



# Merlin Area Public School

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

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

**Phone: 1-519-689-4812**  
21184 Erie St. N PO Box  
160 NOP 1W0

---

## September 2021 PART 2

### Principal Message

Can you feel it? A slight change in the air. A crispness that was not there before the start of school- The smells, sounds, and tastes are changing- pumpkin spice is everywhere! The changes of seasons are something I love about living in Southern Ontario. It is true. Autumn is coming. It has been wonderful welcoming our student's home to MAPS. For the first time since March 2020, we have had so many people in the building simultaneously, and it has been fantastic! The stories, laughter, and opportunity to reconnect have been extraordinary and appreciated.

On September 7, our September Welcome Home Newsletter was sent out via school messenger and posted to our school website. It included many essential points about operational routines and documents that have been sent home. September 2021 Part 2 is about reconnecting and celebrating our families.

With limitations of having families within the building for events such as a traditional meet the teacher BBQ, we will have a bulletin board in our main hallway where students and staff may display a family photo on a "This Is Us" board. If you are able and comfortable, please send a picture to one of your children's teachers for this display. We cannot guarantee that you will get your photo back, so if you would rather send a photocopy, that would work well, or if you would like to pass, we understand. If you do not want to have a photo of your family up, that is ok; with your permission, we will take a picture of your child with some friends or staff members from their "School family" to display so that no child is left out.

We appreciate your support as we settle back into routines.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions or concerns. The MAPS Staff is committed to ensuring that all students are safe and have the best educational experience possible.

All the best,

Mrs. H. Queen Munroe

## Mennonite Heritage Week

Mennonite Heritage Week, Is that even a thing?

Yes, it is! "On May 29, 2019, the [Government of Canada](#) adopted a motion to officially declare the second week of September as Mennonite Heritage Week. This week is an opportunity to learn more about Mennonite Canadians, their unique history, their vibrant culture, and their contributions that have helped shape our country."

What is a Mennonite?

The label Mennonite is used in several ways—one as a faith tradition, one as a culture, and as a people group—to name a few. Mennonites started in the 16th century Reformation and were named after one of the early leaders, Menno Simons. As violent persecution mounted against this fledgling stream of faith, early Mennonites fled to various other parts of the world. Many of the Mennonites in Chatham-Kent fled from Europe to what is now Russia, later moving to Canada and then Mexico and, more recently, back to Canada.

A couple fun facts about Mennonites:

- Two-thirds of the world's Mennonites are African, Asian or Latin American.
- Many of the Mennonites in Chatham-Kent (commonly called Mexican Mennonites) speak Low-German, eat Russian and Mexican food, and are relatively recent immigrants to Southwestern Ontario.

### 10 Things to Know About Mennonites in Canada:

<https://canadianmennonite.org/stories/10-things-know-about-mennonites-canada>

Thank you to our very own Wiebe family for taking the time to share information and open their home to cook for us virtually. Before Covid, Mennonite Heritage Week would have been an ideal opportunity to bring in family recipes/dishes to share and discuss. However, with the current restrictions, Jasmine Wiebe created two videos with the help of her family that will be shared and discussed in our classes. You can follow Jasmin on her very own blog, where she shares some information about her personal story, many delicious recipes, and some of her how-to videos, <https://kid-creations.wixsite.com/mysite/post/summer-borscht-and-rollkuchen>

## SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our first School Council Meeting will be through a Virtual Google Meet on September 27 at 6:30pm. New members are welcome. Elections for School Council positions will take place at the first official meeting. Nomination forms are posted on our school website. Nomination forms can be returned virtually, or a hard copy sent in with your child before September 24, 2021.

If you are interested in attending our first meeting, please email the current chair Laura Walker at [slwalker@teksavvy.com](mailto:slwalker@teksavvy.com) or Ms. Queen Munroe to send you a virtual invite.

## National Day for Truth and Reconciliation- Orange Shirt Day- September 30

The Government of Canada has formally designated September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as a federally statutory holiday for employees in the federal government and federally regulated workplaces. This day will be observed to honour First Nations, Inuit and Metis survivors and their families and communities and ensure the public commemoration of their history and the legacy of residential schools.

The Lambton Kent District School Board will commemorate the impact of residential schools on **Thursday, September 30, 2021 – Orange Shirt Day**. Students and staff are encouraged to wear orange shirts and use this day as a catalyst to encourage learning and understanding about the residential school system and the impacts that system has had on First Nations, Metis and Inuit people. This is a meaningful way as school communities to come together in a spirit of reconciliation and hope because "Every Child Matters". Respectfully, flags at all LKDSB schools and facilities will be lowered on this day.



This recognition day will be part of the activities and discussions occurring during the Truth and Reconciliation Week, September 27 to October 1, which will also include discussions about the truth of Indigenous treaties, languages and culture and First Nation, Metis and Inuit land claims.

For additional information, please click the following links:

**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:**

<https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2021/07/federal-statutory-holiday-national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation.html>

**Orange Shirt Day:** <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

## Terry Fox Walk/Run October 4, 2021

Terry Fox represented the best that Canadians have to offer. He was an example of courage, humility, determination, and perseverance. From a young age, he exemplified these attributes that made him an inspiration for Canada and the entire world.

Our students and staff will honour the memory of Terry Fox by participating in the annual Terry Fox Run at the school on **Monday, October 4**. Thank you to Mr. Hills for organizing the event. Our classes will be participating at different times over the day to respect social distancing. A link will be provided to your child shortly for those considering donating funds to support cancer research; no cash donations will be accepted this year.

Thank you for your ongoing support of our greater community.

## Stay Connected

Please continue to visit the LKDSB website for the most up-to-date information at [www.lkdsb.net](http://www.lkdsb.net)  
Like our Facebook Page @ Merlin PS to receive reminders and updates.

## COVID SCREENING

The provincial government **COVID-19 school screening daily assessment tool:**  
<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.

If an individual or family does not have access to the online screening tool, please contact the school to receive the most updated printed copy of the Chatham-Kent and Lambton Public Health Daily Screening Questionnaire.

## SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

### Holidays

Monday, October 11, 2021 THANKSGIVING  
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

Friday, October 8, 2021  
Friday, November 19, 2021  
Monday, January 31, 2022  
Friday, June 10, 2022  
Tuesday, June 29, 2022