

Plympton-Wyoming Public School

September 2022 Newsletter



Principal: Mr. Adam Townsend

Secretary: Ms. Mary Wood

www.lkdsb.net/school/plymptonwyoming

Zone 1

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Welcome from the Principal

Whether you're a returning family or new to the school or community, I'd like to wish you a warm welcome to the Wildcat family! September always brings excitement and anticipation and more than any start-up in recent memory this one feels special. We ended the school year in June seeing the return of exciting activities like field trips and assemblies. We're so happy here at Plympton-Wyoming that the year ahead looks to be full of wonderful events like these. There are lots of exciting things in the works for your Wildcat this year and we can't wait to hit the ground running. As I enter my second year as a Wildcat, I still feel incredibly fortunate to be here with your kids everyday. I can't wait to see the great things they accomplish this year!

Please take some time to read through this newsletter. There are some important things for new families to know and veteran families to be reminded of.

2021-2022 Plympton-Wyoming Staff

Mrs. Brown and Mrs. Hendra	FDK
Ms. Monk Mrs. Dillman	FDK
Mrs. Shain	Grade 1
Mrs. Janzen	Grade 1/2
Mrs. Wilcox	Grade 2/3
Mrs. Cran	Grade 3/4
Mrs. Winder	Grade 4/5
Mrs. Allen	Grade 5/6
Miss McPhail	Grade 6/7
Mr. Brydges	Grade 7/8
Mr. Mitchell	ALLP
Mme. Donais	French

Ms. Lynch	Curriculum Partner
Mrs. Collinson	Curriculum Partner
Mrs. MacLachlan	Resource / Guidance
Mrs. Maxwell	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Schneider	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Brouwer	Educational Assistant
Miss Parsons	Educational Assistant
Ms. Wood	Secretary
Ms. Allingham-Cogswell	Custodian
Mr. Townsend	Principal

Daily COVID-19 School Screener / Illness

Thanks to everyone for your patience last year in using the Ontario COVID-19 School Screener: <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/>

While the screener is still in place, it has become significantly more streamlined. Essentially, students that are ill are able to return to school as soon as they no longer have a fever and their symptoms have improved. This even applies to those that test positive for COVID-19. Siblings that are symptom-free and living with a sick family member are able to attend school.

One significant item to note applies to students that have symptoms of vomiting or diarrhea. Students must stay home until those symptoms have completely stopped for 48 hours. We greatly appreciate your cooperation with this item, as these illnesses can spread through our younger classes very easily.

School Arrival Procedures

Just like in the spring, students will arrive at school and have a chance to start the day by playing outside. Kindergarten students will be dropped off at the entrance to their yard where they will be welcomed by a member of our FDK team. All other students will say goodbye to their parents at the gate and join their friends in the main yard. Please make sure that your child arrives at school between 8:45 and 9:00. There are no staff members available to supervise prior to 8:45.

A friendly reminder to those families using our drop-off circle in the South parking lot. Please remember to drive slowly and be patient while dropping off your children. While older kids can safely be allowed to exit their car and walk on their own to the gate, Kindergarten students must be walked over to their entrance. Depending on the number of vehicles that day, it might take a few minutes to safely exit the parking lot.

Student Absences

Please remember that if your child will be absent from school we must be notified. Our preferred method is for families to use School Messenger. This program is fairly straight-forward and allows us to receive instant notification that your child will be away. Information about School Messenger can be found on the LKDSB website here:

<https://www.lkdsb.net/Pages/school-messenger.aspx#/=>

A second option would be to call the school directly and speak to Ms. Wood, (or leave a message). While teachers always appreciate advance notice via SeeSaw, email etc. this is not sufficient notification for the office.

Nutrition Breaks

Each day we have two nutrition breaks that last 40 minutes. Students will have 20 minutes to eat and 20 minutes to play outside. To help eliminate some of the more common spills we had last year, I ask that families please avoid sending your child with canned beverages.

Students Leaving for Lunch

Students in grades 6-8 are permitted to leave the school to go home for lunch during our first nutrition break from 11:00 until 11:40. Please complete the enclosed permission form if you would like your child to go home for lunch. Students in these grades have been provided with a permission form for you to complete should you be interested in allowing your child to do this. Please be aware that students are not allowed to leave for lunch with backpacks and we do not allow anyone to bring food or drinks they have purchased back to the school.

Allergies

Please remember that Plympton-Wyoming is a **NUT FREE** school. Students **may not** bring any nuts, peanut butter, or nut products (including Wow Butter) to school. Please make sure to read all labels before packing your child's lunch. We have several children with severe anaphylactic allergies to a variety of nuts. Thanks for your cooperation.

Student Transportation

CLASS Shared School Services organizes transportation for LKDSB students. Go to the Parent Portal at <https://cklass.ca/> to find your child's transportation information. Students will be assigned a bus seat by CLASS. The MySBI app is a useful notification tool for bus delays and cancellations.

