



LANSDOWNE

Public School

95 Lansdowne Ave, Sarnia, ON,
N7S 1G7
Phone: 519-336-2111
Fax: 519-336-2306

Principal: Shelley Litt
Vice Principal: Nick Nienhuis
Secretary: Julie Walsh

School Website: lansdowne.lkdsb.net
Facebook: Lansdowne Public School

September 2021 Newsletter

Welcome Back!

We would like to extend a very heartfelt thank you to our amazing Lansdowne families for their patience and understanding during this unprecedented time. By now, all families should have received an email outlining many details for a successful and safe school start, including when students begin school, how they enter the school, and a summary of safety precautions being put into place.

Please refer to our website for the Lambton Kent District School Board's "Reopening our Schools Plan". It can be found here: [\(CLICK HERE\)](#)

For the past year, Lansdowne staff, with input from students, have developed and reinforced our Schoolwide Expectations which clearly outline what is expected of everyone (students, staff, visitors, etc.) while in different areas at Lansdowne. Please see the end of this newsletter for a copy of our Schoolwide Expectations.

With such a long time having passed since we were all together, more than ever we look forward to working with our Lansdowne students and their families to ensure this school year is a safe one of learning, personal growth and fun.

School Safety Protocols

Please refer to the Lambton Kent District School Board's (LKDSB's) School Safety Protocols (attached to this newsletter). Our plan is a multi-layered safety approach that incorporates the most current information from the Ontario Ministry of Education, Public Health, consultations with LKDSB educators and education workers and our communities. These include:

Screening: All persons entering the school building are required to complete the Daily Screening Questionnaire for Parents/Guardians/Students Before Attending School [\(CLICK HERE\)](#). We ask that students/parents/visitors follow the directions at the end of the questionnaire. More details below.

Masking: Masks are mandatory for students in Grade 1-8. FDK students are encouraged to wear masks while indoors, but are not mandatory. Masks will not be worn by students outside.

Isolation: Any person displaying symptoms found on the questionnaire during the school day or those who become ill during the school day will immediately be isolated and a call will be made to pick the student up.

Hand Hygiene and Respiratory Etiquette: Students and staff will be encouraged to wash their hands regularly and practice proper respiratory etiquette. Hand sanitizer will be available throughout the school and located at each entrance and exit.

Physical Distancing: Students will be taught to maintain physical distancing from others whenever possible. Additionally, there is physical distance signage throughout the school.

Cohorting: Classes (classroom bubble) will be paired with one other class (matching classroom extended bubble) to limit direct and indirect contacts. These classes will share recess space. No other matching classroom bubbles will make contact with one another.

Enhanced Cleaning: High touch surfaces such as door knobs, desks and bathrooms will be cleaned and disinfected more frequently.

Essential Visitors

At this time, only essential visitors will be allowed to enter the school and must do so by making pre-arranged appointments. Any visitors to the school will be required to self-screen and to wear a medical mask while on school premises. To maintain student cohorts and to support contact tracing, parents/guardians will not be allowed to enter schools at this time, except in case of emergency or a pre-arranged appointment time.

Communication

Communication between home and school is key to your child's success. Due to COVID-19 protocols, communication with staff will be through phone, email or Google Meets. At this time, parents and other guests will not be permitted into the school unless they have a pre-arranged appointment. If you ever have concerns or questions, please speak directly to your child's teacher. 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. Call or email sooner than later.

Staff Updates

We have a number of staffing changes. Our Lansdowne School family welcomes Ms. Verge, Ms. McLean, Ms. Kennedy, and Mrs. Paine. We also welcome back Mrs. VanBunderen and Mrs. Geddes who are returning back to the Primary division. We welcome four new Educational Assistants: Ms. Scott, Ms. Smith, Ms. Kingma, and Ms. Vennell. We also welcome back two Supervision Support staff: Mrs. Drulard, Ms. Jones.

Our Staff Team:

