



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

# Merlin Area Public School

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## May 2022

### EDUCATION WEEK May 2<sup>nd</sup>- 6<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Throughout the past two years and with the many transitions and challenges that everyone has endured throughout the pandemic, along with many other social and economic factors which have and continue to impact many of us, we are incredibly pleased to finally open our doors and welcome our families back into our building for the first time in over two years!

We invite you to visit our school  
**PRO Health and Wellness Event Tuesday, May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6 pm-7:30 pm**  
Open House  
as we celebrate Education Week this week, May 2-6, 2022  
Rain or Shine

Our remarkable Parent Council has organized a special event on Tuesday, May 3. There will be many guest presenters and activities to participate in. Some but not all activities include The Life By Design Centre, The CK Health Team, Chatham-Kent Public Library, CK Recreation- CK Rangers, and Chatham Kent Trails. Your children have also worked very hard in their classrooms on coding, planning, visual arts and more while having fun creating a Sphero Golf Challenge to be shared with families at our event!

There will also be a small token of our appreciation for each family in attendance.

**We look forward to seeing you Tuesday night!**



## MAPS Parent Council

Chair- Mrs. Laura Walker

Vice Chair- Mrs. Margie Authier

Secretary/Treasurer- Mrs. Melissa Walker

Teaching Staff Member- Miss G. Bombardier

There will be ONE more Parent Council Fundraiser this school year. Stay tuned for something sweet.



Reminder, all funds raised go back to the students of MAPS

Parent Council Meal Days Return:

Wayne's Pizza Days will be on Mondays Starting May 16  
Subway May 26 and June 16

We are pleased that all classes FDK-8 will have an opportunity for a year-end trip this year. Thank you to our Parent Council for donating \$10 per child for year-end field trips. The total cost of trips will already have this cost deducted when the forms come home in the next few weeks.

## KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We cannot wait to welcome your little ones. If you know of anyone who has an age-appropriate child for Junior or Senior Kindergarten next Fall (will be 4 years old in 2022), please encourage them to register online or contact the school for help as soon as possible.

Register here: [www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten](http://www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten)

We will be hosting one last FDK open house. On June 8, we welcome our new FDK Colts and their families for a visit. They will be welcome into our building to see their classroom, play some fun activities, meet some staff, and get a special gift.

We look forward to meeting our new FDK Colts soon!



### From the desks of Coach Hills, Coulter & Rankin

The boys' basketball team just wrapped up their season. Showing some solid improvement as the season progressed, the boys worked hard and had fun as they played. It was great to finally have a chance to play competitive basketball in school again.

Congrats to all the boys who played on the team!

### Soccer with Coach Mills and Coach Keillor

Our girls' team will have their first practice on May 2 and look forward to playing a game soon, representing MAPS as one of three teams in southern CK.

This will be a short season, and we look forward to an entire season in the Fall of 2022.

### Media and Events- Spirit Days

May 6, dress up what you want to be when you are older

May 12, wear Green to support Mental Health awareness

May 17, wear your spirit wear for Track and Field

May 20 jersey day

Every Monday is MAPS Spirit Wear Day: Wear Green and Black and show your school spirit.

### Track & Field – IT'S BACK 🏃

We are thrilled to welcome Track and Field back to MAPS this year for our grade 4-8 students! Track and Field will take place on Tuesday, May 17 (The rain date is May 19). We thank Mrs. Vander Pryt, who has taken on our meet's lead coach/planner.

We welcome families to bring their lawn chairs and blankets and come cheer on your favourite Colts!

Colts, please remember to dress appropriately for the weather and events you are participating in on that day. Also, bring lots of water.

The Optimist Fry Truck will be present on the 17<sup>th</sup>. MAPS students will have the opportunity to order ahead and pay online using school cash. This helps ensure there is enough food and to plan accordingly.

We expect all students to attend school on May 17 and participate in at least 3 events. Students are welcome to join in more if they would like. If a child cannot participate for any reason, please reach out to your child's classroom teacher, and arrangements will be made accordingly to ensure that everyone can take part and have an enjoyable day.

\*For those who have the opportunity to move on to LKESSA and represent Merlin Area Public School on June 9 at CKSS (the rain date is June 13). Due to some restrictions, parents will be required to make arrangements to get their child to the meet at CKSS and supervise their child. More information is still to come.

## School Yard After Hours & Playground Safety

Our school ground spaces are intended for children and must be respected for the health and safety of our children. The FDK pen area and shared daycare play area are not an off-leash dog park after hours.



