

# Gator Tracks

## AVPS January Update

### Happy New Year!

We hope staff, students and families are refreshed from the holiday break. January is a time for reflection and goal setting. AVPS will continue to work on our school goals to improve student achievement and enrich the learning experience for our students. Please refer to our school learning plan posted on our website to review what we are working on this year.

This month we will also get some valuable input from the district review team that will visit our school on January 24<sup>th</sup>. The team will review our strengths and areas for growth and provide guidance in determining next steps for our school.

We will also be reflecting and providing input as the board develops its new strategic plan. As always, we welcome your questions and contributions in helping to make our school great! Please join us at our next parent council meeting on January 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:15 pm.

### WINTER WEATHER REMINDERS

With the colder weather upon us, parents are asked to remind children to dress appropriately for the weather. Students are expected to wear hats, mittens and snow pants and boots to keep them warm and dry. Extra clothing at school will help to minimize the disruption to your child's day and keep phone calls home to a minimum.

During recess, we encourage students to enjoy safe winter play. We ask for your support in reminding your children that throwing snowballs and rough play are not permitted. When the weather is too cold or inclement to go outside, students will be kept indoors for recess. Supervision of students begins at 8:35 a.m. each morning and the entry bell rings at 8:50 a.m. Our students should not arrive at school before 8:35 to ensure that they are on the yard only when there is staff supervision.

### Coming Up:

- January 9<sup>th</sup> –First Day Back
- January 18<sup>th</sup> HOZA Performance  
-Parent Council Meeting at 6:15 pm
- January 20<sup>th</sup> Colour House Day
- January 24<sup>th</sup> –AVPS District Review
- January 31<sup>st</sup> -Feb 1<sup>st</sup> Dental Screening JK/SK & Grade 2
- February 3<sup>rd</sup> -PA Day – No Classes

### Holiday Concert

It was great to see so many families at our holiday concert performances. Many thanks to Mme Judd and to all staff, students and parents who helped make it happen!



### Check Bus Cancellations

Website: [www.Triboard.on.ca](http://www.Triboard.on.ca)



Twitter: Tri-Board @BusDelayNCancel



## Bring IT! Use of Personal Electronic Devices by Students

The Limestone District School Board has introduced the Bring IT initiative which provides safe, secure, and identified access for students to the wireless network with any personal device (e.g. laptops, iPods, tablets, and smartphones). AVPS continues to expand its technology resources so that all students have access to technology at school. No student will be without access if they do not bring personal devices to school, but in some cases, parents may choose to allow students to bring their own technology for instructional purposes in classrooms where the teacher has invited students to do so. This is a personal preference, and in such cases the school is not responsible for devices that may be lost or stolen.

At AVPS, our goal is to encourage students to think critically about information on the internet, to encourage them to use their devices to responsibly and to become positive digital citizens. In keeping with the school code of conduct, personal electronic devices are not to be used or displayed during school hours while on school property **unless it is for instructional purposes and at the invitation of the teacher**. Students may not take photographs or record others, while at school, and should be using the school phone if there is a need to communicate with parents. Misuse of electronic devices will result in loss of privileges.

Friday ♦ January 27 ♦ 2017

### FAMILY LITERACY DAY

**Family Literacy Day** is celebrated in homes and at early years programs, schools and libraries on January 27.

Make a special effort on **January 27** to read a favourite book, write a letter to a loved one or make tasty letter-shaped pancakes at home with your child.

**Families** use **literacy** every day to:

- make shopping lists
- use recipes
- write notes
- share bedtime stories
- read bus schedules
- use maps to plan holidays



**Family literacy** helps young children develop early literacy skills for school.

To find out more about **Family Literacy Day**:

- Google: ABC Life Literacy Canada Family Literacy
- or
- Call your local Early Literacy Specialist

### KFL&A Public Health Dental Screening

During the school year a dental hygienist and dental assistant from KFL&A Public Health will visit all elementary schools. They visit the schools for two reasons. First, they will screen children in selected grades to identify dental problems that need to be seen by a dentist and to screen a few children who had dental concerns last year. The screening is a quick look into the mouth with a sterilized mouth mirror. Each child who is screened will be given a card to take home indicating the dental screening findings. Funding for necessary dental treatment may be provided to eligible children through the Healthy Smiles Ontario (HSO) program. In cases where treatment is needed, Public Health will keep a client record and may tell the dental office what was found.

Secondly, the dental screening helps us to monitor the oral health of children in this region. The monitoring allows KFL&A Public Health to identify the prevalence of dental disease and any new trends in dental disease. The information is used to plan programs and services that best meet the needs of children in our communities. Therefore, even if your child sees a dentist regularly, it is important that they have their teeth screened so that they are included in our monitoring of dental disease.