Inclement Weather

Plympton-Wyoming Public School is located in Transportation Zone 1. If buses are canceled due to inclement weather, the school will usually remain open. If a bus is canceled in the morning due to snow, ice or freezing rain, they will be canceled for the entire day and will NOT transport students home at the end of that day. If a bus is canceled in the morning due to fog, it will operate at the end of the day to transport students home. We encourage parents of bus students to arrange their own transportation to school when it is safe to do so. Please remember as well, that if your student does not ride the bus and you choose to keep them home, you must clear their attendance with the office as with any other absence. Please be aware that several of the buses that transport students to Mr. Mitchell's classroom are on buses that travel through zone 4.

Medical Plans

Please let the office know if your child has a special health concern such as asthma, diabetes, epilepsy, allergies, etc. It is important that we be informed of any changes in your child's medical status. All student medications must be kept in the school office and administered by a designated member of the school staff. A completed *Consent to Administer Medication* form must be on file in the office before any medication can be authorized or administered at school, (this includes puffers). Please contact the school if you require one of these forms. Note: A physician signature is required on this form prior to school staff being able to administer any medication. This form must be updated annually. If no changes to your child's medication are required from the last school year, then parents/guardians may simply initial and date the bottom of the existing form indicating that there have been no changes. Medication is to be transported to the school by the parent to ensure the safety of children. Medication is to be provided in the pharmacy bottle with the pharmacy directions attached. Please do not send over-the-counter medication for dispensing at school as it does not meet the above criteria. If medical emergencies occur during the school day, parents/guardians will be contacted.

Fall Open House

We're happy to announce the return of the Fall Open House here at Plympton-Wyoming! Join us at the school on Tuesday, September 20th to meet your child's teacher and re-acquaint yourself with the building. More information about this night will be sent out later this month, but plan on dropping by between 5:00 and 7:00 that evening.

Parent Volunteers

Last year we had a tidal wave of parent volunteers return to the school! It was great to welcome so many of you back on our field trips and school activities. At Plympton-Wyoming, we ask that all volunteers who will be with our students in any school capacity complete our volunteer package. This includes a vulnerable sector check from the local OPP detachment. These checks are valid with LKDSB for five years. Please contact the office and we will happily send home the volunteer paper work, which includes the letter the OPP requires to waive their fee. If you completed the volunteer forms last year, all we need from you this year is a signature on a declaration form here at the school.

Registration Verification Forms

It is critical for the office to have updated contact information in case of an emergency, so your assistance in the speedy return of these forms is greatly appreciated. Communication through email will be ongoing and having the most up-to-date email address will ensure that you are receiving the most recent school updates. A very important aspect of the verification form is the medical information and allergies section that the school needs to know about your child(ren). Please inform us of any changes to medical/allergy information, especially food allergies.

Emails from the Principal

While I try to keep my emails to families at a minimum, I will occasionally send school-wide messages to pass on important information. Please check that the correct email addresses are listed on your child's registration verification forms for anyone who you would like to have school-wide information sent to. Please also ensure that you have selected that you would like this person to "receive email."

Bottle-Filling Stations

Drinking fountains are once again available for student use. However, we've found that water bottles are a much better option for keeping students hydrated throughout the day. If possible, please continue to send your child with a reusable water bottle that can be filled at one of our bottle filling stations.

VTRA Fair Notice

Please read through the LKDSB Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol letter to this newsletter. It outlines the procedure schools would use in cooperation with other agencies should the need to investigate possible threats to the school.

School Calendar

Back by popular demand! Each month we will send home a fridge-friendly, paper copy of school-wide events taking place at the school on a calendar.

Theme Days

School spirit is a big deal here at Plympton-Wyoming! Theme Days will be listed on the attached School Calendar.

School Council

Our first School Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, September 14 at 7:00 here at the school. We would love to have new members join us! Last year, we were able to get a considerable amount of fundraising done which helped us get new lines painted on the tarmac as well as moving us closer to a new outdoor learning space. No need to RSVP or call. Just show up on the 14th and join us. Please note, that there has been a last minute date change for our first meeting and it will in fact, be on the 14th. Ignore anything that has been printed or sent home that says the meeting is on the 13th.

Electronic Newsletter

This will be the only printed copy of the Plympton-Wyoming Public School newsletter. Starting in October we will be posting the newsletter on the school website as well as sending it home via email. <https://www.lkdsb.net/school/plymptonwyoming>

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation - Orange Shirt Day

The Lambton Kent District School Board will commemorate the impact of residential schools on Friday, September 30, 2022 – Orange Shirt Day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear orange shirts and use this day as a catalyst to encourage learning and understanding about the residential school system and the impacts that system has had on First Nations, Metis and Inuit people. This is a meaningful way for school communities to come together in a spirit of reconciliation and hope because “Every Child Matters”. Respectfully, flags at all LKDSB schools and facilities will be lowered on this day.

In honoring and remembering those impacted by residential schools, LKDSB had commissioned a new orange shirt design in 2021. Orange shirts are available for order by interested staff and students from ScreenArt, a company in Wallaceburg. ScreenaArt has created an online store for LKDSB orders, therefore staff and families can submit payment online directly to ScreenArt. https://www.screenart.ca/lkdsb_ecm/shop/home. The store is open immediately for purchases, and will remain open until Friday, September 9th with all shirts ordered delivered to the schools by September 29th.