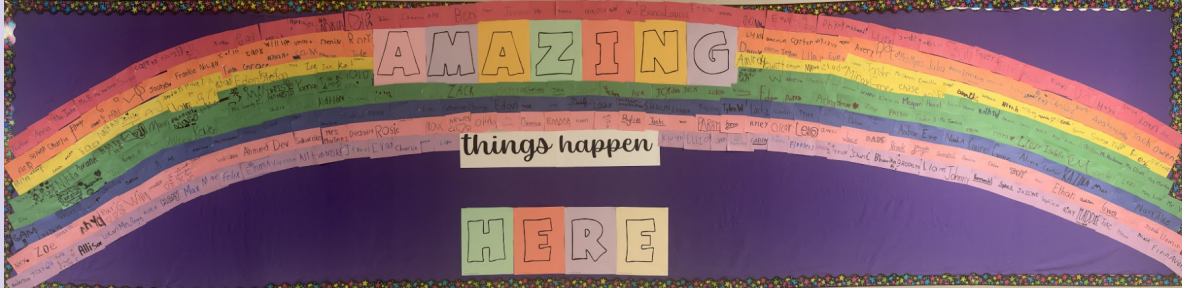


Lexington's March 2023 Newsletter



Important Dates to Remember at Lexington:

Mar. 3-Choir Sings at Kitchener Rangers Hockey Game

Mar. 13-17-March Break

Mar. 23-Eric Walters Author Visit

Mar. 24-Dance-A-Thon

Mar. 31-Spirit Day-Hat Day

April 5-School Council Virtual Meeting

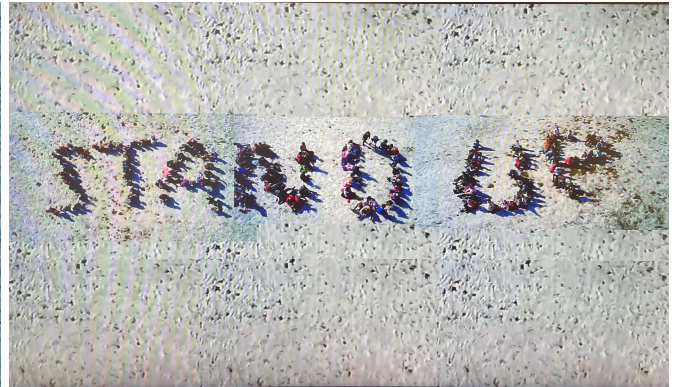
It's a new day...work hard... be positive... be kind... and be you!
Shine Bright, Lexington Light!
EMPATHY

Principal Message:

Happy March everyone! Our weather this winter has been mostly mild and it seems odd that we are already starting into March with very little snow up to this date. Students have been busy learning how to show and promote kindness through an anti-bullying, anti-racism, anti-oppression and a human rights lens. Classes provided announcements specifically about Black Brilliance so that we could share the learning throughout the month. This is an on-going initiative that Lexington PS is dedicated to reflecting and learning about how to do better each day. Respect, recognition of experiences from all students, equality and genuine kindness and compassion is what we strive for. If your family has something to share that could help us do better, please do. We are open and ready to hear our flaws and move towards doing better. We have had a wonderful month of learning in February and look forward to some upcoming events in March.

Pink Shirt Day and Black Brilliance Month:

Thank you to all of our families for their generosity in helping to raise **\$400** in donations towards Carizon Youth Mental Health programs to support our focus on anti-bullying, anti-racism, anti-oppression and human rights this past week. As a re-cap, see below for the positive messages that Lexington unveiled each day last week. The students were excited to see how the drone pictures turned out and what the outcome was from when they were outside. We hope to develop these pictures and display them in the school as a reminder of what Lexington is all about!



School Council Fundraiser Date Change: *Dance-A-Thon-Now on Mar. 24*

The Lexington School Council is organizing a Dance-A-Thon at Lexington PS. The money raised from this fundraiser will go towards School Council Funds to help with purchasing Literacy Resources for Teachers in 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. A letter will be posted on our website later this week as well as a School Day Message that will provide the details of this event.

2023 Terry Fox T-Shirts:

As you may have heard via social media over the long weekend there is much excitement surrounding the Terry Fox t-shirt for 2023.

The 2023 Terry Fox Run shirt design was designed together with input from **Ryan Reynolds** and the **Fox Family**. This year's limited-edition shirt celebrates how Terry's story and legacy continues to inspire people of all ages, backgrounds, and abilities in Canada and beyond. Featuring a diverse mix of messages Terry and his family received both past and present, the shirt is fully bilingual and acts as a wonderful wearable time capsule of Terry's Marathon of Hope. The shirts are produced by Adidas and available in a variety of sizes and styles ranging from \$20.60 (youth), to \$25.75 (adult) for the short sleeve shirt. All proceeds support cancer research in Canada and the proceeds from the t-shirt sales will be added to our school's fundraising total!

The t-shirts are available to order on School-Day until March 10th.

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.

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/>.

