



L'EXPRESS

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2014

**PRINCIPAL
MRS. K. BILESKI**

**OFFICE MANAGER
MRS. Y. ELLIOTT**

**OFFICE PHONE:
519-747-3314**

**ATTENDANCE LINE:
519-570-8100
EXT. 3450**

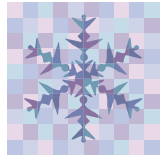
**SCHOOL ADDRESS:
431 FORESTLAWN RD.
WATERLOO, ONT.
N2K 2J5**

**SCHOOL WEBSITE:
<http://lex.wrdsb.ca>**

Principal's Message

I continue to be filled with gratitude and amazement as I look back into 2013, our accomplishments have been incredible! December was a whirlwind of activity. We enjoyed a beautiful Holiday Concert, an assembly with angelic singing, as well as an incredible basket raffle that raised \$2500 for Free the Children! We could not have completed any of these activities without the support of this awesome community!

Happy New Year to everyone, 2014 has already started off with excitement. We certainly know that Mother Nature has been quite creative with our first 'cold day' on the second day back! Hopefully your family managed well in the cold and lack of electricity.



We have already moved into full steam ahead with many wonderful activities and happenings on the horizon. Students have already enjoyed author Mike Wade and soon will hear Canadian folk singer Michael Mitchell. Mr. Smith's class led us in a wonderful Empathy assembly, effectively capturing the meaning of empathy and how to show it. We are looking forward to Skating at RIM and preparing for the ITS fair.

Teachers have been working hard on Term one achievement report cards as well as our Literacy and Math initiatives. Our primary team has disassembled the literacy room to make room for a new guided reading kit. Our CATC team is preparing for 'the shift' where we will move to ensure that each class has access to mobile devices including chrome books. We are truly excited about our technology plans!

If you have had a look in our library, you will notice a few changes. We have had WRDSB staff in to help us make our library more functional and are thrilled with the results. With funds from the book fair and dedicated funds from School Council we will continue to make improvements by investing in new books and furniture for our library.

I am confident that 2014 is going to be the best year yet at Lexington P.S., a school with a great big heart!

Sincerely,

Mrs. K. Bileski

Kindergarten Registration



Calling all 4 and 5 year olds!
We can't wait to have our youngest students sign up for Full Day Kindergarten at Lexington.

If you have a son or daughter born in 2010 (or 2009) who has not yet attended school, please call the school for an appointment to register (519-747-3314). Appointments are available the week of February 10-14th during school office hours

Kindergarten registration is an opportunity for parents/guardians to complete and submit the appropriate registration documents as well as receive pertinent information about the Kindergarten program. Later in the year, we will invite all new students and their parents to an orientation evening.

If you are unable to register during the day you may register at central WRDSB sites. Please go to www.wrdsb.on.ca for dates and locations. If you do not have a child registering for Kindergarten, please share this information with neighbours.



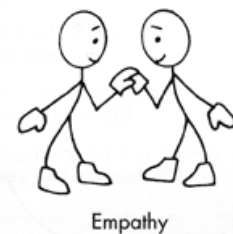
Term 1 Reports



On February 10th you will be receiving your child(ren)'s first term Report Card. Just as the Progress Report in November there is not a formal interview day scheduled. If you would like to touch base with your child(ren)'s teacher to discuss the Term 1 Report Card, be sure to fill out and return the bottom section on page 4. Your child's teacher will contact you to set up a mutually-agreed-upon time to meet. We are really proud of all our students have accomplished this term.

Character Education

Character development continues to be an important focus at Lexington! The character attribute in the spotlight for January is Empathy. Throughout the month we will be using the following quote to demonstrate what we believe initiative stands for: "At Lexington we show Empathy by understanding how someone feels and responding with sensitivity."



In February the character attribute that will be in the spotlight is KINDNESS. "At Lexington we show kindness by helping others with our caring words and actions."

Parking Lot Safety and Student Drop-Off

Thank you to families for taking care to be safe when dropping off and picking up students before and after school. This is a reminder that Kindergarten families are welcome to use the parking lot to park and then walk their children to the door. The parking lot should not be used as a drop-off for any students as this is extremely dangerous with cars pulling in and out. Please take advantage of our Kiss and drop area in front of the school sign. In the Kiss and drop area, students are able to exit the vehicle and walk around to the back of the school without having to cross a parking lot.

Inclement Weather

Winter has arrived, please remember that when you wake up in the morning and the weather conditions appear to be severe, listen to one of our local radio stations, local television station or check the Waterloo Region District School Board's Website (www.wrdsb.ca) to find out if school and/or busses have been cancelled for the day. As well, whenever possible, we will try to get a message out on School Day as well as our website.



Author Mike Wade Visits Lexington

Grade three to six students were thrilled to meet author Mike Wade. He is the popular author of the series "And Then It Happened." Mike inspired our students to engage in the creative process of writing through humour and a few practical jokes! Many students were able to purchase signed copies of his books. As well, the school purchased class sets for each classroom from grades three to six. Thank you to School Council for sponsoring this event. Thank you to Mr. Smith for organizing this visit and to our librarian Ms. Fenwick for creating a welcoming environment for Mike.



Pancake Tuesday

Once again, we will be holding our Pancake Tuesday lunch on March 4th. All students in the school will have the opportunity to enjoy some fresh, hot pancakes with syrup during the first nutrition break.



