



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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October 2023

News from the Office

It has been a very busy and great start-up at MAPS. We are thrilled to have welcomed many new families to our community. Thank you to everyone who came to our Meet the Staff this past week. Seeing so many of you out, especially on a rainy night, was terrific, and we appreciate the support for our Book Fair! This event raised funds, allowing us to purchase more books for classroom libraries for our students.

Teachers have been working hard to develop classroom routines, school, and yard routines. We ask that families help support the school by discussing the importance of rules and routines to keep everyone safe. Your cooperation in helping keep our learning community as safe as possible is greatly appreciated.

This Friday is a Professional Learning Day for Staff. There is no school for students, and Monday is Thanksgiving. We hope that everyone has a safe and enjoyable Thanksgiving and long weekend and look forward to seeing you all back on Tuesday, October 10.



The school-wide student voice piece "In Our School, we LIFT one another UP by..."
The artist of the house is Sierra M.

Absence Reporting

We are so happy to see attendance improving this year. We miss your little ones when they are not present, but we also understand and appreciate that if they are ill, they do not share germs and take the time necessary to heal and return healthy and ready for fun and learning.

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

School Messenger 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.

Bus Information- Zone 7

During the fall, we may experience some heavy fog and bus cancellations. Buses will not run in the morning but in the afternoon when there are bus cancellations due to fog. MAPS is in ZONE 7. To check for any bus cancellations during the school year, please turn into the local radio stations or check the following website: www.schoolbusinfo.com

Terry Fox Walk/Run

Our students and staff honoured the memory of Terry Fox by participating in the annual Terry Fox Run at the school on September 29. Thank you to Mr. Hills, Mme. DeNure and the 7/8 class for organizing and implementing this event. Thank you to everyone who donated funds to support cancer research. This year, the school has raised approximately \$150 for this great cause, with some donations still coming in.



September 30, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation & Orange Shirt Day

We wore orange shirts on September 29 to honour the First Nation, Métis and Inuit children. They were taken from their families and communities to be sent away to residential schools in Canada. The days surrounding Orange Shirt Day are an essential time to learn more about the history of those schools and their impact. Our work towards increasing our knowledge about Indigenous education does not just take place one week a year but will continue throughout the year.

Media and Events

Media and Events met for the first time on Thursday, the 29th.
Introducing our Media & Events Crew for the 2023-2024 School Year!

Events Team: Kara, Sierra, Natalie, Kinley, Ethon, Jersey, and Shyanne
Photography Team: Bryleigh, Sadiya, Tayleigh, Lexis, and Vanessa

The Crew are planning two events this October.
Thursday, October 19 - wear pink for breast cancer awareness
Tuesday, October 31 - wear Black and Orange for Halloween

Book Fair

Thank you to everyone who purchased books and classroom tools for our Book Fair.
In total, we sold \$2332.59 worth of books! Thanks to everyone's purchases, \$625.79 of books went into classrooms and the school library for all students to access.

Congratulations to Amelia W, who won the Family Night Draw, winning \$25.00 of books for herself and an additional \$25.00 for Mrs. Leavoy's and Mrs. Keillor's classroom.

Student Accident Insurance

Student Accident Insurance – Voluntary Participation. The Lambton Kent District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities - this includes extracurricular sports. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any costs not covered by provincial health care or their employer's health care plan. Please check with your provider regarding coverage. The Board encourages all parents/guardians to review this or other available Student Accident Insurance plans, especially those with a child(ren) participating in medium to high-impact physical activities (both during school and outside of school hours). The insuremykids® student accident insurance program offers three plans with a variety of benefits and affordable rates. Their most affordable plan is available for as little as \$17 per year. All plans provide 24/7 coverage. For more information or to purchase insurance, please visit www.insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437. The 2022/2023 Student Accident Insurance Program is available for purchase now and is in effect for 365 days. 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 to purchase whenever they prefer.

MAPS School Council

The School Council aims to improve pupil achievement and employ various strategies to engage parents and the community in strengthening student achievement and a positive school climate. Our School Council also conducts fundraisers throughout the year to offset the cost of field trips for students and provide additional services to our student body.

Thank you to the 2022 -2023 School Council for their time and efforts inside and outside the physical school this past school year. Because of their time and effort, hot lunches were enjoyed, field trips were subsidized, Family night in May was supported, and we had our annual delicious Holiday Dinner in December, to name just a few of the wonderful contributions. We would also like to thank them for setting up the Pizza Lunches this fall and organizing the food for the Meet the Staff evening last week. We look forward to working with our amazing School Council again this year. Thank you!

The first school council meeting of the year took place on September 18 in the Learning Commons. Thank you to our School Council and the Home Hardware in Newberry for our new school BBQ! We are looking forward to having delicious BBQ Hot Dog Lunches this year.

The 2023 2024 School Council is:

Chairperson: Laura Walker

Vice-Chairperson: Melissa Walker

Secretary/Treasurer: Mari-Lynn Mifflin

Teaching staff member: Gwendolyn Bombardier Grade ¾ Teacher

Principal (non-voting member): Harmony Queen Munroe



IMPORTANT DATES

Holidays

Monday, October 9, 2023, THANKSGIVING

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, October 6, 2023

Friday, November 17, 2023

Friday, February 2, 2024

Friday, April 26, 2024

Friday, June 7, 2024

Friday, June 28, 2024

