

LSK Apuknajit/February 2025 Newsletter

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE...

Mr. Barrett Mason

Kwe kikmaq,

The snow is still falling, and the days remain cold, but the longer sunlight reminds us that Spring is on the horizon. Welcome to February, Apuknajit—the Snow-Blinding Month—when we bundle up against Winter's chill and embrace the warmth of our community.

This month brings opportunities for learning, connection, and reflection. February is a time to celebrate Black History Month and honor the many contributions of Black citizens, both past and present, in our community and beyond. Our Sacred Teaching at LSK this month is *Love*, represented by the mighty eagle. Apuknajit is a great time to focus on kindness, inclusion, and supporting one another—in the classroom, on the playground, and in our daily lives.

As we move through the Winter months, regular attendance plays a key role in your child's success. Every day is an opportunity to learn something new, connect with peers, and build skills for the future. Consistent attendance is key! If your child is unable to attend school on a particular day, please call the office in the morning to let us know. Maintaining open communication ensures we can work together to support your child's learning and well-being.

Lastly, I want to thank our staff and students for their hard work and positive energy in the month since the holiday break. I see creativity and resilience every day in our classrooms. Let us carry that same energy into the weeks ahead as we learn, grow, and support one another.

Wela'liq, and may we continue to walk together in kindness and strength.

Nmultis,
Barrett Mason
Principal

♥ *Happy Valentines Day* ♥

Upcoming Events...

- 2nd – Groundhog Day
- 3rd – Semester Two Begins (High School)
- 4th – 14th – Semester 1 Report Cards (High School)
- 6th – High School Report Card Day
- 13th – Valentine's Day dance (grades 7-12)
- 14th – Happy Valentine's Day
- 17th – Heritage Day (No School)
- 18th – LSK Science Fair (Storm date is the 19th)
- 21st Mi'kmaq Language Day
- 24th- 28th – Celebrating Black History
- 25th – MK Regional Science Fair (Membertou – Storm date 27th)
- 26th – Pink Shirt Day



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Editor (Sharon Culbertson) ...

January is complete! I apologize for missing our January issue, but with exams happening and everyone trying to get back into a routine after our Christmas break, time has been tight!

Before I forget, *Pusu'l Puna'ne*... Happy New Year! I hope everyone had a wonderful holiday.

Our high school students wrote their exams for the end of Semester One during the last week of January. I hope everyone did well, especially the students who will be graduating this year. From what I hear, many of them will have completed their final year of school early. That is great! Congratulations to all.

I have been posting pictures, calendars, newsletters, Wel'ukwen winners, Student(s) of the Month, notices, etc. on our website. If you are looking for photos, please check out our *Image Galleries*. Don't forget to visit www.lskschool.ca.

February is looking like another busy, fun-filled month for us here at LSK. I hope everyone has a great month. Happy Valentine's Day to everyone!!

High School Learning Centre (Robert MacIntosh) ...

Well, it is that time of the year again where students are frantically studying for end of semester exams. For many of our students this year they are finishing their time here at LSK. These students have met the challenge and have succeeded. These students will be finishing one chapter in life and will soon be moving on to another. It is a time for reflection not only for the students but also for myself. The good times, the bad times and the fun times.

It has been an honor and a privilege to have taught these students over the past number of years. The best is yet to come and I salute you.

Peace
Mr. Mac



Grade Seven (Erika Hilchey) ...

K'we Parents and Guardians,

We are moving into February already! Since we returned from Christmas Break, students in grade 7 have begun a novel study in English class. This novel focuses on a student's experiences in Middle School and the grade 7s are really enjoying it. Grade 8 have begun the sequel to the book they read before Christmas Break. This novel is called *Ghost of Spirit Bear*. It is very interesting to see the main character's development. Grade 9s were reviewing for exams which have begun. Once students complete their exams we will be working on a new novel study. Grade 7's will be starting Sewing and Textiles in February and our first assignment will focus on clothing labels.

With the colder weather arriving, it is important for students to dress warmly as students can go outside during break and lunch time.

Wela'lin,
Erika Hilchey

Grade Two (Tyler Schussler) ...

Time is really flying, I can't believe we're 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 the new strategies they've learned. 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. Valentine's Day is in February so the theme of love and kindness will be incorporated throughout the month in art and in our daily assignments. 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 2025.

Junior High Resource (Lyssa Steponaitis) ...



Braven working on robotics.



Dakota and Braven working in the maker room.

