



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

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October 2021

News from the Office

Thank you very much for your understanding; while we navigate the evolving Public Health protocols, our primary concerns are the student's health and safety. Thank you to our entire staff for working so diligently with our students and our custodians for their efforts with frequent cleaning. Thank you also to our families for speaking to your child(ren) about the importance of wearing masks, frequent hand hygiene and the need to maintain social distancing while at school. Your cooperation in helping keep our learning community as safe as possible is greatly appreciated.

Welcome

We are pleased to welcome our new custodian, Mr. Dan. We also welcome Mrs. Ashely as one of our new Elementary Supervision Support helpers.

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 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

Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals will most often employ progressive discipline strategies to help students take responsibility for their actions, learn from their mistakes, and make better choices in the future.

In more extreme cases, however, when a student's behaviour poses a potential threat to their own or others' well-being, the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA) supports principals in taking further steps to safeguard everyone.

The VTRA protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening incidents, including but not limited to possession of a weapon or replica weapon, bomb threat or plan, verbal or written (including electronic) threats to harm oneself or others, other threats of violence, and fire setting.

The initial response team is likely to include the Principal / Vice-Principal, police, and board staff. Should conditions warrant, a Community Threat Assessment Team will be convened. This community team includes representatives of community agencies who work with schools and boards to keep our students and staff safe, such as local police and children's mental health organizations. Parents and guardians will be notified if their child will be discussed through the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol.

If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment may still proceed.

Link to Fair Notice Communication Regarding Violent Threat Risk Assessment Protocol:

https://www.lkdsb.net/Pages/newsitem.aspx?ItemID=460&ListID=1cb83139-1d39-452b-8ab2-b6cfab6c2ba7&TemplateID=Announcement_Item#/=

Terry Fox

Our students and staff will honour the memory of Terry Fox by participating in the annual Terry Fox Run at the school. Thank you to Mr. Hills and his 7/8 class for organizing the event. Our classes will be participating at different times over the course of the day to respect social distancing. Thank you for considering donating funds online to support cancer research. Please use the link for all donations.

<http://www.terryfox.ca/MerlinAreaPSMerlin>

Your help is appreciated. Thank you for all the donations.



Orange T-Shirt Day



Thank-you to everyone for participating in Orange Shirt Day in recognition of survivors of Residential Schools and those students who never returned home.

On Orange Shirt Day (September 30) we wear orange shirts to honour the First Nation, Métis and Inuit children who were taken from their families and communities to be sent away to residential schools in Canada. The days surrounding Orange Shirt Day are an important time to learn more about the history of those schools. We are providing this information because learning about residential schools in Canada and their continuing effects felt by Indigenous communities today is new learning for many people.

The "orange shirt" in Orange Shirt Day refers to the new shirt that Phyllis Webstad was given to her by her grandmother for her first day of school at St. Joseph's Mission residential school in British Columbia. When Phyllis got to school, they took away her clothes, including her new shirt. It was never returned. To Phyllis, the colour orange has always reminded her of her experiences at residential school and, as she has said, "how my feelings didn't matter, how no one cared, and I felt like I was worth nothing. All of us little children were crying, and no one cared."

Our work towards increasing our knowledge about Indigenous education will be ongoing through the year.

Key Facts About Residential Schools

- Residential schools were government-mandated, church-run schools where approximately 150,000 Métis, Inuit and First Nations children were forcibly sent between the 1830s and the 1990s.
- The schools harmed Indigenous children by removing them from their families, forcing them to speak English or French instead of their traditional languages, disconnecting them from their culture and traditions and forcing them to adopt Christianity in order to assimilate into Canadian society.
- Many children suffered unspeakable abuse at the hands of the priests, nuns and other staff at the schools.
- An estimated 6,000 children died while attending residential schools, but records are incomplete, and this number continues to rise as unmarked graves continue to be discovered.
- The first residential school in Canada opened in Brantford, Ontario, in 1831.
- The last residential school in Canada closed in Punnichy, Saskatchewan, in 1996

MAPS Parent Council

Our first meeting of the year was held virtually on September 27. We thank those who attended and are pleased to introduce our 2021-2022 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 all set to go and will stay open until mid-April. 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 and; we will be sure to provide the google meet link to you.

Student Accident Insurance

The LKDSB does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries. Families may wish to voluntarily purchase an insurance plan to provide supplemental coverage. Learn more at: insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437.

Consent for Authorization of Medication

If a student must take medication at school, Board policy requires us to have a Medical Physician complete a consent form. Please request the blank form from our office.

Online Platforms- See-Saw/Google Classroom

Our teachers have all set up online platforms for communication/schoolwork purposes. If you need this information, please contact your child's teacher. We encourage everyone to be set up with the online platform for your child's class if our school/board must move to remote learning at any time.

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 to enter the school building.

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.

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



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.



Indigo
Buy | Donate | Give | Indigo

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 eGIFT CARD
Gives 15%

Here show 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%

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