

LSK SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Kwe'

Student Attendance Matters

Life happens. Our car doesn't work. The kids are fighting. Laundry is not done, and you still have to get your kids to school. Life happens. We know. At LSK, our goal is to work with families who struggle to get kids to school on time. We do our best to work with the students to help teach them the importance of school.

Communication between the family and school is key when a student is absent. At all levels, but especially in elementary grades, the focus will be on identifying attendance issues early and responding in a way that helps build good attendance habits. For high school students, missing 20% of class time (generally a day per week, or 1 in every 5 classes) puts them at the risk of losing credit in that course.

Please call your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns about the attendance policy.

Wela'liog,
Ms. Kim

ATTENDANCE IN EARLY GRADES...

Attendance in the early grades is very important for all students, but especially important to younger students. Poor attendance in school puts your child at risk of falling behind his/her classmates, disrupts the learning skills required for reading and writing, tests scores will be lower and it could result in your child being held back a year. It is necessary for parents/guardians and families to work together to ensure that your child attends school on a regular basis. The enclosed poster explains how **ATTENDANCE WORKS!**

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED POSTER FOR MORE DETAILS!!



Upcoming Events for November...

01 - Professional Development (No Classes)

10 - Assessment and Evaluation PD (No Classes for Elementary only).

11 - Remembrance Day

13 - Remembrance Day Observance (No School)

14 - Report Card Day for Grades 10 to 12

20 - Report Card Day for Grades Primary to 8

24 - Site-Based PD (No School)

24 - Parent/Teacher Meetings



Editor (Sharon Culbertson) ...

I hope everyone had a great Halloween and didn't get too scared by the assortment of witches, ghouls, monsters, etc. We are now entering our third month of school. Our major event for this month is the Remembrance Day ceremony, which is organized by our Remembrance Day Committee. Needless to say, this ceremony will be as memorable as our previous ceremonies.

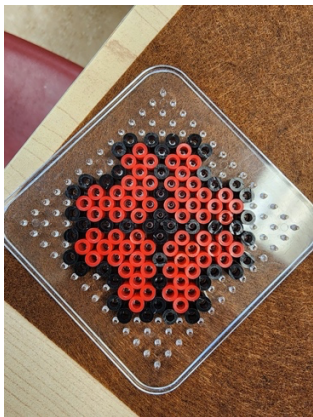
It is also the month when report cards and midterms go home. Parents/guardians should know that it is important to ensure that your child(ren) attend school every day. Absences make a huge impact on your child(ren)'s education. Missing too many days makes it harder for students to get caught up on their classwork and it also affects their learning because they are missing important classroom instruction, which makes it even harder to move forward in their daily learning.

As part of my role here at LSK, I am responsible for the monthly newsletter. In our efforts to lower our carbon footprint, I have been posting our newsletters on our website. You can read the electronic copy under "Newsletters" on our website... www.lskschool.ca If anyone would like a hard copy, please let me know and I will send it home with your child.

Elementary Mi'kmaw (Elle Michael) ...

Kwe' Msit wen,

In Elementary Mi'kmaw Language & Culture, we are looking at many different topics. Grades 4 and 5 have started creating poppies for Remembrance Day and all grades have started practicing for the Holiday Concert. Remembering our Sma'knis is very important, understanding what they did and still have to do to keep us safe is appreciated. We have learned two new games that have us using our language more and we are learning how to make different crafts for the upcoming holidays. So, if you hear us playing in the hallway, chances are it is these games.



Mise'l is reintroducing her Mi'kmaw Gotcha board, which is open to anyone who speaks Mi'kmaw outside of their classroom and gets caught by Mise'l. They will add your name to a list and at the end of the month a little certificate and treat will be delivered! More words we use, the more words we save and the more we remember.

Wela'lin,
Mi'kmaw Language and Culture.

High School Learning Centre (Robert MacIntosh) ...

