

THE PIC PULSE

Your monthly update on LDSB's Parent Involvement Committee!

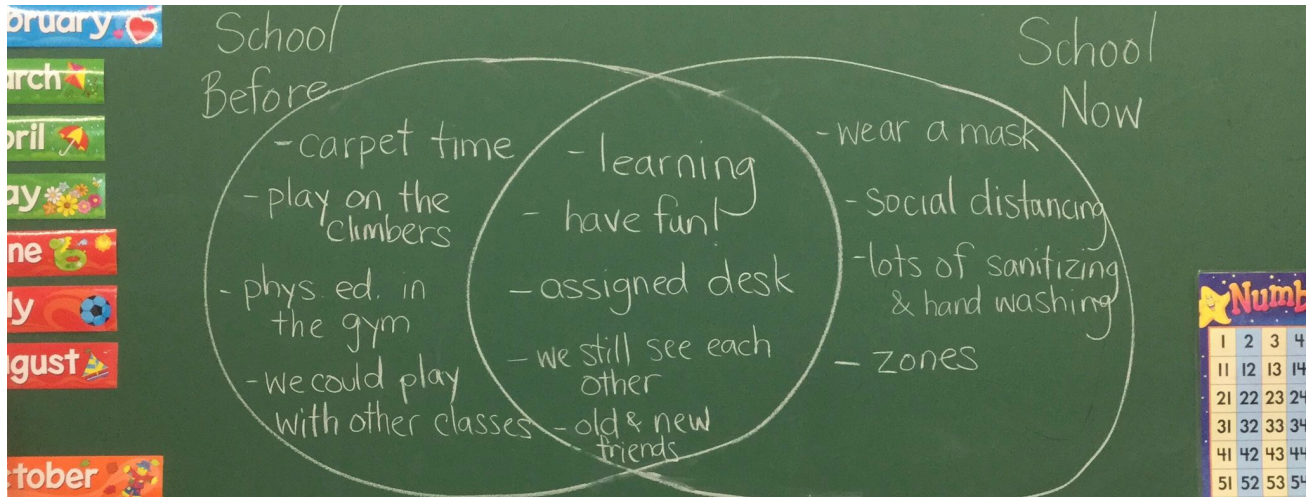


PHOTO: @MrsStephen_LDSB

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WE'RE GROWING!

The Limestone District School Board Parent Involvement Committee restructured, creating 46 new positions to ensure each individual school community is represented - a significant increase from the previous nine positions of one Representative for each Family of Schools.

It is important that each school community is represented! We are still seeking contact/Rep info for the following schools:

- Amherst Island PS
- Bayridge PS
- Clarendon Central PS
- Enterprise PS
- Ernestown SS
- Fairfield Elementary
- JG Simcoe PS
- Land O'Lakes
- LaSalle
- Lord Strathcona
- Module l'Acadie
- Napanee DSS
- North Addington Education Centre
- Perth Road PS
- Rideau Heights PS
- Sydenham HS

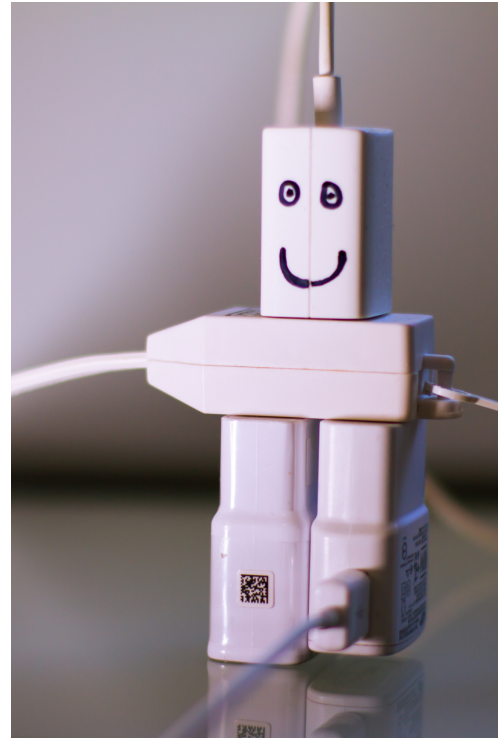
If you or someone you know has contact information for these SACs, please help us connect!

