



News from the Nest

Tilbury Area Public School

(519) 682-2260

www.lkdsb.net/school/tilbury

Twitter: @TilburyArea

Facebook: @TilburyArea

Instagram: @TilburyArea

We acknowledge that the land on which our school sits and on which we gather each day is a 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.

September 2023

From Mrs. Byatt-Millington

Hello Falcon Families!

We hope that you have had a safe and restful summer and are ready to get back to school, eager to learn and play. School staff have been busy over the past few weeks getting their classrooms and the school ready for you and we can't wait to have our Falcons back in the building.

Communication

To meet our goal of improved communication, we have set up several ways that parents can check in on what is happening at TAPS:

1. Monthly newsletters/calendars – will be emailed to families at the beginning of each month and will be posted on our website. If anyone requires a paper copy, please contact the office to have one sent home.
2. Website – will be updated weekly with dates to remember, contact information, newsletters, and forms – check it out at: [TAPS Website](#)
3. Twitter – reminders of upcoming events, photos of student work and short student videos will be shared on our school Twitter account – please follow us @TilburyArea
4. Facebook – our business page can be “Liked” by searching @TilburyArea
5. Instagram – Our Insta account is active and can be followed at @TilburyArea
6. Homeroom Apps – our homeroom teachers are using a variety of different apps to keep in contact with parents, including Google Classroom and Seesaw. Please check with your child's teacher to see what communication tool they will be using and how to sign up.
7. Email – you will occasionally receive emails from the Principal, Karyn Byatt-Millington, that contain news information such as School newsletters, Ministry or Board newsletters or Public Health information.
8. Phone – Please call the school to set up appointments to meet with staff members or to arrange for a call back – 519-682-2260.

Meet the Staff Open House

We are very excited to be able to welcome families back into the building this year.

Our first event will be a Meet the Staff Open House, being held on Wednesday, September 20th from 4:00 – 6:30.

If you are able, please come on in, have your student take you on a tour of their classroom and introduce you to their teacher and other staff. Also, the Scholastic Book Fair will be open to families who wish to visit. Don't forget to stop by the office to say hello.

School Hours

9:00 – Yard Coverage Begins
9:15 – School Starts
9:15 – 11:15 – Classes
11:15 – 11:55 – Nutrition Break (eating time and outdoor play)
11:55 – 1:45 – Classes
1:45 – 2:25 – Nutrition Break (eating time and outdoor play)
2:25 – 3:35 – Classes
3:35 – Dismissal



We'd like to remind you that the yard is not supervised until 9:00 am, so children should never arrive before that. Any students who arrive after 9:15 am should come in through the front doors and check in at the office for a late slip.

All doors are locked throughout the day. If you need to come in, please come to the front doors and Mrs. Blair will let you in. All visitors (including parents) are required to report to the office and sign in. We ask that parents do not travel to classrooms unless given permission to do so by the office. This reduces distraction, ensures student safety and preserves teaching time.

Student Pick Up/Drop Off and School Crossing

Drivers are asked to take extra care when driving along Mable St and on school property. We have many children walking to and from school and they are not always as "traffic safe" as we'd like.

Please refrain from parking in the bus loading area in front of the school.

There are no crossing guards at any of our school crossings. We ask that parents reinforce good walking habits with their children and that any parents who are driving take extra care around our school crossings.

NUT Aware

Please note that we have students in our school who have anaphylactic allergies to peanuts, ground nuts and tree nuts. As these students are in various grades within the school, the following applies to all of our classrooms and students. In order to keep these students safe while at school, we ask for your cooperation in the following:

- Do not send in food that contains peanuts, ground nuts or tree nuts or their oils – this includes (but is not limited to) peanut butter, other nut butters, WOW butter and Nutella. Ensure that any pre-packaged snacks that may contain nuts (cookies, granola bars, candy bars) are labelled as Nut Safe or School Safe.
- Encourage your child to wash their hands before and after eating or use hand sanitizer.
- Do not send in baked goods for class treats or parties – all food entering the school needs to be commercially made and packaged and labelled Nut Safe or School Safe and come from a Nut Free facility (ie. Maple City Bakery)
- Encourage your child to never trade or share food at school



If you have any questions or concerns about our policies on anaphylaxis, please contact your child's teacher or the main office.