Principal	Mrs. Litt
Vice Principal	Mr. Nienhuis
Secretary	Mrs. Walsh
JK/SK	Ms. DesJardine/Ms. Burdan
JK/SK	Ms. Paine (am) and Mrs. Babbey (pm)/Mrs. McEwan
Grade 1	Mrs. Van Bunderen
Grade 1/2	Ms. Geddes
Grade 2/3	Ms. Cole
Grade 2/3	Ms. Cunningham
Grade 4	Ms. McLean
Grade 4/5	Ms. Triantos
Grade 5/6	Ms. Verge
Grade 6/7	Ms. Kennedy
Grade 7/8	Mr. Van Haastregt
Grade 8	Mr. Douglas
Ojibwe/Prep	Mrs. George
French/Prep	Mme. Richardson
French/Prep	Mme. Babbey
Resource	Ms. Robson
Resource/Prep	Ms. Latos
Education Assistant	Mrs. David
Education Assistant	Ms. Daye
Education Assistant	Mrs. Duffy
Education Assistant	Ms. Clarke
Education Assistant	Ms. Lagacy
Education Assistant	Ms. Smith
Education Assistant	Mrs. Thompson
Education Assistant	Mrs. Vandenbroek
Education Assistant	Ms. Scott
Education Assistant	Ms. Kingma
Education Assistant	Ms. Harris
Education Assistant	Ms. Vennell
Supervision Support	Mrs. Drulard
Supervision Support	Ms. Jones
Custodian	Mr. Laird
Custodian	Mr. Calhoun
Custodian	Mrs. Caron

School Hours

8:35-8:50	Student arrival directly into class
8:50	School Start Bell
8:50-10:50	Classes
10:50-11:10	FDK/Jr Lunch & Pri/Int Recess
11:10-11:30	Pri/Int Lunch & FDK/Jr Recess
11:30-1:10	Classes
1:10-1:30	FDK/Jr Lunch & Pri/Int Recess
1:30-1:50	Pri/Int Lunch & FDK/Jr Recess
1:50-3:10	Classes
3:10	Dismissal at back of school

Safe Arrival and Dismissal

School Arrival: Students are expected to arrive at school **no earlier than 8:35 am.** as their safety on the yard cannot be monitored without a staff member present. Starting at 8:35, students will enter the building through their designated doors and proceed directly to classrooms.

School Attendance: Any student who arrives after 8:50 am will be considered late and must get a late slip from the office. Please enter through the front doors. **We encourage you to be present and ON TIME each day as it is important to a successful school year!** Parents are **not** permitted to enter the school with late students.

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. Following Public Health guidelines, parents and guardians will not be permitted to wait inside the school building. At dismissal, students are expected to directly leave the school grounds and not linger to play on the school yard before checking in at home.

Early Pick Up: Should there be a need to arrange an earlier pick up time, please call the school office and ask that the message be given to the teacher and your child through the office. To avoid this, we ask that parents please call the school before 3:00 pm to make alternate pick-up arrangements.

Attendance Reporting and Student Screening

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. If there is no call and the office cannot reach a parent about the reason for absence, the child's absence is recorded as truant, that is, an absence with no permission. Unfortunately, we are not able to offer a text messaging system to report absences.

Daily COVID Pre-Screener Details: The Ministry of Education has directed all elementary and secondary students to confirm they have completed the Ontario COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening for the first two weeks of the school year (September 7 to 17). The process outlined below will be used in implementing the daily-on site confirmation of self-screening: [DAILY SCREENER](#)

There are two different procedures:

a) Kindergarten to Grade 3 Students:

Parents/Guardians of FDK-Grade 3 will receive a daily School Messenger phone call/email prior to school to complete the pre-screener with their child.

Parents/Guardians of Kindergarten - Grade 3 students will confirm the completion of the COVID-19 screener in one of the following ways:

- responding to a school messenger email for each of their K-3 students
- classroom staff being alerted via verbal confirmation, paper confirmation (letter provide Wednesday, September 8 daily)
- or via the classroom communication platform (Seesaw)

Following the morning attendance, school office staff will contact parents/guardians of students who are present and have NOT confirmed completion of the screening.

b) Grade 4 to Grade 8 Students:

During morning attendance from Tuesday, September 7 to Friday, September 17, 2021 only, the teacher will confirm with the students that they have completed the Ontario COVID-19 School and Child Care Screening that day. If a student has not completed the screener, they are to complete the screener in the classroom.

Cell Phones And Electronic Devices

All electronic devices, such as cell phones, digital game devices, computers are not to be used while the student is on school property before, during, or after school without the permission of school personnel and may only be used for educational purposes under the guidance and supervision of staff. **Please do not send your child with a cellphone to school.**

Classroom teachers will safely secure student devices, such as cell phones during the day. At no time will students use electronic devices for digital, audio or video recording without permission from the teacher. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged, or stolen property.

Device Returns

At this time we'd ask that all loaned devices that were distributed for home use during any of the remote learning periods be returned to the school. These devices will require maintenance and updates that are

essential to their use. Please contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

Class Organization

This school year has been particularly disruptive to our original class organization and we expect some changes may potentially occur. We know that this can be a difficult time of adjustment for students and families alike. We ask that you remain understanding and flexible of the possible need to make adjustments to class organization.



