



Griffin Gazette



W.J. Baird Public School

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Weather Zone: 7

Principal: Mrs. D. Zondag

Secretary: Mrs. M. McTavish

Head Custodian: Mrs. J. Payne

November, 2020 All the Good News from W.J. Baird

Please Be Careful....

Parents who are dropping off/ picking up their children before and after school are asked to park in the gravel parking lot across the road from W.J. Baird. This will result in better sight lines and increased safety for all. Students can then use the crosswalk to safely enter the school yard. This will also help to avoid interfering with busing. Again, thank you for your support in keeping all our Griffins safe and sound!

PROGRESS REPORTS

Progress reports will go home on November 13, 2020.

STUDENT-LED CONFERENCES

Student-led conferences will look differently this year due to COVID-19 restrictions. Your child's teachers will be reaching out to you for a scheduled time to discuss your child's progress. The interviews will take place either through phone or Google Meet between Monday, November 16th to Friday, November 27th.

REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY

Our Remembrance Day Ceremony will take place virtually on Wednesday, November 11th. Mrs. Pfaff, Mrs. Johnson, and Ms. Cofell have organized the virtual presentation for the school. Poppies will be distributed to all students to honour and remember our veterans. Donations will be accepted.

GRIFFIN PRIDE

Every month, students and staff will be focusing on one of the character attributes posted on the LKDSB web-site (<http://www.lkdsb.net>), and exploring how they can model this behaviour to do their part in creating a safe school community. November's focus is courage.

SOARR MONTHLY WINNERS

Baird staff and students continue to focus on acronym SOARR as a way to incorporate our code of conduct, the learning skills from the Provincial Report Card and the 10 character traits that the LKDSB focusses on each year. The acronym stands for:

SAFETY- We will ensure the health and well-being of all.

OWNERSHIP—We will be accountable and take pride in positive behaviour and actions.

ATTITUDE—We will be courteous and committed to doing our best!

RESPONSIBILITY—We will meet personal, classroom, school, and community expectations.

RESPECT - We will care for self, each other, and our community.

Baird staff and students embody the SOARR spirit!

SOARR recipient names are read over the PA every day to acknowledge student efforts.

HOMEWORK TIPS

Homework is an important part of learning. When you support your children's homework routine, you can help them do better at school.

1. **A routine is good.** Homework can be habit forming and that's good news for you and your child. Work out a homework schedule and make sure children adhere to it.
2. **Give space for homework.** Distractions and homework don't mix. So do your best to create a bright and quiet space where your child can concentrate on schoolwork. Make sure it's away from distractions like TV, music and loud siblings.
3. **Practice makes perfect.** Repetition reinforces learning. That's why it's helpful to have kids practice reading, writing and math with you every day. Ten to 15 minutes a day can work wonders!
4. **Check in occasionally.** When kids do their

homework all alone, their concentration can often wander. Check in once in a while and see how it's going. Sometimes kids just need to talk about a homework problem to figure out the answer.

5. **Know what's going on at school.** Unfortunately, kids don't always tell parents everything. Make a point of staying in touch with teachers, especially if you have a question or concern.

CYBER AWARENESS MONTH

This week marked the launch of Ontario K-12 Cyber Awareness Month, held October 26 to November 20. There are resources available for staff, students and parents/guardians to help everyone stay safe online. This week's theme is "Work, Teach and Learn from Anywhere." For more information, visit the website at: <https://ecno.org/cyber-security/k12cam2020-en/>

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, November 18 at 6:30 p.m. If interested, please call the school and a link to our virtual platform will be shared with you to join.

TREATIES RECOGNITION WEEK

November 2-6

Students and staff will be learning about the meaning of the treaties with Indigenous peoples, gaining understanding through class lessons, story books and art activities.

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK

November 15-21

Bullying is defined as a form of repeated, persistent and aggressive behaviour directed at an individual or individuals that is intended to cause (or should be known to cause) fear and distress and/or harm to another person's body, feelings, self-esteem or reputation. Bullying occurs in a context where there is a real or perceived power imbalance.

Bullying can take on different forms:

- **Physical** – hitting, shoving, stealing or damaging property
- **Verbal** – name calling, mocking, or making sexist, racist or homophobic comments
- **Social** – excluding others from a group or spreading gossip or rumours about them
- **Electronic** (commonly known as **cyberbullying**) – spreading rumours and hurtful comments

through the use of cellphones, e-mail, text messaging and through social media.

FAIR NOTICE COMMUNICATION

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 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 initial response team is likely to include the 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=366&ListID=1cb83139-1d39-452b-8ab2-b6cfab6c2ba7&TemplateID=Announcement_Item