Well October is almost over. The spooky month will soon be in the history books. Students in both Math 10 and Tourism have been doing a great job. Math students are about to start an assignment on writing business proposals. This is a practical assignment and has real world meaning for the students. Tourism students have been very busy as well. They have finished a major assignment on Dark Tourism and are now working on putting together a five-day travel schedule for Niagara Falls. This assignment includes where to stay, what to do and where to eat. Prices for the trip are totalled and shared with other students in the class.

That's it for me.

Looking forward to November.
Cheers! Mr. Mac



High School Mi'kmaw (Raylene Syliboy) ...

Kwe' Emsit Wen

I hope you are all well as we close the door to toqa'q and open the door to kesik. The month of Keptekewiku's which translates to the river freezing month, temperatures surely drop and I ask we all practice a few words related to this change: tekek (its cold), weju'sik (its windy), kumi (ice).

I also would like to take this time and give my grade 6 & 7 Mi'kmaq language students recognition for all their hard work in learning the poem "Na Maqamikek Flanders" for the Veterans Day celebration. On that note I will leave you with a few Mi'kmaq words to practice for Veterans Day: Sma'knis (veteran), melkita't (brave), wela'liek (thank you), mekwe'k wasuek (poppy) aqq wantaqa'ti (peace).

Nulmultes Ap!
Mrs. Raye

Grade Five (Raebeka Williams) ...

Kwe' guardians of Grade 5's,

I hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the crisp autumn weather. In our classroom we have been enjoying the apples and pumpkins this season brings. As we approach the beginning of November, I wanted to take a moment to update you on some important announcements and highlights from our classroom.

Firstly, I would like to express my heartfelt gratitude for your continued partnership in your child's education. Your support and involvement have truly made a difference in our classroom community. Together, we are creating a nurturing and engaging learning environment for our students.

In our math lessons, we have been exploring patterns and multiplication. Students have been identifying and extending patterns, as well as mastering their multiplication facts. We encourage you to practice multiplication at home with your child to reinforce their learning.

In science, we will be learning about the change of matter. Students will be conducting experiments to observe and understand how different substances can change form through processes like melting, freezing, and evaporation.

Our language arts focus this month will be on informational writing. Students will be honing their research skills and learning how to present information in a clear and organized manner. They will also be working to edit their own writing, creating clear and concise works.

Our students had the opportunity to participate in the Indigenous Youth Outreach and Environmental Justice Program, where they learned about the importance of justice and the different roles and responsibilities of people within the justice system. This is a 10-week program and will finish with a trip to Dalhousie's Department of Law Courtroom to create our own mock trial at the end of November. Additionally, we had a special guest from CBC KidsNews who discussed with our students the role of journalists and the importance of news from a kid's perspective. It was a fantastic opportunity for our students to share their perspectives and engage in meaningful discussions. Cbc.ca/kidsnews is a great resource for students to learn about current events at a kid friendly level.

Lastly, I would like to take a moment to wish a very happy birthday to two special individuals in our classroom. Ms. Tammi's birthday is on November 18th, and Martial's birthday is on November 20th. Let's make sure to celebrate them and make their special day memorable!

Please be sure your student has the appropriate outdoor wear for all weather as we often take our lessons outside. If you need assistance with this, please feel free to reach out. Once again, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your ongoing support and partnership. Together, we are making a difference in your child's education. If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to reach out. I am always here to support you and your child.

Warmest regards,
Ms. Rae



Grade Seven (Erika Hilchey) ...

K'we

October has been a beautiful month and the weather has been good for the most part. Grade 7, 8 and 9's have been working on persuasive writing and have been building their skills at convincing us of their opinions. All three grades have started novel studies: Gr 7 is working on *A Stranger at Home*, Gr 8 is reading *Touching Spirit Bear* and Gr 9 is reading *The Giver*. I'm excited to see the connections they make. For our Halloween celebration, Jr high will be carving pumpkins in the afternoon of Oct 31st. I will be sure to take photos and post them in the school Facebook group.

Happy Halloween everyone, and I'm looking forward to a great November.
Hilchey



Grade Nine (Steve DeLisle) ...

This month in junior high math, the grade seven students will be working on adding & subtracting decimals, the grade eight students will be multiplying and dividing fractions, and the grade nine students are learning how to perform various operations with rational numbers.



