

# LSK School

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## Vice Principal's Message...

Greg Marr

The month of February is here again, already! As we move into February, we must always pay close attention to the extreme weather as it happens. This is also the time of year that the weather can wreak-havoc on our animals. Custom to our culture and traditions, we refer to February as Apuknajit – the Snow Blinding Month. This is also the time when “Mnumkwej” makes a special appearance. As folklore goes, if the groundhog sees its shadow, we have six more weeks of winter. If the groundhog does not see its shadow, we will have an early spring. Guess what? We will be having an early Spring. But for now, we ask parents and guardians to continue dressing their children for the weather.

Winter Carnival Activity planning is underway.

Field Trips - Next week we will have a few classes going on field trips. The grades 4 - 6 will be headed out and the grade 3 class will be heading to the Shubenacadie Elementary School to do some activities with their school. We are also planning some cultural teachings with Shubenacadie District School. Report cards for Grades 9 - 12 should be ready by Tuesday February 6th, 2024. The storm day pushed everything back by one day.

For now, Happy Mnumkwejewey Na'kwek

## Tech. Ed. ...

Mark Cox

Hello,

I would like to introduce myself. My name is Mark Cox, I'm the new Technology Education Teacher at LSK. I am from Truro, after graduating from teachers College, I moved to Dartmouth, married my sweet heart, Julie. And started teaching at Hants north Rural high where I taught for five years before I taught at CEC for 25 years. I also taught three years in Cayman Islands and spent last year teaching in Berens River, Manitoba. I'm excited to be part of the team here at LSK and am looking forward to having students make a lot of sawdust, and having fun while being safe, in the wood lab.

Wela'lioq  
Mark

## Upcoming Events

02 – Ground Hog Day

02 – Semester Two (High School)

09 – Report Card Day for grades -12

13 – Shrove Tuesday (Pancake Day)

14 – Valentine's Day

19 – Family Day (No School)

## Library News...

Sharon Culbertson

I am pleased to announce that we have a new schedule for library session to commence. Grades primary to six will be able to have two sessions per cycle in order to accommodate two sessions per week. This will give the classroom teachers an opportunity to work with smaller groups in order to support the UFL Literacy Program.

February also brings Groundhog Day and according to the students, we only have six more weeks of winter. I hope this is true because over the past few days, the snow is going to take some time to melt. That was a lot of snow that fell, but it makes for great hills for sliding and climbing.

Our senior high school students are beginning their second semester. This means new courses and report cards. It also means completing new schedules with the assistance of Morgan MacDonald. Morgan will be doing guidance counsellor duties this semester. This means that we need to make sure that the students have their required course and plans are beginning for prom and graduation. Two of our grade 12 students have already completed all their required courses. Now they have to wait for the ceremony.

And welcome to our new students... LaShawna, Landon, Stephen, Kirah and Jonathan. We hope you enjoy your time here at LSK and good luck.

Finally, I would like to welcome our new Technology Education teacher... Mark Cox. I am sure that the students are very excited to start a new course. Good luck!!

## Physical Education...

Kryssie Cameron

We have been working hard this past month in Phys-Ed working on our locomotor movements through various activities such as dance and cooperative games. To wrap up the month student's strength and endurance was put to the test as they completed a 6-station obstacle course. The younger students did an amazing job completing all stations in the circuit while the older ones set some pretty impressive times of completion. Masin Maloney finished with a time of 57 seconds as Madius Julian was close behind with a time of 60 seconds. Lathias Howe was the record holder with a time of 43 seconds!

Junior High and High School students have been practicing their archery skills with the help of Bryson Knockwood who is a certified archery trainer. Stella Grant, Nakirrah Howe and Merina Michael all showed some natural ability as they caught on very quickly hitting the targets with ease. Great work everyone. Keep fit and have fun!

I have added some photos of some of our activities.

