



News from the Nest

Tilbury Area Public School
(519) 682-2260
www.lkdsb.net/school/tilbury
Twitter: @TilburyArea
Facebook: Coming Soon
Instagram: @TilburyArea

We acknowledge that the land on which our school sits and on which we gather each day is a part of the traditional territory of the Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi and Delaware Nations. These Indigenous Nations, known as the Anishinaabeg and Lunaapeew, agreed through their ancestral languages to the mutual sharing of the land, with obligations and responsibilities to the environment.

September 2022

From Mrs. Byatt-Millington

Hello Falcon Families!

We hope that you have had a restful and fun filled summer – a chance to unwind and recharge for the upcoming year. I am very excited to be joining the Falcon's Nest and look forward to meeting each of you. Our goals for the year will include a continued focus on increasing student achievement in Language and Math while working to increase every student's sense of engagement to and with the school and our beautiful community.

As we come out of the last couple of years, we are excited to be able to welcome families back into the building and are looking forward to making connections with each of you.

New Staff

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce some new staff members to the Bulldog family.

- Ms. Robert and Ms. Armstrong-Pelletier are joining us as Educational Assistants
- Mr. Cobb joins us as our Grade 7/8 teacher

Communication

In order to meet our goal of improved communication, we have set up several ways that parents can check in on what is happening at TAPS:

1. Monthly newsletters/calendars – a paper copy will be sent home in September and then will be posted online to the school website at the beginning of each month. Reminders to check the website will be posted on our social media feeds.
2. Website – will be updated weekly with dates to remember, contact information, newsletters and forms – check it out at: [TAPS Website](#)
3. Twitter – reminders of upcoming events, photos of student work and short student videos will be shared on our school Twitter account – please follow us @TilburyArea
4. Facebook – Our business page is still under construction but when up, can be “Liked” in order to keep up to date with what's happening at school.
5. InstaGram – Our Insta account is active and can be followed at @TilburyArea
6. Homeroom Apps – our homeroom teachers are using a variety of different apps to keep in contact with parents, including Google Classroom and Seesaw. Please check with your child's teacher to see what communication tool they will be using and how to sign up.
7. Phone – Please call the school to set up appointments to meet with staff members or to arrange for a call back – 519-682-2260

Meet the Staff Open House

We are very excited to be able to welcome families back into the building this year.

Our first event will be a Meet the Staff Open House, being held on Wednesday, September 21st from 4:00 – 6:30.

If you are able, please come on in, have your student take you on a tour of their classroom and introduce you to their teacher. Don't forget to stop by the office to say hello.

School Hours

9:00 – Yard Coverage Begins

9:15 – School Starts

9:15 – 11:15 – Classes

11:15 – 11:55 – Nutrition Break (eating time and outdoor play)

11:55 – 1:45 – Classes

1:45 – 2:25 – Nutrition Break (eating time and outdoor play)

2:25 – 3:35 – Classes

3:35 – Dismissal

We'd like to remind you that the yard is not supervised until 9:00 am, so children should never arrive before that. Any students who arrive after 9:15 am should come in through the front doors and check in at the office for a late slip.

All doors are locked throughout the day. If you need to come in, please come to the front doors and Mrs. Blair will let you in. All visitors (including parents) are required to report to the office and sign in. We ask that parents do not travel to classrooms unless given permission to do so by the office. This reduces distraction, ensures student safety and preserves teaching time.

COVID Protocols

At this time, the LKDSB continues to take direction from and follow the advice of the CK Medical Officer of Health, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education.

While many protocols and guidelines have eased up, we are still encouraging families to do the following in order to keep our building and our people as safe as can be:

- Stay home if feeling sick (to determine when to return to school, feel free to continue to use the School Screener for guidance - [Covid School Screener](#))
- Practice good hand hygiene – soap or sanitizer
- Practice coughing/sneezing into your elbow, not your hands
- Do not share items that touch the mouth (water bottles, lip balm for example)

As everyone has their own level of comfort with being in public, we encourage all our staff and students to respect the choices of others. What is good for one family's health, may be different from another's.

Student Pick Up/Drop Off and School Crossing

Drivers are asked to take extra care when driving along Mable St and on school property. We have many children walking to and from school and they are not always as "traffic safe" as we'd like.

