



Leslie Thomas Junior High

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SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

Calendar of Events

Sept. 18 Curriculum Night

Sept. 19 Lockdown Drill

Sept. 26 Hold & Secure Drill

Sept. 27 Orange Shirt Day

Sept. 28 PD Day (no classes)

Oct. 12 Picture Day

Oct. 17 PD Day (no classes)

Oct. 24 Grade 7 Immunization

Principal's Message

We are off to a great start for the 2018-19 school year. With the oppressive heat that greeted us on the first few days almost behind us, and with more seasonal temperatures approaching, students and staff are settling in to their routines. We have 81 grade 6s joining us this year which brings our total enrollment in grades 6 to 8 to 280 students.

We have a couple of new staff members at LTJH this fall. Suzanne Nelson joins us as library support specialist; Michelle Hicks is a new educational program assistant; Alex Deveau is back teaching here after spending a year at another school, and of course I am new. From my perspective, everyone appears to be fitting in nicely.

September is always filled with renewal and excitement. The staff is collaborating on curriculum and getting to know students, sports teams and other extra-curricular activities are being organized, the Breakfast Club is up and running, and routines are being established. I encourage students to make academics their priority, but I also encourage participation in the extra-curricular activities LT has to offer.

We will host our **Curriculum Evening at 6:00 pm** in the gymnasium. On September 18th. This is an opportunity for parents to meet teachers and to discuss curriculum for the first semester. Teachers will be able to provide course outlines and to speak to expectations for students. We look forward to seeing many of you in attendance on the 18th.

In the meantime, if you have anything you would like to discuss with me, I can be reached at 864-6785 ext. 8 or through email at hbeaton@hrce.ca

Harvey Beaton
Principal

School Liaison Officer

We are pleased to welcome Constable Jason Thibodeau as our new RCMP school resource officer. Constable Thibodeau will work at building relationships with students and being a presence in the school from time to time. He will work closely with school administration to address potential issues and ensure school safety.



Guidance

Our guidance counsellor, Ms. MacDonald, is available to meet with students to discuss any concerns they have as we settle into another school year. Feel free to give her a call (902)864-6785 ext. 3 or email at macdonaldl@hrce.ca. Ms. MacDonald will be visiting classes this week to explain her role within the school and remind students how she can be of assistance. Look for more info in upcoming newsletters on guest speakers/presentations to support the guidance program.

Stand Up to Bullying Day

Many thanks to all students and staff who participated in Stand Up to Bullying Day by wearing pink. Wearing pink on this day in the fall has its roots in 2007 when two Nova Scotia boys decided to gather enough pink shirts together to share with their high school peers as a show of support for a student at their high school who was being bullied for wearing pink. You can view our students donning their pink attire at ltjh@hrce.ca

Orange Shirt Day

The Aboriginal Student Support Worker, Theresa Meuse, and some students will be planning for National Orange Day on September 27th at LT. Acknowledging this day increases about the tens of thousands of indigenous children throughout Canada who were removed from their homes and communities and sent to residential schools. Wearing an orange shirt on the 27th will be recognized as a commitment to reconciliation in honour of the children of residential schools.

The Terry Fox Run

Our annual fundraiser will be held on Friday, Sept 21 from 1:50 pm until 2:40 pm at the Met Field. Students have been given pledge sheets to accept donations. Individual students can also setup a private fundraising page at terryfox.org. Last year Leslie Thomas was recognized as a Top Ten School in Nova Scotia raising over \$3000. There will be prizes for our top 20 fundraisers! We encourage all students to participate in this very worthwhile cause!

Safety in the Driveway

We would appreciate it if parents/guardians refrained from using the driveway in the morning and at dismissal. With about a half dozen school busses servicing LT, it becomes quite congested. As always, we are concerned about student safety.

You will notice that yellow lines have been painted along the curb in front of the school. This visual barrier is used to keep students clear of the busses as they arrive and depart. Please remind your sons/daughters to exercise caution in this regard. Students should refrain from crossing directly where busses approach if they are going to meet parents/guardians standing or parked along Metropolitan Avenue.

Lunch

Thank you for your support with lunch programming. If you haven't sent your form back yet, please do so. We are encouraging students to stay on property at lunch so if a student is signed up to stay for lunch, we are making very few exceptions. We cannot monitor students who go off school property.

Cafeteria

Our cafeteria is up and running with MC Food Solutions Ltd. being the provider. Please see the attached menu. The cafeteria offers a wide selection of food items for purchase. Students may pre-order in the morning if they wish and families have the option to order long term through the website www.lunchgroupie.com There you will see different payment options.

Emergency Management Plans (EMP)

All schools in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) are expected to develop an EMP. Leslie Thomas is no exception. As part of the plan, our school will be practicing is a **Lockdown Drill**. 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. 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. Our first drill of the school year will be on **Wednesday, September 19th**.

The following **Wednesday, the 26th**, we will hold a **Hold and Secure Drill**. During a Hold and Secure classes resume their normal routines but classroom doors are locked and no one is permitted to leave. This may occur to keep everyone safe as the result of a situation such as a stray animal wandering into the building, or someone in the hallways experiencing a medical emergency, for example.

SchoolsPlus

Leslie Thomas is a designated SchoolsPlus site. SchoolsPlus is a collaborative inter-agency approach among education, health, justice, community services, and recreation which aims to support children, youth, and families. At Leslie Thomas we have the services of an IWK mental health clinician one day a week, and we have a community outreach worker to support students. If you would like to learn more about how Schools Plus may benefit your family, please contact Ms. MacDonald (guidance counsellor) at 864-6785 (ext 3).



- Student fee payments of \$25 are still being accepted
- Grade 7 Immunization forms should be returned by now
- Follow us on twitter @LeslieThomasSch

Don't forget Curriculum Night on Tuesday, September 18th at 6:00 pm