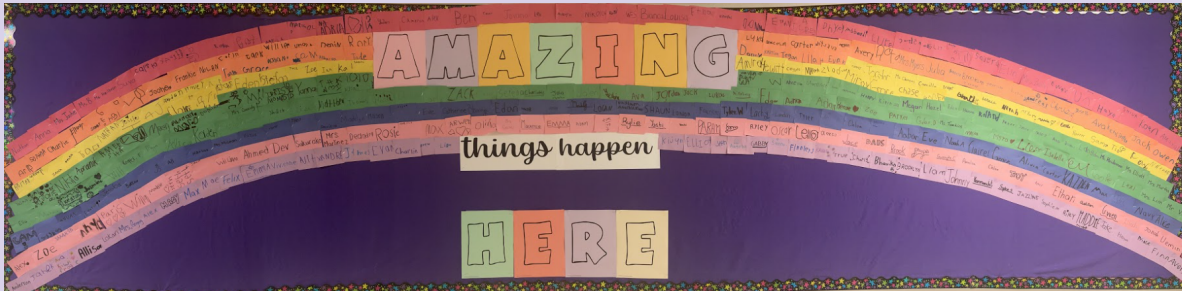


# Lexington's April 2023 Newsletter



## **Important Dates to Remember at Lexington:**

- Mar. 27-April 14-Cereal Drive for Food Bank
- April 3-6-Nutrition 4 Learning Toonie Drive
- April 5-Virtual School Council Meeting-6:30 pm
- April 7-Good Friday-No School
- April 10-Easter Monday-No School
- April 11-Eastbridge Domino's Lexington Pizza Night
- April 12-KW Symphony Trip-Grade 1-6
- April 22-Earth Day
- April 25-Grade 6 Camping Trip Parent Information Meeting
- May-Spring Assembly; Favourite Book Character Spirit Day

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

### **Principal Message:**

Spring has arrived and students are enjoying the warmer weather and the whole school events that have occurred such as clay creating and the Dance-A-Thon. At Lexington, we are looking forward to warmer weather, more whole school activities that are upcoming such as Earth Day, Grade 1-6 Symphony Trip and our Spring Assembly. We have appreciated and enjoyed parent volunteers who have come to support our activities and look forward to seeing more parents throughout the rest of our school year. Here are a few updates and news from Lexington P.S.:

### **School Council Dance-A-Thon:**

Thank you so much to our wonderful School Council for organizing a fantastic fun-filled day on March 24th. Students were laughing, dancing and showing so much pride as they showed their fancy moves in the gym with friends, educators and parents! We should know our final total very soon and we thank all of our families that donated and worked hard to gather donations from family and friends for our Dance-A-Thon.

The money that was collected for this event will be used to support teacher and student resources for the Science of Reading and Structured Literacy Program our educators have been implementing the last couple of years. Home reading books and instructional student reading books are among the possibilities that will be considered. Yard improvements will also be considered as part of where this money is allocated. We will update our community with improvements as we make our decisions together with our School Council.

Thank you to our School Council for providing every child with a neon bracelet to use in the gym. A special thank you goes out to Saima Rizwan and Alona Feroze for making popcorn bags for all our students to enjoy after their dancing and to Denise Wismer who monitored the gym and music, with enthusiasm, throughout the day. I would also like to thank our Grade 6 leaders, Uemin Lin, Liam Steffler and Avery Tennant for their exuberant spirit, encouragement with other students and ability to problem solve when technology was causing issues!

### ***Welcoming Front Entrance Initiative:***

We have been fortunate enough to have had our front hall recently painted in a lovely neutral cream colour. It has brightened up the entrance way considerably. As a school, we continue to work on improving our environment to visibly welcome and include all families. Our next "project" we would like to work on is to create "Welcome" signs in the front entrance area in ALL of the first and second languages that represent our staff and students at Lexington P.S.

In order to do this, we need your help! Please fill out the following Google Form to let us know what your first and second languages are and if you can, please send us the correct word for "Welcome" in these languages. Not only do we want to ensure we include all of our representative languages, we also want to ensure that we do this in the correct way! Thank you for your on-going support and help. Each year, in order to ensure we continue to include all languages from our Lexington families, we will send out a google form to our families at the beginning of each school year. Here is the link to this year's Google Form: [Lexington Home Languages Google Form](#)

### ***Nutrition for Learning Toonie Drive: April 3-6***

No student should feel compromised on their learning journey due to hunger. This is why Nutrition for Learning has been providing access to food in schools across Waterloo Region for 25 years.

