



Merlin Area Public School Website  
<http://merlin.lkdsb.net/>  
Lambton Kent District School Board  
<http://www.lkdsb.net/>

# Merlin Area Public School

**Principal: Ms. H. Queen**  
**Secretary: Mrs. C. Oliphant**

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## December 2021

### News from the Office

Thank you to our families who were available to connect with their child's teacher(s) for Parent-Teacher Interviews. We enjoyed having the opportunity to share your child's progress to date. Please feel free to connect with your child's teacher if you have any concerns about your child's progress throughout the year.

Many classes are spending as much time as possible outside during the day. Please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately for the weather, e.g. rubber boots, hats, extra socks/mitts, etc. They may wish to have a different set of clothing at the school. This applies to all grades.

Thank you all for your flexibility. Your cooperation in helping keep our learning community as safe as possible is greatly appreciated.

### Remembrance Day

Remembrance Day was a stoic and reflective day. We were presented with a thoughtful virtual assembly by Mr. Rankin and the grade 5/6 class. Although we were not gathered in the gym, our school stood for the moment of silence with grateful hearts and pride.

Several of our students took part in the Legion Poster Contest. The winners are as follows:

<b>Junior Black &amp; White</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Sully B 2 <sup>nd</sup> Kara B 3 <sup>rd</sup> Jersey D	<b>Junior Colour</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Jasmine W 2 <sup>nd</sup> Sierra M 3 <sup>rd</sup> Grace G
<b>Intermediate Black &amp; White</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Hailey S 2 <sup>nd</sup> Karma W 3 <sup>rd</sup> Summer B	<b>Intermediate Colour</b> 1 <sup>st</sup> Taylor J


## MAPS Winter Dress Up Days

Our Events and Media Team are at it again. We look forward to our staff and students displaying their school spirit for these fun Spirit Winter Dress Up Days.

Friday, December 10



Snowflake Day

Monday, December 13	Tuesday, December 14	Wednesday, December 15	Thursday, December 16	Friday, December 17
<p>Candy Cane Day</p> 	<p>Ugly Sweater Day</p> <p>UGLY SWEATER PARTY</p> 	<p>Winter Character Day</p> 	<p>Red and Green Day</p> <p><b>Red and Green</b></p>	<p>Pyjama Day</p> 

## Playground Equipment

Please be advised that our playground equipment is closed and will not re-open until the Spring. The Ontario School Board Insurance Exchange advises the closure of school playgrounds due to the following reasons: Freezing temperatures - At temperatures below 0 deg. C, very few types of protective ground surfacing remain resilient enough to offer any degree of protection to a falling child - regardless of depth. If the ground cover is frozen, the play equipment is NOT safe for use. Snow build-up - Snow can cause two problems on a play structure - first, it can make play surfaces very slippery; secondly, it can create suffocation hazards if the openings at the end of tube slides or similar structures become closed in by drifting snow. Ice or freezing rain - As noted above, ice or freezing rain can make play surfaces, hand grips and stairways very slippery, increasing the risk of slip and fall injuries. Clothing - Synthetic materials, such as nylon reduce sliding resistance, particularly on plastic slide beds. This can increase the travel speed on this equipment to a dangerous level, and if combined with frozen ground cover, can increase the chance of injury. Winter clothing is also very bulky and is more likely to have drawstrings or hooks and clips that can become entangled in the equipment components. Please remind your child not to use the school equipment outside of school hours during the winter months

## MAPS 2021 Volleyball Team

Our students have been competitive in LKESSA co-ed volleyball throughout November. We had a small but mighty team! The games were fun and exciting for our students and staff. Thank you to those who came out to represent our COLTS and our excellent coaches, Mme. DeNure, Mrs. Vander Pryt and Mr. Rankin. A Special Thank you to Mr. Hills for also supporting the team when called on.



2021 Volleyball Team:  
Lucas, Roy, Alex, Darian, Savannah, Lillian, Cohen and Emma

## Deli Dude FUNdraiser

Thank you to everyone who supported our Deli Dude Fundraiser. Over \$1900 dollars was raised to assist with the cost of field trips and guest speakers/events. Items will be delivered to the school on December 9. Great work supporting our school, everyone!

## MAPS Parent Council

Chair- Mrs. Laura Walker  
Vice Chair- Mrs. Margie Authier  
Secretary/Treasurer- Mrs. Melissa Walker  
Teaching Staff Member- Miss G. Bombardier

### NEXT MEETING:

If you are interested in attending our next virtual school council meeting on February 7 at 6:30 pm, please reach out to the office or our school chair, Mrs. L. Walker @ [slwalker@teksavvy.com](mailto:slwalker@teksavvy.com) and; we will be sure to provide the google meet link to you.

