



## LANSDOWNE

### Public School

95 Lansdowne Ave, Sarnia, ON,  
N7S 1G7

Phone: 519-336-2111  
Fax: 519-336-2306

Principal: Shelley Litt  
Vice Principal: Chris Mitchell  
Secretary: Julie Walsh  
School Website:

<http://www.lkdsb.net/school/lansdowne>

Facebook: Lansdowne Public School

# October 2020 Newsletter

## Settling In!

As we enter into October, our students and staff have settled nicely into a "new normal". Our students and staff have done amazingly well with the new safety precautions and routines. 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.

We also want to welcome Ms. Fraser to our Lansdowne School family. Ms. Fraser has been filling in for Ms. Desveaux and has been doing a wonderful job with our SK/Gr. 1 classroom.

During the week leading up to, and on September 30, students were involved in different activities to learn about and recognize Orange Shirt Day. On this day we honour the survivors of residential schools as well as those children and young people who never returned home. Staff and students wore orange and we used this day as a way to continue our learning and understanding about the residential school system and the impacts that system has had on Indigenous Peoples.

Our modified Terry Fox Run, this year, was very successful. Thank you to all staff and students who participated as well as those who donated "Toonies for Terry". We raised over \$400.00 for the Terry Fox Foundation. Thank you to Mr. V. for volunteering to organize the event and to his students for demonstrating outstanding leadership while running the event.

## Lansdowne School-wide Expectations

Building and maintaining a positive school culture is one of our school's priorities. It is important that our students, families, community members and staff feel Safe, Secure, Connected and Engaged. As a result,

staff and students have developed a set of school-wide expectations or behaviours that we want to see in our students as well as in ourselves when at school. These expectations fall into 4 broad categories:

- We engage in productive learning
- We keep a safe and clean environment
- We share space effectively and respectfully
- We engage in safe practices to limit the spread of infection.



## Breakfast/Snack Program

Our breakfast/snack program will begin October 5 with snack bins in the classrooms for 8:50 am. The snack program has been modified to ensure that we are following additional safety precautions during the Pandemic.

Even with additional funding we receive, this program is very costly to run. If you can help by making a donation to the school, we will provide you with a tax receipt. Thank you for your support.



## Lansdowne is "Nut and Milk Aware"

Please be aware that we are a "Nut and Milk Aware" school and as a result, we ask that parents not send foods containing nuts (including peanuts and tree nuts), to school to protect the safety of all members of our school community. This includes any peanut substitution products, as once the product leaves your home, it is impossible to tell the difference. For great suggestions on nut free lunches, visit [www.eatrightontario.ca](http://www.eatrightontario.ca).

We also have a student who is severely allergic to milk and milk products. We recognize that this is an inconvenience for some families, but thank you in advance for respecting the health needs of others.

## Lansdowne School Community Learners

Historically, we have engaged our school in monthly themes that culminate in assemblies. Due to the pandemic, assemblies are not possible. Alternatively,

we are building a team of learners at Lansdowne that will be producing and distributing videos to our school community as a whole. We will be learning about the value of sharing perceptions through culture, language, dance and song. We will incorporate the 7 Grandfather Teachings value system, as well as learn about the moon and its importance to Anishinaabe culture and life.

We look forward to sharing these videos on social media and via our classroom's electronic platforms (Google Classroom, Seesaw). Our first video was made to learn about and recognize the importance of Orange Shirt Day while focusing on the values of respect and empathy.

## School Council

The Lansdowne School Council is made up of parents, staff representatives, community members and principal/vice principal. Input from the various council members shapes school policies and priorities. **Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 7 at 11:40 am via Google Meet.** If you are interested in attending, please speak with Mrs. Litt or Mr. Mitchell.

## Weather Clothing Reminder

As the weather becomes cooler, please remember to dress for cooler weather in the morning and warmer weather in the afternoons.

## Attendance Matters!

**We encourage students to be present and ON TIME each day as it is important to a student's successful school year!** Following the routine of entering the school between 8:35-8:50 and having a regular routine assists students with developing their own strong work habits.

Being 10 minutes late each day is the equivalent of missing 7 days of school over the school year. When students are late, not only are they missing important things that happen first thing in the morning, but routines are disrupted for all.

We do monitor students' attendance and are making friendly phone calls to discuss how we can best support a student's return to school.

## Safe Arrival and Dismissal

**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 Attendance:** Any student who arrives after 8:50 am will be considered late, and must get a late slip from the office. After 8:50, students must enter from the front of the school.

**School Absence:** In the event that your child is absent from school, we would appreciate a phone call with the child's name, their homeroom teacher and the reason for their absence. If this information is not received by the school, a Safe Schools call will be made to determine the reason for the absence and that the parent is aware of the student's absence. It is essential for student safety that contact with parents/guardians is made.

Please call the office if you have any questions regarding absences due to possible COVID-19 symptoms.

**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.**

**Early Pick Up:** Should there be a need to arrange an earlier pick up time, please provide a written note to your child's teacher. In the event that plans have changed, please call the school office and ask that the message be given to the teacher and your child through the office. To avoid this confusion at the end of the day and to ensure student safety, we ask that parents please call the school before 3:00 pm to make alternate pick-up arrangements.

## Communication

Communication between home and school is key to your child's success. If you ever have concerns or questions, please speak directly to your child's teacher via phone or email. If any concerns remain, please contact school administrators. 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.

## 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. 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. There is info available on our Lansdowne Public School website and the LKDSB website. Pay school fees online as a convenient option. <https://lkdsb.schoolcashionline.com>