The grade nines also decorated their door for Halloween.



This past month the junior high student also went on a field trip to the Fundy Geological Museum and then went to the beach nearby where they saw Glooscap's grandmother's cooking pot which is where the water appears to boil twice a day when air trapped in holes in the basalt are pushed out as the tide rises.



Grade Six (Greg Marr) ...

Dear Parents, teachers, staff and community members:

During the Months of September and October, I have had the honour to teach and work with the Grade 6 class. For September and October, we have been doing monthly theme work according to the time of year. In September, we focused on some short story reading accompanied with worksheets. Our novel study for September and into October was based on a true story, *Fatty Legs*. We also covered introduction work for Math with place values, review in addition, subtraction, multiplication (1x1, 1x2, and 2x2 place values). As a part of Math class, our students are learning how to play the traditional Mi'kmaw game of Waltes.

In Science we have been exploring the Diversity of Life, studying living and non-living things, categorizing, Kingdoms of life, Vertebrates and Invertebrates, Predators and Prey, as well as natural habitats.

For Health, we focused on the healthy self, a seven sacred teaching of respect, good and bad relationships. During the week, our Mental Health Elder, Leanne McCloud is always welcome into our class and does a weekly smudge, talking circles and cultural activities.

During the month of October, our theme was Mi'kmaw History Month, where we focused on the Social Studies component. We discussed historical Mi'kmaw Treaties, focused on the history of the Mi'kmaw Honor Song, and learned about Jikmaq! We also participated in a field trip to the old Indian Residential School site in Shubenacadie and did some activities with other schools. We will continue focusing on being Mi'kmaw in today's society.

Looking ahead for November, our class has been focusing on the poem, *Poppy, Poppy*. We have been working with the Mi'kmaw teacher, and I am proud to say, that our students will recite this poem in Mi'kmaw during our Remembrance Day Ceremony for LSK!

We will also be having a new Grade 6 classroom teacher in November!

It is getting colder outside, and there have been reports of snow! We will ask students to dress appropriately for the colder weather. For now, have a safe Halloween!!!

Grade Three (Angela Maloney) ...

K'we

We have been busy getting settled into Grade Three. Learning our new schedule and routines for the year. Literacy testing has been taking place since the second week of September, and will wrap up on the 30th of this month.

We have been working on numbers to 1000 in Math, and will start our new unit of patterning and time next week. We have been learning about Structures in Science, we will continue with this unit for the month of November. In Social Studies we have been exploring our Mi'kmaq culture for the month of October. In Health we have been learning about fire safety.

We hope everyone has a fun and safe Halloween!

September Birthdays

Happy Birthday to Jessalyn
Happy Birthday to Kristopher
Happy Birthday to Treyson

November Birthdays

Happy Birthday Ava
Happy Birthday Sicily
Happy Birthday Arellaina

October Birthdays

Happy Birthday Addison



Elementary Resource (Leslie Paul) ...

Kwe' /Hi

In October I have participated in some program planning meetings to support our students and their needs. I administered the Primary TOPEL assessment and some other individual assessments for math and reading. I am hoping November will be a busy month with the regular resource schedule up and running. There are many students requiring resource support for their reading skills. I hope everyone enjoys the crisp fall days of November.

If you have any questions or concerns pertaining to the program planning process or elementary resource, please feel free to contact me at the school.

Wela'lin/Thank you,
Ms. Leslie Paul

Wellukwen (You're doing a good job!!) Winners...

October 6, 2023

Primary - Kingsleigh Simon
One - Raiden Paul
Two - Reg Maloney
Three - Caylee Brooks
Four - Keiran Syliboy
Five - Akira Paul-Francis
Six - Madius Julian
Seven - Emmaline Knockwood
Eight - Dalanie Paul
Nine - Rory Brooks

October 20th, 2023

Primary - Mia Knockwood
One - Damaris Peter-Paul
Two - Lawrence Marshall
Three - Treyson Knockwood
Four - Angeliah Augustine
Five - Ceanna Brooks
Six - Dallas Maloney
Elementary Learning Centre - Zayden Bernard
Seven - Leela Simon-Julian
Eight - Stella Grant
Nine - Adrianna Grant
Sr. High School - Bradley Michael
Sr. High School - Nakirrah Howe
Sr. High School - Eddie Sack

