



# Merlin Area Public School

Merlin Area Public School Website  
<http://merlin.lkdsb.net/>  
Lambton Kent District School Board  
<http://www.lkdsb.net/>

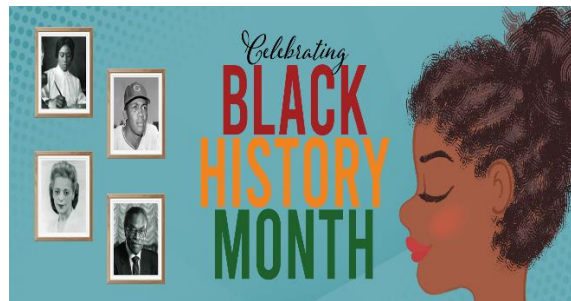
Principal: Ms. H. Queen Munroe  
Secretary: Mrs. C. Oliphant

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## February 2024

### Celebrating Black History Month



This month, Black History and African Heritage is being celebrated by the Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB). In recognition of Black History/African Heritage during February, the LKDSB is focused this year on Black History/African Heritage Month, "**Black Joy**".

There is a wealth of information available about the contributions that Black Canadians have and are making in Canada and around the world.

#### Local Black Historic Sites

**Buxton National Historic Site:** [Buxton National Historic Site](#) aims to provide educational programming to support students in gaining a better understanding of the roots of racial prejudices, as well as the progress that has been made since the era of the Underground Railroad in eradicating those prejudices from our society. The museum's main purpose is to collect, preserve, exhibit, and interpret historical artifacts related to the Elgin (Buxton) Settlement from its founding in 1849 to the late 19th century.

**Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society/Black Mecca Museum:** The [Chatham-Kent Black Historical Society](#) celebrates black history in the Municipality of Chatham-Kent and the City of Chatham. [Click here to take a virtual tour.](#)

**Josiah Henson Museum of African-Canadian History:** The [Josiah Henson Museum](#) commemorates the life of Rev. Josiah Henson (1796-1883). This historic site recognizes Rev. Henson's contributions to the abolition movement and his work in the Underground Railroad, as well as his connection to Harriet Beecher Stowe's novel Uncle Tom's Cabin. <https://www.heritagetrust.on.ca/>

## Kindergarten Registration



Registering your child for Kindergarten is as easy as 1, 2, 3.

1. Find your School.
2. Complete the online registration form at LKDSB Kindergarten Registration in advance.  
[www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten](http://www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten)
3. Come and meet our caring staff.

There will be more opportunities to visit!  
April 3, during the school day, by appointment  
&  
May 29, 4-7 pm.

Please register online as soon as possible so that we will be ready to welcome your child and communicate any new updates with your family to help your child transition to School.

When you do come to the School, please remember to bring:

- Birth certificate or proof of Canadian Citizenship or Residency Status (if appropriate)
- Proof of residency (e.g., utility or tax bill, lease/rental agreement, etc.)
- Your child

We look forward to welcoming our new colts for the 2024 2025 School Year 😊

## Media and Events

February

- |                                   |                                   |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 5 <sup>th</sup> – 9 <sup>th</sup> | Candygrams for sale               |
| 14 <sup>th</sup>                  | Red/White/Pink Day                |
| 28 <sup>TH</sup>                  | Pink Shirt Day: Anti-Bullying Day |
| 29 <sup>th</sup>                  | Leap Day Activity                 |




## MAPS Parent Council

Chair- Mrs. Laura Walker  
Vice Chair- Mrs. Melissa Walker  
Secretary/Treasurer- Mrs. Mari-Lynn Mifflin  
Teaching Staff Member- Ms. G. Bombardier

### NEXT MEETING:

Our next school council meeting will be on Monday, February 26, in the learning commons at 6 pm.  
All are welcome to join us!

