



## LANSDOWNE

### Public School

95 Lansdowne Ave, Sarnia, ON, N7S 1G7

Phone: 519-336-2111

Fax: 519-336-2306

Principal: Shelley Litt

Vice Principal: Nick Nienhuis

Secretary: Julie Walsh

School Website:

<http://www.lkdsb.net/school/lansdowne>

Facebook: Lansdowne Public School

# December 2021 Newsletter

## A Message from the Principal

It is with mixed emotion that I share with students and their families that I will be retiring as Principal of Lansdowne Public School at the end of December. It has been an absolute pleasure working with you, through your children, as well as the staff for the past 5 years. As a school community, we have continued to work on caring and supporting one another through our shared responsibilities of building a safe and inclusive environment for all.

Ms. Joy McLean will begin her new role as Principal, beginning January 3, 2022. Ms. McLean is coming from Errol Road as Principal. Best wishes to Ms. McLean as she begins her new adventure. This is THE best school community to be a part of.

## November Happenings

We welcome Ms. Hutt, who is our new prep teacher at Lansdowne!

We were very fortunate to have Mr. Dallas Sinopole at Lansdowne completing his practicum placement through Queen's University Indigenous Education Program. Mr. Sinopole worked and learned alongside our very own Mrs. George. He recorded an excellent video for our staff and students, providing an explanation of wampum belts and the importance of Treaties in Canada as our classes looked to develop their own promises within the school in addition to exploring the history of Treaties in Canada and their significance.

Many of our classes have been engaged in lessons regarding the stories of origin and the cultural significance of Lacrosse, including a demonstration with authentic Indigenous lacrosse sticks. A very rich learning experience and our students loved it!

Our students have been competitive in LKESSA volleyball throughout November! Both the girls and boys teams have been involved in a number of exciting games! Well done Lightning!

Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week was highlighted from November 22 to 26th. Lessons and activities were completed in classrooms throughout the week including a student directed classroom kindness

pledges, illustrated anti-bullying stories, and promise chains. Anti-bullying is something we practice and teach all year at Lansdowne, but it was great to have a week of prioritized focus at the school.

## Builders Club

Builder's Club is a student-lead program developed at the school with the support of Seaway Kiwanis, seeking to foster leadership skills by following a guiding principle: Amazing things happen when the students take the lead. We are so excited to be able to start the program back up at Lansdowne where the club has had a successful and rich history in empowering Grade 7 and 8 students.

Any Grade 7 and 8 Student that is interested in joining the club can do so and those nominated and wish to run for an executive position can do so as well.

Staff Leaders include classroom teacher Hannah Kennedy and Vice Principal Nick Nienhuis.

## Spirit Wear

Spirit Wear orders have closed and have been successfully submitted. Orders will be in before Christmas. If any orders were intended as a gift, please let the school know and we will arrange pick-up. Otherwise, orders will be sent home with students.

## Traditional Turkey Dinner

We are currently planning to provide individually wrapped turkey dinners for all students on December 14. We are thankful for any community support in helping continue this tradition while adhering to our COVID guidelines. Stay tuned for more details.

## Holiday Showcase Concert

We are planning a holiday showcase concert! It is being created by students for the entire school to watch virtually in their homerooms.

## School Council Initiatives

Our School Council has organized a few special days at Lansdowne while following COVID guidelines. We are excited about

- Pizza Day - Wednesday, Dec. 8! Order forms and payment due by Friday, Dec 3 by the end of the day
- Kernels Popcorn Day - Monday, Dec 13! Order forms will need to be filled out no later than Dec. 7.
- Hot Chocolate Day! Information coming soon.

Lansdowne Lightning Water bottles will be available at the office for \$1 while supplies last.

A big thank you to our amazing School Council team for arranging these opportunities for the students at the school. If anyone is interested in joining the School Council team, please reach out to the school for more information. We look forward to hearing from you!

## COVID Guidelines: Travelling Outside of Canada

As per the federal travel guidelines and the directions of the Ontario COVID-19 school and child care screening through the Ontario Ministry of Education, unvaccinated children under the age of 12 who travel outside of Canada with a fully vaccinated companion are exempt from federal quarantine; however, they are not permitted to attend school or child care for 14 days following their return. This message was shared with all families of LKDSB last week. Please see below the message that was shared.

## School Pictures

School picture retakes have now been completed. On January 14, 2022, our Grade 8 grad pictures and our SK CElebrations pictures will be taken.. More information will be sent out closer to the time. We apologize for the miscommunication that took place last week.

## Proof of Vaccination to Participate in School Sports

Only Gr. 7 and 8 students will be permitted to participate in indoor extra-curricular sports at this time. All verifications of vaccinations will be done privately by the Principal and no copies or retention of vaccination receipts will occur. The list of vaccinated students will be securely maintained in the school office. A list of students who are interested in participating will be provided to the principal.

