



# *P. E. McGibbon Public School*

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*Mr. Eryn Smit, Principal    Mr. Adam Carswell, Vice-Principal*

*Mrs. Kate Brown, Secretary*

## **FALL 2020**

**We've had a great start to the year!**

On behalf of the entire P. E. McGibbon Public School team, we would like to extend to all of you a very warm welcome back to our new school year. Although this has been a fall start like no other, we celebrate and offer a warm welcome to the new and returning students, families and staff of our community.

Our school team put an incredible amount of effort into ensuring that we are back-to-school ready and providing an excellent education. Our priority continues to be the health, safety and well-being of students and staff with the goal of reducing the risk of exposure to COVID-19 as much as possible. The LKDSB continues to follow the guidance provided by the Ministry of Education and provincial and local Medical Officers of Health. Please continue to visit the LKDSB website at [www.lkdsb.net](http://www.lkdsb.net) for the Reopening Our Schools plan including health and safety procedures and risk mitigation strategies that keep us learning together in our school.

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

Go Grizzlies!

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

P. E. McGibbon has a very active Facebook page. Please make sure to like our page there to ensure you are receiving all the latest updates from our school. We have sign up links for our Breakfast Program posted there as well as a link at the top of the Facebook page to the Ministry's COVID daily screening. Visit [www.facebook.com/pemcgibbon](https://www.facebook.com/pemcgibbon) to join our community!

## **SCHOOL STAFF**

Please visit our school website to see a current list of our staff: [www.lkdsb.net/school/pemcgibbon](http://www.lkdsb.net/school/pemcgibbon). We extend a special welcome to Mr. Carswell (VP), Mr. deSchiffert (Gr 6), Mrs. E Dunn (ECE), and Miss Forsten (Grade 2).

## **ALLERGIES**

Many children and staff members have severe allergies to peanuts, peanut butter and other nuts. In some cases, these allergies can be fatal. We are asking for your help as a member of our caring and responsible school community. **Please do not send your child with any nuts or peanut butter for either lunches or snacks.** We want our school environment to be safe and healthy for all our students. Thank you for your understanding.

## **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. Students should place any medication in the teacher's hands as soon as they arrive at school with it.

## **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. The notifications will come in the form of alerts, which will also include service cancellations due to adverse weather conditions. For additional information about mobile app, please visit: [www.mysbi.ca](http://www.mysbi.ca). Our school is located in **Zone 2** for busing.

**Reminder:** On fog days, buses don't run in the morning but they do run in the afternoon to bring students home from school.

### **SAFE ARRIVAL POLICY**

We have a process in place to ensure the safe arrival of all students. Please call or email the school if your child is absent in the morning or the afternoon (unless a note has already been sent). Our office staff will be available from 8:30 a.m. to take your calls. We also have a 24-hour answering machine so you may call any time, day or night.

### **VISITORS, PARENTS & GUARDIANS**

In compliance with the Ministry of Education regulations we are not allowing parents, non-essential volunteers or other visitors in our building. Should you need to speak to your child's teacher or the office, we ask that you call to schedule an appointment. Parents and guardians who need to pick their child up early should do so by coming to the main entrance of the school and ringing the doorbell for the office. We will bring your child to you at the front of the school.

### **ATTENDANCE CALLS**

Starting November 25<sup>th</sup>, the Lambton Kent District School Board will be implementing an automated attendance messaging system for P. E. McGibbon. Our system will notify parents/guardians if your child has been marked absent and the school has not been notified of the reason for the absence. To follow-up, we will contact the parent/guardian phone numbers and email addresses that we have on file and ask that you call the school to confirm the absence and provide the reason. You can help by ensuring that the school has your most updated contact information and by notifying the school office in advance if your child will be late or absent. Please note: School voicemail messages are checked regularly throughout the day.

### **PROGRESS REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS**

Progress reports for all students will go home on Friday, November 13. Our parent-teacher interviews will be held over the phone or through Google Meet this fall, and teachers will share invitations to join with you.

### **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 a student 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.

### **DIGITAL CLASSROOMS**

Every classroom at P. E. McGibbon has a digital classroom set up for student use in either Seesaw or Google Classroom. Please contact your child's teacher if you have not yet been connected. Our digital classrooms have lots of important content in them, including many of your child's daily assignments. These are great resources for you to access if your child is unable to attend school.

### **GAGABALL PIT AND FDK YARD**

THANK YOU to our amazing community partners for financial contributions that allowed us to renovate our kindergarten playground and add a gagaball pit to the field. Pembina Fuels and Parent Council donated the money for the gagaball pit, and our friends at Imperial Oil donated the money for our kindergarten playground. Let's work together to enjoy and care for these wonderful areas!

*Have an awesome year, Grizzlies!!*