Forms

There will be numerous forms which you will receive home this week. Completing these forms accurately and returning them promptly (**DUE back on Sept 17**) to the school

is essential to the well-being of your child. You will receive the Student Verification (Information) Forms where addresses, phone numbers and contact information can be changed and updated. **Having current phone numbers is essential if there happens to be a medical emergency and the school needs to contact parents and when regularly communicating important information to parents.** Should your phone number change at some point later in the school year, please call the school to update this information. Media Release forms will, also, be sent home with each child. These forms are a method to have your student's photo published in the local newspaper or on the school website. Should you wish to have your child's photo remain out of the media, this information would be indicated on the Media Release form.



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.

We also have students who are 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.

Medication and Medical Needs

Medication, both prescription & non-prescription, should not be administered to students by school staff. Specific criteria must be met for staff to

administer prescription medication when it cannot be administered from 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.

Should your child have a medical need (such as anaphylaxis, diabetes, asthma or epilepsy) that requires special attention please inform the school and a **“Plan of Care”** will be put in place. The forms for this purpose are available with our resource teachers.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

As outlined in Board policy, routine checks for head lice are conducted during the first week of school and periodically as needed throughout the year. Every effort is made to prevent the spread of head lice but affected students will need to be sent home and may be readmitted after the appropriate treatment has been administered. Parents are encouraged to check their child(ren’s) heads at home on a regular basis.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day)



Wednesday, September 30th is 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. We encourage staff and students to wear orange and to use this day as a way to encourage learning and understanding about the residential school system and the impacts that system has had on Indigenous Peoples.

School Photos

Date to be determined. More information will be provided.



Breakfast Program

Our Breakfast Program will continue this year, modified with prepackaged items, **beginning October 4**. The program will continue with snack bins being delivered to the classrooms in the morning and at 2nd lunch/recess break.

Lunch/Recess

Students will continue to have a “flipped” recess. While out at recess, boundaries will be clearly marked and classroom cohorts (matching classroom bubbles) will share the same recess yard space. This is done under the guidance of Public Health. This year Grade 7 and 8 students will be permitted to leave during the 2nd lunch break **ONLY**. **This WILL NOT begin until Monday, September 13. Parent/guardian permission is mandatory and a signed note must**

be provided (ahead of time) for a specific day based on parent/guardian decision. Providing permission just before lunch will NOT be accepted.

Parent/Guardian and Community Volunteers

At this time, only Essential Visitors are permitted into the school building at this time, unless an appointment has been pre-arranged. We tremendously value community and parent volunteers at the school and look forward to a time when we can have them in our school building and on field trips.

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. At this time, the school council will be via Google Meet. A link will be posted to our Facebook page prior to the meeting for those who wish to attend. We will also email out to existing Council members. **Our first virtual meeting via Google Meet will be held on TUESDAY, September 28 at 10:00 AM.** If you are interested in participating, please call or email Mrs. Litt or Mr. Nienhuis.

Digital Classroom Platforms

Every classroom has a digital classroom platform – either Seesaw or Google Classroom. Please ensure that you, as a parent, are connected with your child’s digital classroom, as many updates will come your way via these platforms. Please reach out to your child’s classroom teacher if you have questions regarding this.

2021-2022 School Calendar

Sept 7: All SK-Gr 8 students at school
Sept 8: ½ JK students at school
Sept 9: Other ½ JK students at school
Sept 10: All students in attendance
Sept 30: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
Oct 8: PA Day
Oct 11: Thanksgiving
Nov 19: PA Day
Dec 20-Jan 31: Winter holidays
Jan 31: PA Day
Feb 21: Family Day
Mar 14-18: March Break

Apr 15: Good Friday
Apr 18: Easter Monday
May 23: Victoria Day
June 10: PA Day
June 28: Final day of school
June 29: PA Day

Online as a SAFE alternative; Information available on our Lansdowne Public School website and the LKDSB website. Pay school fees online as a convenient option.

<https://lkdsb.schoolcashonline.com>

Electronic Newsletter

Due to COVID restrictions guidelines and an effort to reduce the amount of paper and copying, we are asking that parents please access the monthly newsletter and calendar **through the Lansdowne Public School website, through your child's classroom teacher's virtual platform (Seesaw or Google Classroom) or via our Facebook page (Lansdowne Public School)**. On our website, you can subscribe to have the monthly newsletter emailed to you each month. There will be no paper copies sent home this school year.

School Cash Online

Lansdowne Parents/Guardians: Due to COVID restrictions guidelines in handling of money, please remember to sign up for School Cash