



Merlin Area Public School

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

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November 2023

Remembrance Day

On Friday, November 10, the staff and students will recognize Remembrance Day with an assembly in the gym at 10:50 am. The assembly is being organized and presented by Mr. Rankin and his 4/5 students. Members of our local Legion will be with us to assist with our service, and we welcome guests from the community to join us. Poppies will be distributed to the students in the morning, and donations will be collected to support this cause.



Progress Report Cards and Conferences

Progress reports will be sent home on Friday, November 10. Conferences will take place on Thursday, November 16, from 3:00-6:30 and Friday, November 17, from 8:30-11:00 am. A sign-up link will be sent home shortly to schedule conferences. We look forward to seeing you then.

Online Platforms- See-Saw/Google Classroom

Many of our teachers have all set up online platforms for communication/schoolwork purposes. If you need this information, please get in touch with your child's teacher. We encourage everyone to be set up with the online platform for ongoing communication. Those classroom teachers who do not use a platform will continue to use ASPEN and their school board email for constant communication. Please reach out to your child's teacher if you have any questions, comments or concerns throughout the school year!

Character Education

On Friday, October 27, students met in their House Colour Teams and decorated pumpkins donated by Sobey's. Our older students helped support our younger students in this fun fall task and then displayed their work in the main foyer to decorate the halls for families who came into the building to visit. Students then took their pumpkins home at the end of the school day on the 31st.

On October 31, many students dressed in Orange and Black attire, and we hosted a Fall Assembly celebrating our students and community. Our classroom focus was on Positive Starts and settling into routines. Each classroom selected one or two students to recognize who have had an excellent start to the school year. We also acknowledged students who have had excellent attendance. 80% of the time or more, any student in the school was provided with a voucher for a draw, recognizing and celebrating these students' participation.

Mrs. Martin then announced that over 318 new pairs of socks were donated to those in need. We nearly doubled our record last year of 170 pairs! Next, our Media and Events Crew introduced our upcoming student voice and school focus of the "Spread Kindness Like Confetti" initiative.

As a whole school, we discussed what to do if we had a fire during an assembly. We then conducted a fire drill to practice. The student body, our guests, and our daycare did a remarkable job during this drill! After returning to the building to wrap up the fun-filled agenda, the students participated in a school-wide dance/body break of 4 fun, festive songs using a video dance platform 😊



Cross Country

Congratulations to all our cross-country runners. Your hard work and dedication to the team paid off. Students had to place in the top 7 at Harwich Raleigh to get the opportunity to run in Sarnia at the District meet. We had three students who were able to represent our school! Congratulations to all of our runners, and thank you for representing Merlin Area Public School!

Grade 8- Natalie G placed 12th out of 67 runners.

Grade 6- Tiana L placed 30th out of 67 runners

Grade 4- Ryan B placed 34th out of 70 runners.



Volleyball

Both our Girls' and Boys' Volleyball teams have begun their season! We wish them both the best of luck representing Merlin Area Public School.

Treaty Recognition Week November 5th-11th

November 5th-11th is Treaties Recognition Week with the Lambton Kent District School Board. Included below is one of the Traditional Territorial Acknowledgements used in LKDSB schools. Classes are working towards creating acknowledgements specific and personal to their classes while better understanding and respecting the purpose of these acknowledgements.

We acknowledge that the land on which we are gathered is part of the traditional territory of the Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi and Delaware Nations. These Indigenous Nations, known as the Anishinaabeg and Lunaapeew, agreed through their ancestral languages to the mutual sharing of the land, with obligations and responsibilities to the environment. Today these responsibilities and obligations extend to all Peoples.

Media and Events

November is kindness month. We will be spreading and recognizing kindness around MAPS all month long!

Please wear red, black, and white for our Remembrance Day Assembly on **Friday, November 10**.

November 14 is World Diabetes Day - we are observing **on the 21st: Wear blue**.

To celebrate Mickey's birthday - we are dressing up like Disney Characters or wearing Disney gear on **Wednesday, November 15**

MAPS School Council

Thank you to the parents who attended our first School Council Meeting of the School Year. We welcome our 2023-2024 Executive Members.

Chair- Laura Walker

Vice-Chair- Melissa Walker

Secretary- Mari- Lynn Mifflin

Our next School Council meeting of the year will be in person on Monday, November 20, at 6 pm at the school in Room 5. Everyone is welcome!

Student Nutrition Program

Through the support of generous donations and sponsors of our amazing Merlin Community, students enjoy fruits, vegetables, dairy items and grains at school daily.

If you would like to donate, we always appreciate your help and use large sums of items such as snack-sized Ziploc bags, Cheerios, Shreddies, Life Cereal and Gold Fish crackers.

Thank you to our fantastic community partners who continue to support our Merlin Students and ensure their bellies are full and their minds are ready to learn.

Absence Reporting & Important Information

If your child will be absent from school, please continue to use School Messenger or call the school.

SchoolMessenger Account

Open an internet browser and search for go.schoolmessenger.ca or download the BLUE SchoolMessenger app. When you leave a message, please include your child's first and last name and why they are absent. Our answering machine is available 24 hours a day for reporting absences.

Important Information Regarding Attendance

If your child is 20 minutes late every day, they will have missed 12 days of school instruction by the end of the school year.

If your child misses two days of school per month, they will have missed one month worth of instruction by the end of the school year.

Students who are absent 15 days or school each year will have lost one year of instruction by the end of grade 12.

We appreciate that children do get sick and require time at home to heal and not share germs. However, if you or your child is struggling to arrive at school on a daily basis and we can be of any help please reach out to your school team to support your family as best as we can to encourage attendance at school on a regular basis for the overall success and wellbeing of your child.

Bus Information- Zone 7

During the fall, we may experience some heavy fog, which could cause 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 listen to the local radio stations or check the following website: www.schoolbusinfo.com

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

Holidays

December 25, 2023 – January 8th WINTER HOLIDAY
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, November 17, 2023
Friday, February 2, 2024
Friday, April 26, 2024
Friday, June 7, 2024
Friday, June 28, 2024