Student Absences

Due to Safe School policies, Mrs. Blair, our school secretary, is required to call the home of any student who is absent without notification. However, she is not required to make this call if we know in advance why the student is absent. Therefore, it is very important that you contact the school if your child is going to be away. By doing this, it would free up the amount of phone calls that the office must make in the morning and it ensures that all of our students are safely where they are supposed to be. Please make use of the School Messenger App to report absences or call the school and leave a message.

Also, if you know of upcoming absences, (ie. due to trips, appointments, etc.), please let Mrs. Blair know and she can mark it in her attendance book.



School Cash Online

With the LKDSB utilizing an online payment system in all its schools – School Cash Online – there is almost never a reason to send money into the school. The only exceptions currently are chocolate milk and popcorn purchases at lunch.

School Cash Online does not store any data, meaning that your banking or credit card information is never stored on the website, providing increased safety for you. It does mean that you will have to enter your payment information each time you use the service.

If you have not already signed up, visit our website, and sign up today.

School Council

The first School Council meeting of the year will be on Monday, September 25th at 6:30 pm in the Learning Commons. All interested parents/guardians are invited to attend. Each member must be nominated in writing, please see the office for nomination forms. If you aren't able to fill one out ahead of time, we will have some at the meeting that night. We will elect our Chair at this meeting, as well as solicit a volunteer to act as recording secretary. The School Council acts as an advisory group for the Principal of the school – they advise the school with community input and in turn, take information from the school to the community at large.

If anyone is interested in attending virtually, please contact the office and a Google Meet code.

Medications and Medical Plans of Care

If your child requires medication to be administered throughout the school day, an "Authorization to Administer Oral Medication" form will need to be completed and signed by both the parent and a doctor/nurse practitioner. This form then needs to be returned to the Principal and will be kept on file for the full year. School staff are unable to administer any medication unless this form is complete and on file at the school. Forms are available in the office.

Any students who have been diagnosed with diabetes, anaphylactic allergies or any other medical condition that might require medical attention will need to complete an "Individual Medical Emergency Plan". These forms are available in the office as well.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)



Sometimes students arrive at school infected with pediculosis or head lice. Finding this early really helps to stop the spread and your help in this is greatly appreciated. Please check your child for head lice weekly. If you find evidence of head lice, please let the school know. This will allow us to notify other parents in the classrooms affected so that they may check their child(ren). Children who are suspected of having head lice will be excused until appropriate treatment has been administered. Infestation by head lice is an unpleasant nuisance, but not a health problem. Head lice do not carry or spread disease.

Bus Information

We are in Zone 7.

During the fall, we might experience some heavy fog in which there could be the potential for bus cancellations. When buses are cancelled due to fog, they will not run in the morning, but they will run in the afternoon to bring students home.

To check for any bus cancellations throughout the school year, download the School Bus Information (SBI) app, available on iOS/Android, listen to CKSY radio (95.1 FM) or visit <https://schoolbusinfo.busstatus.ca/>

Registration Verification

Registration Verification forms will be sent home with each child in the coming days. We ask that you review this form and note any necessary changes. If no changes are necessary, please confirm this by signing the bottom of the form for your child.

Appendix B – Notification for the Use of Student Information form is also being sent home. Throughout the school year many school activities occur and may be the subject of photographing, audio-taping, videotaping and filming. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, a signed release is required for the photographing or filming of student participation in these activities.

These photos and videos may be used in-house (bulletin boards, class work, etc.) or on social media. If used on social media, identifying information such as names will never be published. If you would like more information about this before consenting, please contact the school office.

Water Bottles

TAPS is home to 3 water bottle filling stations, and we encourage the students to bring a refillable water bottle to school to maintain health and hydration during the day. It also serves an environmental goal of reducing the amount of single use plastic we are using as much as possible. Thank you for your continued support.



Violence Threat Risk Assessment (VTRA) Fair Notice

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. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

As always, student safety is our first priority. This notification is being provided via avenues such as school newsletters, and school and board web sites as fair notice to parents and guardians of the existence of the VTRA Protocol and its application if situations warrant. If you have any questions regarding the Lambton Kent District School Board Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol, please contact your school principal as the first step.

DATES TO REMEMBER IN SEPTEMBER

September 5 – First Day of School

September 15 – PA Day

September 18 – Milk and Popcorn Sales Begin

September 20 – Meet the Teacher Open House

September 25 – School Council/Home and School Meetings

September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation/Orange Shirt Day