Many parent volunteers are needed to make Pancake Tuesday a reality. We will need parents to set-up, prepare and serve pancakes as well as for clean-up. We will also need several electric griddles for cooking our pancakes. A letter will be going home soon with a form to complete if you can help us out in any way. Thank you in advance for your assistance with this exciting School Council initiative.

Lexington's Ice Rink

We are excited about our Lexington ice rink. Our volunteers have battled rain, ice, snow and extreme cold to create an ice rink for our pleasure.

A special thank you goes out to our rink volunteers:

Liz & Paul Fryer	Howard Jones
Kevin He	Dave Dougall
Mike Flood	Curtis Sherbo



We hope that you are enjoying many exciting opportunities to skate on our very own Lexington Rink!!

Valentine's Day Cake Raffle

On Friday, February 14th we will be holding our annual Valentine's Day cake raffle—one of our most popular events. Every year, parent volunteers contribute some really amazing and delicious cakes. Cakes must be dropped off in K3 at the school the morning of February 14th so they can be on display throughout the day. Winners take the cakes home at the end of the day to enjoy with their favourite Valentine(s).

Each student will receive 1 free raffle ticket. Students will be able to purchase additional tickets at a cost of 25 cents each from Tuesday to Thursday before school (8:50-9:05) and during first break the week of February 10th. All proceeds will go to the Heart & Stroke Foundation. More details will be shared in a letter that will be sent home soon.

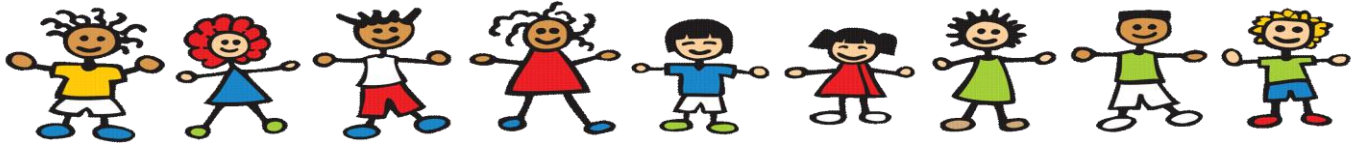


In addition to donating cakes, parent volunteers are also required to set up cakes on Feb. 14th and to sell tickets throughout the week. If you are available to volunteer, please contact our Valentine's Day Cake Raffle Coordinator, Julie McCombe at: juliemccombe@rogers.com. Thank you in advance for your support with this great initiative!

Girls on the Run

School Council has sponsored a wonderful opportunity for girls in grades 3-6. Girls on the Run is a non-profit organization whose mission is "to educate and prepare girls for a lifetime of self-respect and healthy living." The program will run for two nights a week after school (until 5:00 pm) for 10 weeks beginning April and ending the first week in June. The cost of the program is \$139 per girl. We will be hosting an information assembly on January 30th for all girls in grades 3-6. Your daughter will receive further information and a flyer to take home. Registration will be on-line in a first come first served manner, we are hoping for a first time team of 20 girls. Thank you to Heather Gingerich a Lexington parent who has volunteered to be trained as the head coach. We are hoping for another volunteer to assist Heather as assistant coach. Please contact Mrs. Bileski if you are able to help out. We are thrilled that our girls will have this wonderful opportunity. More information can be found at www.girlsontherun.ca





School Council


We are grateful for all the wonderful, hard work that School Council parents do on behalf of the school community. In addition to the Cake Raffle and Pancake Tuesday, Council will be hosting a wonderful, environmentally friendly fundraiser called 'Bag2School.' This fundraiser will begin the week of February 24-28. Simply, students will bring home blue bags and collect unused clothing items to be donated to the school. The school receives \$200 per ton, so let's see if we can clean out our closets and collect a ton or two of things that are cluttering our homes. The great thing about this fundraiser is that the used items are sold to importers and wholesalers worldwide with unsold items being recycled! All donations should be bagged and delivered to the foyer of the school. Please share this information with neighbours and family.

The school appreciates all funds that council raises for the school. We have made great use of your generosity! Council raised:

- \$1719.04 through Treasures coupon book
- \$2670.48 through QSP magazine sales
- \$1441.92 through Zehrs tapes

Here are some examples of this year's expenditures:

- ✓ \$2500 toward class trips and classroom costs
- ✓ \$1500 to complete our plan to have a data projector and document camera in every classroom
- ✓ \$1000 toward Mike Wade and Michael Mitchell performances
- ✓ \$1000 for the busses to RIM for skating
- ✓ \$900 toward library books (this is in addition to the \$900 raised from the book fair)
- ✓ \$600 toward a modular bookshelf for the library
- ✓ \$400 toward a gathering carpet for the library
- ✓ \$1000 toward additional home reading books

We can't say THANK YOU enough for all of the wonderful things that Council does for our little school! Lexington community truly has HEART! 

Important Dates to Remember

January 28	10:00 am Michael Mitchell concert, families are welcome to attend
January 31	Spirit Day ~ pyjama day
February 4	Skating at RIM 9:30 ~ 11:00 Volunteers needed to tie skates
February 10	Report Cards Go Home
February 11	ITS Fair 6:30-8 pm in the gym
February 10-14	Kindergarten Registration
February 14	Valentine's Day Cake Raffle
February 17	Family Day Holiday
February 25	Skating at RIM 9:30 ~ 11:00 Volunteers needed to tie skates
February 28	Bag2School pick up
March 4	Pancake Tuesday – pancakes served during first nutrition break
March 10-14	March Break ~ Enjoy the week