Ontario Regulation 688/00, made under Health Protection and Promotion Act, requires yearly dental screenings in all elementary schools. If you do not want your child to be screened this school year, please tell us in writing. This letter must include your child's full name, school and grade.

Mail the letter to:  
KFL&A Public Health  
221 Portsmouth Avenue  
Kingston ON  
K7M 1V5

For more information call KFL&A Public Health at 613-549-1232 or 1-800-267-7875, ext. 1218



### Allergen Aware

Please refrain from bringing or sending products that contain or have come in contact with nuts or peanuts, due to severe anaphylactic reactions.

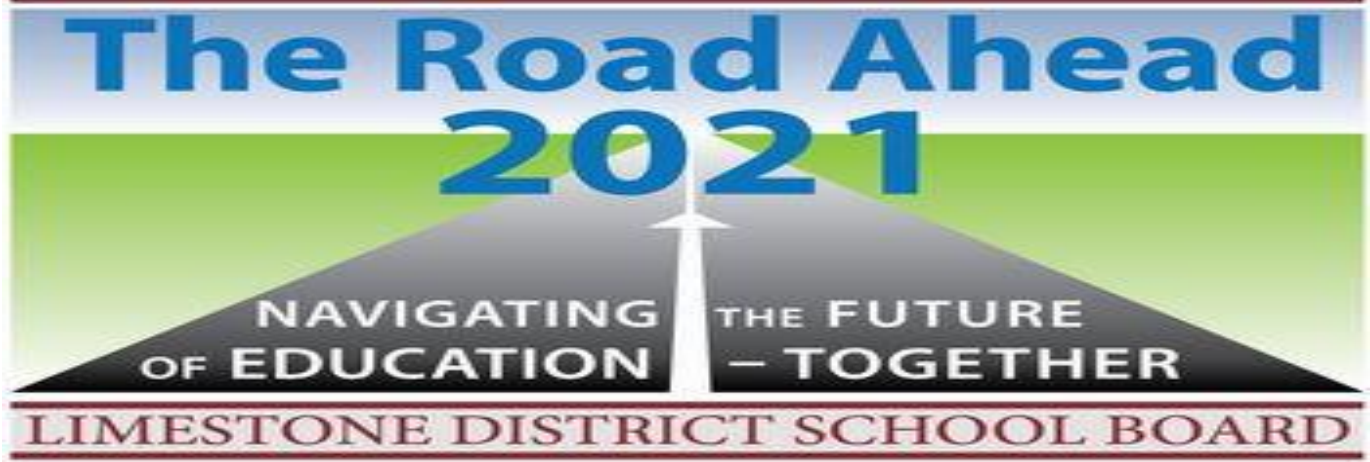


@AmherstviewPS

Website: <http://amherstview.ps.limestone.on.ca/>

## AVPS Staffing Update

We have welcomed some new staff members to AVPS. Mme Toubache joined our FDK team in December, replacing Mme Jennifer during her leave. This month we also welcome Mme Lise Levac as a permanent educational assistant at our school. M Heroux will replace Mme Belanger in the grade 5/6 French Immersion class, and we will welcome back M Choquette to grade 3/4 French Immersion and Mme MacKay to grade 1/2 French Immersion.



## Strategic Planning in LDSB

The Limestone District School Board is embarking on its new strategic plan that will help guide its work over the next five years – and we need your help.

The purpose of a strategic plan is to set priorities and focus our energy and resources on areas that support our mission: *We prepare students within safe and inclusive environments to embrace a changing world as lifelong learners and informed, responsible citizens*, and to help us realize our new vision: *As a community of engaged and innovative learners everyone achieves success and well-being*. Before the Board of Trustees work with staff to develop these priorities, we want to hear from our stakeholders and what role they think schools should play in our communities across our district.

Stakeholders – students, families, staff, community partners and the general public – will be invited to provide input and feedback on *The Road Ahead: Navigating the Future of Education Together*. The new multi-year plan will replace *Success for All – Strategic Directions: 2009-2016*.

### How can you get involved?

The Board has organized a number of ways to solicit this input including an online survey, telephone town halls, identification of priority areas, Twitter chats, and face-to-face meetings. Links to information and surveys can be found at:

[http://www.limestone.on.ca/board/Strategic\\_Plan/](http://www.limestone.on.ca/board/Strategic_Plan/)

Follow our [@LimestoneDSB](#) Twitter account and join the #LDSBRoadAhead Twitter chats to share your ideas.

## School Year Calendar 2017-18 Parent Survey

The Limestone District School Board is requesting feedback about the 2016-17 school year calendar and possible options for the 2017-18 school year. It would be appreciated if you would please take a moment to respond to several questions on an on-line survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/9CY52FQ>.