



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
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March 2022

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

We can not 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 at their earliest convenience. Register here www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten

We will be hosting 2 spring FDK open houses on April 20 & June 8 for our new FDK Colts to come for a visit.

Black History/ African Heritage Month



Black History/African Heritage Month was in February; the LKDSB is committed to recognizing the historically erased role of Black Canadians in our history and society. This year, the focus for Black History/African Heritage Month has been on Black Lives Matter. Our staff and students participated in several activities and events throughout February and the school year. For more information, please visit the LKDSB website Link to the LKDSB Black History Website [Black Heritage - Lambton Kent District School Board \(lkdsb.net\)](http://www.lkdsb.net/black-heritage)

We would also like to recognize and celebrate a local member of our community, Ms. Shannon Prince, who recently received the **Thomas Symons Award for Commitment to Conservation:** Shannon Prince is the longtime curator and guardian of the Buxton National Historic Site & Museum. She is a devoted storyteller and participant in historical re-enactments that bring the history of Buxton and the Underground Railroad to life. Over decades, she has demonstrated exemplary commitment and dedication to the enrichment of the site and Black heritage in Ontario and beyond. She is a descendant of early freedom-seekers that came to Canada, and her work brings insight, respect and love to this chapter in Ontario's heritage. Prince still actively farms in Buxton with her husband and frequent collaborator, Bryan, and their four children.



Media and Events

March Spirit Days

Thursday, March 10th	Friday, March 11	Monday, March 21	Friday, March 25
St. Patrick's Day WEAR GREEN 	Pyjama Day 	Funky Sock Day Down Syndrome Awareness Day 	Wear Purple Epilepsy Awareness Day 

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

Entry Procedures

The school board has reviewed the practice of students entering the school as soon as they arrive at school. Based on the changing manner of protocols, beginning March 7 students will remain outside on the school yard in their respected cohorts prior to the bell before the school day begins. Staff will be on duty at 7:55am and everyone will enter the building at the bell at 8:10am. Please do not drop children off before 7:55am, there will not supervision until that time.

MAPS School Council

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

Fundraising- Indigo fundraiser is open now and will stay open until mid-April. Use this hyperlink: [Shop and earn cash back - Merlin Area Public School | Indigo FUNdraising \(flipgive.com\)](https://www.flipgive.com/Shop-and-earn-cash-back-Merlin-Area-Public-School-Indigo-FUNdraising)

Or [Online FUNdraisers | Indigo \(flipgive.com\)](https://www.flipgive.com/Online-FUNdraisers-Indigo) and go to Merlin Area Public School.
 We appreciate your support of our school and students!

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

Report Cards

End-of-term reports were distributed on Tuesday, February 22. This is an excellent opportunity to celebrate your child's learning over the first half of the year and to set goals for improvement moving forward. If you have any questions, comments or concerns, please reach out to your child's teacher.

Count Me In

The Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) is launching the Count Me In LKDSB Student Census March 1-25, 2022 to collect information to better understand its students and school communities.

This voluntary and confidential survey will collect demographic information about students, such as race, ethnicity, language, religion, gender identity and sexual orientation. The list of questions is posted on the LKDSB website.

Census questionnaires for students in Kindergarten to Grade 8 will be sent to parents/guardians to complete with or on behalf of their child. Students in Grades 9-12 will be provided the link to the census directly and will be provided with classroom time to complete.

The census is directed and supported by the Ontario Ministry of Education. As noted in the Government of Ontario's Anti-Racism Strategic Plan, all school boards in Ontario will be required to collect race-based data. The results of the student census will identify systemic barriers and bias within the education system. The results will help LKDSB make informed decisions about programming to support student success and allocate resources to where they are needed most.

Education systems have historically not served all students and gaps remain in the learning outcomes of different student groups. LKDSB recognizes that changes need to be made so that all learners are provided opportunities to succeed.

"As noted in the LKDSB's Strategic Priority of "Inclusive Diversity: Championing anti-oppressive education," we are committed to removing barriers to education," said Director John Howitt. "The census will provide us with additional information to better understand individual student needs and our school communities at large, as well as identify and address discrimination and systemic barriers while improving outcomes for all students."

It is expected aggregated results of the census will be reported to the community in Fall 2022 and action steps will be developed.

Parents/guardians with questions about the Count Me In LKDSB student census are encouraged to contact their child's school. For additional information about the census, including a list of Frequently Asked Questions, visit the LKDSB website. [Demographic Data Census - Lambton Kent District School Board \(lkdsb.net\)](https://www.lkdsb.net/demographic-data-census)

Cell Phones at School

We recognize that electronic devices are an important part of our everyday world and are increasingly being used in teaching and learning. However, we want to be sure that any devices at school are being used as an appropriate instructional tool and their use does not interfere with our students learning environment. If your child needs to bring their cellphone to school, please remind them they must have the teacher's permission to use it during school hours and that the school is not responsible if it is damaged or missing.

If you need to reach your child, please call the office. If your child needs to contact you, the student may use a school phone with permission to reach you.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Absence Reporting

If your child is going to be absent from school, please continue to use School Messenger or call the school.

School Messenger Account

Open an internet browser and search for go.schoolmessenger.ca or download the Blue School Messenger App.

When you leave a message, please include your child's first and last name and the reason for their absence. Our answering machine is available 24 hours a day for reporting absences.

Bus Information- Zone 7

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 turn into the local radio stations or check the following website: www.schoolbusinfo.com

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Holidays

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, June 10, 2022
Tuesday, June 29, 2022



6/7 Mrs. Coulter's Class
Words Have Power Biographies

Indigo Fundraiser!!

This is an ongoing fundraiser that our Parent Council has set up. It will start now and continue through the school year until March.

It's a fun easy way to shop for yourself, a friend or family. Remember, Christmas and the holidays are just around the corner and many people loves gifts cards. Just follow the link and either shop or donate. If you choose a gift card, you will instantly receive a digital gift card by email.

All proceeds will go towards the many projects our Parent Council helps with at the school to benefit our children. (Example: Technology, playground and gym equipment and many more items).

Below is the screen that you will see once clicking the link. [Indigo Fundraising link](#)

https://indigofundraising.flipgive.com/teams/260780-merlin-area-public-school?fundraiser_id=1466427

