

LSK NEWSLETTER

BACK TO SCHOOL
NEW NORMAL
LIFESTYLE



SEPTEMBER

2020

Principal's Message

Ms. Kelly Oliver

We miss all of our students and are excited to teach and interact with our students once again. It was a long March break. I am looking forward to hearing and seeing all of our students. Your child's physical and mental well-being is a top priority to us this year. We are working even harder to develop stronger relationships with each other, our students and our community. This year is a very different year, unlike any other we have experienced.

Please see our opening plan and video on our website, www.lskschool.ca or via our Facebook Group, L'nu Sipuk Kina'muokuom. Please be patient as some of our plans have been changing since we have announced our original plans. Covid is new to all of us and we are working diligently to provide a safe learning environment for all of our students as we are provided with new information. We will no longer be washing masks because it was recommended to us to air dry all masks, rather than using the dryer. In addition, we will be taking temperatures by the wrists and following the new Covid symptoms update. Things are changing rapidly but we feel it is important to communicate as much as possible, as soon as possible, especially when things change.

We understand parents' and students' anxiety is on the rise. We have been told the world is unsafe and we have modelled to our children that the world is unsafe. Our staff members also have an increase in their anxiety. The only way we can overcome this is if we work together by communicating, supporting one another, and modelling kindness. Please feel free to reach out to us at any time as building strong relationships is one of our top priorities this year.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): symptoms and testing

Symptoms include Fever (i.e. chills/sweats) or Cough (new or worsening) OR two or more of the following symptoms (new or worsening): Sore throat, Runny nose/nasal congestion, Headache, Shortness of Breath. Instruction on how to self-isolate and what to do if you might have been exposed to COVID-19 please visit...

<https://novascotia.ca/coronavirus/symptoms-and-testing/>

Library News...

Mrs. Sharon Culbertson

Welcome back everyone!!! It has been a very stressful few months and hopefully, we can get back to some type of normality amidst these very trying times. This school year is going to look a lot different from previous years, but by working together and supporting each other, we should be able to defy the odds of adversity and the unknown. We just need to take it one day at a time.

I must admit that I have missed our students, especially their hugs and 'high-fives'. Unfortunately, with social distancing measures, we can't do it this year so I am warning everyone now... I am saving my hugs for when this pandemic is over!!!

There are going to be a few changes with the library sessions this year. I will be conducting library classes in the classroom and any books that have been borrowed will have to be isolated for a few days so that we can ensure that no germs are passed on. It is going to be a lot of work and I am hoping that I have everyone's cooperation and assistance.

Upcoming Events...

21st – Students Return

22nd – Nitap Day

29th – School Picture Day

30th – Graduation Picture Day

30th – Orange Shirt Day

October 1st – Treaty Day (No School)



Guidance (Primary to Six) ...

Ms. Mary Davies

Kwe!

I hope everyone is well and safe in these turbulent times. For those of you who don't know me, my name is Mary Davies and I teach 2 classes of senior high a semester and the other half of my timetable is devoted to Guidance Counselling for P-6 and any student who feels more comfortable speaking with a female counsellor. This is my 11th year at LSK and I'm going strong! If you would like your child to visit me on a regular basis, please inform their teacher who will, in turn, inform me so that I can add them to my schedule. Please rest assured that the LSK staff's first priority is the safety of your children. Yes, we are in different and difficult times but, as Maya Angelou says,

"It's not how well we weather the storm, but that we learn to dance in the rain."

Grade Eight...

Ms. Meredith Conrad

Welcome back to LSK!

My name is Meredith, I have been working at LSK for two years teaching in the High School Resource room. I am so excited to be moving into the middle school hallway this year! I will be teaching grade 8 and 9 ELA, grade 7-8 Social Studies, and grade 9 Citizenship. I hope everyone had fun this summer, I can't wait to see everyone soon and welcome you back to class!

I am including a few photos of our freshly cleaned and socially distanced classroom ready to go!

Wela'in,
Meredith



High School Resource...

Mr. Robert MacIntosh

Dear students and community members.

Welcome back!

If you are anything like me, this seems to be the longest March Break ever. This year I will be heading up the Learning Centre and I am looking forward to working with students on many of their subjects. This will be a somewhat different year with the same old friendly faces here to greet everyone and keep them safe. The friendly faces will be wearing masks but will be ready to start the year on a positive footing.

