

February 5, 2015

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École LeMarchant-St. Thomas School

February Newsletter

Special points of interest:

- February 5th, New Primary French Immersion Info. Session - 6:00pm
- February 12th, SAC -4:30pm
- February 12th, Home & School - 6:30pm
- February 11th, LMST Music Night
- February 13th, Red & White day.
- February 16th, Viola Desmond Day - **No school for students**
- February 19th, LMST Home & School Bingo-
- February 20th Prof. Development Day - **No school for stu-**

I think that it is fair to say that Winter is definitely upon us. The students have been enjoying the snow at recess and lunch. The second term is unfolding rapidly and I'm seeing some tremendous learning taking place in these classrooms and specialist rooms. Thank you to all parents/guardians for unending support and cooperation as we continue to provide high quality education to our children here at LMST.

We had to say goodbye to Anita McDonald on Jan. 30th. That was a sad time for us all. Anita is very happy to be looking ahead at the next phase of her life, but is staying in close contact with the school. She will be subbing for us and coming on some class trips now and then. We want to thank the parent community for your incredible generosity toward her gift. Anita and her husband have now booked their life long dream cruise to Alaska. Thanks again for helping us make her retirement a wonderful memory.

Please drop by in the next while and say hello to our new secretary Mandy Smith. Mandy is eager to take on the task of providing LMST students, staff and parents with the same competence and wonderful personality that we had in Anita. I know you will like her.

We are also welcoming Darren Feetham, our new daytime caretaker.

Here's what is happening in February.

LMST School Spelling Bee

"Congratulations to Lulu Gzowski (Grade 6) and her winning of the LMST School Spelling Bee on Monday, Jan. 26th in the gym. Second place went to Sophie Tsaltas. The spelling bee had 20 contestants, and lasted 17 rounds! Lulu will be representing LMST at the Regional Spelling Bee sponsored by the Chronicle Herald on March 7 at Halifax Citadel High School." Good luck Lulu!

Student and Staff Safety

Please do not park your vehicle on the sidewalk in front of the doors on Watt St., nor in front of the gate to the playground on Watt St. Thank you for your support.

Battle of the Books

Since last October, our Battle of the Books club has been reading voraciously to prepare for the battles to begin. Many books have been read and the team is ready. The club season is now closed and the B.O.B. Team's season begins. The team won their first competition on Jan. s20th. Well done team! We will keep you updated on their progress. We are thrilled to see these students reading and enjoying themselves while doing it. We support them all the way and will be proud of their accomplishment no matter how far they advance. Go team go!



February is Primary Registration Month

Primary Registration for September 2015 takes place all throughout the month of February. Registration can be done online and sent in, or by dropping in to see secretary Ms. Smith at the school. If we are your home school, please register here for English. If we are your designated French Immersion school, you register here at LMST and not at your home school. This means we register our own students for both English and French Immersion.

If you haven't decided in which language you want your child educated, we are hosting a French Immersion information session on the French Immersion Program in the Library at 6:00 pm on Thursday, February 5, 2015. We will answer any questions you may have in an effort to assist you in making that important decision. Everyone is welcome.

If you know of anyone having a school age child beginning school in September, please pass this information along or advise them to call us. Thank you for your assistance.



LeMarchant St. Thomas Family Bingo Night

Thursday, February 19th, 2015

Tickets are \$5 per person and includes a sheet of 3 cards per game
(Additional bingo sheets available for \$5)

Bingo: 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

Serving Pizza from 5:30 to 6:30

Café: 5:30 to 7:45 p.m.

Doors Open at 5:30 p.m.

Come early to pick your seats

Great Bingo prizes purchased by the Home & School Association
Craft kits, Lego, sports equipment, board games, movie passes, & more!

Interested in volunteering at this fun event?
Please contact lmstvolunteer@gmail.com



Continuous School Improvement

We have completed the data collection for classroom assessments for term 1. The Bus Cluster PD day on February 20th will permit us as a whole group to analyze that data. The focus will be on identifying areas of concern, and to plan instructional strategies that will address these concerns at each grade level. The next steps for classroom data collection are already in place and teachers have begun accumulating data for term 2 through a formative assessment practice, as was begun in term 1. The teachers are continuing to embed formative assessment into their daily practice of assessing their students; a practice that engages students in their own learning at a deeper and more meaningful level on a daily and continuous bases.

In the next newsletter, we will give feedback regarding our findings on the data collected in term 1.

iPads for the classrooms

With the money raised from our coffee fundraiser and with money given to us from the Home & School, we have just placed an iPad in grades 3 to 6. We hope to raise more to place one in every classroom this year if possible, and if not by fall next year. Thank you for your support.



