

November 16, 2020

Dear Students, Guardians/Parents,

In our dedication to the Lambton Kent District School Board's Strategic priorities, LKDSB has responded to needs identified by Black students and has started a student voice group. The four Strategic Priorities this group identifies as its goals include: **Student Achievement and Well-Being**: advancing high standards for innovative and responsive learning; **Trusting Relationships**: strengthening relationships based on respectful collaboration; **Sustainable Stewardship**: optimizing human, physical and financial resources, and most **directly Inclusive Diversity**: championing anti-oppressive education.

This student driven group, creates a safe place for Black students to navigate systemic and interpersonal anti-Black racism, develop positive relationship within the education system and opportunities for mentoring with Black Staff. Black Student Voice, will amplify voices of students, provide education and conversation to articulate lived experience, offer a safe space, the opportunity to further develop positive relationships within the school system, and peer and staff mentorship with responsive and reciprocal learning and coaching. Finally, assisting in contributing to developing positive and healthy racialized identities is the ultimate goal. Students in grades 7 through 12, who self-identify as Black, are invited to join. Students and staff will meet via Google Classroom and Google Meet. Join the group using this link: <https://classroom.google.com/c/MjlyNTk3MjQ5MDE5?cjc=vs6q7sw>

Although this group is a student driven, Black staff and faculty have already joined the group to ensure that it is a safe space, and to provide facilitation, guidance, coaching and mentorship. Staff include: **Heather Hughes, Heather Robbins, Chris Lambkin, Irma Isaac, Derek Quigley, Lauren Crooks-Mulder, and Candice Fung**. Participants will meet according to group consensus.

Thank your consideration and support,

Sincerely,

Candice Fung

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