Well, that s it for me.

See you all very soon.
Mr. Mac

High School Math...

Mr. Morgan MacDonald

Hi Everyone! I hope you had a great summer and I can't wait to see you around the school. Everyone please remember...

Mistakes
Allow
Thinking to
Happen

Grade Six...

Ms. Helena Sack

Welcome back students and staff! That was quite the March break we had...lol. I hope everyone is excited to be starting back. The grade sixes will be busy learning other First Nations people of Canada, Diversity of Life, Big Numbers, and staying healthy. We will also be social distancing and wearing masks in the hall.

Have a great and safe school year!
Love, Ms. Helena

High School Mi'kmaq Language...

Mr. Greg Marr

Junior High Mi'kmaq Language Report

As is the case for many First Nations throughout North America, the Mi'kmaq are living in an era of resurgence of interest in their language, culture, history, traditions, values and worldview. In addition, there is increasing interest by non-Mi'kmaq speakers toward the contributions of the Mi'kmaq in Atlantic Canada, and, indeed, all of Canada.

There are two critical problems facing the Mi'kmaq today:

- 1). There is the danger of the extinction of their language that, in turn, influences the extinction of traditional knowledge through Mi'kmaw culture, history, traditions, values and worldview. In the last half of the 20th century;
- 2). There has been a decline in the number of people who speak the Mi'kmaw language, due in part to the determination by successive Federal Governments to engage in a forced assimilation of the First Nations peoples into the "mainstream" society through many actions now perceived as wrong (for example, Residential schools), the prevalence of the English language, both in North America and throughout the world, has greatly influenced the erosion and diminishment of Mi'kmaw almost to the point of extinction.

(Mi'kmaq Language Curriculum, Mi'kmaq Confederacy of PEI)

Here at LSK, one of our main objectives for the Mi'kmaq Language Program will be to encourage our students to speak more Mi'kmaq in school, at home and within the community.

As a result of the coronavirus (covid-19), Mi'kmaq Language classes will look a bit different than previous years. Our classes will be held in your homeroom classes.

This year, we will be planning activities on a monthly theme basis according to the month and season. Students will continue learning Basic Mi'kmaq Conversations, colors, numbers, days of the week, months, vowels and consonants, Mi'kmaq history and culture. We will also be focusing on the importance of Treaty Education and the history of Sipekne'katik. Our students will also be participating in Outdoor Education/Land Based Learning/Project Based Learning that will focus on a Mi'kmaq way of life. We will also be presenting several workshops and elder teachings. Parents are encouraged to visit the school and participate in revitalizing the Mi'kmaq Culture and Language throughout the year.

Grade Primary...

Mrs. Sheri Brooks

Hello Everyone!

I would like to welcome everyone to our new school year! We are very excited to meet all the new students and look forward to working with their families to help make this school year a successful one! Our classroom may look a little different this year, due to Covid restrictions we have removed some supplies, furniture and manipulatives. We are working hard to make sure our students have a safe environment to learn in. We have been busy making sets of manipulatives and supplies for each student so they are ready to learn when they arrive! We would like to remind everyone to practice proper handwashing and properly wearing their masks so they will be prepared when they start school! If you have any questions please feel free to contact me at

sjulianbrooks@sipeknekatik.ca



Mrs. Sheri Brooks and Mrs. Theresa Levi

Grade Three...

Ms. Ambrah MacNeil

Hello All,

I hope everyone had a great March/summer break! All kidding aside, I know this has been a challenging year so far and while there will continue to be challenges it's important to remember that we are all in this together. We are all weathering the same storm but we may not be in the same boat. With that being said, I encourage all parents/guardians to be confident in our dedication as teachers to ensure the success of your children. I cannot wait to get them back in school and see their sweet faces. This will be a different year but we will do our best to make sure kids are safe, secure and happy while they learn.

Much of the beginning of this year will be getting students reacquainted with the space and routines of school again. In order for kids to learn they need to feel comfortable in their learning environment. We are all doing our best to design our classrooms so that they will be both comfortable and safe for our kiddos. I would also encourage parents/guardians to check out the video produced for LSK about procedures for back to school and to read any documents outlining expectations (mask wearing, symptom checklist, lunches, etc.). Grade 3s are to wear masks on the bus and common areas in the school but not in their classroom, as that is considered our bubble.

