

“Watt’s Happening”
École LeMarchant St. Thomas
6141 Watt St. Halifax, Nova Scotia B3H 2B7
Phone: 421-6769 Fax: 421-3036
lmsts@staff.ednet.ns.ca
<http://lemarchant.ednet.ns.ca/>
February/ février 2012



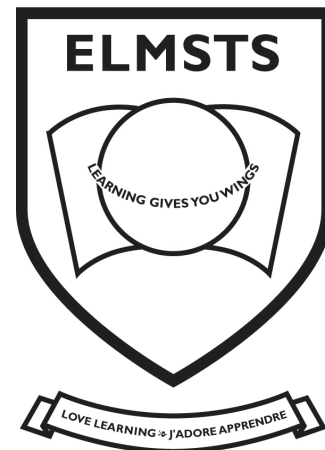
The first month of 2012 has passed and schools are already preparing for the 2012-2013 school year. **February is registration month.** Please let your friends and neighbours with primary age children know that they should contact the school for an appointment to register.

We are now six weeks into the second semester and students at LeMarchant St. Thomas are involved in a variety of learning activities. The primary students in Mme Fortuna’s room can tell you lots of facts about *les dinosaures*. Students in primary Lacroix interviewed me in French last week and primary Chandler and primary/one Quase are preparing for a trip to the art gallery at Dalhousie University. Students in grades one, two and three are steadily increasing their oral and written literacy skills. In 2/3 MacAskill –Young students are learning about persuasive writing through movie, book and restaurant reviews, while students in 3 Gallivan and 3 Fennell are writing directions and learning how to organize their ideas for a non-fiction text.

Students in grades 4-6 are busy practicing for our February musical called *Charleston*. On Monday, February 6, at 5:30 we would like to have a meeting for parents who are interested in helping out with the show. Remember to mark your calendar for one of our two evening performances on **Wednesday, February 29th** and **Thursday, March 1st**. All are welcome to attend.

In addition to the musical, students in 5 Knubley are involved in the Adopt a Musician program this year sponsored by *Symphony Nova Scotia*. Students from all over HRM who are involved in the program will perform original compositions at the Rebecca Cohn on Saturday, March 4th.

Our Leadership students in grades six have been teaching their peers new playground games at lunch. They have also been busy planning events for Carnival Week, March 5th- 9th and activity stations for February Fit Fridays in the gym.



Staff for 2011-2012

Administration:

Principal: Pauline Murray
V. P. Moira Cavanaugh
Secretary Anita McDonald

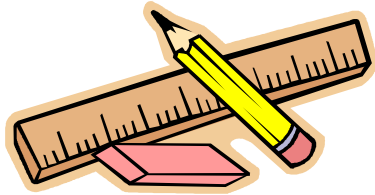
Teachers:

Primary C Lindsay Chandler
Primary F Iris Fortuna
Primary L Suzanne Lacroix
Primary/One Q Mary Quase
Grade 1 L Isabelle Levesque & Sarah Purdy
Grade 1 M Michelle McIlwrick
Grade 2M Susan Murwin
Grade 2B Karine Babineau
Grade 2/3 M/Amy Macaskill & Tracey Young
Grade 3F Marie Fennell
Grade 3L Kim Gallivan
Grade 4 Adele Beaton
Grade 4/5 S Jennifer Surrette & Carol Reynolds
Grade 5/K Rhonda Knubley
Grade 5/6 J Kelly Jordan
Grade 6 M Shelley Myra

Specialists:

Music Lois McVannel
Physical Education Pat Cody & Yvette Leblanc
Core French Rachael Diamond
Art Greg Morrison
Resource Moira Cavanaugh/
Karyn Harrison
Violin Beth Boudreau
Cello Eric Ogden
Band Jocelyn Ryan Wiggin
Library Assistant Sherri Crowe

On **February 17th**, teachers will be engaged in learning new strategies to improve student learning. In the morning we will be exploring Restorative Practices to improve communication and conflict resolution skills. In the afternoon we are continuing our work in the area of student self-assessment and student portfolios. **Note that this is a professional development day and there is no school for students.**



When teachers learn, students learn. Teaching quality is improved through continuous professional learning. In order to remain effective in today's classroom, teachers must be continuously looking at strategies to improve their practice. The needs of society and of our students continue to change. Professional development is crucial and today, the most promising context for continuous professional learning is the professional learning community. In 2010, the Minister of Education struck a committee – the Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Study Committee – to study this topic and make recommendations to government. The report of the PLC Study Committee can be found on the Department of Education website at:

http://www.ednet.ns.ca/pdfdocs/reports/PLC_Study_Committee_Report_EN.pdf

LeMarchant St. Thomas School Advisory Council (SAC)

Our next School Advisory is scheduled for Thursday, February 9th at 4:30.

If you have a question about school policies or issue you'd like addressed you may contact one of the School Advisory Council members.

