



Lincoln Alexander Elementary School

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PRINCIPAL: Mr. M. Hopkins
OFFICE ADMINISTRATOR : Ms. L. Wright

Monday, November 3rd, 2014

Lincoln Alexander School's 25th Anniversary Celebration:

On Thursday, October 23rd we had the opportunity to reflect on the past, catch up on the present and look forward to the future. It was great to see so many of our past students and staff along with our current community. I would like to thank Curbside Burgers for their outstanding food. One of the highlights of the evening was the 'flash mob' from our choir led by Mrs. Andreychuk. We were also honoured by the presence of Lincoln Alexander's grand-daughter, Erika Alexander, our school trustee, Lilian Orban and our superintendent, Laura Romano. The 25th anniversary committee was led by Mlle Chiappetta. She is to be commended for her leadership, organization and problem solving throughout the past year. Mlle Chiappetta was instrumental in bringing together our staff, representatives from School Council and former staff members, Diane Lumsden and Sue Potter. It was a true team effort. In particular I would like to thank Diane Lumsden for her persistence and dedication to being the 'keeper' of all the Lincoln Alexander artifacts. We appreciate all her time and passion in keeping our past alive. Many of these artifacts will now be sent to archives at Vincent Massey School. In the new year, we will be working toward building a time capsule to be opened at the school's 50th anniversary.

Progress Reports:

Progress reports will be sent home on Tuesday, Nov. 18th for students in grades 1 to 6. These reports allow students and parents to have a better understanding of how they are progressing toward achieving academic and learning skills expectations. It is imperative for all parents to arrange a time to conference with their child's teacher to further discuss strengths and areas for improvement. Conference times will be made available on Thursday Nov. 20th (early evening) and during the morning of Friday Nov. 21st (PA day-no school for students). We will be sending a letter home to start this process soon. We will make every attempt to schedule 'family-friendly' conference times. Please know that if you have a concern over your child's progress the door is always open; please contact your child's teacher through the agenda or calling the school.

Activities in Motion:

It is always exciting when we have so much 'stuff' going on at Lincoln Alexander School-October was no exception. Our cross country team competed admirably at Christie Lake Conservation Area where many personal bests were achieved. Thank you to our parent volunteers (Mrs. McShane, Mr. Brill & Mrs. Nadeem) and Mrs. Moulton for coaching the team. We are pleased to have the 'strings' programme at our school. Every Wednesday, four of our students are learning how to play the violin. Thank you to Mrs. Tadeson for helping to bring this valuable experience to Lincoln. Ms. Chute, Mrs. Moulton and Ms. King are looking forward to seeing our swim team



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compete at the H.W.D.S.B. meet on Thursday, November 6th. Our choir put on a fantastic 'flash mob' at the 25th anniversary celebration. Mrs. Andreychuk continues to inspire our students in the Arts. Finally, Mr. Pitkeathly and Ms. King are leading our volleyball team as they participate in a varsity junior league.

Safety and Supervision Update:

Thank you to parents for calling the school to report your child's absence/late arrival. We really appreciate this as we know your child is safe. We continually review safety/supervision at Lincoln Alexander School. Soon, staff will be wearing brightly coloured vests during playground supervision. We will be purchasing new walkie-talkies for improved communication on the playground. Additionally, all parents will be required to sign in at the office and where a visitor/volunteer tag. Please make sure you take this necessary step for improved safety in the school even when simply taking your JK student to his or her classroom.

School Council:

We had our first meeting as a new council under the leadership of Mrs. Mandy Bullard (our chair) on Wednesday, October the 29th. I am pleased to say we have a very active group who are looking for many ways to provide input for the school, fund raise and partner with staff on school based initiatives. Their first event will be a Movie Night on Friday, November 28th. Funds raised from this evening will be going toward purchasing more books for the library. Also, they have committed to fundraising in the future for outdoor supplies for our Kindergarten Play Area. I asked for advice/support from School Council on two changes that we are proposing. First, we will be sending home newsletters and information to families using the 'youngest and only' approach in an effort to reduce paper. For example, if you have a child in JK and grade 4, the JK student will receive the newsletter. Also, with Council's support we will be offering the option to buy pizza tickets in advance (5 slices for \$10) similar to the way we sell milk. The next School Council meeting will take place on Wed. November 26th at 6:00 p.m. (all are welcome to attend).

School Action Plan:

On October 14th, our teachers and DECE's were provided some additional learning time to develop their own inquiries for the students in their class. This inquiry included, determining the area of student need, where staff wanted to learn/explore, developing a plan for action, a method of measuring the effect of the action and finally a time to reflect on the plan/action. During this time, we had the opportunity to learn more about how to effectively utilize technology (including ipads) to accelerate instruction for our students. I am really excited to see the many different directions our teachers and DECE's are pursuing in order to help our students learn.



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H.W.D.S.B. Days of Significance for November:

Please click on the following link to see all the days of significance for November and their associated meanings:

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/schools/calendar/dos/>

If you are having trouble opening the link, right click and select open or copy and paste the link into your browser.

Upcoming Dates for December, 2014:

- Friday Dec. 5th-School Visit with Laura Romano (superintendent of student achievement)
- Wednesday, Dec. 10th-Carol Sing (time to be determined in the evening)
- Friday, Dec. 19th (Last day of instruction for 2014-also our 3rd Nutritional Exemption Day)

Also, we will be having our QSP fundraiser during the first 2 weeks of November where we will be selling magazine subscriptions and on-line photo products. The profits from this fundraiser will go directly toward purchasing a second wireless microphone for our school.

I'm looking forward to another great month. As always, if you have any concerns or questions, please let me know. I welcome these conversations as they are opportunities for me to better understand and work with the families of Lincoln Alexander School. This is also one of the 16 Habits of Mind- Listening to Understand with Empathy.

Sincerely,

Mr. M. Hopkins