I look forward to being in communication with all of you and please feel free to reach out to me in whatever way is most convenient for you (Facebook messenger, text, call, email). Keep an eye out for my letter soon.

Over and Out

Physical Education...

Mr. Gordon Pictou



Hello, and welcome back. I know this year school will be different from what it has been in the past but I am looking forward to doing the best I can, given these unusual circumstances. For those of you who don't know me yet, I am Gordon Pictou and I am excited to be teaching Phys. Ed. I started a few weeks before Covid shut down school early last year. I know there will be many challenges to offer gym classes safely, but I am confident we can still have fun moving and developing our athleticism. One of the best ways to do this is by being outside; so, as much as possible, gym class will be outdoors this year.

I am from Millbrook and have been a teacher since 2002. I taught in High School in HRM and adult learners in Sipekne'katik and Millbrook. For the last few years I have been the Municipal Physical Activity Leader (MPAL) for Millbrook and in that role, I had worked with all our communities, planning and coordinating sport and recreation opportunities. I have been a baseball coach for over 20 years and more recently, soccer, baseball and track. I am a positive and energetic person and I try to be an encouraging and supportive coach. If you would like to reach out to me to talk about your child or to know more about sport during the pandemic, I am happy to have those conversations with you. This guy is also a father to three boys and we have a crazy beagle, a silly black lab, and two feral cats. My mother is Phillipa Pictou and my dad is/was Bill Pictou, and I have two sisters, Karen and Amber. I grew up in Halifax, Toronto, Winnipeg and Vancouver before moving back to Millbrook in 2009. I'm trying to learn to speak Mi'kmaq but I'm far from good at it yet... meskay. I am very excited to have this excellent opportunity to work for this school and to serve our future generations in this community.

Grade Twelve...

Mrs. Nikki Maloney

September has arrived and we are busy ensuring we are completely prepared to welcome our students in for a great start! We have been busy sanitizing, decluttering, and re-organizing our classrooms to ensure we follow the health and safety standards set out by Public Health.

Our new normal will consist of some changes in the Senior High. Students will need to follow directional arrows in the hallways, use labelled staircases to go up and down the stairs, and wear masks in the hallways, on the bus, and in classrooms if they cannot distance chairs to standards. Students are to bring their water bottle each day to school, as there is no access to water fountains for students this year. Lockers will not be available this year. Breakfast will be provided in their homeroom class, and lunch will also be provided in their homeroom class. Always remember to have your temperature checked, each time you enter into the building and sanitize each time you enter any classroom.

Classes will resume as always. Students have been scheduled into their required courses and special attention was given to try to keep classes at an equal size to support the new distancing protocols in the classroom. Student schedules will be emailed to all 10-12 students prior to the start date and will be sent to their school emails. Personal Chromebook devices have been ordered for students, and will be arriving prior to their start date.

Career Cruising for Grades 9-12 will continue this year. This is a new approach to help students become more prepared for the decisions they will have to make on course selections and post-secondary institutions in their future. Our students will be using web resources as a tool to help them make these decisions. For the last 2 years all of our grads, who wished to attend a post-secondary institution were supported and accepted into the school of their choosing. This is an annual goal for each grad class to better support students in future success and academic achievement.



Feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions or concerns that I can help you solve ☺ nmaloney@lskschool.ca

Elementary Mi'kmaw Language...

Ms. Tania Gould

Hello! – Kwe!
How are you today? – Me'
katu taleyin kiskuk?

Welcome back - Apskwa'sit (comes back he/she). Another school year has started, and it is a very different one; a year where we need to learn to respect the world a bit more.

Some lessons I have learned from the elders... RESPECT Covid 19! Do not rush it! We only have one chance with it because it does not give us a second chance. The four medicines... tobacco, sweetgrass, cedar and sage... can help you fight to keep the virus away. And the most important medicine of all is WATER. Use it wisely. Wash your hands with soap and water as much as possible. The hand sanitizer is only a temporary fix until you can wash them.

I am very excited to see you come back and learn more Mi'kmaw. I will be focusing on going outside much as possible. Please have children dress appropriately for the weather.

