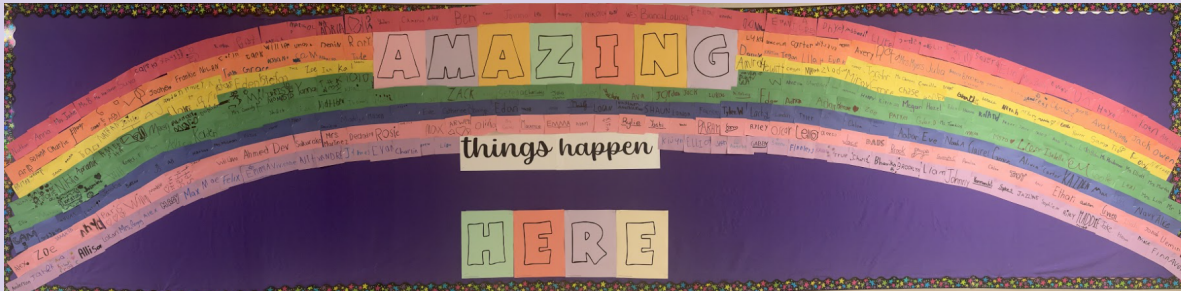


Lexington's February 2023 Newsletter



Important Dates to Remember at Lexington:

- Feb. 1-School Council Virtual Meeting
- Feb. 14-Valentine's Day
- Feb. 15-Report Cards Go Home
- Feb. 20-Family Day (No School)
- Feb. 22-Pink Shirt Day
- Feb. 23-Parent Screen Time Information Session (Virtual)
- Mar. 3-Choir Sings at Rangers Hockey Game

It's a new day...work hard... be positive... be kind... and be you!
Shine Bright, Lexington Light!
KINDNESS (February)

Principal Message:

Winter is certainly upon us and it's cold out there! Please make sure you send extra socks and mittens with your child(ren) to ensure they stay warm during these winter months. We hope families are able to get outside and enjoy the snow and some winter activities.

Black Brilliance Month:

When it comes to tackling systemic anti-Black racism in education, every organization must set a goal. At the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), the goal is creating learning environments where African, Caribbean, and Black identifying (ACBI) staff and students are supported in being unapologetically Black. This means creating an environment where ACBI students and staff see their brilliance highlighted, represented and celebrated. This is accomplished by learning the history, highlighting the present and building for the future.

At Lexington P.S., educators will be focusing on celebrating Canadian Black individuals who have made a change and/or difference in our communities and have taught us about the presence of racism through their experiences and histories. Each class will be focusing on learning about a Canadian Black individual that fits this goal. They will create a slide that will be shared on the announcements so that their learning can be shared with the whole school. We encourage parents to ask questions around their child's learning with regards to Black Brilliance and encourage questions and discussions about racism even though it may be uncomfortable.

Valentine's Day:

Many classes are encouraging students to make and create their own "kindness notes" for their classmates to recognize Valentine's Day. This fits in well with our February Character Trait: Kindness. Instead of buying Valentine's

this year...find a creative way for your child(ren) to create a kind message to bring and share. We encourage families to only record their child's name on their Valentine's (From: _____) and to bring enough for everyone in the class. This prevents students from feeling excluded and from having students figure out where each Valentine goes, saving a lot of time in the end for both the child and the educators. Lexington's Educators are happy to share how many students are in your child's class, so feel free to reach out to them if you need to.

Hot Lunch Days:

In an effort to be more environmentally conscious, ESNS along with their suppliers have decided they will no longer be sending cutlery with any lunches. This was effective February 1 2023. Thank you to all the parents who remembered to send along cutlery. We purchased a small supply of cutlery for the office just in case, however, due to your diligence, there were very few needed. Please continue to send cutlery if needed for your child's hot lunch days.

We are also interested in trying out some new, healthier choices for hot lunch days. If you have any suggestions that you would like us to consider, please email our school email address at lex@wrdsb.ca. We look forward to hearing suggestions from our community that may include healthier options.

Anonymous Bullying Reporting Tool

On Feb. 1st, WRDSB launched "The Anonymous Bullying Reporting Tool" which is available to WRDSB students to report safety concerns related to bullying for themselves, or on behalf of another student. This is one pathway, among many, available to students to report student safety concerns related to bullying.

The Anonymous Bullying Reporting Tool is not meant to replace school supports available, but rather to provide an option for students. Students are encouraged to continue to reach out to their teachers, principal or other school staff when in need of assistance.

The Anonymous Bullying Reporting Tool is not monitored 24/7 and is not meant to replace urgent or emergency services. If you are in an emergency situation, please call 911, contact [Here 24/7](#) (1-844-437-3247) or go to your nearest hospital.