Connecting with Families

In our attempts to ensure each school community is represented in the PIC, we discovered that it is incredibly difficult to get in touch with individual School Advisory Councils (SAC)! In order to effectively support families and engage parents, that needs to change.

We request each School Advisory Council take the following actions to ensure they are accessible to families:

- Create an email address for your SAC. This can be done for free through several platforms, although the most commonly used is Google. Request your SAC's email address be published on your SAC's LDSB website, included in each school newsletter, and ensure your Office Administrator has the contact information for your SAC. ***This is VERY important! LDSB & School Admin are not permitted to disclose personal email addresses.**
- Create a public page on social media. This would not be an appropriate place to post specific information that could potentially jeopardize student safety or privacy, but would be a resource to share general information from your SAC, school, the board, PIC, Public Health, etc. with the larger school community. Most importantly, this would serve as a way for parents to contact and/or connect with your SAC. Ensure your SAC email address is posted on your social media page.
- Create an informal private group for families to connect. This would serve as a casual way for families to connect and stay up-to-date with minimal effort on your part. These groups tend to serve school communities very well in not only establishing, but really increasing the sense of community.



Staying Connected: SACs & Virtual School

We are currently in the process of organizing a virtual opportunity for SACs to connect to discuss how to support and engage parents and help maintain the sense of community for Remote learning families. We will share the event details once we have them!

In the meantime, here are a couple of important notes as we are heading into a new school year and fall elections.

- Parents of remote learners are permitted to remain actively involved with home school SACs, and hold any elected executive position on home school SAC, just as they would if student were attending in-person. Limestone District School Board supports parents/guardians of remote learners remaining eligible for elected executive positions on their child's 'home' school SAC, and is amending AP110 to include a disclosure for parents of remote learners prior to voting if their eligibility is contested.

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- SACs are advised to create a Remote Learner Rep position on your SAC. This will not require any amendments to your bylaws, as the title will just be assigned to one of your Community Rep positions. Note that the ideal person for this position will be someone who is already actively involved and has an established connection with the SAC and school community as a whole. They must be willing/able to reach out to and put effort into connecting with families in remote learning to ensure all remote learning voices are represented and feel supported. This position will require a collaborative partnership with admin to ensure students do not feel disconnected from the home school community.
- Establish a space for remote learner families to connect (Facebook group, WhatsApp, etc). Encourage school admin to join the group as well to maintain connection to families and the physical school community, keep a pulse on these families to enhance support and connection between home and virtual school, and ensure smooth transition upon students return to in-person learning.
- Consider how you will run secret ballot elections whether your council is meeting in-person (with distancing) or virtually. For example, École Sir John A. Macdonald PS is collecting nomination forms via email and conducting the election over Zoom, which allows for anonymous, secure voting. Please feel free to share any ideas on the LDSB PIC Facebook group!

ADAPTING & EVOLVING

Parent involvement is going to look very different this year!

In the upcoming weeks we are going to look at exactly what looks different for SACs this year, new ways we can support families, engage parents, enhance student achievement, and how our partnership with school admin & staff can evolve to meet new challenges.

In the meantime, be sure to check out these resources:

[LDSB Virtual School](#) | [LDSB Student & Family Technical Help Page](#) | [LDSB School Reopening 2020 Hub](#) | [KFL&A Public Health Return to School Hub](#)

COMING UP:

- PIC Meeting & election
- How SACs can help families attending virtual school maintain connection with 'home' school community
- Virtual Community Building and parent engagement
- Resources for Families: Navigating IEPs, IRPCs & Spec Ed

LET'S
connect

Are you a PIC Rep or an actively involved parent, interested in connecting and collaborating with other engaged parents across the board?

If so, we'd love to have you [join our Facebook group!](#)

If you just want to stay up-to-date, [sign up for our mailing list here.](#) Follow [our public Facebook page here.](#)

Email us: ldsbspiccochairs@gmail.com