



# LESLIE THOMAS JUNIOR HIGH

Home of the Lions

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## September 2023

### Emergency Drills

The safety and security of our students and staff is a top priority for Leslie Thomas Junior High School and the Halifax Regional Centre for Education. We have been implementing a number of measures as part of a comprehensive plan aimed at ensuring our school remains a safe place for our students to learn.

Two of the procedures our school will be practicing are a Hold & Secure and a Lockdown drill. During Hold and Secure external doors are locked (secured) and no one leaves or enters the school. During a lockdown drill, classroom doors are secured and the students remain inside the room until instructed by the teacher to resume their activities. All exterior doors are locked and no one is permitted to enter or leave the building.

In both situations, students are kept inside the school and classrooms when circumstances make it safer to stay in the classroom rather than evacuate. Just as we prepare our students to properly respond to a fire drill, they also need to be aware of the proper response during a lockdown drill or Hold and Secure. These drills should be treated with the same level of importance as fire drills.

Please be assured that staff at our school will spend time discussing the importance of this procedure with students prior to running a drill. We will also take time after the drill to remind them that it was only a practice and there was no danger. When possible, our School Liaison Officer may assist us in conducting the drills just as the Fire Department assists with evacuation drills.

We completed a fire drill this week, our first Lockdown Drill is scheduled for next week and the Hold and Secure drill will take place the following week.

Please take the time to speak with your son/daughter about this procedure and reinforce its importance. We practice these drills to ensure our school remains a safe place for teaching and learning. Please do not hesitate to contact the school if you have any questions or concerns.

## Calendar of Events

September 14 – Pink T-Shirt Day

September 14 – Picture Day

September 14 – Curriculum Night 6 Pm

October 2 – Truth and Reconciliation Day (No Classes)

## Curriculum Night (Thursday, Sept 14)

### Schedule of Events:

6PM – Parents / Guardians Meet in the gymnasium. Introductions from Principal Derek Ferguson and Vice Principal Heather Barnes

6:20 – Depending on Grade Level, Parents/Guardians will move to the following locations:

- Grade 6s will stay in the gymnasium
  - Grade 6 Teachers and Families will first meet in the gymnasium and then move to classrooms to continue the information session
- Grade 7s will move to the cafeteria
  - Grade 7 Teachers and Support Staff will share their Curriculum Information.
- Grade 8s will move to the library (top floor)
  - Grade 8 Teachers and Support Staff will share their Curriculum Information.

6:40 – Repeat of the 6:20 session to allow families to visit other grade levels

- Grade 6s will start in the gymnasium
  - Grade 6 Teachers and Families will first meet in the gymnasium and then move to classrooms to continue the information session
- Grade 7s will move to the cafeteria
  - Grade 7 Teachers and Support Staff will share their Curriculum Information.
- Grade 8s will move to the library (top floor)
  - Grade 8 Teachers and Support Staff will share their Curriculum Information.

If you have further questions, please feel free to contact the teacher.

### School Zone Speed

We would like to remind our school community, that for the safety of our students, the speed limit in a school zone is 30 km/h.