

# June 2021

## Lakefield Elementary School

*All members of Lakefield Elementary School community will reach their maximum potential*

### **Important Dates**

House Teams

**June 9** - Student Appreciation Day

**June 21** - Gr 5 Closing & BBQ

**June 23** - Talent Show

**June 25th - Friday**  
Last day of School  
Report cards go home

**Aug 30th - Monday**  
Teachers return to

**Sept 7th - Tuesday**  
Students return to



**Summer time is for families and friends to create and treasure new memories.**

**Enjoy!!!!**

### **A New Principal for LES**

The new Principal of Lakefield Elementary School will be **Ashley Dobbin** – since January of 2018 Ashley has been Principal at Centennial Elementary in Saint John, and from 2014-2017 Vice Principal at Fairvale Elementary.

**Welcome to Lakefield**

### ***The Retirement of Lana Mouland***

Mrs. Mouland after many great years of teaching has decided to move to a life of retirement. She is the type of teacher who provides a structured environment that so many students badly need. Lana creates a classroom built on mutual respect, in which each of her students feels safe, cared for, and heard. Lana has always been the kind of teacher who children end up thanking for moving them forward. Her attention to detail and capacity for caring, combined with her dedication to instruction facilitate each child's growth. Lana would make a point to go watch students' hockey game, dance recital, cheer competition demonstrating her true connection to each of her students. Lana's retirement is a great loss to the students and staff at Lakefield. We wish her well!!

### ***The 2021-22 Lakefield Staff***

Our staffing process this year has been delayed during this past month. We have not yet received all of our total staff enrolment for 2021-2022. With the changes to our enrolment, several of our grade levels have changed and could still change come September which will affect our teaching assignments. The majority of our teachers will be working in the same grade level and program as this year. Because of uncertainties and fluctuation in enrolment some of the teaching assignments might need to change come September.

Kindergarten: Arseneau, Ellis, ????

Grade 1: Taylor, Meahan 1 /2, Martell/Bowes (FI), Paul (FI)

Grade 2: Wallace, Meahan 1/2, Hubbard (FI), Marley (FI)

Grade 3: Bates, Frank, Underhill (FI), Patstone (3/4 FI)

Grade 4: ?? 4/5 Eng, Millett 4, Mackay (FI), Patstone (3/4 FI)

Grade 5: ?? 4/5 Eng, ?? Eng, Patterson (FI)

Resource: Moore, Doyle    Guidance: Shea

Music: Britten

Phys Ed: Kelley

### ***The Retirement of Michael O'Neill***

Where has 15 years gone! When I arrived at Lakefield I knew I'd be here for some time because there was a certain feeling or atmosphere you felt when you came into the school. Working here has been a pleasure, as the staff, parents and students have been a great team to collaborate with in reaching goals. Sure we have had some ups and downs but I have always held firm to my belief that we give each person "what they need". Disagreement and conflicts are a part of the process of achieving our goals. I do believe we have all worked well together over the years ensuring the needs of each of our students have been met. I am proud of my contributions to the school and for the work my staff have accomplished while I was Principal. I think I am going to miss this school as it has always been a joy to work with the LES staff and students. It is time though for new leadership and time for me to relax, laugh and travel with my wife Mary and my wonderful children, Ben, Gillian & Marley. I will miss you all!!!!



## SPEAKING OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE...

(FROM THE ASD-S SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY DEPARTMENT)

### The Importance of Free and Unstructured Outdoor Play for Kids (<http://www.brighthorizons.com/family-resources/e-family-news/free-unstructured-outdoor-play-kids/>)

Do you remember having long extended periods of time outdoors where you invented elaborate play scenarios? Perhaps you played pirates or were part of a new made-up family. Maybe you planned adventures like building a fort or tried new skills like catching salamanders. Children benefit greatly from open-ended time where they are in their parents' view but have some independence in solving problems and determining how the play proceeds.

### Child Development through Structured & Unstructured Play

Structured play is the kind of play where there is typically an adult leader and a specific, planned way in which the play will go. For example, organized sports or dance classes are structured play. Playing a board game with specific rules and directions with an adult playing or looking on is also an example of structured play. Your child can benefit from finding the right structured play activities but it should be complemented with opportunities for unstructured play. These are the types of activities that are typically child-directed with no set goals or direction.

### The Benefits of Unstructured Play for Kids

Why is unstructured outdoor play important? There are so many benefits. A few are below:

- **Children need more physical activity.** Many sources agree that today's children are too sedentary. In addition to 20 - 30 minutes of daily structured physical activity, children should get at least 60 minutes of unstructured physical activity daily, and more is even better

**Unstructured outdoor play offers opportunities to develop executive function skills.** Executive function skills have been compared to an air traffic control system in each of our bodies. These [essential life skills](#) help us remember information, filter out distractions, switch gears when needed, and sustain focus over time (Harvard University Center on the Developing Child, 2015). Among the many [benefits of imaginary play](#), one is helping children develop these executive function skills. Children develop rules for the imaginary scenarios they create, remember and try out complex ideas, apply the rules to the scenarios as they go along, and regulate each other's behavior. Given the time, children can extend imaginary play for hours.

**Children who play outdoors regularly are less likely to be nearsighted** ([Shephard](#), 2015). Sunshine and natural light help children have better distance vision.

**Social skills are enhanced.** There are many different skills children learn from unstructured activities. Children who have opportunities to work together with their peers towards a goal learn [friendship skills](#) such as teamwork, problem-solving, [care and cooperation](#), all critical skills for school and life.

### Younger Children and Unstructured Outdoor Play

Younger children need closer supervision than school-agers. You can help them get started by asking them what they could do with a basket of smooth stones or a net bag filled with balls of varying sizes. Then step back, keep them in view, but let the play unfold and resist the urge to intervene too much. (Note: children also benefit greatly by having you engage in play with them; but occasionally let them figure out the direction of the play with their peers without much adult intervention). Consider loose parts for a variety of open-ended play possibilities. Examples of loose parts include natural items like sticks and stones of varying sizes, sand, water, small logs, and leaves and/or man-made items like hula hoops, balls, jump ropes, stepping stones, trikes, wheelbarrows, buckets, tubes, large blocks, or sifters. The possibilities are endless with these kinds of materials.

Children want to play outside because it is fun. That is enough of a reason to offer it. Look for ways to build unstructured outdoor play into your child's week with many potential benefits for your child.