



NEWS FOR MEANINGFUL PARENT INVOLVMENT

THE OFFICIAL MLES PAC NEWSLETTER FOR PARENTS

March 2024

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What's PAC?

Maple Leaf Elementary School, Parent Advisory Council, a volunteer group that is committed to advocacy for children, providing connection, and improving the well-being of those in the community.

Our Values:

Feedback-focused	Connection
Support	Family
Advocacy	Collaboration
Fun	Safety
	Care

Teacher Appreciation Day: February 14th

PAC celebrated Teacher Appreciation Day with baked goodies and coffee.



"Thank you for everything you do here at Maple Leaf. You have been more than a teacher - you've been a mentor, a friend, and a guiding light. We hope that you feel appreciated and we are so thankful for all that you do!"

- PAC Team

Cuddle Up & Read

Thank you to the teachers who ran a fantastic Cuddle Up & Read event at Maple Leaf in February. Reading time was made fun with volunteer readers including parents, firefighters, police officers and the mayor. This year, the PAC Team packed and transported 130 popcorn bags and juice boxes to the event.



Our next hot lunch will be on Friday, March 8th and our hope is to host this program on a monthly basis. PAC would greatly appreciate volunteers to help make the event happen.

Jam Can: March 23

Every year the Morden Elks host the annual Jam Can Bonspiel. Jam Can helps introduce kids to curling at a young age. This is a free event for children grades 1 to 8. This year the bonspiel will be on Saturday, March 23, 2024 at the Morden Curling Club.



The MLES PAC will be helping the Elks put teams together and will provide snacks. If you would like to volunteer your time to help in the kitchen, please reach out to our PAC Team.

Upcoming Events

Next Hot Lunch: March 8

Thank you to the volunteers, families, and teachers who helped make this possible feed 340 individuals at Maple Leaf!

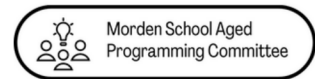
"Growing up, I went to school hungry. Now that I'm older, I'm in a position where I can help feed less fortunate kids at school."

-MLES Volunteer



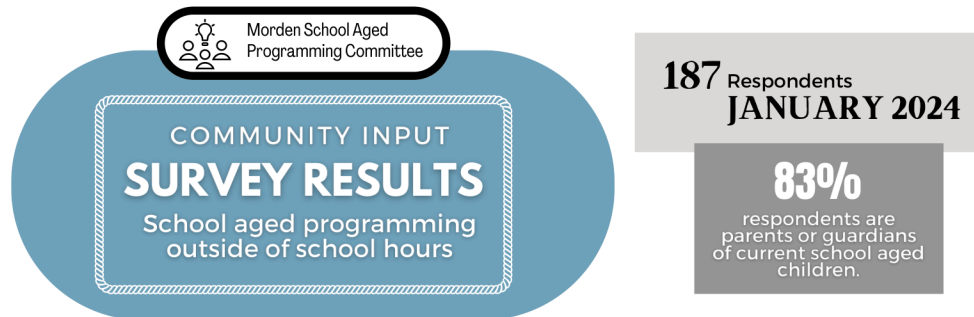
Donations are greatly appreciated to cover any additional cost for families who are unable to participate for financial reasons. Last month, we received \$400.00 in donations to our hot lunch program.

MSAP Committee

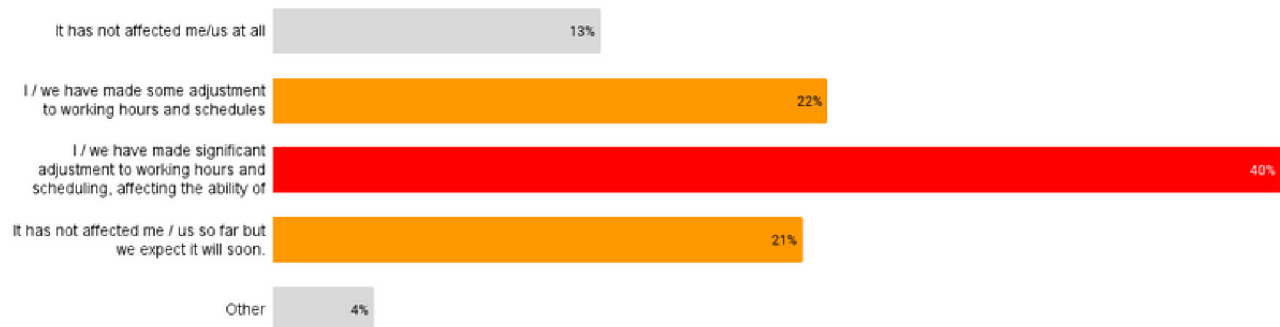


PAC has joined forces with the Morden School Aged Programming (MSAP), a sub-committee of local organizations to implement before/after school and summer programming. We will initially be offering programs that are fee-based. The program is currently volunteer-run and the goal would be to eventually make participation affordable for families.