- a. Students may bring in a copy of their vaccination receipt or Ontario QR code via paper or electronic copy; or
- b. Parents may call the office to make an appointment to share this information with the Principal.

Once vaccination status has been verified, students will be able to participate in LKESAA extra-curricular indoor sports without showing vaccination documentation again. Tryouts, practice and playing cannot occur until this verification process is completed.

## Lansdowne School Goals

Our School Improvement Team met together recently to develop our School Improvement Plan for the year. The board requires each school to set a goal for the four areas below. These goals and the identified success criteria for each will be discussed with our School Council at our next meeting and will be a continued focus of learning and discussion with staff throughout the year.

- **Student Achievement Goal** (including literacy, numeracy and graduation): Use assessment feedback to provide targeted instruction that improves students' numeracy and literacy skills
- **Student Wellbeing Goal** (including Feeling of Belonging, Caring & Trusting Adult, and Sense of Welcoming): To continue our work in developing and strengthening a sense of belonging and connectedness of all Lansdowne students, families, staff and community partners to Lansdowne Public School
- **Re-engagement Goal:** To reconnect with Lansdowne students, their families and community partners and develop a renewed sense of pride in the Lansdowne community.
- **Indigenous Ed Goal** (including Truth and Reconciliation Commitments): Continue to develop staff and student understanding of the truth in our Canadian history and amplify the voices of Indigenous Peoples in all areas of the curriculum
- **Anti-Oppression Goal:** To ensure that the diversity of all our students, staff and community is reflected in the learning happening in classrooms and school environment and to openly engage in conversations about racism, discrimination, prejudice, stereotypes and bigotry.

## Weather Clothing Reminder

With the ever-changing weather, please ensure that your children are dressed appropriately with hats, boots, mittens, and warm coats. This is also a great time of year to wear layers so that children can adjust their clothing as the temperature warms throughout the day.

## Communication

Communication between home and school is key to your child's success. If you ever have concerns or questions, please speak directly to your child's teacher via phone or email. If any concerns remain, please contact school administrators. Do not think that you have to postpone concerns you have until Parent/Teacher interview time in November. Come and talk to us sooner rather than later.

## Electronic Newsletter

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper and copying, and to reduce the sharing of touched items, we are asking that parents please access the monthly newsletter and calendar through the Lansdowne Public School website and via our Facebook page. Each month, the newsletter will be posted as close to the beginning of the month as possible. There will be no paper copies sent home. Newsletters and Calendars

will be emailed out via School Messenger. You can visit the site at: [Newsletters](#)

## School Cash Online

Lansdowne Parents/Guardians: Please remember to sign up for School Cash Online. There is info available on our Lansdowne Public School website and the LKDSB website. Pay school fees online as a convenient option. <https://lkdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

# Important information for LKDSB parents/guardians

*The following information is distributed on behalf of Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario, Chatham-Kent and Lambton Public Health, and the Ministry of Education. Should you have any specific questions about this information, please follow-up directly with Public Health or your health care provider.*

## Traveling Outside of Canada

As per the federal travel guidelines and the directions of the [Ontario COVID-19 school and child care screening](#), unvaccinated children under the age of 12 who travel outside of Canada with a fully vaccinated companion are exempt from federal quarantine; however, **they are not permitted to attend school or child care for 14 days following their return.**

[Click here](#) for more information regarding travel outside of Canada.

## COVID-19 Vaccines for Five to 11-Year-Olds

Health Canada has approved the paediatric Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine for children aged five to 11. To book an appointment online, children must be turning five years old by the end of 2021 (born in 2016).

Read the attached letter below from Dr. Kieran Moore, Chief Medical Officer of Health for Ontario. Additional information from the Government of Ontario is available on the [COVID-19 vaccines for children and youth](#).

[English Version](#)      [French version](#)

For more information about the vaccine and details regarding how to book an appointment, visit the [Chatham-Kent Public Health](#) and [Lambton Public Health](#) websites.

## Returning to School Following the Holiday Break

In preparation for the winter break, we encourage families to remain vigilant and follow the health and safety protocols in place to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19, including completing and following the directions of the [daily school screening assessment](#) tool upon the return to school.

On November 18, 2021, the Government of Ontario announced it will be [providing take-home PCR self-collection kits](#) to all publicly funded schools, including those in the Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB), for students and staff who are eligible for testing as per the provincial testing guidance.

The Ministry of Education will be providing more information to school boards regarding the voluntary use of take-home PCR self-collection kits to share with parents/guardians and students prior to the holiday break. Throughout the school year and particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, the LKDSB follows legislated health and safety and public health protocols. We consistently follow the direction of the local and provincial medical officers of health and the Ministry of Education regarding COVID-19 and communicate information as per their direction. Thank you for your ongoing support of the safe operation of schools. Should you have specific academic or well-being questions about your child, please contact your school. Any health-related questions can be directed to your local Public Health unit or your healthcare provider.