

Zone Township Central School

Principal ~ Mrs. C. Anderson
Secretary ~ Mrs. L. Stevens

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November Update 2023

Don't forget...Picture Retake Day is Thursday, November 23!

Mrs. Anderson is Retiring

After five years as Principal of Zone Township Central School, and 38 years in education, Mrs. Anderson is transitioning to retirement. Mrs. Anderson's last day at Zone will be December 22nd. The new principal has not yet been announced. We will keep you updated!

Fundraiser Delivery - Tuesday

Our Fresh From the Farm Delivery will occur this coming Tuesday afternoon. Please plan to pick up your orders between 3:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. on November 7th. If you're unable to pick up on that day, we will have remaining orders available in the office on the morning of November 8th.

Progress Reports/Communication of Learning

Progress Reports for Grades 1 to 8 students and Kindergarten Communication of Learning Initial Observations for Kindergarten students will be sent home Friday, November 10. Grades 1 to 8 Progress Reports indicate how a child is progressing in the subjects covered to date. There are 3 categories: Progressing With Difficulty, Progressing Well, and Progressing Very Well. Progressing With Difficulty means that a child will require improvement and/or assistance to meet the provincial standard at the end of the term/year. Progressing Well means that there is evidence that a child is meeting or will meet the provincial standard by the end of the term/year. Progressing Very Well means that there is very consistent evidence that a child is meeting or will meet, or is exceeding or will exceed, the provincial standard. In all three categories, teachers use their professional judgment and knowledge of the individual child to make a final determination.

Attendance/Late Letters with Progress Reports

Has your child miss 5 or more days so far this year? Research indicates that the more days a child is absent from school, the greater the impact is on his or her academic achievement.

Students who have been absent 5 days or more may receive an attendance letter to accompany the Elementary Progress Report Card. LKDSB has administrative procedures in place and can provide support through a referral to the LKDSB Attendance Officer to help families get students here on time and every day.

Parent/Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher interviews will be held on the evening of November 16 and on the morning of November 17. More details will follow regarding times and how to sign up for an interview.

Remembrance Day Activities

As Remembrance Day falls on Saturday this year, our staff and students are planning a special activity to do with their colour house groups on Friday to honour and remember those brave individuals who fought for our country.

Poppies will be provided for all students and as usual we will be accepting monetary donations for the **Bothwell Royal Canadian Legion** to support their cause.

Zone Township Central School is in **Zone 6**. Listen to the radio for bus delays and cancellations or check <http://www.schoolbusinfo.com> for regular updates. If buses are cancelled in the morning due to fog, they **will** run in the afternoon. If buses are cancelled in the morning due to snow and icy road conditions, they **will not** run in the afternoon and parents and guardians must make arrangements for picking up students at the end of the day.

Treaties Recognition Week, November 5-11

As we approach Treaties Recognition Week, schools are working toward greater understanding of treaties, treaty relationships, and the responsibilities we have to raise awareness about Indigenous histories, cultures, contributions and perspectives. We continue to build our understanding of the importance of treaties in the lives of all Canadians.

Teachers have received training and have access to multiple resources to lead our school toward greater understanding as part of our commitment to implementing the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commissions Call to Action in Education.

Although we highlight Treaties Recognition Week each November, daily we strive to adhere to our responsibilities. Our teaching, our learning, and our daily Traditional Territorial Acknowledgement, are all important components of our responsibilities to raise awareness.

Schoolwide Field Trips

To celebrate the winter season, we are planning a schoolwide field trip to Sloan's Village on December 8. Bothwell Optimist has generously offered to cover the entire cost for all students.

On Friday, December 22, all students will walk to the Bothwell Library to watch a movie together.

More details will follow regarding both field trips as we get closer to the dates.

Student Accident Insurance is available

(insuremykids® underwritten by Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada/Old Republic Canada)

The Lambton Kent District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property nor during off school property activities - - this includes extracurricular sports, field trips, etc.

Each year, there are families that may spend several hundred or even thousand of dollars when their child is injured at school, on field trips or at home. For this reason, families may wish to voluntarily purchase an insurance plan to provide supplemental coverage to bridge coverage gaps, expenses not covered or partially covered by parent's employee benefits and offset the financial impact. Participation will be voluntary and costs are to be paid by parents/guardians.

A voluntary purchase program for families is available through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada's insuremykids® program. They have three plan options with a variety of benefits (Silver Plan @\$17/year, Gold Plan @\$25/year and Platinum @\$33/year).

Some features of the Student Accident Insurance Program through www.insuremykids.com® are:

- The Student Accident Insurance Program is **365 days of coverage** – no matter when the student accident policy is purchased the coverage is available for 365 days, one year from the date of purchase. This allows families the flexibility to purchase whenever they prefer.
- The Program also features an **Auto Enrollment Option** – this feature allows a parent to enroll their child once, select the auto enrollment option and a new policy will automatically be issued each year. This feature saves parents' time and ensures families are financially protected each year.
- **Student Travel Insurance** is offered through insuremykids® student accident insurance program that helps protect a student's trip investment from financial expenses not normally covered under their government health care plan. It offers up to \$5 million in emergency medical coverage as well as a variety of other benefits (ie. trip cancellation and interruption, trip delay, baggage loss, and more). Visit the student travel insurance website to learn more. <https://www.getreliable.com/direct/tipsstart.aspx?bypass=true>
- For information regarding this voluntary purchase student accident insurance program or to purchase directly online, please visit www.insuremykids.com or phone 1-800-463-5437.

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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.

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

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week

Ontario has designated November 20-24 as Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week to help promote safe schools and a positive learning environment.

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.

The different forms of bullying include:

- 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 rumors about them
- Electronic (commonly known as cyberbullying) – spreading rumors and hurtful comments through the use of cellphones, e-mail, text messaging and social networking sites

Parent Council/School Advisory Council

Our next meeting will be held virtually on Wednesday, November 15 at 4:00 p.m. All are welcome. Please email Colleen.Anderson@lkdsb.net if you would like an invitation to join the virtual meeting.

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Strategic Priorities



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

2020/21 - 2025/26

VISION

**Our Students -
Shaping Our World**

MISSION

**Fostering Success for
Every Student Every Day**



**Lambton Kent
District School Board**
Student Achievement ✓ Community Success

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