**Upcoming Fundraising Events to Look Forward**

<p>Parent Council</p> <p>February 5- Due back to the school on the 15<sup>th</sup></p>	<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;">   </div> <p>3 flavours x 30 bites + 3 dips=\$40 4 flavours x 30 bites + 4 dips + a mini pretzel =\$50 *The Parent Council gets back \$10 for each pack ordered.</p> <p>Flavours to choose from: Original salted with mustard dip Original salted with nacho cheese dip Garlic Parmesan with creamy garlic dip Everything spices with creamy garlic dip Jalapeno with nacho cheese dip Dill pickle with dill ranch dip</p> <p>*Fundraising information will be sent home with the youngest and only children.</p>
<p>Merlin Area Public School</p> <p>March 22-April 8<sup>th</sup></p>	<div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <p>Students will fundraise by selling "The Big Box of Cards," which contains 35 cards, for \$35.</p> <p>Also for sale for \$35 per box: The Big Box of Birthday Cards The Big Box of Holiday Cards The Big Box of Kids Birthday Cards <b>A closer look at all of our boxes -</b> <a href="https://www.bigboxfundraising.com/collections/frontpage">https://www.bigboxfundraising.com/collections/frontpage</a></p> <p>*The School will make \$11 per box of cards sold</p>
<p>Funds raised will supplement field trip costs, bus expenses, guest speakers/presenters, snack program, gym/play yard equipment, and more to enrich our Colts' experiences. We appreciate your ongoing support of our community!</p>	

## Upcoming School Events and Visitors

February is a busy month. We are happy to welcome local authors, musicians and athletes to Merlin School to learn about moving our bodies, creativity, resiliency and hard work!

**St John's Ambulance dogs** will also visit our School with joint programs with the **CKPL library** Branches to read with/to the dog. Please contact your child's classroom teacher if your child has any anxiety about the animals or allergies that have not been reported to the office so that we can best support them.

**On February 6, our FDK-1 classes will welcome local author Lisa Evers.**



Lisa Evers is an Early Childhood Educator and author from Chatham, Ontario. 'Definitely NOT a Bedtime Story!' will get you up and moving for full-body action! 'DEFINITELY a Bedtime Story!' is great for quiet time together and relaxin'! Her rhyming books are designed for quality family time, classroom fun, and early readers in mind!

**February 27, we welcome musician, teacher, artist and producer Kara Kaufmann Kissell.**



Mrs. Kara Kaufmann Kissell will focus on and visit our FDK- Gr. 4 class, sharing songs about dinosaurs from her album "Dino Ditties" and other upbeat, fun songs.

Kara is now endlessly inspired by her four little boys, particularly their unending affection and curiosity for dinosaurs. Her new songs feature five dinosaurs, each with their own childhood wonder or resilience story and plenty of facts about these extinct reptiles.

Kara will also have the opportunity to meet some of our older students with ambitions and aspirations to write and produce their own songs!



Members of the **Chatham Maroons** will visit Merlin this month to read some of their favourite children's books to our junior students and speak about setting goals, working hard and teamwork!

## Vaccination Update

Parents and guardians are responsible for reporting their child's vaccinations to the Chatham Kent Public Health Unit to ensure that all School-aged children are up to date on their vaccinations. If this process is not completed, students risk being suspended from attending School effective March 5, 2024. To report the vaccinations that have already taken place or to schedule to receive the vaccinations, please get in touch with the CKPH. For any questions, please contact CKPHU directly at 519-352-7270 ext. 2457.

## The Yard & Playground Equipment

Please do not leave your children in the schoolyard until 7:55 am or later. No staff will supervise your child for their safety and well-being until then. Be advised that our playground equipment is closed and will not re-open until it has been inspected and approved to be used in the Spring.

## Bus Information- Zone 7

We may experience some heavy fog during the winter, and there could be bus cancellations. When there are bus cancellations due to fog, buses will not run in the morning but will run in the afternoon. MAPS is in ZONE 7. To check for any bus cancellations during the school year, please turn in the local radio stations or check the following website: [www.schoolbusinfo.com](http://www.schoolbusinfo.com)

## SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

### Holidays

**Monday, February 19, 2024, FAMILY DAY**

March 11-15, 2024, MARCH BREAK

Friday, March 29, 2024, GOOD FRIDAY

Monday, April 1, 2024, EASTER MONDAY

Monday, May 20, 2024 VICTORIA DAY

### P. A. Days

**Friday, February 2, 2024**

Friday, April 26, 2024

Friday, June 7, 2024

Friday, June 28, 2024