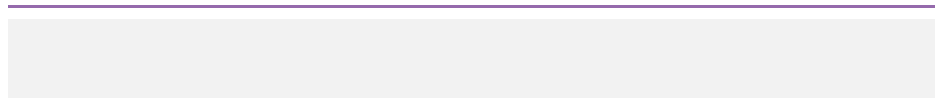


## Kesik (Winter Season) Cultural Day...

This program was hosted by the grade primary to six teachers in an effort to educate the students about winter activities. Students learned that some animals that do not hibernate during the winter months (Sheri). Another topic identified animal tracks that were made by various animals (Tyler). Snowshoeing is not only for today, but were used long ago (Daphrose and Cheryl). Did you know that hockey stick was invented by the Mi'kmaq people (Rae)? Lacrosse was and is a very popular game (Alisha and Bryson). If you like eating rabbit, you can learn how to make a snare, and what items were used to do so (Tabetha). Finally, students were able to colour and design a variety of winter animals. The last station for animal charades (Leslie P. and Elle). This was also where students were given hot chocolate and cookies. Special thanks to everyone who participated and to the volunteers. What a fun way to learn about everything that makes winter fun!!



Photos submitted by  
Tammi Michael



## Grade Two...

Tyler Schussler

As we continue to move forward into 2023 and are now at the end of January, students have settled back into their routines and schedules. It was great to get back into the swing of things because January was a month full of fun and learning. In ELA, students expanded their knowledge of non-fictional texts. We looked at specific features that are common in non-fictional texts and highlighted information that improved our understanding. We also compared non-fictional texts with fiction, so students could see the differences and similarities. In math, students continued to work on addition and subtraction strategies. Students were given larger number problems to solve, which challenged students to use and practice all new strategies they've learned. In January, students got to go to an indoor playground. It was awesome to see the students get to enjoy a day of fun outside of the classroom. January was a great month at LSK and I'm hoping to continue that momentum into February.

Looking ahead into February, the fun and learning doesn't stop. In February, we will be continuing to explore non-fictional texts. In math, students are going to start exploring 3D shapes, which will follow an addition and subtraction unit that will include more challenging problems. During our Science unit in February, students will be looking at the different states of matter. February is also African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia, so we'll use the opportunity to learn about people with African heritage that have made a difference in the world and in Nova Scotia especially regarding equality. We're going to study contributions made by prominent African Canadian/Americans such as; Viola Desmond, Rosa Parks and Martin Luther King Jr. January was an awesome month and February will be just as good if not better as we continue to move forward into 2024.

## High School Mi'kmaq...

Raylene Syliboy

Kwe' Emsit Wen!

Esmut Apuknajit "Feed February" is a Mi'kmaw practice, this event takes place on the eve of the new month of Apuknajit (February). The belief was passed to us from our ancestors, today we offer Apuknajit gifts of food in the hope to please the winter spirit.

Apuknajit translates to "snow blinding" and is the harshest month of kesik (winter). During the ceremony families pray together for blessings throughout the year and to also pray for a mild February. Mi'kmaq Word for February

Apuknajit- February

Esmut Apuknajit- Feed February

Kesik – Winter

Mnumkwej – Groundhog

Kesalul - I love you

Kesalin - You love me

Kesalk - I love him/her

Update from the Kutapsuwo'kuom (Your clothing room). Our school elder Leeanna Gloade had reached out to the "Daughters of Tradition" at Nova Institution for women. Our Lnu'k woman has reviewed and approved a donation to the Kutapsuwo'kuom. We as a school take pride in providing anyone with a need for clothes or winter gear. Paqsipi Wela'liek to the "Daughters of Traditions" for the donation. We also ask anyone with any donations of clothing or winter gear to drop off in the middle school Mi'kmaq Language class.

African Heritage Month in Nova Scotia is February 1st to February 29th. In recognition the students in grade 8 had created a collaborative art piece of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. We also want to recognize the affluent African Nova Scotians, along with the rich 400-year history in Mi'kma'ki. You can come see the grade 8 art piece outside the Mi'kmaq language classroom.