Kwe'

This month is about Humility. We here in the Junior High Learning Centre have practiced being humble and have tried very hard to understand our own workings and helping others. The past few weeks have been very active! We have a new sensory corner, complete with a hanging chair and balance rockers. In addition to regular classes and working on Science Fair, we also have a Marble Run completed and a Lego Mindstorms Robot we've been working on! Feel free to come on by and ask questions!

Best regards, Jr. High Learning Centre
Bryson Knockwood, Therin Nevin, Norma Paul, Lyssa Steponaitis

LSTEPONAITIS@lkschool.ca



Lance chilling in the chair.

High School Mi'kmaw (Greg Marr) ...

Here are the areas of study for Jr. High Mi'kmaq Grades 6, 7, 8 and 9, as well as Social Studies 8.

Unit 7: Mi'kmaq Season: Kesik (Winter)

Basic Mi'kmaq Conversation: Family Unit

Months of the Year: Apukunajit (February – Snow Blinding Month)

Theme(s): Groundhog Day, Valentine's Day, Apuknajt

Family Day

Petroglyphs & Storytelling Unit

Numbers: 1-30

Colors review: Orange, Brown, Purple, Pink, Blue, Green, Red, White, Yellow, Black

Outdoor Education: Rabbit Snaring, Snow Shoeing

Cultural component: Feed the Moon ceremony.



Sacred Teaching is Love

For **Grade 8 Social Studies**, our students have been learning about the impact of Equity and Inequity in a changing Canadian society. We will continue our focus on various social justice movements.

Our next outcome: Learners will formulate responses to change in Canadian society. The grade 8 students will be learning about:

- How Technological Advances are forming changes in raising awareness about First Nations (Mi'kmaq) issues that deal with Environmental Factors and Netukulimk;
- We will further our studies in learning about Societal Factors in urban and rural environments, labour market, immigration and cultural trends;
- We will close out this unit learning about Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the economy, but in a first nation perspective.

Elementary Resource (Leslie Paul) ...

Kwe'/Hi

January has been a busy month with eighteen students receiving resource support in their language arts skills. Many of our resource students are learning sound-symbol correspondence and decoding skills. Every resource student is working at their own pace and making gains in their literacy skills. It is a pleasure working with the students and observing their growth in reading and writing. We are looking forward to celebrating Valentine's Day and Heritage Day during the month of February.

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

Wela'lin/Thank you, Ms. Leslie Paul

Technology Education (Mark Cox) ...

This past month, students have been very busy finishing up their technology projects before the semester ends. Since midterm, many students produced well-constructed projects, such as band saw boxes, hunting knives and leather sheaths, whistles, serving trays, fly swatters and many others. I'm looking forward to next semester where classes will construct more items including a cedar strip canoe, which will be placed in a draw for those who work on it.

Wela'lin, Mark

Grade Nine (Steven 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.

Elementary Learning Centre (Kyle Busche) ...

This February we are excited to continue to work on our students' social and academic goals in the Elementary Learning Center. Our students have been enjoying playing outside in the snow and we've planned for some extra time outside when the weather is permitting. We have been introducing some extra activities at the end of each day for our students such as social play time, baking, sensory activities, music and more! Everyone is looking forward to what we can accomplish with the opportunities we have to interact with our students. If you see us around the school stop by and say hi!

Grade Four (Tabetha Stephens) ...

Kwe, Pusu'l Puna'ne (Happy New Year)!

The grade 4's would like to welcome everyone back, we hope you all had a great and relaxing break. We will start the year off by making New Year's Resolutions and setting new goals in which they hope to accomplish before the end of 2025.

We finished our read aloud, *The One and Only Ivan*. We enjoyed the book and enjoyed the movie even more. We compared and contrasted the movie. There were lots of similarities and also differences. As much as we enjoyed the movie, we thought the books was better.

Some of the topics we will be exploring over the next few weeks will be:

ELA: Procedural Writing.

Math: Measurement

Science: Light and Sound & Science Fair projects

Health: Healthy Community

Social Studies: Physical Landscape of Canada.

We would like to wish a Happy Belated Birthday to Dayton on January 10th & Caylee on the 17th. Happy Birthday to you both, we hope you enjoyed your special day!

The grade 4's would like to welcome Faith & Kovey to our class. We hope you enjoy your time at LSK.

The grade 4's is participating in their first science fair. Most students have started their projects and are now collecting data.

February:

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 ensure they don't miss these lessons.

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

We hope everyone has a great school year in 2025.

Yours truly in Peace & Friendship,
Ms. Stephens



