

March Break is only 4 weeks away!



Lakefield Elementary February Newsletter

To provide an orderly, positive and enriching environment for academic and social growth.

Home & School

Year Long fundraising programs REMINDERS...

KV redemption center continues to offer "LES" tags when you exchange your bottles. Simply tag your bags with the sticker – no waiting in line- and the money is returned to the school. Good for the environment, good for our school.



Kindness

You might be feeling like winter & Covid might never end and that the weather might be getting you cooled down, but here at LES nothing is blocking our way and things are heating up! We will be Celebrating 100 Day, Kindness Month, Staff Appreciation Week, Pink Day, February Family Fun Fit Challenge, Demand Writing and a House Team activity. Each day in February our students will be encouraged to write a kind note on the door to their classrooms. It might be as simple as a smiling face or kind words about someone in their class and school. Little acts of kindness can make a big impact on others. We will be holding various fun gym classes outside organized by our awesome gym teacher, Mr. Kelley!

Lots packed into a short month.

Staff Appreciation Week is Feb 22nd - Feb 26th

Staff Appreciation Week at Lakefield School is being celebrated from February 22nd to the 26th. Even with Covid restrictions, our marvelous Home and School is trying to come up with some sort of celebration. While the theme days and large home-made lunches won't work, they are looking at ordering food, as well as some smaller surprises! Emails will be sent out later this month, so keep an eye out for them, to see how you can help them celebrate our Lakefield Staff! The Home and School would also like to acknowledge our non-teaching staff for their assistance in helping our children reach their goals. The teachers would like to recognize and say thank you to our behavior interventionist, custodians, EAs, administrative assistant, and bus drivers for the care and dedication they have for the students of Lakefield.

Important Dates

Feb 1st- Intensive French ends for Grade 5 English class

House Team Activity

Feb 8th - Feb 12th
Random Acts of Kindness

Feb 15th - Monday
No School
NB Family Day Holiday

Feb 15th - Feb 19th
Students' 2nd Demand Writing Session begins

Feb 22nd - 26th
Staff Appreciation Week

Feb 22nd- Monday
Home & School
6:30 pm

Feb 24th
Pink Day

February 25th
PJ day

March Break
March 1st to the 5th

UNESCO—We're on our way!!

Throughout the month of February we will be engaged in fundraising efforts for the Coronavirus Children's Crisis Appeal through Unicef. Many places around the world need soap, gloves, masks and access to clean water. These basic necessities are a lifeline to children and their families. Our donation will help UNICEF deliver life-saving medicine, nutritious food and vaccines. There is no time to lose as an additional 6,000 children under five could die per day – more than 4 children every minute – due to the direct impact of COVID-19. We will promote learning facts and dispelling myths with the students. Teachers will explain to their class that we are fortunate in Canada because everyone will be able to get vaccinated if they so choose. This is not the case everywhere so we will raise money to help needy children around the world to support our UNESCO goals.

- 1. Valentine Grams - \$1.00.** February 8-12 – Students will be invited to send a friend a Valentine message on a foam heart. The receiving student will get the message and a Hershey's Kiss.
- 2. Popcorn sale - \$ 2.00** On February 25th, in conjunction with pink day we will sell popcorn tied with a pink bow.
- 3. .25 cent drive** - We will be doing a quarter drive Feb 16-25. Winning class will send their teacher to "the beach" from 8:30-9:30 on February 26th. We will set up the lobby reading corner as a beach.

February is Kindness Month

During the month of February LES's focus will be on Kindness. Throughout the month, the students will participate in many activities that create win-win situations such as Bucket Filling, Random Acts of Kindness, Pink Shirt Day (Anti-Bullying Day), Kindness Announcements, Kindness Quotes of the Day



February is a great month for positive initiatives in schools.

Safer internet day is Tuesday, February 9th. We encourage you to take some time and review healthy use of electronics with your children during the month (e.g. <https://www.protectchildren.ca/en/programs-and-initiatives/protectkidsonline/>).

Random acts of kindness (<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/>) is a good way for kids to start seeing the benefits of treating others how they want to be treated.

LES will recognize Pink Shirt Day on Wednesday, February 24th with our annual WITS assembly in the near future. We hope the kids will wear as much pink as possible to show their commitment to “standing up to bullying” and to supporting each other where they learn and play. Students will review how to use their WITS and be “deputized” by our gracious community representative: Constable Ryan Walker! This website has some great materials to facilitate your conversations about how the kids can use their WITS:

<https://witsprogram.ca/families/using-wits-with-your-child/wits-parent-toolkit-helpful-resources/>

Professional Learning or PL Days for School Staff

Throughout the year you hear about PL for teachers, where they go off and learn various curriculum items to help enhance their teaching. Some of the sessions result in days off for students but the majority are done after school hours, evenings and on the weekends. The teachers of Lakefield take these PL opportunities seriously as they look to improve their teaching and in turn, the students' learning. Our next PL day is scheduled for Friday March 19th.