During the week of April 3-6, Lexington will be collecting toonies from students to raise money for the Nutrition for Learning programs in schools. If you would like to donate online instead, go to [nutritionforlearning.ca/schoolfinder](https://nutritionforlearning.ca/schoolfinder). Thank you again for your support and generosity.

### ***Spring Assembly: May 5-9:30 am***

As promised prior to the winter holiday break, Lexington PS will be performing with another assembly and parents of performers are invited. In order to "fit" everyone in the gym, we ask that all families whose child(ren) are performing, to limit the number of people attending the assembly to 2. We will provide a Google Meet link for others to participate in as another option for those that can't make it or just want to watch it for fun!

The following groups will be performing:

McLean  
Martinez  
Sonnenberg/Spearn  
Myers  
Barth  
Carter  
Brooks

### ***Big Yellow Bag Fundraiser: \$10 discount until April 30***

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 all get ready to plan for our spring/summer gardens, BigYellowBag has offered a discount of \$10 to all our families for each bag purchased using our unique code below (this code is only valid for donations to come to our group through to April 30).

So, if you're planning ahead and want to purchase soil or mulch 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](mailto: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/>.

### **Class Placement Requests for 2023-24 School Year:**

I know that class placement for the 2023-24 School Year is beginning to come to everyone's minds. Please understand that teachers, educators and staff members work very closely together to make decisions for students that best support their academic, social, and emotional needs. While many parents are concerned for their own children and want to advocate, please also understand that we have to consider what is best for all students at Lexington P.S. Decisions about teacher assignments will not be shared until September, as these assignments are tentative and can change up to the end of September 2023. When placing students, we also work hard to ensure students have at least one familiar person in their class as a friend. Therefore, we ask families to trust our educators and staff to use their best judgment when placing their child for next year.

That being said, sometimes there are situations that have occurred in the past that the teachers/educators and/or principal are not aware of. If this is the case, I ask that you send me a personal email to let me know of the situation at [barb\\_tomkins@wrdsb.ca](mailto:barb_tomkins@wrdsb.ca). Please understand that this information will remain private and will only be considered, not guaranteed, as there are many factors that we have to take into account for all students and since Lexington is a smaller school, this often provides fewer options for students. Thank you for your trust in our professionalism and dedication to do what is best for all during this process.

### **Cereal Drive for the Food Bank of Waterloo Region:**

We need your help! From March 27th - April 14th Lexington is collecting boxes of cereal for The Food Bank of Waterloo Region.

**BUT WAIT, THERE'S A TWIST!**

After we collect all of the boxes of cereal we're going to try to make a cereal box domino run the length of school! Then we'll be donating all of the cereal to The Food Bank.

Please help us out by picking up a box of cereal, or two, when you're at the grocery store this week-end to help build the domino run AND support The Food Bank!

### **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.
- Students should not be arriving prior to 9 am as we only have supervision from 9 am-9:15 am. Likewise, students must leave school property at 3:35 pm. If they would like to come back after 4:15 pm to play on the yard, they are welcome to. Prior to 4:15, the school yard may be occupied by the after school care program.
- At the beginning of the day, please drop your child(ren) off on the school side of the road to prevent them from having to cross the road. At the end of the day, please meet your child(ren) on the school side of the road to ensure their safety from buses and cars not seeing them when they cross.
- 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.

- The Kiss n' Drop zone which is at the side of the road by the Lexington sign (same side as school) is zoned a NO PARKING area by the City of Waterloo. This is a spot to quickly drop off your child(ren) and then move. NOBODY is allowed to leave their car there for any amount of time.
- 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**

We will continue our learning about Empathy. Please continue to encourage your child to show Empathy towards others in a variety of ways. When students are “caught” showing Empathy, they will be given an “Empathy Gotch” ticket that will be read on the announcements the following day.

### **EQAO-May 10-June 14**

Our Grade 3's and Grade 6's will be participating in EQAO throughout May 10-June 14. Individual classroom teachers will inform parents of students who are affected of the dates their child will be participating in this Ministry assessment. During these times, please ensure your child is well rested, and healthy so they can present their best knowledge. Thank you for helping your child demonstrate their successes to the best of their ability.