## Grade Four...

Tabetha Stephens

Thanks to Ms. Leanna for visiting our classroom and teaching us traditional ways and also for the fun activities that you do with our class.

Our class, is using the UFLI Program every morning for Literacy. This program provides explicit, systematic, comprehension instruction in all phonics skills, including letter-sound, phonemic awareness, decoding, spelling, reading words from memory, and text reading. It is very important that your child arrives each day on time to insure they don't miss the lessons.

Some of the topics this month are: Black History, Heart Month, and Love.

In Math, we are starting our measurement unit.

Science, we are learning about Rocks and Minerals.

Social studies we are learning about the Levels of government.

We are excited to watch the movie, the One and Only Ivan. We will be starting our new book, Shiloh. We are learning about figurative speech in ELA and writing stories.

We will be going to Get Air Trampoline Park on February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2024! Happy Valentine's Day everyone!

And we are Reading Buddies with grade one.

## Elementary Learning Centre...

Kyle Busche

This February we are continuing to work on our students' social and academic goals. We have a new sensory path in the Learning Center that the students are enjoying. We will be making valentines crafts for our student's friends and families as well. Some of our students are just learning to use new apps on their iPads for communication. If you see our students out and about stop by and check out how they are using the new apps!

## Junior High Literacy...

Lyssa Steponaitis

Kwe'

Through the January chills and snows, into February, almost halfway through the winter, and I'm sure that everyone is ready for spring to be upon us! After learning some consonants and some short vowels, the next important *phonograph* to be able to identify is digraphs. If your child is working with me, then they probably already know the definition of a digraph, even if they don't know many of them yet. Digraphs are when two consonant letters come together to make one sound (that is different from the original sound of either letter). Some examples include *sh* in ship, *ch* in chin, *ck* in black, and *th* in thumb or that. The two different sounds of *th* are called voiced and unvoiced - which would be a great topic for a future note!

As always, if you have any questions about your junior high child and what they're working on, or questions about language parts please feel free to reach out. Email is definitely best: [LSTEPONAITIS@lskschool.ca](mailto:LSTEPONAITIS@lskschool.ca)

## Elementary Mi'kmaq...

Elle Michael

**February is Snow-Blinding Month** (Apunajit in Mi'kmaw): As we embrace the winter season, we celebrate the beauty of snow and its significance in Mi'kmaw culture.

**Mid-Winter Celebrations:** Our school recently participated in Mid-Winter Celebrations. We would like to express our gratitude to all the volunteers and participants who made this day memorable.

### Grade 4 and 5 News:

**Truckhouse Jij Crafts:** The students in Grade 4 and 5 have started working on crafts for our Truckhouse Jij program. They will get hands-on experience while exploring traditional Mi'kmaw practices.

**7 Sacred Teachings:** Additionally, Grade 4 and 5 students will be learning about the 7 Sacred Teachings, which play an essential role in First Nations cultures.

### Grades Primary to Three News:

**Waltes:** Students in Grades Primary to Three are either starting or continuing their learning journey about Waltes. This topic will help them develop a deeper understanding of Mi'kmaw traditions and culture.

### Winter Activities:

With winter in full swing, we have planned various engaging activities both inside and outside the classroom. These activities will enrich students' experiences and keep them active during the winter season.

### Celebrations from the Week:

We would like to recognize **Mr. Tyler** and **Mr. Kyle** for their consistent use of the Mi'kmaw Language in our school. Your dedication is inspiring, and we want to acknowledge your efforts.

## Grade Nine...

Steve DeLisle

To start the month of February, the grade seven class will be measuring circles, triangles and parallelograms which are shapes used in design, architecture and construction. The grade eight class have been busy learning how to measure prisms and cylinders. Since most products are packaged in boxes and cans, the students have been thinking about how a box or can is made. The grade nine students finished writing their midterm exams and will be learning about polynomials, variables and constants which are used to create expressions defining quantities which are known and unknown. Polynomials are used in engineering, computer-based jobs, in management, business and even in farming.

