



École LeMarchant-St. Thomas School

Les nouvelles de septembre 2020 September 2020 News



Welcome/Bienvenue to the 2020-21 school year!

A warm welcome to Emilie Tsigotis, Vice Principal. Ms. Tsigotis was most recently a grade 1/2 and Reading Recovery teacher at Saint Mary's elementary school. She has lots of administrative experience from John W MacLeod and Elizabeth Sutherland schools. Bienvenue Mme. Tsigotis!

Our theme for the month of September is **Friendship/friendliness**. Staff will be discussing the importance of being open to new friendships and the qualities that make a good friend.

The staff at LeMarchant-St.Thomas (LMST) is looking forward to a wonderful year of collaboration and learning.

Communication

Although it is a very busy time of year for parents and teachers alike, returning to school is always an exciting time of year - full of promise and new beginnings. Ms. Tsigotis and I, along with the teaching staff, believe in keeping the lines of communication open. Please feel free to give us a call if you have any questions, concerns or compliments. We look forward to working with all of you as partners to provide the best educational opportunities for all of our students. Some of the many ways we will communicate with you this year is through **school newsletters, email, email through Swift technology, phone calls, student agenda, Twitter, and the school website**. We work diligently to keep our website as up to date as possible. Please check it regularly at <https://lmt.hrce.ca/> If you have not received or had a chance to look at our parent/guardian handbook it can be found at <https://lmt.hrce.ca/lmt/news/2020/08/27/new-2020-2021-lmst-parentstudent-handbook>

It is very important that we have the most up to date information for you in case of an emergency as well as it facilitates ongoing communication. If your contact information needs updating, please let us know.

6141 Watt Street, Halifax, NS, B3H 2B7
Ph: (902) 421-6969 Fax: (902) 421-3036

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Emilie Tsigotis, Vice Principal
Mandy Smith, Administrative Assistant

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Monitoring Your Child's Health

Our shared health is our shared responsibility. We need families to monitor the health of their child(ren) each day before they come to school using the COVID-19 Daily Checklist. A copy of the checklist is attached or you can access it on our website at: <https://lmt.hrce.ca/> Please keep your child at home when they are ill, even if their symptoms are mild, and contact 811. By monitoring daily, you are doing your part to protect our shared health. Thank you! Merci!

Arrival and Dismissal

It will be important that we all do our part to limit congestion/crowds from gathering at the start and end of the day. We are asking all parents/guardians of grades 2-6 students to say good bye to their child from the sidewalk. As a school, we will be staggering our entrance and dismissals, and using multiple exits, to minimize traffic from entering/exiting the school at one entrance at one time. This includes:

Main Entrance doors	Side door (playground side)/ South West door/ Watt Street entrance	Side door (playground side) closest to the field/ North West door/Field entrance
Primary Tighe	2 Englehutt	1 Arrosa
Primary Lacroix	2 Jordan	1 Pellerin/Neatt
Primary DePalma	2 McFarlane/Spearns	3 Gallivan
Primary/1 MacAskill/Zelios	5 Babineau	3 Leduc
Primary/1 MacLean	5 Szeto	3/4 MacDonald
½ Morgan	5/6 Cunningham	3/4 Barkhouse
½ Moore	6 Hagerman	4 Beaton
All students that are late please use front doors	6 Chiasson	4 Taylor
		4/5 Michelin

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Under the Back to School plan, schools will be limiting outside visitors in the building, including parents/guardians. This means you will not be able to enter the school to drop off or pick-up your child. If you drive or walk your child to school, you can support this measure by

- Dropping off from anytime between 8:40 am-8:50 am. Students enter the building upon arrival.
- Pick up- 3 pm – please know that because of distancing- there could be slight delays with dismissal. Students will be dismissed from the same doors they entered in the morning. Your patience is appreciated.

Lunch news- **The Cafeteria is not open until further notice**

We have a cafeteria and cafeteria services (MC Food Services) at LMST. Students will be eating their lunch in their classroom. Please stay tuned for more information regarding ordering food for your child.

PEANUT SMART AND “SCENT”SITIVE SCHOOL



We have several students who have life threatening allergies to peanuts and nut products. Please respect their health and well-being by sending your child with snacks and lunches that are nut-free. Additionally, many of our students have medical conditions that can be triggered by scented products. When visiting the school please refrain from wearing products containing perfumes. This would include hand sanitizer.

Water Bottles

We recommended students bring a water bottle each day to reduce the sharing of water sources in the school as well as limit interactions among cohorts and social gatherings. Bottle filling stations and/or other sources of safe drinking will still be available. Sending your child with a full water bottle in the morning is greatly appreciated.

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Hygiene

Frequent hand washing and using hand sanitizer are public health measures we can all practice both at home and school. We will be emphasizing the importance of hand hygiene, throughout the day specifically when entering school and classrooms and before and after eating. Hand sanitizing stations have been installed at entrances and in hallways, and there will be hand sanitizer in classrooms. Each classroom also has a sink so there will be opportunities to use soap and water. Please note that all homeroom classrooms have a sink.