For more information, see our website at:

<https://lex.wrdsb.ca/2023/02/01/introducing-the-new-anonymous-bullying-reporting-tool/>

School Council Fundraiser: Dance-A-Thon-Mar. 10

The Lexington School Council is organizing a Dance-A-Thon at Lexington PS on Mar. 10. The money raised from this fundraiser will go towards School Council Funds to help with purchasing Literacy Resources for Teachers in teaching Literacy using the "Science of Reading" approach. The money raised may also go towards supporting class trips and updating our outdoor space with items such as an "Outdoor classroom", mud kitchen for the kindergarten yards, etc. All students will participate.

Report Cards:

Students will be coming home with their Term 1 report cards on Feb. 15th. We recommend that parents take some time to review the comments with your child, emphasizing the strengths and how to support them in getting to their next steps. This includes the Learning Skills areas as this is often a very important part of student success which leads to becoming a successful and positive member of society. We are all very proud of the hard work our students have put forth and we look forward to seeing their growth as the year progresses.

5A January Class Learning: Investigating Strange Solids and Liquids



5A's Last Day of 2022



Big Yellow Bag Fundraiser:

Lexington's School Council has once again partnered with BigYellowBag®, a local company that delivers high quality garden products in a neat, clean bag straight to your door. As we will all be getting into the planning for our spring/summer gardens, (wishful thinking at this point...but thinking ahead) BigYellowBag has offered to donate \$10 to us for each bag purchased using our unique code below (this code is only valid for donations to come to our group).

So, if you're planning ahead and are wanting to purchase soil or mulch in the near future to get your lawn ready for the season, here's a way for you to save a bit of cash PLUS help your school too! To purchase visit: <https://bigyellowbag.com/> and use the code LEXINGTON23. Thanks for continuing to support Lexington Public School.

Friendly Reminders:

- Staff and students are encouraged to wear masks due to the increased illnesses that are being reported at all WRDSB schools
- If your child does not have access to a mask and would like one, please let the office know and we will ensure they are provided with a mask that fits.
- Check with your child(ren) that they continue to have their indoor footwear available to them and that they fit. Many students have been wearing the same footwear both indoors and outdoors.
- Ensure your child remembers to bring a water bottle each and every day. We have water bottle filling stations available for all to use throughout the day. Our fountains are available for use, however, we continue to encourage students to use their own water bottles and fill them regularly to prevent the spreading of germs.
- Families are encouraged to use the online [School Screening Tool](#) that is posted on our website prior to sending their child(ren) to school each day. If your child is feeling ill, please keep them home until their symptoms improve for 24 hours.
- If your child is registered in Extended Day, you must pick up your child in person at extended day once the dismissal bell rings. If you are picking your child up earlier in the day, the school will inform extended day that your child is absent. Students who are registered in extended day are not allowed to participate in clubs, tutoring, etc. that occur after school unless they unregister them 2 weeks in advance of the event. Again, this is a safety protocol that is set in place to ensure that students are supervised and/or have safely arrived to their assigned destination.
- Kindergarten Registration for 2023-24 School Year continues. Parents/guardians will be able to register for Kindergarten as well as the Before and After School Program online anytime after January 16, 2023 at <https://www.wrdsb.ca/kindergarten/>.

Parking Lot:

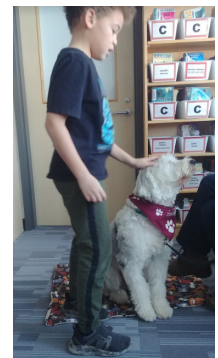
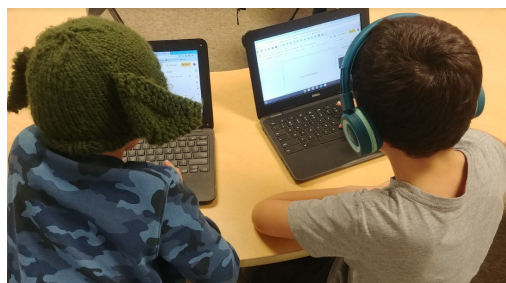
As mentioned in previous communications, the parking lot is not accessible to families during drop off and pick up times (8:55-9:15 am and 3:00-3:45 pm) to ensure the safety of all of our students. Signs and pylons are and will continue to be placed at both entrances of the parking lot to remind everyone not to enter during these times. If you are wanting to “Kiss and Drop” your child(ren), the area we have always used for cars to park for a brief moment to let their children out of the car is located in front of our Lexington lawn sign. Thank you for continuing to help us keep our students safe during arrival and dismissal times.

Now that more parents are parking on the side of the road, we also ask that families show respect to our neighbours by ensuring that their driveways are not blocked during drop off and pick up times. Our neighbours have always been supportive of us and are very patient with regards to our students, special events, etc. that can, at times, cause an inconvenience to them. As adults, we want to model kind and respectful behaviour for our children and this is a great way to demonstrate this. Thank you to everyone who continue to make an effort to ensure our neighbours feel appreciated and valued.

