parents, for your diligence with keeping symptomatic students at home, while following the online COVID-19 school and child care screening. The screening tool can be found at: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> It is very important to note that the screening tool has changed over time and that there have been recent changes - particularly regarding students with runny noses and/or headaches. Please see the screening tool for additional information. A paper version of the screening tool is attached to this newsletter.

Our School Improvement Team met together recently to develop our School Improvement Plan for the year. The board requires each school to set a goal for the four areas below. These goals and the identified success criteria for each will be discussed with our School Council at our next meeting and will be a continued focus of learning and discussion with staff throughout the year.

- **Student Achievement Goal** (including literacy, numeracy and graduation): Use assessment feedback to provide targeted instruction that improves students' numeracy and literacy skills
- **Student Wellbeing Goal** (including Feeling of Belonging, Caring & Trusting Adult, and Sense of Welcoming): To continue our work in developing and strengthening a sense of belonging and connectedness of all Lansdowne students, families, staff and community partners to Lansdowne Public School

- **Indigenous Ed Goal** (including Truth and Reconciliation Commitments): Continue to develop staff and student understanding of the truth in our Canadian history and amplify the voices of Indigenous Peoples in all areas of the curriculum
- **Inclusive Diversity Goal** (including actions to Champion Anti-oppressive Education): To ensure that the diversity of all our students, staff and community is reflected in the learning happening in classrooms and school environment and to openly engage in conversations about racism, discrimination, prejudice, stereotypes and bigotry.

Communication between home and school is very important to us and is key to your child's success. If you ever have concerns or questions, please speak directly to your child's teacher. If any concerns remain, please contact the school principal. Do not think that you have to postpone concerns you have until Parent/Teacher interview time in November. Come and talk to us sooner rather than later.

Finally a huge thank you to the following families and organizations who have donated to our school in support of student learning. We are extremely appreciative and humbled by your generosity!

- Farm Credit Canada for their donation to our Breakfast Program
- Staples-Kiwanis Annual Start to Smart Campaign for their donation of school supplies for our students
- The Inn of the Good Shepherd for their donation of backpacks with supplies as well as snack donations for students
- A local family who donated a generous grocery gift card for purchasing grocery items for families in need

Change in Student Program Delivery Requests

If you requested a change in your child's program delivery choice (i.e. face-to-face learning or Learn at Home), the new program will begin on November 16. **The next opportunity to change will be in January, with families notifying the school by January 12. Students will begin their new program type on**

February 3, 2021.

Attendance Matters!

We encourage students to be present and ON TIME each day as it is important to a student's successful school year!

DID YOU KNOW...?

Missing 1 hour/day = 1 day/week = 8 weeks/year

We do monitor students' attendance and are making friendly phone calls to discuss how we can best support a student's return to school. Information letters will also be sent home in the progress reports.

Virtual Event on "Building Confidence"

Parents and guardians are invited to join the Lambton Kent District School Board's Parent Involvement Committee on Tuesday, Nov. 17 at 7-8:30 p.m. for a virtual presentation by leadership and relationship expert and author Dr. Karyn Gordon on "Building Confidence." Closed captioning will be provided by Canadian Hearing Services. Pre-registration for the online event is not required. Join the presentation at <http://tiny.cc/BuildingConfidence> (password: LKDSB)

Anti-Bullying Awareness Week

While we, at Lansdowne, try to promote kindness and a positive learning environment every day, November 15th – 21st has been designated as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment. **We will wear PINK on Monday, November 16th to kick off Anti-Bullying Week.** Activities and discussions will happen throughout the week in our classes.

Progress Reports

Progress Reports will be sent home on Friday, November 13th.

Parent/Guardian Teacher Interviews

Interviews will be scheduled virtually this fall from November 16th to November 27th. Classroom teachers will reach out to parents to set up an interview time through either a google meet or phone call at a mutually convenient time during this range of dates. In some cases, teachers will be scheduling calls with parents back to back in 10 minute intervals, as per normal interview scheduling and will try hard to stay on track with this timing. We ask that if you feel you need a longer interview time, that you communicate this with your child's teacher ahead of time in order to respect the time.