Stay safe, do your part, and we will be ok.

Mi'kmaw Teacher
Tania Gould.

Music...

Ms. Bev Cheverie

I am happy to be back as your music teacher for LSK. I have been busy preparing for you and our 'new music' lessons. Things will be different for us all. I will be coming to your classrooms for our music lessons and although different, we will still enjoy music in many new ways... 'It's not hard, it's just new'.

Ms. Bev - Music Teacher LSK

Grade One...

Ms. Leanne Foster

Welcome back Grade 1. We are so excited to be back and happily awaiting our new grade 1s! Working with the class this year is teacher Leanne Foster and we have three Educational assistants, Gail Francis, Angie Augustine and Andrea Brooks who will also be working with our children. We have been busy preparing the class so that it is safe as we can make it in the new normal. We know this year will look and feel different but we are committed as a team to making grade 1 as safe, secure, and enjoyable a year as we can. See you soon grade 1's.

Grade Two...

Mr. Tyler Schussler

I'm happy to announce that I'll be back teaching Grade 2 for this upcoming school year, I'm also excited to welcome all the students back to LSK from their summer vacations. This school year at LSK will look a little different from other school years but we're putting student's health and safety as our number one priority. We've put numerous measures and procedures in place to keep everyone at LSK safe. Our school as created classroom bubbles to keep our students social distanced and while the students are in our classroom bubble, they will not be required to wear a mask however; grade 2 students will be required to wear a mask on the bus and in the hallways. We've also decluttered our classrooms so that only essential teaching materials have been left. Desks and tables within the classrooms have also been spread out to help promote social distancing within the classroom.

As for what the students will be learning in class, students will still be learning all your typical subjects such as Math, English, Science, Social studies, Mi'kmaq and Art. Routines and schedules will be prioritized early on in the school year due to the students having an extended break away from their classrooms. This will help students become familiar with the new routines and schedules put in place to help protect everyone's safety. Hand washing and sanitizing will also be prioritized to help enhance the safety at our school. Technology will be incorporated into lesson more than ever to ensure the students are comfortable with their new chrome books so that in the event school is moved to at home learning the students will already be familiar with the platforms and websites used as educational tools. I'm excited to kick off this new school year and I'm looking forward to welcoming all the students back.

Grade Five...

Mrs. Raebeka Williams

It's that time of year again. I hope you all had a safe and fun March Break/Summer. I have been busy getting our classroom set up for you all to come back. The last few months have been hard on everyone, but we are all in this together. I can't wait to meet you all and welcome you to our room. The school will look a little different than when you left, but we are all working hard to make sure it is the safest environment that we can make it for you.

My name is Ms. Rae, I will be your Grade 5 teacher this year. In our class this year, we are focusing on keeping a healthy mind and body. The beginning of the year, we will focus on getting back into the school routine and all the new changes. This year, Grade 5's will need to wear a mask on the bus, in the hallways, and any time they are in the classroom not at their desks. I have the desks spaced out so that they will have an opportunity to take their mask off during the day. We will be having recess and lunch in our classroom.

I welcome parent communication and am here to address any concerns for this coming year in Grade 5. Feel free to email me at rwilliams@lskschool.ca



Grade Nine...

Mr. Steve DeLisle

Wela'lin! I would like to welcome everyone back to LSK for the start of another school year. I have been looking forward to returning to the building to work with staff and students after all we have been through during these unprecedented times. Even though the school experience is going to feel different this year, it is still going to be great to see everyone again. With the pandemic still ongoing, there is going to be an emphasis on digital learning, self-care and mutual respect. It is only by working together that we all will not only just survive, but thrive. I'm excited to help my students thrive this year and into the future.

Grade Seven...

Ms. Erika Hilchey

Hello everyone!!!

Welcome back to the 2020-2021 School year at LSK. I know that everything will look different this year, but all of the teachers and staff at LSK are excited to see students faces. I am the grade 7 homeroom teacher again this year, teaching them English, Health, and Science. I will be teaching Grade 8 and 9 Science as well. I'm looking forward to getting back to routine and back to teaching. Myself, the grade 8 homeroom and grade 9 homeroom teacher will be creating an introduction video and posting it soon! I hope all the students are excited to come back and begin the new year of learning. See you all soon!