October 26th, 2023

Primary - Kingsleigh Simon
Grade 1 - Noah Marr
Grade 2 - Cody Paul
Grade 3 - Frankie Nevin
Grade 4 - Roman Augustine
Grade 5 - Mercedes Nevin
Grade 6 - Roland Marr
Grade 7 - Emmaline Knockwood
Grade 8 - Keon Nevin
Jr. High - Malaki Maloney

Grade Two (Tyler Schussler) ...

Time is absolutely flying! I can't believe that we're going to be entering the month of November already. During the month of October our class explored and studied a number of different educational avenues. In art, students got creative as they created scary paper monsters to get everyone in the Halloween mood. In math, we focused on skip counting and patterning. Students enjoyed getting outside and using materials from nature to create their repeating patterns. In social studies, we examined communities. We compared a variety of communities that included rural and urban communities, the services within those communities and how they change overtime. Elementary students also got to take a field trip to the pumpkin patch, it was awesome to see students get to experience some fun and learning outside of the classroom. October was filled with so many positive educational moments and I know they'll be more to come in November.

As we move into November our class will continue the momentum we've created in October. In math, our class will be expanding our sense of numbers as we compare, organize and break down numbers using multiple strategies. In science, our class will be investigating the relationship between air and water in the environment. We're going to commemorate Remembrance Day during the month of November, where we will gather in the gym with veterans to remember all the sacrifices the soldiers made to protect freedom.

October was a great month and I'm looking forward to the upcoming month of November.



Grade Primary (Sheri Brooks) ...

Kwe' Families,

The primary students have been very busy throughout the month of October. We began the month celebrating Treaty Day and the start of Mi'kmaq History month. We have been learning how to dance and sing in Mi'kmaq. We shared how thankful we are for our friends and family for Thanksgiving. We also discussed healthy foods to eat, which can also be grown by us! We have been counting numbers and different ways to count using lots of cool things such as leaves, pumpkins and small objects. We read stories about the season of fall, leaves, and Halloween. We are looking forward to learning about which animals hibernate and which stay out all winter. We ended the month of October with a trip to the Riverbreeze pumpkin patch, the students really enjoyed picking their very own pumpkins as well as visiting all the cute animals, including the baby kangaroos.

In November we will be discussing and honoring our Sma'knis who fought for our freedom on Remembrance Day. We would like to congratulate Alora who was our student of the month for September! We would like to wish Sophia a happy birthday in November. And lastly, we hope everyone has a happy Halloween and don't forget to brush your teeth!

Mrs. Brooks & the Primary class



Elementary Learning Centre (Kyle Busche) ...

This November in the Elementary Learning Center we will be working hard with our students to achieve their academic and social goals. The students will be participating in Remembrance Day activities and making some related art projects as well. Our staff will also be working to create new file folder games and other sensory activities for our students. We will be continuing to use the trail behind the school as an outdoor sensory activity and for body breaks. You may also see our students walking around the school or in the gym with their Educational Assistants. If you see us around the school stop by and say hi, we really appreciate it!

Grade Eleven (Robert Watson) ...

Also, students in Math Essentials have been working hard at understanding scales and how to accurately build scale models. This has been a fun process culminating in each student creating a to scale model of a building or landmark of their choice. Student's chose Yankee Stadium, Chase Arena where the Golden State Warriors play, United Center, where the Chicago Blackhawks play and even a professional boxing ring.



Students in Art have been exploring several different styles of art including impressionism, expressionism, pop art, cubism and various different types of perspective drawings. Upcoming projects include styles of painting and hopefully some sculpture.

Junior High Resource (Lyssa Steponaitis) ...