We will also be working with children on the importance that “no sharing is caring” in a pandemic. Our teachers will be using age-appropriate language to educate students on why they are not able to share food, personal belongings or their individual school supplies.

Facemasks

All students (PP-Grade 12) will be required to wear a mask when travelling on the school bus.

When at school, all students Grades 4 to 12 (including Grade 3 students in a combined class with Grade 4s) will be required to wear a mask. Children in Pre-Primary to Grade 3 are not required to wear a mask in school.

Students must wear their masks (including in hallways and other common areas) when they are unable to physically distance by 2 metres. If students can be seated two metres apart, facing the same direction, they may remove their mask while at their desk.

Masks can be removed when students are eating and drinking or taking part in indoor physical activity when a mask cannot be worn. Masks are not required during outdoor activities.

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We will provide each student with two cloth facemasks on the first day of school. We will also have a supply on hand if a child forgets or loses one during the day.

Public Health has encouraged all of us to socialize the wearing of masks as a measure to protect our collective health. Here is a link to a video that you can watch with your children before the first day of school: <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/video/covid-19-wear-non-medical-mask-face-covering-properly.html>

Illness at School

Any student who becomes unwell at school will have a separate location in the school where they will be supervised, while they wait to be picked up.

If a child feels unwell or begins to exhibit COVID-19 symptoms, a parent or guardian will be contacted for pick-up. It is very important to ensure that your contact information and other emergency contacts for your child are kept up to date with the school during the school year.

If your child exhibits COVID symptoms, contact 811 to receive advice from Public Health on what to do next, including if/when the child can return to school.

If a COVID-19 case is identified, Public Health will provide direction to the school and HRCE on communicating with families.

Visitors

A strong relationship between home and school is important to student well-being and success. Under the Back to School plan, visitors, includes parents/guardians, will not normally be permitted in the school.

As a school, we will look to alternative ways to engage with parents/guardians that do not require you to physically enter the building. Teachers will continue to reach out to you as it relates to your child's education and well-being. We encourage you to communicate regularly with the school and your child's teachers through your child's agenda, email and phone calls

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School Advisory Council (SAC)

About our School Advisory Council (SAC)

The School Advisory Council consists of parent, staff, and community members who provide input to the principal, the Regional Centre for Education (HRCE), and the Department of Education and Early Childhood Development (EECD) on a range of issues related to LMST and the school system as a whole.

Some of the functions we serve are:

- Collaborating with the principal and participating in efforts to improve student achievement and student and community well-being by monitoring progress and improvements under the school improvement plan
- Assisting in developing school policies that promote student achievement and a positive, safe and inclusive learning environment
- Developing strategies to improve and support the extra-curricular programs and special projects in the school

We're currently looking for at least one new parent representative for a term of no more than three years. If you're interested in joining the SAC, please email a short bio of yourself to Graeme Gunn (chair) at halifaxgunn@gmail.com or Moira Cavanaugh (principal) at mcavanaugh@hrce.ca by September 10, 2020.

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LMST Green Space Committee and Garden Committee Update

For those who may be new to LMST, the Green Space Committee was created in September 2016 under the authority of the LMST Home and School Association when discussions around the new school design began. The committee is an ad hoc group of parent/guardian volunteers tasked to work with the province and school community to plan and fund the outdoor playground and garden space for the new LMST school. The new outdoor playground officially opened last Fall - thank you again to everyone who helped make that possible.

We are happily in the midst of our first growing season at the LMST Garden. Volunteers had fun watching incredible things grow and harvesting delicious veggies this summer. Lots of things are still growing so please take a look next time you are visiting the school. Thank you to those who helped plant, water and weed this summer.

We will be having a garden committee meeting this fall, if you would like to come and hear what it's all about or help us plan future events, email lmstgarden@gmail.com to be added to the email list. Again, thank you to all the parents, teachers, neighbours and sponsors that have helped over the years create such an engaging and beautiful play and learning space for our community!!



Our LMST community garden

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PARKING

It is important that we work together to ensure student safety in the parking lot of our school. Please remember that the parking lot of the school **is strictly for staff**. Please take note of the many no parking signs, as parking this year will be closely monitored and tickets will be issued by police or from parking enforcement. If at all possible, walking your child to school would be appreciated.



Important Dates

- September 8-first day of school for students
- September 10 - Stand Up Against Bullying Day- students are invited to wear pink or a light coloured t-shirt to school in support of anti- bullying
- September 17- Curriculum Night will be virtual. More information TBA
- September 25 – Professional Development Day- (no school for students)

For a complete listing of staff at LMST please check out our website

<https://lmt.hrce.ca/staff-directory>

Our LMST website <https://lmt.hrce.ca/calendar> has our most up to date listings of events for the 2020-21 school year.

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