

January 4, 2023



Dear Parents,

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a happy, healthy New Year. Now if we could just get some nice fluffy snow for the children to play in!!! Please take note of the following:

Retirements: First and foremost, I would like to say that the start to the New Year has been bitter-sweet for us at LES. After over 30 years of service to our school, Susan and Shirley Rodgers have retired. While we are very happy for them, we are also sad to see them go. They contributed so much to making our daycare and playground a safe and enjoyable place for our students. We wish them both well in their retirement and will look forward to occasional visits in the future.

Cheese Fundraiser: Thank you to all who supported our cheese fundraiser. With your help and support, we were able to raise \$4,724.00 to cover the final payment for our mural project. If you haven't had a chance to come and see the mural, please do so. There are lots of hidden treasures that can be viewed in this wonderful work of art that depicts the history of our school.

Cafeteria News: We have good news and bad news about our cafeteria service. As you know, our kitchen has not been renovated for many years and is long overdue for a make-over. Our school board applied to the ministry for a grant to renovate the entire kitchen and the grant has been approved. Unfortunately, this may cause a disruption in services for a couple of months while the renovation is taking place. We fully understand that the ideal time to do these renovations would be during the summer months, but from our experience, it is very difficult to get work done during this time due to a huge demand for construction work and lack of time (last year all three stairwells at LES were supposed to be re-done and new fire doors installed. Unfortunately, time and resources only allowed for one to be completed. The 2 other stairwells will hopefully be completed in the summer). Once we know the exact start date for the kitchen project, we will let you know. We have asked to be advised one month in advance. The company doing the work has committed to only starting the project once all the necessary materials have been received to eliminate possible delays during the project, by materials being "out of stock". This will help to minimize the closure time for the kitchen. We understand that this will cause inconvenience for those of you who regularly use this service and we are examining different options to help. We may offer a pizza day once a week during this time and we may also be able to prepare and sell snacks. We will let you know more as soon as we know when the renovation will take place. In the meantime, thank you for your patience and understanding. The positive in all of this, is that we will have a beautiful, modern kitchen in the end.

Registration: It's that time of the year again!!! If your child is already attending L.E.S. please make sure to go onto the parent portal from January 9th to Jan 22nd (where you go to get report cards) to re-register them for next year. The registration period for **NEW students** for the 2023-2024 school year will then take place from January 23rd to February 3rd. If you have a child that you would like to register for Pre-Kindergarten, Kindergarten, or other grades who are not currently attending L.E.S., please call our school secretary at 819-569-5103 to set up an appointment to come in and register. Again this year, we will not be accepting drop-ins so please make an appointment.

Pre-K: For the third year in a row, L.E.S. will be offering a Pre-Kindergarten program for children who have reached the age of 4 by September 30th. The Pre-K program is a full-time program where the students attend school during the same hours and for the same number of days as the other children and they can take the bus to and from school if necessary. The program is taught by a qualified teacher and your child must be eligible for instruction in English in Quebec to be able to attend. We are hoping to have two Pre-K classes next year. Should you require more information about our Pre-K program, please see the brochure that is posted on our website at <http://lennoxville.etsb.qc.ca/>

Late Arrivals: Just a reminder that your children must be at school for 8:30 a.m. Late arrivals are disruptive and do not help children to get their day off to a good start. The homeroom period is



from 8:30 a.m. to 8:40 a.m. and by 8:40 the children should be in their seats, ready to learn. Thank you for your cooperation in showing your children that school is important.



Winter Clothing: Please remember that your children are outside for 2–20-minute recess periods and 1- 50-minute lunch hour. Students are arriving at school with no mittens, scarves or hats. These items, along with warm jackets, boots and snow pants are a must for making their time outside enjoyable. We still go outside on very cold days so please make sure that they are dressed appropriately.



Parking Lot Issues: We continue to have problems with people parking in the staff area and expecting their children to cross the parking lot to get into their car. This is **NOT** allowed as it is very **dangerous**. Unless you are parking in the visitor spots (which have pathways beside each spot leading to the playground so the children don't have to walk amongst moving cars), you shouldn't be in the parking lot. Likewise, you should not be parking in the entrance way either. Thank you for your understanding.



Forgotten Items: It happens often that parents arrive during the day to bring items that their children have forgotten at home. We are working hard to teach the children to be responsible for themselves and for this reason, we ask that unless it is a lunch that has been forgotten, you allow your children to bring the items to school the following day. Thank you for helping us to help them.



Last Minute Changes at the End of the Day: Please note that if your child will be following a different routine at the end of the day, you must send a note, in writing, to the child's teacher in the morning. With over 300 students, dismissal time is a very busy time, and we need your support. The last thing we want is for a child to be going home to an empty house because there was a change in plans and the message didn't get relayed. We are doing our best, but there have been some close calls where we've actually had to run outside and pull children off the bus due to very last-minute requests and this is not safe. Thank you for your understanding.



Planning Day: Don't forget that Friday, February 10th, is a planning day and there are no classes for students on that day.



Please don't hesitate to contact me should you have questions or concerns.



Kind Regards,



Dawn Irving, Principal



Important Dates:



Next Governing Board Meeting – January 16th at 6:30 p.m. Please note that this is a virtual meeting and if you would like to attend, kindly send me an email and I will send you the link for the meeting.



Next PPO Meeting- January 10th at 7:00 p.m. in the staff lounge (2nd floor).