## High School Learning Centre...

Robert MacIntosh

Happy Groundhog Day! That tells me that the first semester is over and that we are starting the last half of the year. Courses I will have a part in are Math 11E, CO OP and Online. I am looking forward to a program for us which is CO OP. Bringing the students to the workplace is very beneficial to their academic development.

Well, that's it for me.  
Happy new semester.

## Grade Ten...

Adam Sweeney

Kwe' everyone!

Nothin' like the start of a new semester. Teachers and students are refreshed with new courses and a clean slate. For myself, I'll be teaching Canadian History, Career Development, and Music.

- For Canadian History, we'll be diving into topics like: pre-contact, contact, confederation, and Canada's involvement in both World Wars.
- Career Development will focus on building resumes, writing professional emails, and developing/discovering job skills for the future.
- Music is a unique opportunity provided at LSK where students have the opportunity to earn a credit while they learn to play guitar. These classes will be similar to 'music lessons' and will revolve around studying and practicing guitar and music notation. We'll also be researching various musical artists and analyzing songs along the way.

February is a short month, so it's going to fly by quickly. For high school students, consistent attendance is the key to success.

Have a great semester, everyone!

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## Grade One...

Daphrose Nyiramani

**Dear parents,**

Happy new month.

February is an exciting month filled with learning and growth in our Grade 1 class. Our themes for the month are love and kindness. In the spirit of Valentine's Day, we'll be focusing on these themes. We will explore these concepts through stories, discussions and art activities that foster empathy and understanding.

We would also like to inform you that your child has brought the books to read at home. We encourage you to spend a few minutes every day reading with your child, as this will improve your child's fluency in reading.

Thank you for your continuing support.



## Grade Five...

Rae Williams

Kwe' Families,

Welcome to February! We are excited to announce that our upcoming field trip to GetAir Trampoline Park is scheduled for next week (Feb 7th)! This trip will provide our students with a fun and active opportunity to bond with their peers while also boosting their physical fitness. Please make sure your child brings appropriate clothing and returns the required permission slips.

In math class, the students have been learning about area and perimeter. They have been exploring how to calculate the area and perimeter of different shapes, such as rectangles and squares.

In language arts, we have been focusing on non-fiction writing. Specifically, we have been studying how to identify the main idea of a text and locate supporting details that contribute to the central theme.

Last week, we had a special visit from Ms. Leanna, who helped our students create beautiful and meaningful medicine pouches. The students thoroughly enjoyed this activity and learned about the cultural significance behind medicine pouches. We are grateful to Ms. Leanna for her time and expertise in engaging our students in this hands-on learning experience.

Thank you once again for your ongoing commitment to your child's education. We wish you a wonderful February and look forward to all the exciting learning opportunities ahead.

Warm regards,  
Ms. Rae Williams

## Birthday Greetings for February...

- 03 – Stephen Nevin-Knockwood (K4)
- 06 – Emmy Augustine (2)
- 06 – Willow Lacey-Sack (K4)
- 12 – Cavin Paul (Primary)
- 18 – Malaki Maloney (9)
- 21 – Azariyah Sack (2)
- 21 – Merina Michael (11)
- 22 – Porscha Michael (K4)
- 23 – Joel Francis (11)
- 24 – Noah Marr (1)
- 24 – Evander Nevin (K4)
- 25 – Alexzander Maloney (5)

## Upcoming events for March...

- 11<sup>th</sup> – 15<sup>th</sup> – March Break
- 17<sup>th</sup> – St. Patrick's Day
- 19<sup>th</sup> – First day of Spring
- 22<sup>nd</sup> – Sikw Culture Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> – Report Card Day for grades Primary to 8
- 28<sup>th</sup> – PD Day (No school)
- 29<sup>th</sup> – Good Friday
- 31<sup>st</sup> – Easter Sunday