Webinar for Parents and Guardians of Elementary School Students (March 28th & April 4th) Register for this free live webinar and learn about EQAO assessment results and Ontario's large-scale assessment program at the elementary-school level. EQAO will review highlights from the 2021–2022 assessment results. The session will also highlight how the primary-division (Grade 3) and junior-division (Grade 6) assessments have been modernized. The presentation will be approximately 45 minutes and will be followed by a live Q & A session with EQAO staff.

**Registration:** [www.eventbrite.ca/e/451955981507](http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/451955981507)

### **School Council Pizza Night at Eastbridge Domino's: April 11**

On April 11th, Lexington's School Council is working with Domino's once again 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 and they will ensure the donation is set up for each pizza that you want to order. Thank you for your support!

### **Mrs. Good's and Ms. Peard's K3 March Class Learning**

#### **Hat Day**



**Making Skin-Tone Sun Catchers**



**Ordinal Numbers: Lining up from Tallest to Shortest**



**Painting Mario Boxes and Mario Tunnels for our Drama Centre**

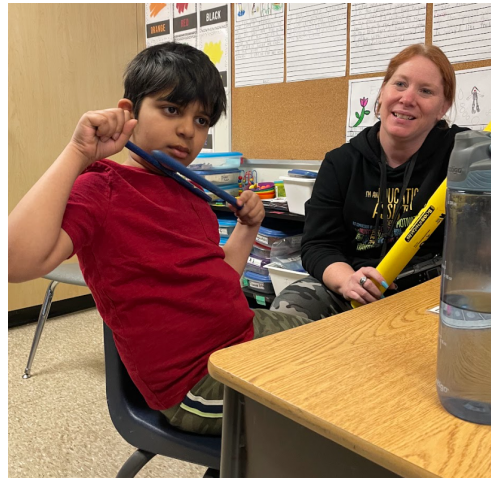


**Eric Walters Visits K3**



*Mrs. Martinez's Grade 2 March Class Learning*

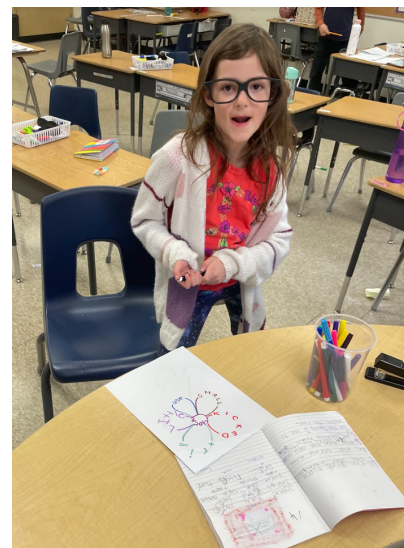
*Music using Boom Whackers*



*Pretend Stores and Learning How to Count Money*

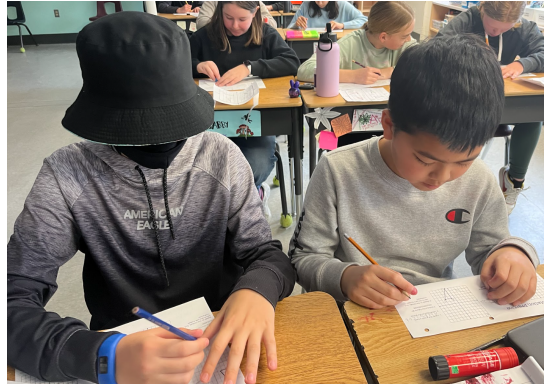
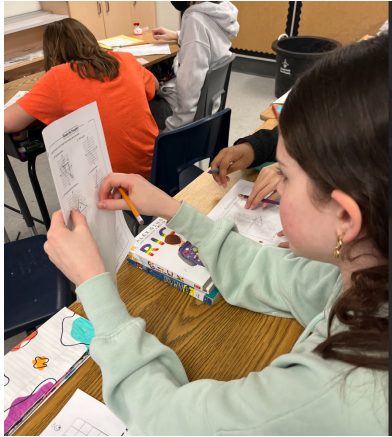