Lexington Pizza Night:

On Feb. 7th, Lexington’s School Council is working with Domino’s to raise money for our School Council. For each pizza ordered from the Eastbridge Domino’s, Lexington’s School Council will receive \$5 if you use the Code: **SGIVE**. **If your family orders more than 1 pizza, the Code: SGIVE needs to be entered for each pizza.** Sometimes this may not work when you order online through your cell phone. If you have any issues, call the Eastbridge Domino’s at [\(519\) 888-6662](tel:5198886662) and they will ensure the donation is set up for each pizza that you want to order. Read the attached flyer for more information. Thank you for your support!

3A Class Learning in January



School Council:

Our next Virtual School Council Meeting is on Wednesday, April 5, 2023. All parents are welcome and encouraged to attend to support a variety of initiatives, provide input and to meet other Lexington Families. If you are interested, please email lex-schoolcouncil@wrdsb.ca to add your email to our Google Meet invite. All School Council Meeting Minutes are posted on our Lexington P.S. Website at <https://lex.wrdsb.ca/>.

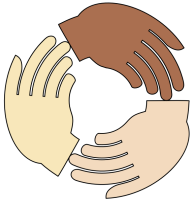
Pink Shirt Day-Feb. 22

We encourage staff and students to wear pink shirts on Feb. 22. We encourage families to have discussions with their child(ren) about what bullying is and how to be a “stand-up” citizen. Announcements will be made during the week of Feb. 20-24. In support of mental health organizations within our own community, we would like to fundraise to donate to CMHA Waterloo Wellington youth mental health supports. All donations can be made through School Day during this week. There will be choices of \$2 and more for donations. Thank you for supporting our efforts to help our youth in our community.

Virtual Screen Time Presentation for Parents-Thursday, Feb. 23

Given the dramatic increase in screen time use during the pandemic, our understanding about screen time use in young people has changed. The presentation will be focused on discussing some common myths and misconceptions about screen time. Recent research findings about risks, benefits and practical strategies related to screen use in young people will be shared. Additional resources will be provided. Questions and ideas are welcome! Click [here](#) for more information about time, virtual link, etc.

Character Education: Kindness



During the month of February, students will focus on learning and demonstrating “Kindness”. As a school community, we promote and celebrate kindness throughout the year. We will delve into how we can spread kindness in a more global way and support our community. Having conversations and “Kindness projects” at home would be another way to promote kindness in your children. Thank you for all that you do already...Lexington Community has always been a generous and giving community and we will continue to support “Kindness Initiatives” throughout the year.

1A January Class Learning



February Days of Significance:

Days of Significance are announced each day on our daily announcements. We do our best as a board to be informed of the days that are significant to all our families, with the understanding that we may not be aware of all of the Days of Significance. If there is a special day of significance that your family celebrates or recognizes and it is not listed below, please reach out to let us know at lex@wrdsb.ca.

February 2022 Black Brilliance Month			
<i>Days</i>	<i>Days of Significance</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Description</i>
February 1 - 7	World Interfaith Harmony Week	United Nations	Established by UN resolution in October 2010, World Interfaith Harmony Week celebrates the principles of tolerance and respect for others that are deeply rooted in the world's major religions. The observance is also a summons to solidarity in the face of those who spread misunderstanding and mistrust.
February 1-2	Imbolc	Neopagan	One of the four ancient Celtic Fire festivals, this day celebrates the Earth's regeneration and the increasing strength of God.
February 3	Setsubun-Sai	Shinto	Known as the Bean-throwing Festival, it marks the end of winter and the eve of the first day of spring.
February 15	Nirvana Day*	Mahayana Buddhism	Is also known as Parinirvana and is the celebration of Buddha's death when he reached total Nirvana at the age of 80. Local or regional customs may use a variation of this date.
February 17-18	Isra'a and Mi'raj	Islam	Commemorates the Prophet Muhammad's journey from Mecca to Jerusalem and his ascent into heaven. This day is also known as the Night Journey.
February 18	Mahashivaratri	Hinduism	Dedicated to Lord Shiva, one of the major deities to whom Hindus direct their devotion.
February 20	World Day of Social Justice	United Nations	The observance of this day aims to contribute to the efforts of the international community in poverty eradication, promotion of full employment and decent work, gender equity and access to social well-being and justice for all.
February 21	International Mother Language Day	United Nations	The day aims to celebrate languages spoken throughout the world and observes the human right to use these languages.
February 22	Pink Shirt Day	National	Celebrated on the last Wednesday of February in Canada, participants wear pink to symbolize a stand against bullying. Celebrated annually around the globe, Pink Shirt Day began in Canada in 2007 when two students, David Shepherd and Travis Price, took a stand against homophobic bullying after a grade 10 student was harassed and threatened for wearing pink.
February 22	Ash Wednesday	Christianity (W)	Ash Wednesday marks the first day of the season of Lent, the 40 day period of prayer, repentance and self-denial that precedes Easter.
February 27	Clean Monday	Orthodox Christian (E)	Clean Monday is the Monday that occurs seven weeks before Easter and begins the season of Great Lent in Eastern Orthodox Churches.

Have a wonderful month of February!

B. Tomkins, Principal