Your parent representatives are:

Shannon Black (FI)

Shannon Black shan_ben@hotmail.com

Jason Morrison (FI)

Jason.Morrison@cdha.nshealth.ca

Maggie Winstanley

maggiew@eastlink.ca

Constable Shaun Carvery is our community member carverys@halifax.ca

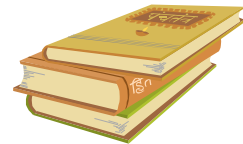
Our PEBS assembly will be held Wednesday, February 1st. We have been working on:

Respect yourself and others by taking care of your belongings.

Please encourage your child to come dressed appropriately for the weather. With the fluctuating temperatures this winter, dressing in layers is extremely important. Remember to **label your child's lunch box and clothing** so we can return lost items. There is a link to Mabel's labels on our school web page. We have about **six bags of unclaimed clothing in our lost and found.**



Our February - March goal is: *Respect yourself and others in the lunch room*



Battle of the Books

Good luck to our 2012 Battle of the Books team, Isabelle C., Sophie C., Molly Mo., Theo G., Meredith O., and Sarah W. Their first battle is scheduled for Wednesday, February 1st at 4:00pm at Wozzles. The second competition will take place on Tuesday, February 14th.

Tattletales Pennies for Books Campaign

Send in your pennies this month. We will be collecting Pennies for books again this year for Tattletales bookstore. Tattletales will match our donation and exchange our pennies for books for our school.

Grade 6 Canteen



On Friday's the grade six students in 5/6 Jordan are selling canteen items to raise money for their trip to Université Sainte Anne in June. All items are \$1.00.

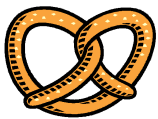
FEBRUARY IS REGISTRATION MONTH FOR NEW PRIMARIES.

Our French Immersion information night is scheduled for 7:00pm, Wednesday, February 8th. Please inform any friends or neighbours with Primary aged children. (Five years old by December 31, 2012)



Student Charity

Bring in your change on Thursday, February 2nd. Matthew and Rebekah Bercovici are registered as Change Bandits in support of the IWK Radio-thon on C100



On **Thursday, February 16th** students in Grade 5 Knublely and Jordan will be hosting a **canteen** sale to raise money for leukemia research. This will replace the grade six canteen for one week only as there is no school on February 17th.

Family Entertainment Basket: Grade 6 Jordan is raffling a basket of goodies as a fundraiser for their trip. The draw will be held during the school assembly for May. Grade 6 students will be selling tickets at the **H&S Bingo**, the **Musical**, the **open house** and **during parent-teacher interviews**.



Home & School News

The next general meeting of the Home and School is scheduled for **Tuesday, February 7, 2012 at 7:00pm in the LMST staffroom.**

Our annual Home & School sponsored **Bingo** for families, is scheduled for Friday, **February 24th** from 6:00-8:00pm.



Winter Carnival Week

Our Grade Six Leaders are planning fun activities for Winter Carnival Week March 5th-9th. See the schedule below:

MONDAY: Hat Day and School wide Bingo 11:30-12:00 (Main Bldg.)

TUESDAY: Read-a-thon 11:30-12:00 and Sporty/Team Day (students can wear a sports uniform, team hat, gym clothing etc.)

WEDNESDAY: Crazy Hair Day (remember our scent aware policy)

THURSDAY: Backwards Day

FRIDAY: "Carnival Day" - activity stations in the gym all day for classes (schedule to be announced) and Pajama Day



Community News

Community Transit NS is in the process of developing a public transportation strategy for the province. For this we are seeking the maximum amount of input from as broad a cross section of the population as possible. Survey link: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NJKZXCG> . Please share this widely with your school community.

ART TECH Game Design! Animation! ROBOTS! March 12-16!

Celebrating 8 years of state-of-the-art fun!

Details about our [MARCH BREAK CAMPS](#) are on our website. Need more information? Call toll-free 1-877-530-3177.

Location - Once again we will offer our programs at the Shambhala School at 5450 Russell Street. There is ample parking on Russell street for morning drop-offs and after noon pick-ups. Early drop-off between 8:30 and 9:00 am – no extra charge. Extended Day Option is Available.

SUMMER CAMP OPPORTUNITIES

Great news! EXCEL will once again be offering Summer Day Camps! Our qualified and experienced team of energetic camp staff will be leading child(ren) through seven weekly themed camps of with weekly swims and fun excursions. Operating from within seven elementary schools, the weekly camps will run from 7:30 am to 5:30 pm each day and are open to children in grades Primary through Grade 6. (Note - all camp participants must have attended elementary school during 2011-12.) The cost for the camps is \$160 per week. Sibling discounts will apply. Registration for Summer Camps will begin at 8:00 am on Monday, Feb. 13th, 2012. Please visit the EXCEL pages of the HRSB website for further details on the Camp locations, themes and guidelines or you may also contact our EXCEL Coordinator at 464-2000 ext. 2495 or by email to jwilliams@hrsb.ns.ca. Note – EXCEL is also still accepting applications for our six 2012 March Break camp sites.