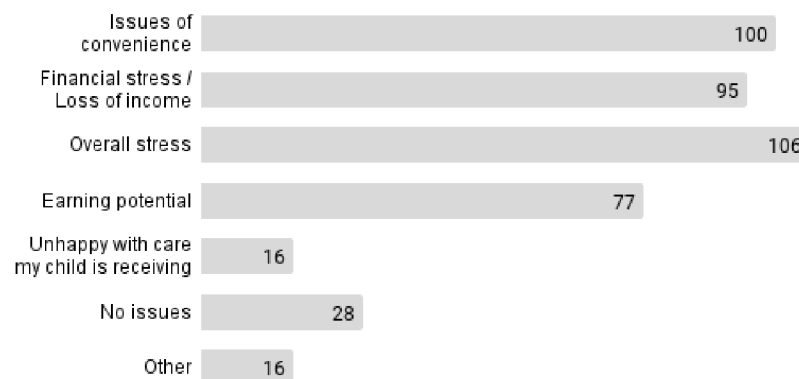
Thank you to those who have participated in the recent survey. The results have illustrated the local needs in Morden and have been key in the design of the project. An infographic is available below. MSAP is meeting in March to plan for future programming. If you would like to contribute or if you have inquiries, contact MordenSchoolAgedCare@gmail.com.



How has the shortage of before/after school care or summer programs affected your family's earnings?

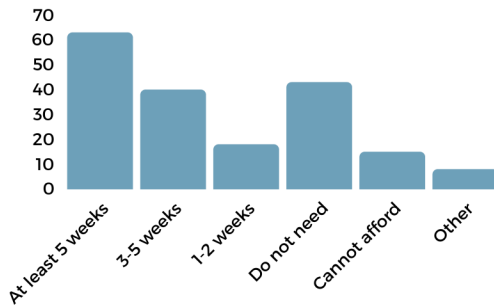


In what ways has lack of child care most affected your family - choose as many as apply



113 respondents stated that they have **made significant** adjustments to work schedules or they expect that they will need to soon.

Summer 2024 Stats



103 respondents need **three or more** weeks of full-time summer programming.

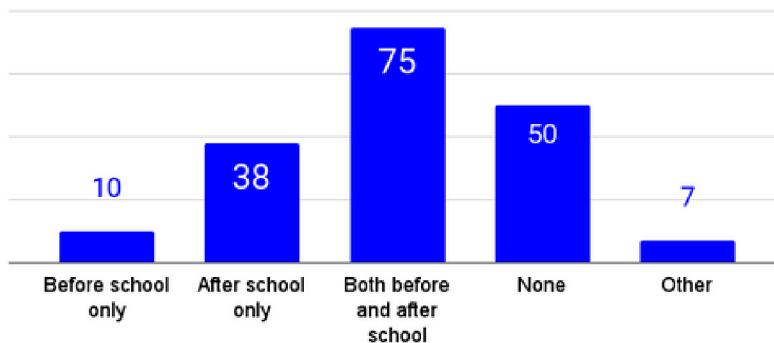
Fall 2024 Stats

How likely would you be to have your school aged child in fee-based before and/or after school programs in fall 2024 if available?

Need Part-Time Do Not Need Cannot Afford Need Full-Time



What hours will you need before and after school care for in fall 2024?



Morden Children's Business Market: Coming in June 2024

MLES PAC will be hosting Morden's 1st Annual Children's Business Market open to children ages 5-17.

This event was made possible by the Innovation Grant provided by the Western School Division. The purpose of this project is to spark a culture of creativity, innovation, teamwork, and independence. Kids will develop a brand and create products to sell to customers at our one-day marketplace at Maple Leaf Elementary School.



Maple Leaf participants are welcome to join a 5-week Tuesday Lunch Workshop starting April 30 to May 28 (workshop space limited and only available to MLES students). The workshop will include mentorship and hands-on time for kids to make their products and fine tune their business plans.

To participate, an application form must be filled out with a brief description of your child's business idea. Teams are highly recommended to build motivation, collaboration, and to enable better problem solving capabilities. This form will be sent home with kids in mid-March. We plan to team up with Mrs. Jerema and Mrs. Routhier to make this happen!

We are also searching for business advisors to be part of our judging panel the day of the event. This is also an opportunity for local Morden businesses to partner with our school. If you or anyone you know might be interested in taking part, reach out to your PAC Team.

TO VOLUNTEER: Three checks need to be completed beforehand:



1. Criminal Record Check
2. Child Abuse Registry Check
3. Respect in School Training

Scan the QR Code or [Click Here.](#)

We need help with:

Workshop Mentors

April 30 to May 28
Tuesdays
12:00pm-1:00pm

Movers

April 26 and
June Event Day

Business Advisors

Searching for sponsors and
judging panel members
during workshops and/or
June Event Day

Next PAC Meeting: Mar 11

Any parent or guardian is welcome to attend the PAC meetings to keep informed or to share their opinions. **You do not need** to become a volunteer or participate in any responsibilities. You may also join virtually! Keep on the look out for our email reminders. Next meeting: Monday, March 11th 7:30 pm

Need childminding while you attend a PAC Meeting? We want to make these meetings as accessible as we can. We are working on a plan to have childminding so that you can take part in PAC. Contact us for details.

Link to more PAC information: [PAC Website](#)