**Fundraising-** Indigo fundraiser is open and will stay open until mid-April.

Use this hyperlink: [Shop and earn cashback - Merlin Area Public School | Indigo FUNdraising \(flipgive.com\)](https://indigofundraising.flipgive.com/teams/260780-merlin-area-public-school)

Or [Online FUNdraisers | Indigo \(flipgive.com\)](https://indigofundraising.flipgive.com/teams/260780-merlin-area-public-school) and Merlin Area Public School.



# Indigo Fundraiser

Are you still looking for gift ideas? Purchase Indigo gift cards through this link for loved ones, and the school will get a 15% give back! Also, share the link or QR Code with family and friends.

Visit the following link to support:

<https://indigofundraising.flipgive.com/teams/260780-merlin-area-public-school>

**Merlin Area Public School**  
\$0 earned of \$1,000 goal · 209 days left  
By Merlin Parent Council · Elementary School · Chapters Windsor · Devonshire Mall

Shop Indigo and your purchase will benefit our fundraiser!

**Shop Online** GIVE CASH BACK  
**Donate Now** GIVE DIRECTLY

Click the shop or Donate buttons, which ever you prefer.

**Buy an Indigo eGift Card**  
Gives 15%  
SHOP NOW

**SHOP BOOKS** Gives up to 3%  
**SHOP STYLE** Gives up to 3%  
**SHOP KIDS** Gives up to 3%  
**SHOP PAPER** Gives up to 3%  
**SHOP HOME** Gives up to 3%  
**INDIGO GIFT CARD** Gives 15%

Here shows the options for shopping. By purchasing gift cards for your loved one or yourself the school will get 15% back. Shopping through the other links on Indigo the school will receive 3% back.





## Holiday Lunch



A memorable holiday lunch is being provided for your child/children by the Parent Council of MAPS on Friday, December 10. The lunch will consist of pasta with marinara sauce, a dinner roll, a juice box and a cupcake for dessert.

Please let the school know if you do not wish your child/children to receive this lunch.

### CK Rangers

The CK Play Rangers came to MAPS on December 3 for our 1<sup>st</sup> Home on the Range Day. Staff and students broke out their best plaid shirts and boots. All students JK-Grade 8 participated in a fun and active day.

Play Rangers is an award-winning program that encourages children to get outside, play in parks, enjoy open spaces and engage in free play.

The Play Rangers travel throughout Chatham-Kent with their CK Rec Trailer full of games, toys, and equipment to promote the unstructured free play. The Play Rangers turned our field space into a fun and engaging place that promoted physical activity, spending time as a class and the development of essential physical literacy JK-5/6. Our 6/7 and 7/8 classes participated in a leadership growing opportunity.



## Bus Information- Zone 7

We may experience some heavy fog during the fall in which there could be bus cancellations. When there are bus cancellations due to fog, busses will not run in the morning but will run in the afternoon. MAPS is in ZONE 7. To check for any bus cancellations during the school year, please tune into the local radio stations or check the following website: [www.schoolbusinfo.com](http://www.schoolbusinfo.com)

## COVID SCREENING

Please continue to complete the COVID-19 school screening daily assessment tool, which is available here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

All students (or parents/guardians on behalf of students) and visitors must complete the screening before attending an LKDSB school. Anyone 18+ must also wear a medical-grade mask and show proof of vaccination to enter the school building. We can also arrange google meets or phone conferences where necessary. If an individual or family does not have access to the online screening tool, please contact the school to receive a printed copy of the most up-to-date Daily Screening Questionnaire at the time of your request.

## COVID Guidelines: Traveling Outside of Canada

As per the federal travel guidelines and the directions of the Ontario COVID-19 school and child care screening through the Ontario Ministry of Education (at the time of publishing), unvaccinated children under the age of 12 who travel outside of Canada with fully vaccinated companions are exempt from federal quarantine; however, they are not permitted to attend a school or child care for 14 days following their return.

## SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

### Holidays

Monday, December 20, 2021  
WINTER HOLIDAY BREAK BEGINS  
Monday, January 3, 2022 RETURN TO SCHOOL  
Monday, February 21, 2022 FAMILY DAY  
March 14-18, 2022 MARCH BREAK  
Friday, April 15, 2022 GOOD FRIDAY  
Monday, April 18, 2022 EASTER MONDAY  
Monday, May 23, 2022 VICTORIA DAY

### P. A. Days

Monday, January 31, 2022  
Friday, June 10, 2022  
Tuesday, June 29, 2022



Have a safe and happy  
Holiday!  
We look forward to seeing  
you all in 2022!