Kwe'

Please allow me to introduce myself, Lyssa Steponaitis, as the new Junior High Resource teacher. Mostly, I work with individual or pairs of students to develop their literacy, reading, and spelling skills. Before meeting with any students, I was able to complete a Gallistel-Ellis Test of Coding Skills with each and every student in junior high. This assessment provides a thorough measure of "coding skills" in reading and spelling, including (among other skills): sounds for various letters, units or clusters; closed syllables; blends and digraphs; silent-e words and more. I have been seeing 16 students across the junior high grades, and have held over 40 sessions in October alone! If you have any questions about your junior high child and what they're working on, please feel free to reach out. Email is definitely best: LSTEAPONAITIS@skschool.ca



Grade Ten (Adam Sweeney) ...



K'we

Wow! It's already November! Visual Arts students have been working hard- sketching facial features and working on basic techniques: shading, one-point perspective, and contours. Film and Video students are working on their 3rd film project of the semester, creating a film with a specified "genre". The first two projects were 'A Day in A Life', and a video profile of their favourite 'Spots' around LSK. These classes have been a lot of fun!

High school parents and guardians- Look out for report cards heading home on November 14th.

Last but not least- we won the door decorating contest! Congrats to everyone who participated, helped, and came up with ideas- we're all blown away that we won. For our door, we created a pile of skulls and some bones. What I enjoyed the most about our door was each student came together to make a couple skulls, giving the door personality and character.



Our classroom
Halloween Door
Decoration!!

Halloween Winners ...

Halloween Door Prize Winner (Pizza Party)

1st – Grade 10

Halloween Door Prizes (Scholastics Gift Card)

2nd – Primary

3rd – Grade 1

4th – Grade 3

5th – Elementary Resource

Staff Costumes Winners (\$20 gift card)

1st – Shanda Nevin

3rd – Angie Augustine

1st – Jaden McDonald

4th – Kryssie Cameron

2nd – Leslie Googoo

4th – Kanisha Levi



Grade Four (Tabetha Stephens) ...

Kwe' From Grade 4's

We hoped everyone had a great Thanksgiving with their families and a safe Halloween. The students had a great time dancing up a storm at LSK's annual Halloween Dance. It's always a blast.

The grades 4-6 also had a great time at the River Breeze Corn Maze Farm. Where they got to see kangaroos, goats, lamas and pigs. They also had a wagon ride, played on structures, explored the corn maze, and of course picked a pumpkin to take home with them.

Our class is conducting a pumpkin experiment with one of our pumpkins we picked. We were inspired by the book, Pumpkin Jack by Will Hubble. A story that explains the lifecycle of a pumpkin in a sweet way. Our essential question will be, "What will happen to a Jack O' Lantern over time?" After reading the book, students will predict what will happen to Jack. We will observe and record data with photos and writing in our science journals. In addition, we want to know if we could start our own garden of pumpkins just from Jack? This experiment will take up most of the year. We are excited to find the answers to our questions.

Our students had a great opportunity to participate in the making and teachings of a sweat lodge with Elder Brian Francis (Joe). His teachings are valued and we look forward to spending more time with him.

Ms. Cheryl Maloney has donated an oak tree to our school. This tree is the baby of the iconic Shubenacadie tree that once stood tall between Highway 101 and Shubenacadie River. This tree is in front of our school, where we hope it will grow big and strong!

The grade 4's is getting familiar with signing into their google classroom and checking their emails. They are learning how to use Google Slides to present their work and research. They are currently researching an animal of their interest and will present their findings to the class. They will also create a diorama of their animal's habitat to go with their presentations.

November will surely be another great month of learning. Remembrance Day is quickly approaching. We will participate in the Remembrance Day Poster Contest. We will acknowledge and remember our brave Sma'knisk (Warriors/Soldiers) that fought for our freedom and we are thankful for their services. November is reporting time. Notices will be sent home shortly with dates on when report cards will be sent out and also for parent teacher night!

We would like to wish Jolie a Happy Birthday on November 26th. **HAPPY BIRTHDAY JOLIE!!**

October Winners ...

Teacher of the Month – Raebeka Williams, Grade 5

Staff Member of the Month – Autumn Maloney

Mi'kmaq Class of the Month – Grade 2

Student of the Month Winners...