Treaties Recognition Week, Nov 2-6

Lansdowne will join schools across the province this

week to learn more about treaties and treaty relationships between Canada and Indigenous Peoples. As part of our learning journey and furthering our understanding about Indigenous histories and perspectives, our staff and students will be participating in various activities in order to raise awareness about this important aspect of Canada's history. In addition, the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement is spoken before our daily morning announcements.

Did you know...

- Treaties Recognition Week was introduced to honour the importance of treaties and to help Ontarians learn more about treaty rights and treaty relationships
- Every Ontarian is a treaty person
- Most of Ontario is covered by 46 treaties and other agreements, such as land purchases by the Crown signed between 1781 and 1930
- First Nations had their own process of Treaty-making that had existed for thousands of years
- Treaties are legal agreements between two or more nations

Breakfast/Snack Program

Our breakfast/snack program is up and running. Thank you to Ontario Student Nutrition Program for selecting Lansdowne for their Fruit and Veggie Delivery Program. For 8 weeks, fresh fruits and veggies are delivered to our school at a discounted rate



Even with additional funding we receive, this program is very costly to run. If you can help by making a donation to the school OR know of an organization who would like to donate money, we will provide you with a tax receipt. Thank you for your support.

School Council

The Lansdowne School Council met on October 7. The Chairperson for this year is Sarah Ingles. We discussed the school's start up this year as well as prioritizing fundraising initiatives which includes Spirit Wear Sale as well as Outdoor Classroom learning. The Council will be organizing our upcoming Spirit Wear campaign prior to Christmas. More information to follow. We encourage anyone interested in attending a meeting to please speak with Mrs. Litt. **Our next School Council meeting will be Tuesday, November 17 at 12:15 via Google Meet.**

Weather Clothing Reminder

As the weather becomes colder, students should come prepared with warmer clothing for outdoor recess as well as field trips.

THANK YOU to all of our community friends who have donated items, including masks, to share with

some of our students who are in need. We very much appreciate your generosity and kindness!

Students Prepared For the Day

Students need to come prepared for their school day. Before they leave the house, they should make sure they have their lunch, appropriate clothing, and schoolwork/permission forms packed. This helps with less interruptions in the classroom and at the office.

Did You Know...?

School Arrival: Students are to arrive at school **no earlier than 8:35 am.** as their safety on the yard cannot be monitored without a staff member present. When students arrive, they are to directly enter their designated door and go directly to their classroom. There is no direct supervision on the yard before school. Instead, there is supervision inside the school in the hallways and classrooms.

School Dismissal: Our day ends with a dismissal bell at 3:10 pm.. With the exception of our bus students, **ALL other students who are picked up by parents or walking home will be dismissed at the back of the school on the tarmac.**

Parents/Guardians, please meet your child on the tarmac at the back of the school.

Parents/Guardians are NOT permitted inside the building at this time due to Public Health guidelines.

Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) 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.

Link to Fair Notice Communication Regarding Violent Threat Risk Assessment Protocol:

https://www.lkdsb.net/Pages/newsitem.aspx?ItemID=366&ListID=1cb83139-1d39-452b-8ab2-b6cfab6c2ba7&TemplateID=Announcement_Item

Electronic Newsletter

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper and copying, and to reduce the sharing of touched items, we are asking that parents please access the monthly newsletter and calendar through the Lansdowne Public School website and via our Facebook page. You can find us [@lansdownepublicschool](https://www.facebook.com/lansdownepublicschool)

Each month, the newsletter will be posted as close to the beginning of the month as possible. There will be no paper copies sent home. You can visit the site at: <http://www.lkdsb.net/school/lansdowne/Newsletters>

School Cash Online

Lansdowne Parents/Guardians: Please remember to sign up for School Cash Online; info available on our Lansdowne Public School website and the LKDSB website. Pay school fees online as a convenient option.

<https://lkdsb.schoolcashionline.com>