We'lain
Erika Hilchey

Grade Four...

Ms. Tabetha Stephens

NO SUBMISSION

Grade Ten...

Ms. Carol Howe

Welcome to a new school year, students! We look forward to serving you and making sure you have an enjoyable and successful year.

The Education Department and LSK School have come up with plans that aim to keep students, teachers, families and the community safe as possible during these current times.

We are adapting our classrooms to accommodate social distancing and teachers are preparing virtual lessons, due to a possible interruption in regular classes at school. Students and teachers will begin a new technological way of delivering assignments and marks. Change can be difficult, especially when conditions are uncertain but we shall keep moving forward. I believe we have always been a resilient people for at least 500 years, and the proof is, we are still here. I feel we can get through additional requirements and still reach our potential and goals. I am hoping with this distancing we will communicate more, regarding questions, understandings and needs, so don't be shy students. As for parents, I can be contacted mornings at school and after class hours if you have any concerns you would like to discuss. The 'sooner the better' is my motto.

My overall plans for my course this term is to infuse as much Mi'kmaq culture into the content of materials we use to meet the goals of each course. For example, in the new Film and Video Production 12 course, students will be analyzing short scenes, character histories and movie reviews in order to create their own works. We will view 'Indian Horse', which is a cinematic landmark dramatizing Canada's First Nations history. When we start filming near the end of the course, I am hoping to get the students out on the land filming natural elements and their processes.

I am looking forward to working with students and parents this year.

Respectfully,
Carol Howe

Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI)...

Ms. Angela Maloney

Welcome Back!
K'we

I'm excited to start the school year and to see all the smiling face entering the school. I will be the Leveled Literacy Intervention teacher again this year. I look forward to working with our students this year.

What is LLI? Leveled Literacy Intervention (LLI) Program is a supplemental literacy designed to help struggling readers achieve grade-level competency. LLI is delivered through explicit, direct instruction in a small-group format. Fast-paced lessons aim to engage students and promote rapid processing.

Guidance (High School) ...

Mr. Bryan Brooks

My name is Bryan Brooks and I recently switched roles from being the Physical Education teacher to the School Counsellor for Junior High and High School. I am not limited to just Junior High and High School. If your child is in the elementary grades and you wish that I work with him or her, please do not hesitate to reach out.

When entering my office, there will be a hand sanitizer at the door that every student and teacher will be required to use when entering and leaving. During individual counselling, students do not need to wear a mask since we will be 6ft apart, but during group sessions, everyone will be required to wear a mask. The first week of school, I will be going class to class to explain my role and how sessions will work this year.

It has been a while since we were all under one roof but I assure you, teachers, staff and administration will be working hard to make this school as safe as possible. There are directional stickers on the floor, hand sanitizing stations throughout the school, stops signs on the doors and rules/procedures that are in place. We have a great team at LSK and we are excited to start this school year.

Wela'lin,
Bryan Brooks
School Counsellor

GRADUATION PHOTOS WILL BE TAKEN ON...

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30TH, 2020



Note: Mrs. Maloney will have more information upon the return to school.

PICTURE DAY!!

DON'T FORGET TO BRING YOUR BEST SMILE ON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 29TH, 2020



Grade Eleven...

Mr. Robert Watson

NO SUBMISSION

Elementary Learning Centre...

Ms. Joanne Julian

NO SUBMISSION

Elementary Resource...

Ms. Leslie Paul

NO SUBMISSION

Tech. Ed...

Mr. Walter Palethorpe

NO SUBMISSION

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAY GREETINGS...

01 - Eternity Googoo

05 - Rory Brooks

08 - Brody Knockwood

15 - Faye Brooks

26 - Donovan McDonald

28 - Nakirrah Howe

Mi'kmaw words for September...

Wikumkewiku's – September

Moose-calling moon - Majotukuiku's

Tia'm – moose

Tia'mu'j - moose calf

Epit- women

Ji'nm – man

E'pite'ji'j – teenage girl

Lpa'tuj - teenage boy

Kina' matino'kuomk – school

Wi'katikn - paper/book

A'se'k – back room

Ka'qn – door

Tupoiti – window

Nipk – summer

Toqwa'q – Fall

Weltek – nice

Wela'lin - thank you

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