Valentine's Day Fun at Lexington PS:





Reminders:

- Families are encouraged to continue 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 vomiting, they need to be symptom free for 48 hours.
- The parking lot remains closed during drop off and pick up times. The bus loop is also not available for parent use during these times. The "Kiss and Drop" zone is at the side of the road in front of the Lexington School Sign. Parents can quickly drop their students off there and let their children walk to their assigned area in the morning.
- Check with your child(ren) that they have indoor footwear that fits. We often find students are starting to grow out of their footwear at this time of year.
- 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.
- 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/>.

Character Education: Empathy

During the months of March and April, students will be learning about Empathy. Empathy is the ability to be aware of the feelings of others and imagine what it might be like to be in their position (or in their shoes). It is a key ingredient in positive friendships and relationships. It reduces conflict and misunderstandings and leads to helping behavior, kindness, and even greater success in life in general. Here are some simple activities you can try at home to encourage empathy:

1. Talk openly about emotions at home. Label them and ask why they feel the way they do. Model this as well when you, as a parent are feeling different emotions.
2. When reading stories, ask your child about how the characters in the stories feel and why.
3. Create an Empathy Map. Choose an emotion, and then brainstorm what you might think, say or do when you feel that way.
4. Involve your child with volunteering opportunities and as they get older encourage them to volunteer on their own.
5. Teach and embrace diversity. Talk about commonalities and differences. With older students, discuss current events and points of view.

Strategies to Teach Empathy at Any Age

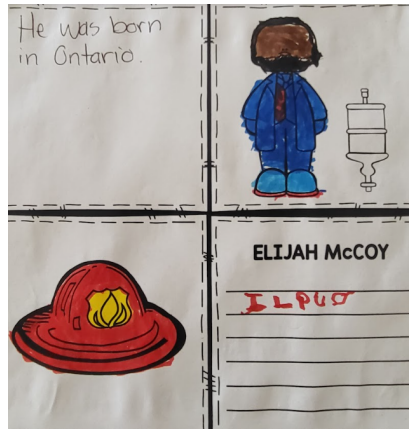
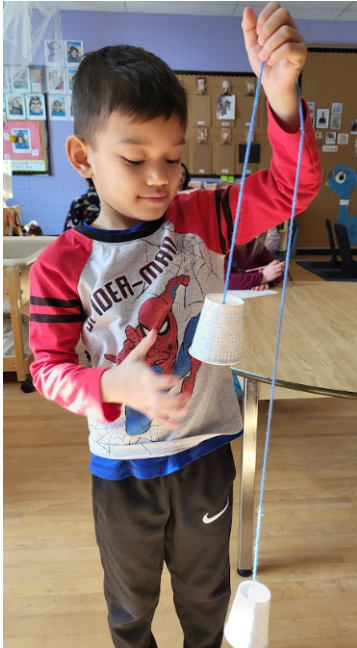
- ✓ **Model empathy.**
- ✓ **Discuss emotions.**
- ✓ **Help out at home, in the community, or globally.**
- ✓ **Praise empathetic behavior.**

Pink Shirt Day:

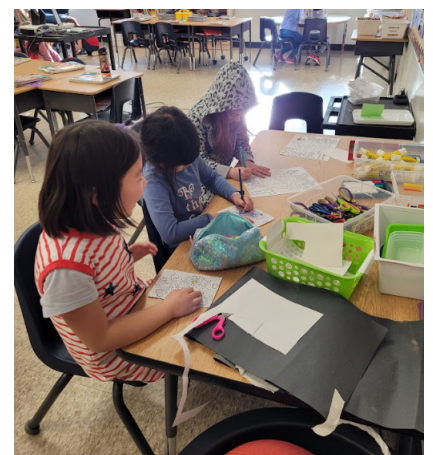
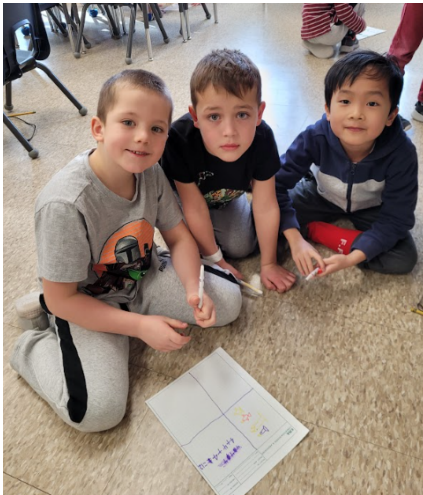


K1 February Class Learning:

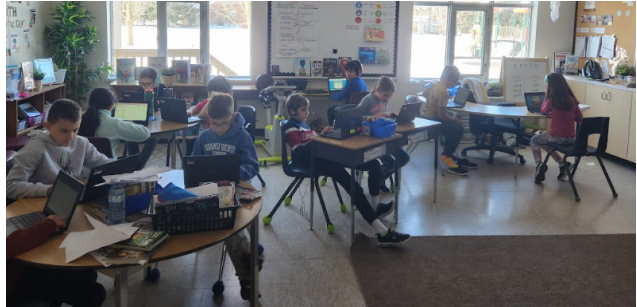
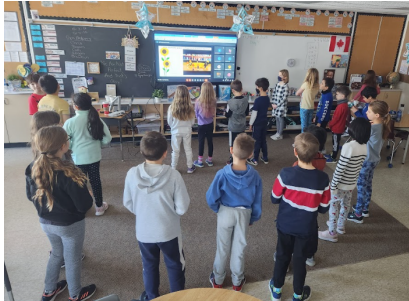




Mrs. McLean's Grade 1 February Class Learning



Mrs. Myers Grade 3/4 February Class Learning



March 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.