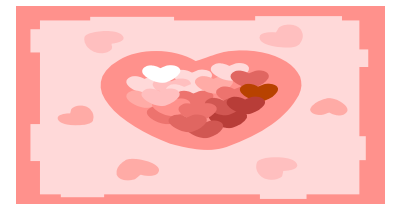
February 22nd-26th will be winter spirit week.

Monday the 22nd will be hat day, **Tuesday** the 23rd school colours day, **Wednesday** the 24th is pink day, **Thursday** the 25th is PJ day and popcorn for sale for \$2. **Friday** the 26th is beach clothing day – we are all dreaming of sunny beaches this winter!!

Family Fitness Challenge

Mr. Kelley has challenged families to become more active during the month of February. Record your activities and return the completed calendar at the end of the month. When you have completed the activities and returned the form you will be entered into the draw for wonderful prizes. Get up and get active with your family, try something new and see what fun and happiness it can bring.

All ballots need to be returned to the school on or before Thursday, February 25th to be entered into the draw.



Imagination is more important than knowledge



SPEAKING OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE...

(from the ASD-S Speech-Language Pathology Department)

The Many Strands of Reading

(From: Reading Rockets, The Access Center, and LD Online www.readingrockets.org/target)

There are many reasons why reading can be hard. Reading is a complex process that draws upon many skills that need to be developed at the same time. This handout describes 3 prominent components of reading and difficulties that kids experience with in each area. This is not an exhaustive list. It's important to note that struggling readers will often have problems in multiple areas.

<p>Phonological and Phonemic Awareness <i>Phonological awareness</i> is a broad skill that includes identifying and manipulating larger units of oral language—parts such as words, syllables, onsets and rimes, and individual sounds (phonemes).</p> <p><i>Phonemic awareness</i> refers to the ability to focus on and manipulate individual sounds (phonemes) in spoken words. Acquiring phonemic awareness is important because it is the foundation for spelling and word recognition skills. Phonemic awareness is one of the best predictors of how well children will learn to read during the first two years of instruction.</p>	<p>Vocabulary</p> <p><i>Vocabulary</i> refers to the words we must understand to communicate effectively. Vocabulary plays a fundamental role in the reading process, and contributes greatly to a reader's comprehension. A reader cannot understand a text without knowing what most of the words mean. Students learn the meaning of most words indirectly, through everyday experiences with oral and written language. Other words are learned through carefully designed instruction that teaches important words.</p>	<p>Language Comprehension</p> <p><i>Comprehension</i> is the understanding and interpretation of what is read. To be able to accurately understand written material, children need to be able to 1) decode what they read; 2) make connections between what they read and what they already know; and 3) think deeply about what they have read. One big part of comprehension is having a sufficient vocabulary, or knowing enough word meanings. Readers who have strong comprehension are able to make decisions about what they read—what is important, what is a fact, what caused an event to happen, which characters are funny. Thus comprehension involves combining reading with thinking and reasoning.</p>
<p>A Parent's Perspective What I see at home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She has difficulty thinking of rhyming words for a simple word like <i>cat</i> (such as <i>rat</i> or <i>bat</i>). • He doesn't show interest in language play, word games, or rhyming. <p>What I can do to help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do sound-related activities, such as helping your child think of a number of words that start with the /m/ or /ch/ sound, or other beginning sounds. • Make up silly sentences with words that begin with the same sound, such as "Nobody was nice to Nancy's neighbor." • Use computer games designed to build your child's phonemic skills. • Read books with rhymes. Teach your child rhymes, short poems, and songs. 	<p>A Parent's Perspective What I see at home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She's unable to tell about her day in a way that makes sense. • He doesn't link words from a book to similar words from another book or real life. • She misuses common words. <p>What I can do to help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engage your child in conversations every day. If possible, include new and interesting words in your conversation. • Read to your child each day. When the book contains a new or interesting word, pause and define the word for your child. • Help build word knowledge by classifying and grouping objects or pictures while naming them. • Play verbal games and tell jokes and stories. 	<p>A Parent's Perspective What I see at home</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • She's not able to summarize a passage or a book. • He might be able to tell you what happened in a story, but can't explain why events went the way they did. • She can't explain what a character's thoughts or feelings might have been. <p>What I can do to help</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hold a conversation and discuss what your child has read. Ask your child probing questions about the book and connect the events to his or her own life. • Help your child go back to the text to support his or her answers. • Discuss the meanings of unknown words, both those he reads and those he hears.