



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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## November 2021

### News from the Office

Thank you to all of our families for supporting us and making the school year run well. I know it is not easy having to keep children home when they are sick, but we appreciate all the care you are taking. We are incredibly grateful for how well people are doing about calling when their children are ill and understanding when to send them home. Please continue to use the updated COVID-19 screener every day before sending your children to school. This should help us prevent you from picking your child up if they are not feeling well. The screener can be found at this link: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening>

These days we 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 and support during these interesting times. Your cooperation in helping keep our learning community as safe as possible is greatly appreciated.

### Progress Reports and Interviews

Progress Reports will be sent home Friday, November 12. Progress Reports indicate how a child is progressing in the subjects covered to date.

Parent/Teacher interviews will occur via a scheduled Google Meet for the parent that the teacher will individually schedule or with a phone call at a scheduled time. The interviews will take place during the week of November 15<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup>.

### Remembrance Day

A special virtual assembly has been organized by Mr. Rankin and students to honour and remember those brave individuals who fought for our country. Poppies will be provided for the students following health and safety protocols in place. We will accept monetary donations for the Royal Canadian Legion to help offset the poppies' cost.

## Treaties Recognition Week

The Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) commemorates Treaties Recognition Week from November 1-5, joining school boards across the province in promoting education and awareness about treaty rights and treaty relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people in Ontario.

This year, the LKDSB Indigenous Education Team continues to focus on increasing awareness and understanding of treaties. During Treaties Recognition Week, students and staff will engage in curriculum activities related to honouring the original promises of the land - a shared responsibility for all. Students and staff will reflect on how individual decisions and behaviours impact the land we live on and make better use of natural resources.

The LKDSB recognizes the traditional land of Aamjiwnaang First Nation; Eelūnaapéewi Lahkéewiit (Delaware Nation), Kettle & Stony Point First Nation; and Walpole Island (Bkejwanong) First Nation. We acknowledge that the Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi, known as the Anishinaabeg, and the Delaware known as Lunaapeew inhabited these lands at the time of the written treaties, these being: Treaty #2, Treaty #7 and Treaty #29. The LKDSB appreciates the ongoing support and partnership of First Nations to collectively promote education and mutual understanding of Indigenous rights, histories, knowledge, culture, and perspectives.

## MAPS Parent 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 for holiday shopping and will stay open until mid-April. Use this hyperlink:

[Shop and earn cash back - Merlin Area Public School | Indigo FUNdraising \(flippgive.com\)](#)

Or [Online FUNdraisers | Indigo \(flippgive.com\)](#) and go to Merlin Area Public School.

Please see the last page of this newsletter for details. We appreciate your support of our school and students!

If you are interested in attending our next council meeting virtually on November 15 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.

## **Deli Dude FUNdraiser**

Craving something nutritious, delicious AND satisfying? Look no further!

Deli Dude offers the finest range of meat snacks with a unique taste and flavour.

Students will start selling Deli Dude from November 1-November 10<sup>th</sup> if they wish. This fundraiser offers a 40% return and will be in before the December Holidays. Please do not sell door to door. Funds raised will go towards future guest speakers, field trips and special student projects/tools for our MAPS students.

## **Cell Phones at School**

Cell phones are not to be used to text, call people or take photos/videos during the school day without the correct permissions. We have many families who do not want their child or children photographed. If your son or daughter needs to contact you, the teacher may give the child permission to contact you. If you need to get in touch with your child, please call the school. Cell phones are not to be used as a communication tool during the school day. At times your child will be welcome to use their phones with the permission of the teacher for instructional purposes. Thank you for your support.

## **Media and Events**

Thank you to our Media and Events Team for a wonderful virtual assembly on October 29. There were many contributions from the student body. Great special effects!

Upcoming events include:

11<sup>th</sup>: Remembrance Day- Wear Red

12<sup>th</sup>: Diabetes Awareness- Wear Blue

19<sup>th</sup>: Jersey Day

30<sup>th</sup>: Moustache Day

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

## **Absence Reporting**

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

### **SchoolMessenger account.**

Open an internet browser and search for [go.schoolmessenger.ca](http://go.schoolmessenger.ca) or download the BLUE SchoolMessenger 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

During the fall, we may experience some heavy fog 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 turn 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.

## 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

**Friday, November 19, 2021**

Monday, January 31, 2022

Friday, June 10, 2022

Tuesday, June 29, 2022

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

