

Welcome to Lake Hill!

Parent Tips

It takes a village to raise a child.

Thank you for being a valued member of our village.

Being a parent in a school, especially a new parent, can be an overwhelming experience. Often there is uncertainty as to what to expect or how to become involved. Also, a person's own past school experiences can influence one's feelings toward school in general. Whatever the reason, it is important to become an active participant in your child's school life. Research indicates that the more you are involved as a parent, the greater the chance of your child's success. Schools have changed and continue to change to reflect the needs of the 21st Century. Curriculum and methods of teaching and learning have changed to prepare students for future jobs that may not even exist yet. Therefore, it is even more critical to learn about your school and how to best support your child's learning. Below are some suggestions outlining ways in which you can become involved and enhance your child's success. We hope you will find them of use.

The School Website

- If you have not done so already, take some time and tour through the website. Here you will find our Parent Handbook that contains valuable information about our school philosophy, behaviour expectations, and our Code of Conduct. The website also includes information on our Parent Advisory Council (PAC), our calendar of events, and resources.

Meeting the Staff

- If you are new to the school, arrange to meet with the principal or vice-principal. This helps in putting faces to names. It is also a good time to discuss your child's needs and any concerns or questions you may have.
- Request a tour of the school.
- Attend the Welcome Back BBQ/Meet the Teacher night in September. Meet the Teacher night is an informal meeting between parents and teachers in individual classrooms. Normally, this is not a time for teachers to discuss individual students. The BBQ provides a forum for new and returning parents to connect.
- Arrange a time to meet with your child's teacher.
Kindergarten Parents: Our kindergarten teachers meet with all kindergarten parents prior to the Kindies starting school. This is a time to share information with your child's teacher so that she/he can find out more about your child's academic, social/emotional and physical needs.
- **Other Parents:** The first formal meeting between parents and teachers is in early October. If you wish to meet with your child's teacher prior to this time it is best to speak directly to the teacher and arrange a time. Communication between parents and teachers is important.

Current and accurate information about students ensures that learning individual learning needs can be met.

Supporting Your Child at School

A child's success at school depends a great deal on parents' active involvement in their child's education.

- **Parent/Teacher Interviews** These are vital aspect of ensuring student success. It is important that they be attended, particularly during the first reporting period. These interviews provide parents and teachers with the opportunity to discuss the academic, behavioral, and social/emotional strengths and needs of each child. Questions and concerns can be addressed at this time.
- **Report Cards** Read and discuss your child's report card with him/her.
- **Student Led Conferences** These conferences are designed so that your child can walk you through his/her learning. It is a chance to see his/her work and ask questions. Students look forward to conferences as they take pride in demonstrating their achievements. We schedule conferences later in the day so that as many parents as possible can attend.
- **Issues** If there is an important issue that arises, please speak directly to your child's teacher. If you feel the issue is not satisfactorily resolved, then speak to one of the school's administrators.
- **School Functions** Attend other school functions such as dances, concerts, etc. They are a great way to spend time with your child, connect with other families, and support PAC initiatives
- **Student Attendance** Try and ensure that your child misses as few days as possible. When students miss direct instruction it can be difficult to catch them up.
Did you know?

Attending school less than 90% of the time increases the odds that a student will not graduate (that works out to 19 days this year).

When a student's attendance dips below 80% (missing 37 or more days in the year), the student has only a 1 in 6 chance of graduating on time or one year late.

- **Lateness** Ensure that your child arrives at school on time. Arriving on time teaches students that school and punctuality are important. When students are late, they miss important information and direct instruction and may interrupt the learning of others. Chronic lateness can also have a negative impact on student success. Please inform your child's teacher or the school if your child will be late.

Supporting Your Child at Home

- Provide encouragement.
- Find time to speak to your child each day about his or her learning. Saying “Tell me something you learned today” invites the child to reflect on and speak about their learning. Questions such as “How was your day?” or “What did you do today?” may give you only limited information and that information may have little to do with learning.
- Read with your child each night and discuss what you are reading. If your child is a “reader” already, have him/her read to you in order to build oral fluency. In listening to your child read you can quickly determine if there are any decoding difficulties. A discussion before, during and after reading will tell you if your child understands the text. Remember there is a difference between “decoding” (sounding out the words) and “comprehension” (understanding the meaning of what is read).
- Arrange for appropriate reading time, study/homework time and space. Students should have a quiet place to work away from distractions such as TV, computer, iPods, siblings, etc.
- Ask your child to explain their learning or teach you what he/she is doing.
- Model desired behaviour (such as good manners, good listening, reading for pleasure)
- Monitor homework and actively tutor your child. (DO NOT do their work for them!) If a student is having difficulty with assignments it is important for the teacher to know so that proper support can be provided.
- There are many educational websites for your child to explore. If possible, spend time on them together.

Supporting Your Child Outside of School

- Did you know that **ALL** parents in the school are members of the PAC? You are. However, by attending the monthly PAC meetings and reading the PAC newsletters you can take a more active role in the governance and decision making necessary for planning, developing, and providing an education for the community’s children.
- Be a volunteer in the school. There are many volunteer jobs that parents can do to help out (for example: shelve library books, help at special events, coach or coordinate an extracurricular activity, be a class rep, drive for field trips, demonstrate or offer a special skill, etc.)

Together we can build tomorrow’s leaders today.