Red and White Day

February 14th is Valentine's Day and February 15th is the 50th Anniversary of the Canadian Flag. Therefore, on Friday, February 13th, LMST is going to wear red and white clothing to celebrate both days. Dig out your red and whites and don them on!

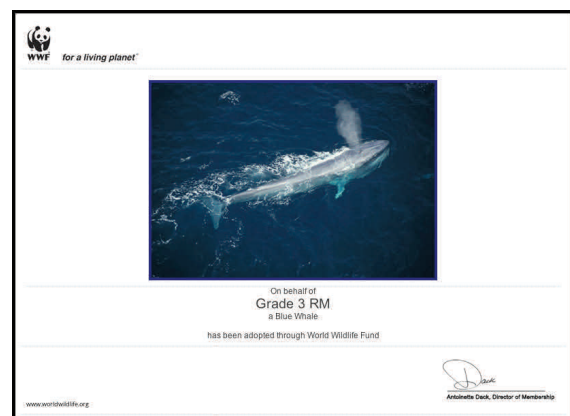


LMST Music Night

Our strings, choir and band students will be performing for their parents on February 11th in the gym. The students should arrive at 6:30 for a 7:00pm start. Students need to wear a white top; dark bottoms (pants or skirt).

Please join us as they show all their talent and hard work.

Snow date is February 17th at the same time.



The grade 3 students from 3/4 RM were featured in an article in the [East Coast Post](#). They were recognized because they decided they wanted to give a donation to charity and chose the World Wildlife Foundation (WWF). They planned a fundraiser to promote awareness and raise money to support the WWF. After making signs, doing some research and baking cookies the grade threes reached their goal and collected enough to adopt a blue whale. Thank you to the support from the LMST staff and even a few students!

Parker Street Food Bank

Thank you to all the families that have brought food donations in for the Parker Street Food Bank.

If you are still interested in sending food in, but haven't had the opportunity yet, please see below the items for each grade level.

Grade Primary: canned hardy soup, stew, or chilli

Grade One: canned fruit, vegetable, or bean

Grade Two: cereal

Grade Three: granola bars (nut free)

Grade Four: canned chicken, salmon, ham, or tuna

Grade Five: pasta noodles

Grade Six: pasta sauce



A bus will be coming on **Thursday, February 12th** at 10:30am to pick up all donations.

Class trips

Are you interested in being a chaperone with your child's class? In order to attend, parents/guardians must have a valid Child Abuse Registry (CAR) and a Criminal Records Check (CRC) on file at school. Both a CAR and a CRC are valid for three years.

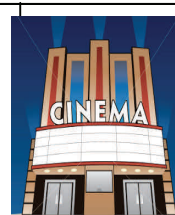
You can get a CRC on line at mybackcheck.com, it is less expensive if you email the school secretary and request an invitation. Please remember to click the 'view' option after you are confirmed, and then we can see it at school. You can also go to your local police or RCMP station to have the paperwork completed. Once you complete a CAR and mail it in, it gets mailed back to your house. Please bring in a paper copy. CAR Forms are available at school; you can pick one up or we can send one home with your child upon request.

If you have this paperwork completed for another organization, please bring in the original, we will make a copy. If you have questions about your paperwork already on file at school, email Mrs. Ring at aring@hrsbc.ca or ask your child's teacher to check for you.

Thank you for participating in your child's class trips.



Once again we would like to thank **Kevin Tanner of Advantage Sound Systems** for donating the big screen audio visual equipment for our Movie Night on Jan. 30th. This screen and sound system makes movie enjoyment for the children so much better. Our heartfelt thanks for your kind donation Kevin.



Community Information



Tie up your skates and go around the Emera Oval a few times this winter. Exercise is where it's at!



Looking for an interesting camp for your children at March Break? Here are some ideas. It's never too early to register.

- **March Break Artech**
www.artechcamps.com/
- **Art Gallery of Nova Scotia**
www.artgalleryofnovascotia.ca
- **Creative Kids Education Centre**
www.creativekids.info/march_break_camps
- **Bricks 4 Kidz Canada**
www.bricks4kidz.com/canada-novascotia-halifax/home/camps/
- **Mount St. Vincent University**
www.msvu.ca
- **The Discovery Centre**
www.thediscoverycentre.ca
- **NSCAD (Nova Scotia College of Arts and Design)**
www.nscad.ca
- **Dalhousie University** (numerous sports camps)
www.dal.ca
- **Maritime Dance**
www.maritimedanceacademy.com
- **Soccer Nova Scotia**
www.maritimedanceacademy.com
- **Neptune Theatre**
www.theatrens.ca/news-resources/theatre-classes