*Writer's Workshop*

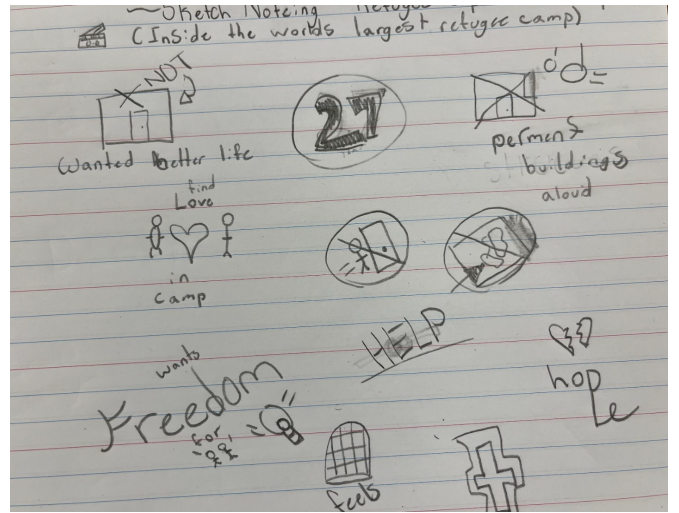
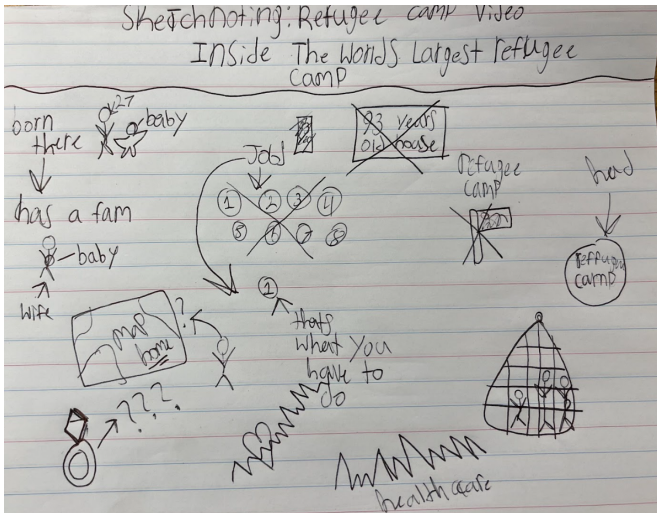