Please refrain from parking in the bus loading area in front of the school.

There are no crossing guards at any of our school crossings. We ask that parents reinforce good walking habits with their children and that any parents who are driving take extra care around our school crossings.

NUT Aware

Please note that we have students in our school who have anaphylactic allergies to peanuts, ground nuts and tree nuts. As these students are in various grades within the school, the following applies to all of our classrooms and students. In order to keep these students safe while at school, we ask for your cooperation in the following:

- Do not send in food that contains peanuts, ground nuts or tree nuts or their oils – this includes (but is not limited to) peanut butter, other nut butters, WOW butter and Nutella. Ensure that any pre-packaged snacks that may contain nuts (cookies, granola bars, candy bars) are labelled as Nut Safe or School Safe.
- Encourage your child to wash their hands before and after eating or use hand sanitizer.

- Do not send in baked goods for class treats or parties – all food entering the school needs to be commercially made and packaged and labelled Nut Safe or School Safe and come from a Nut Free facility (ie. Maple City Bakery)
- Encourage your child to never trade or share food at school

If you have any questions or concerns about our policies on anaphylaxis, please contact your child's teacher or the main office.

Student Absences

Due to Safe School policies, Mrs. Blair, our school secretary, is required to call the home of any student who is absent without notification. However, she is not required to make this call if we know in advance why the student is absent. Therefore, it is very important that you contact the school if your child is going to be away. By doing this, it frees up the amount of phone calls that the office must make in the morning and it ensures that all of our students are safely where they are supposed to be. Please make use of the School Messenger App to report absences or call the school and leave a message.

Also, if you know of upcoming absences, (ie. due to trips, appointments, etc.), please let Mrs. Blair know and she can mark it in her attendance book.

School Cash Online

With the LKDSB utilizing an online payment system in all of its schools – School Cash Online – there is almost never a reason to send money into the school. The only exceptions at this time are for chocolate milk and popcorn purchases at lunch.

If you have not already signed up, visit our website and sign up today.

School Council

The first School Council meeting of the year will be on Monday, September 26 at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons. All interested parents/guardians are invited to attend. Each member must be nominated in writing, please see the office for nomination forms. If you aren't able to fill one out ahead of time, we will have some at the meeting that night. We will elect our Chair at this meeting, as well as solicit a volunteer to act as recording secretary. The School Council acts as an advisory group for the Principal of the school – they advise the school with community input and in turn, take information from the school to the community at large.

Medications and Medical Plans

If your child requires medication to be administered throughout the school day, an "Authorization to Administer Oral Medication" form will need to be completed and signed by both the parent and a doctor/nurse practitioner. This form then needs to be returned to the Principal and will be kept on file for the full year. School staff are unable to administer any medication unless this form is complete and on file at the school. Forms are available in the office.

Any students who have been diagnosed with diabetes, anaphylactic allergies or any other medical condition that might require medical attention will need to complete an "Individual Medical Emergency Plan". These forms are available in the office as well.

Student Planner

Once again, student planners are being provided to students in Grades 1-6. The use of the planner will help students learn to organize their time and learn about time management. In order to establish good routines, please ask your child to bring their planner home nightly so you are aware of upcoming events and homework. As well, the school handbook, outlining the policies and procedures that govern our school can be found at the front of the planner.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Sometimes students arrive at school infected with pediculosis or head lice. Finding this early really helps to stop the spread and your help in this is greatly appreciated. Please check your child for head lice weekly. If you find evidence of head lice, please let the school know. This will allow us to notify other parents in the classrooms affected so that they may check their child(ren). Children who are suspected of having head lice will be excused until appropriate treatment has been administered. Infestation by head lice is an unpleasant nuisance, but not a health problem. Head lice do not carry or spread disease.

Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Fair Notice

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. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

As always, student safety is our first priority. This notification is being provided via avenues such as school newsletters, and school and board web sites as fair notice to parents and guardians of the existence of the VTRA Protocol and its application if situations warrant. If you have any questions regarding the Lambton Kent District School Board Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol, please contact your school principal as the first step.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER

September 6 – First Day of School

September 16 – PA Day

September 19 – Milk and Popcorn Sales Begin

September 21 – Meet the Teacher Open House

September 26 – School Council/Home and School Meetings

September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day