Please ensure that your child(ren) has the appropriate outerwear for being outdoors. The weather can be very windy and cold, and it is better to send extra layers or an extra pair of clothing for those muddy days.

## Mental Health

During [CMHA Mental Health Week](#) (May 2-6) and throughout the year, the Lambton Kent District School Board supports student mental health and well-being.

The theme of this year's Mental Health Week is Empathy. Empathy is the ability to share someone else's feelings or experiences by imagining what it would be like to be in their situation. When times are tough, we need to be there for each other and practice empathy.

In supporting the LKDSB's Strategic Priority, "Student Achievement and Well-Being," we remain committed to promoting education and awareness of mental health issues. We support the development of mental health through curriculum, systematic training for staff, collaboration with community partners, and a focus on promoting well-being.

In addition to [school mental health supports](#), students and families may access help through a community mental health organization and [Kids Help Phone](#) (available 24/7) Phone: 1 800 668-6868 or Text: 686868

## May 5 Red Dress Day

May 5 is the National Day of Awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and Two-Spirit People.

May 5 is also known as Red Dress Day, and people wear red to create awareness of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and two-spirit people and as a call for all Canadians to remember and take action.

## **EQAO**

EQAO will take place for grade 3 & 6 students. May 25- June 7 during 1st & 2nd blocks. Please try not to book appointments during this time if your child is in Grade 3 or 6.

The EQAO Assessments of Reading, Writing and Mathematics for students in Grade 3 and Grade 6 will be administered at Ontario schools this Spring. Students who attend publicly funded schools in person will complete the EQAO assessments. These assessments align with the expectations in The Ontario Curriculum and measure the reading, writing and mathematics skills students are expected to have learned by the end of Grade 3 and Grade 6.

EQAO assessments provide information about Ontario's education system that helps parents, guardians, and educators understand how students are progressing. There are a variety of question types, including multiple-select, drag and drop, checklist items and drop-down menu items. In the language component, students are also presented with opportunities to write longer answers to open-response questions.

Before students write the assessments, they will have an opportunity to participate in an introductory session in class with their teacher. This will help familiarize them with the new online platform, requiring much less time to complete than previous years.

If your child will be completing EQAO this year and you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's classroom teacher or Mrs. Queen Munroe.

Please visit [EQAO.com](https://eqao.com) to learn more about the Education Quality and Accountability Office.

## **Daily School Screener**

Thank you to all our families for your diligence in completing the daily school screener. Please continue to complete the school screener daily for your child until further notice. No confirmation of completion is required, but if your child is symptomatic, this is the tool the school uses to determine isolation periods, mask requirements and expectations for sibling attendance. Reminder, the screener is updated often and constantly changing, so it is essential to continue to refer to the latest requirements. Thank you for your ongoing understanding and support in keeping staff and students healthy.

<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>



## **Bus Information- Zone 7**

When there are bus cancellations due to fog, buses 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 turn into the local radio stations or check the following website: [www.schoolbusinfo.com](http://www.schoolbusinfo.com)

## SCHOOL EMERGENCY DRILLS

Emergency drills are an important part of the school routine. Fire, Severe Weather, and Lockdown drills must be completed as scheduled throughout the school year. Schools must hold at least six fire drills each year (three in the Fall and three in the Spring), severe weather drills (e.g., tornado), and lockdown drills. We have had modified drills for the past two years to allow for spacing with covid restrictions. This Spring will be the first time in over two years that we will be practicing all drills without any modifications.

Lockdown drills prepare students and staff to respond in the event of a lockdown by teaching and practicing actions to stay safe and quiet in classrooms or other parts of the school. Students learn the basic imperatives of following instructions, staying quiet, and staying calm.

## SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

**Holidays:** Monday, May 23, VICTORIA Day

**PA Days:** Friday, June 10 & Tuesday, June 29

**Play Day (FDK-GR. 3):** Wednesday, June 15

**Grade 8 Graduation:** Tuesday, June 21 at 6pm@ MAPS

**Last Day of Classes** for Students, Tuesday, June 28

### **Other important notes for May:**

Allergy Awareness Month in Canada

2<sup>nd</sup> Eid al-Fitr

5<sup>th</sup> Cinco DeMayo

Dutch Heritage Day

Red Dress Day

8<sup>th</sup> Mother's Day

17 International Day Against Homophobia

25<sup>th</sup> African Liberation Day

**nothing is**

**IMPOSSIBLE**

the word itself says

**I'M POSSIBLE**

- Audrey Hepburn -