



# 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 -Welcome Back

### Principal Message

WELCOME HOME

September 2021

On behalf of the entire Merlin Area Public School Staff, we would like to extend a very warm welcome home to each of you. The new school year always brings excitement and gives us something to celebrate. We celebrate and offer a warm welcome to the new students and families of our community. We welcome some new faces to our staff, Mrs. Drummond our new Grade ½ classroom teacher, Mrs. McCracken our afternoon curriculum partner, Mrs. Martin-Loree our new Educational Assistant, and we welcome back to Mrs. Coulter who will be teaching a 6/7 class this year.

As we put the finishing touches on being back to school ready and providing an excellent education, our priority is the health, safety and well-being of students and staff. Our goal is to reduce the risk of exposure to COVID-19 as much as possible. LKDSB continues to follow the guidance provided by the Ministry of Education and provincial and local Medical Officers of Health. Please visit the LKDSB website at [www.lkdsb.net](http://www.lkdsb.net) for the Reopening Our Schools plan, including school year dates, health and safety procedures and risk mitigation strategies for the return to school.

We look forward to having your children back together sharing, laughing, and learning. 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.

Welcome, Home!

All the best,

Mrs. H. Queen Munroe

## 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.

## MAPS STAFF 2020-2021

Valerie Leavoy	FDK Teacher
Lindsay Keillor	FDK ECE
Sharon Drummond	Grade ½ Teacher
Kristena Mifflin	Grade 2/3 Teacher
Gwendolyn Bombardier	Grade 4/5 Teacher
Rob Rankin	Grade 5/6 Teacher
Nicole Coulter	Grade 6/7 Teacher
Jeremy Hills	Grade 7/8 Teacher
Corrie DeNure	Curriculum Partner & French
Kathryn Vander Pryt	Curriculum Partner & Resource
Jessica McCracken	Curriculum Partner (PM)
Robyn Mills	Educational Assistant
Vanessa Martin-Loree	Educational Assistant
TBD	Supervision Support
TBD	Supervision Support
TBD	Daytime Custodian
Doug McNeil	Nighttime Custodian
Carolyn Oliphant	Secretary
Harmony Queen Munroe	Principal

## Balanced Day Schedule

### BALANCED DAY SCHEDULE

Supervised Indoor Entry: (15mins) 7:55 a.m. 8:10 a.m.  
First Instructional Block (120 mins) 8:10 a.m. 10:10 a.m.  
Recess Break/Nutritional (40 mins) 10:10 a.m. 10:50 a.m.  
Second Instructional Block (110 mins) 10:50 a.m. 12:40 p.m.  
Recess Break/Nutritional (40 mins) 12:40 p.m. 1:20 p.m.  
Third Instructional Block (70 mins) 1:20 p.m. 2:30 p.m.  
Dismissal 2:30 p.m.

## **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

The purpose of the School Council is to improve pupil achievement and to employ a variety of strategies to engage parents and the community in strengthening student achievement. Great traditions, strong leadership, creative ideas are what propels our School Council to be an EXEMPLARY parent engagement group!

ALL PARENTS AND GUARDIANS are welcome to attend ALL School Council Meetings regardless of whether they are “official” voting members. All voices are heard; all ideas will be greeted with respect. School Council will be one of the many mechanisms we have to ensure that the school future is bright!

Our first School Council Meeting will be through a Virtual Google Meet date to be shared soon. New members are welcome. Elections for School Council positions will take place at the first official meeting. Nomination forms will be posted on our school website.

YOU ARE WELCOME. YOU ARE RESPECTED. COME AND JOIN US!

Please email our current School Council Chair Laura Walker at [slwalker@techsavvy.com](mailto:slwalker@techsavvy.com) or me, Ms. Queen Munroe to include you in our first virtual meeting.

## **ALLERGIES – Nuts & Bananas**

Many children and staff have severe allergies to peanuts, peanut butter, other nuts and bananas. In some cases, these allergies can be fatal. We are asking for your help as a member of our caring and responsible school. Please do not send your child with any nuts (including nut milks) or peanut butter for either lunches or snacks. While we realize that this may be an inconvenience, we are asking that you put yourself in the place of the parents of children with severe allergies. We want our school environment to be safe and healthy for all our students. Some classes may have additional allergies that require your sensitivity with, and the classroom teacher will share with the community additional items that may be required to avoid at school. Thank you for your understanding.

## **CELL PHONES AND ELECTRONIC DEVICES**

All electronic devices, such as cell phones, digital game devices, computers are not to be used while the student is on school property before, during, or after school without the permission of school personnel and only for educational purposes.

If a student carries a cell phone, he/she is responsible for the cell phone at all times. At no time will students use electronic devices for digital, audio or video recording without permission from the teacher. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen property.

## **BUS INFORMATION/MySBI - BUS STATUS APP**

Getting information about school bus cancellations and delays is easy! CLASS has a mobile app that will provide subscribers with real-time notifications whenever buses are delayed by ten minutes or greater. Buses cancelled due to snow do not pick up students at the end of the day. Buses cancelled due to fog will return to the school to take students home. **MAPS is ZONE 7.**

## **SCHOOL EMERGENCY PROCEDURES**

During this month we will start practicing our emergency procedure drills for fire, tornadoes, as well as procedures for lockdown, hold and secure and shelter in place.

## **Medical Alerts**

Please notify the office immediately if your child has a prevalent medical condition (Asthma, Epilepsy, Anaphylactic to nuts or bees, Diabetes).

## **Consent for Authorization of Medication**

If it is necessary for a student to take medication at school, Board policy requires us to have a Medical Physician complete a consent form. Please request the blank form from our school secretary.

## **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](http://insuremykids.com) or call 1-800-463-5437

## **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 has to move to remote learning at any time.

## **VISTORS-PARENTS-GAURDIANS**

In compliance with the Ministry of Education regulations, Merlin Area Public School will be joining all other schools in LKDSB and will be securing all doors and entrances into the school. All doors will be locked, including the front door of the school. Students who are arriving late to school will ring the intercom (front entry) to gain entrance into the school. In the interest of everyone's safety visitors who have an appointment will be permitted in the building. Parents/Guardians are asked to wait outside the school at the end of the school day. Students will be dismissed by staff from the classrooms.

Any visitor 18+ that do enter our building at this time is required to complete the visitor covid screener and wear a medical grade mask. If you are unable to enter, we would be happy to make alternative arrangements such as meet via google meet, phone, or connect by email.

## 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  
Tuesday, February 2, 2021  
Friday, June 4, 2021  
Tuesday, June 29, 2021

## COVID SCREENING

The provincial government has released a COVID-19 school screening daily assessment tool, which is available here: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

Grade K-3 student families may complete the school messenger email that will be sent out daily from School Messenger for the next two weeks. If you have any challenges, you are welcome to use your child's classroom platform (google, see saw), email or call to confirm completion and status.

Grades 4-8 may complete the screener and confirm completion verbally with their teacher.

All students (or parents/guardians on behalf of students) and visitors must complete the screening before attending a LKDSB school.

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.

## Reminders

Forms to be returned in addition to any forms requested from your child's classroom teacher(s), you are asked to please return the following forms to the school as soon as possible –

- 1) Appendix B: Notification and Permission for The Use of Student Personal Information
- 2) The Registration Verification Report
- 3) Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation Consent Form

***Thank you & we are looking forward to another fantastic year at MAPS!***