Ms. Brooks' Grade 6 March Class Learning

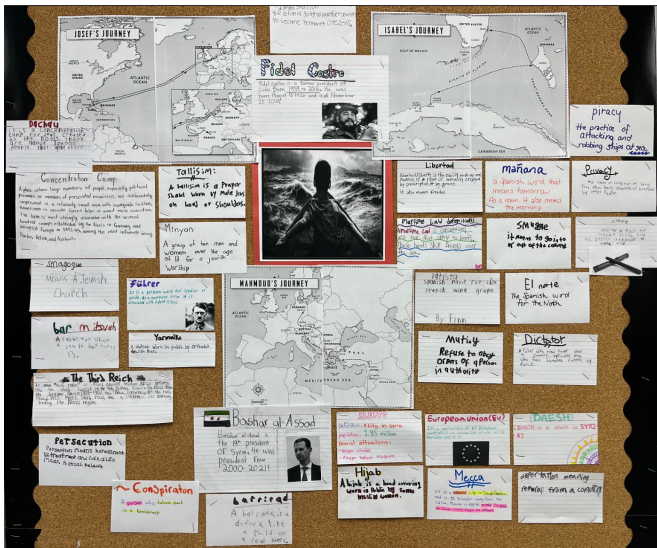
Math Learning



Sketchnoting



Novel Study Word Wall



Black Brilliance Bio Posters



### April 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](mailto:lex@wrdsb.ca).

April 2023 Sikh Heritage Month			
Days	Days of Significance	Community	Description
April 5-13	Pesach/Passover*	Judaism	Jewish people recall the liberation of their ancestors from slavery in ancient Egypt. It begins with a ritual meal, "Seder", where no leavened bread is consumed and is celebrated with prayers and symbolic foods. Observance begins at sunset of the previous day.
April 6	International Asexual Visibility Day		On 6 April, people across the world will be raising awareness for International Asexuality Day. This day aims to celebrate the full asexual spectrum, focusing on four key themes: advocacy, celebration, education and solidarity.
April 7	Good Friday*	Christianity (W)	This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Called Stelle Friedach (Quiet Friday) in Low German.
April 8	Wesak/Vesak*	Buddhism	A Buddhist holiday that commemorates the Birth, Enlightenment, and Final Nirvana of the Buddhab. This is the most important day for Theravada Buddhists.  Some traditions mark the date for May 26th while others, predominantly Southeast Asian Countries, celebrate on April 8th. We have indicated both dates in this calendar.
April 9	Easter Sunday*	Christianity (W)	This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave. Called Oostren in Low German. Easter Sunday, Monday and Tuesday may be observed.
April 10	Easter Monday*	Christianity (W)	Easter Monday commemorates the meeting of the women at Jesus' tomb with an angel who assured them that Jesus had been resurrected from death.
April 12	International Day of Pink	Federal	This is a day of action for communities across the world to remain united in celebrating equity, diversity and inclusion while raising greater awareness of the need to stop homophobic, transphobic and all forms of bullying. The Day of Pink is an annual event celebrated on every second Wednesday in April.  Day of Pink began in Nova Scotia when two high school students intervened after witnessing a gay student in their school being bullied for wearing pink. Wanting to do more, they purchased pink shirts and distributed them throughout the school to show solidarity against homophobic and transphobic bullying.
April 14	Vaisakhi*	Sikhism	New Year Festival. Also a commemoration of the founding of the Khalsa by Guru Gobind Singh (the tenth Sikh Guru).
April 14	Holy Friday	Christianity (E-Orthodox)	This day commemorates the passion and death by crucifixion of Jesus Christ.



April 15	Vishu	Hinduism	<p>Vishu, a public holiday in the Indian state of Kerala, is the traditional new year festival of the people of the region. The date is based on a partially lunar, partially solar calendar and is the first day of the month called "Medam".</p> <p>Vishu is a time to spend with family at home and a time of reflection on the year behind and the year ahead.</p> <p>A special Vishu arrangement is made that includes specially made or collected items that are meant to be viewed first thing on the morning of the new year. These items might be flower blossoms, silver coins, rice, or anything else thought to bring good luck for the year ahead.</p> <p>Also on Vishu, many will eat a "Sadhya meal", which mixes all flavours together in one. The saltiness, sweetness, sour, and bitter tastes represent the varied experiences of life.</p>
April 16	Easter/Pascha*	Christianity (E - Orthodox)	This day celebrates the resurrection of Jesus from his grave.
April 17-18	Yom HaShoah	Judaism	Holocaust Memorial Day is observed as Israel's day of commemoration for the death of 6 million Jews at the hands of the Nazi regime. Observance begins at sunset of the previous day.
April 18	Laylat-al-Qadr*	Islam	Laylat al Qadr is Arabic for "The Night of Power". It falls on one of the last ten odd nights of Ramadan and is considered the holiest night of the year as it is the night in which the Qur'an was first revealed.
April 20-21	Eid-al-Fitr*	Islam	Eid al Fitr is a Muslim holiday that marks the end of Ramadan, the Islamic holy month of Fasting. Eid is an Arabic word meaning "festivity," while Fitr means "breaking the fast". The holiday celebrates the conclusion of the 29 or 30 days of dawn-to-sunset fasting during the entire month of Ramadan. Observance begins at sunset of the previous day.
April 20- May 2	Ridvan*	Baha'i	Baha'i Ridvan commemorates the twelve days that Baha'u'llah spent in the garden of Ridvan.
April 21	Grounation Day	Rastafarian	Celebrated in honour of Emperor Haile Selassie 1 first and only visit to Jamaica in 1966. A Nyabingi session, inclusive of music, chanting and prayer is held to mark the occasion. The "Abu Ye! Abu Ye Abu ye! Abu ye!" chant is an element of Grounation Day festivities.
April 22	Earth Day	United Nations	First celebrated in 1970, Earth Day is now celebrated around the world in more than 193 countries to demonstrate support for environmental protection.
April 26	Lesbian Day of Visibility	Egale Canada, International	Beginning in 2008, this day provides a platform for lesbian role models to speak out on the issues facing female-identified sexual minorities. Alongside other queer celebration days, this day is an integral part of moving forwards to create an intersectional society where all are treated equally and fairly.
April 28	Ninth Day of Ridvan*	Baha'i	Commemorates the arrival of Baha'u'llah's family at the Ridvan garden is celebrated today as the ninth Day of Ridvan.

*Have a wonderful month of April!*  
**B. Tomkins, Principal**