March 2023 Greek Heritage Month Irish Heritage Month			
<i>Days</i>	<i>Days of Significance</i>	<i>Community</i>	<i>Description</i>
March 2-20	'Ala' 19-Day Fast	Baha'i	'Ala' is the nineteenth and final month of the Baha'i year, and the time of the 19-day fast, in preparation for Naw-Ruz. Those who are healthy and of age abstain from food and drink from sunrise to sunset.
March 6	Magha Puja Day	Theravada Buddhism	This Buddhist festival is also known as Fourfold Assembly or Sangha Day. Magha Puja Day is one of the most important Buddhist festivals. It marks the day that Buddha addressed a gathering of 1,250 Arahants (enlightened saints).
March 6-7	Purim*	Judaism	Purim celebrates victory over an oppressive ruler, as related in the Book of Esther. Observance begins at sunset of the previous day.
March 8	International Women's Day	United Nations	International Women's Day is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women.
March 8	Holi*	Hinduism	A popular ancient Hindu spring festival, also known as the "festival of colours". The festival signifies the triumph of good over evil and is celebrated through prayer, gatherings with food and playing with colours.
March 8-10	Holla Mohalla	Sikhism	A three day long Sikh festival usually falls in March. The tradition was established by Guru Gobind Singh, and either follows the Hindu festival of Holi by one day or coincides with it; Holla is the masculine form of the feminine sounding Holi.

March 20	Ostara Equinox	Neopagan	A time when once again light and dark are briefly held in perfect balance, this is also a time to acknowledge the greening of the Earth, the beginning of the return of migratory birds, and other of the earliest local signs of spring. The Lunar Hare and the egg are symbols of the Anglo-Saxon Goddess Eostre's fertility.
March 20	Naw-Ruz (New Year) Nowruz	Baha'i, Zoroastrianism, and secular holiday in Iran and surrounding countries.	<p>This holiday has Persian origins, and is celebrated as a secular holiday in Iran, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Albania, Kosovo, Kazakhstan, India, Afghanistan, Georgia, and other countries in the region.</p> <p>For Zoroastrians, the New Year celebrates the creation of fire on this day on which Zarathustra received his revelation.</p> <p>Baha'i feast and celebrate beginning the evening before. The first month of the Baha'i year is Baha, which means Splendour.</p>
March 21	International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	United Nations	The day aims to remind people of racial discrimination's negative consequences. It also encourages people to remember their obligation and determination to combat racial discrimination.
March 22	Ugadi	Hinduism	An important New Year festival in southern India to mark devotion to Lord Brahma, the principle creative deity among the Hindu trinity.
March 22-31	Chaitra Navratri	Hinduism	<p>The festival is in honour and celebrates the Goddess Durga for defeating the demon Mahishasura.</p> <p>The legend has it that demon Mahishasura was granted immortality by Lord Brahma on a condition that he could only be defeated by a woman. Considering no woman could kill him, he started causing upheaval in three realms Earth, Heaven and Hell. In order to stop him from wreaking havoc, Lord Brahma, Lord Vishnu and Lord Shiva combined their powers and created Goddess Durga.</p>
March 22-April 20	Ramadan	Islam	The ninth month in the Islamic calendar. It is a month-long period of prayer, fasting, charity giving and self-accountability for Muslims.
March 25	International Day of Remembrance of the Victims of Slavery	United Nations	This day offers the opportunity to honour and remember those who suffered and died at the hands of the brutal slavery system. It also aims to raise awareness about the dangers of racism and prejudice today.
March 31	National Indigenous Languages Day	First Nations, Métis, Inuit, and non-Indigenous Peoples living in Canada	Since 1993, Indigenous Peoples living in the place commonly called Canada have honoured the strength and endurance of their richly diverse languages and cultures on March 31st. National Indigenous Languages Day is an opportunity to recognize the significance of Indigenous languages throughout the past, present, and future for language reclamation and celebration. While this day provides an opportunity to reflect on these considerations, each and every day, many Indigenous language keepers sustain Indigenous languages through language programs, traditional traditions, and more.
March 31	International Transgender Day of Visibility	United Nations	Trans Day of Visibility recognizes the struggles, sacrifices, and achievements of those who fought and continue to fight for gender equity. In a world where governments continue to debate the rights of Trans people and their identities, Trans individuals continue to resist oppression by simply being exactly who they are.

Have a wonderful month of March!

B. Tomkins, Principal