Primary – Mia Knockwood

Grade 1 – Milani Cook

Grade 2 – Aryiz Augustine

Grade 3 – Nadalia Paul

Grade 4 – Angeliah Augustine

Grade 5 – Paul Brooks

Grade 6 – Gemma Giorgi

Grade 7 – Leela Simon-Julian

Grade 8 – Kaleirah Sack

Grade 9 – Rory Brooks

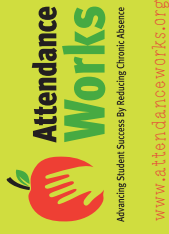
Sr. High – Carmine Julian, Edward Sack, Jessy Paul



ATTENDANCE

in the early grades

Many of our youngest students miss 10 percent of the school year—about 18 days a year or just two days every month. Chronic absenteeism in kindergarten, and even preK, can predict lower test scores, poor attendance and retention in later grades, especially if the problem persists for more than a year. Do you know how many young children are chronically absent in your school or community?



Who Is Affected

Kindergarten and 1st grade classes often have absenteeism rates as high as those in high school. Many of these absences are excused, but they still add up to lost time in the classroom.

1 in 10 kids in kindergarten and 1st grade are chronically absent. In some schools, it's as high as 1 in 4.¹



2 in 10 low-income kids miss too much school. They're also more likely to suffer academically.¹



¹ Chang, Heely, Romero, Mariajose. *Present, Engaged and Accounted For: The Critical Importance of Addressing Chronic Absence in the Early Grades*, National Center for Children in Poverty: NY, September 2008.

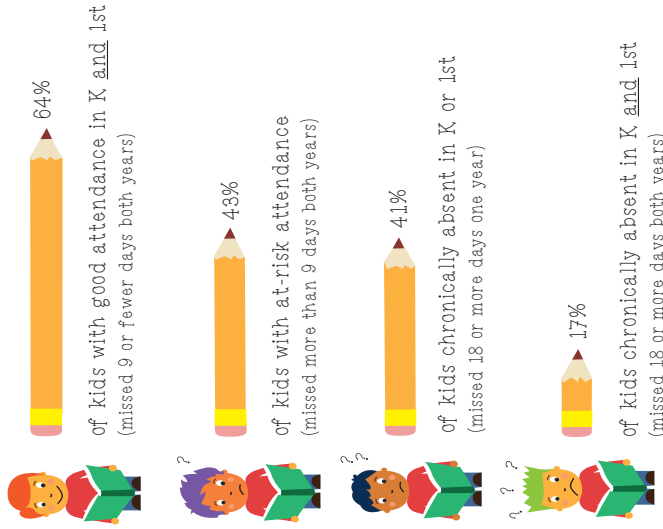
² *Chronic Absence in Utah*, Utah Education Policy Center at the University of Utah, 2012.

Why It Matters

If children don't show up for school regularly, they miss out on fundamental reading and math skills and the chance to build a habit of good attendance that will carry them into college and careers.

Preliminary data from a California study found that children who were chronically absent in kindergarten and 1st grade were far less likely to read proficiently at the end of 3rd grade.

Who Can Read on Grade Level After 3rd Grade?³



³ *Attendance in Early Elementary Grades: Association with Student Characteristics, School Readiness and Third Grade Outcomes*, Applied Survey Research, May 2011.

What We Can Do



Engage Families

Many parents and students don't realize how quickly early absences can add up to academic trouble. Community members and teachers can educate families and build a culture of attendance through early outreach, incentives and attention to data.



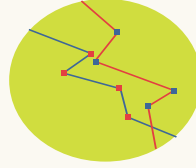
Fix Transportation

The lack of a reliable car, or simply missing the school bus, can mean some students don't make it to class. Schools, transit agencies and community partners can organize car pools, supply bus passes or find other ways to get kids to school.



Address Health Needs

Health concerns, particularly asthma and dental problems, are among the leading reasons students miss school in the early grades. Schools and medical professionals can work together to give children and families health care and advice.



Track the Right Data

Schools too often overlook chronic absence because they track average attendance or unexcused absences, not how many kids miss too many days for any reason. Attendance Works has free data-tracking tools.

These are a few steps that communities and schools can take. How do you think you can help?