

Lila MacVicar

Lila MacVicar's husband knows better than to book appointments on Wednesday during the school year. It's apparently a hard-learned lesson.

Wednesday is Lila's day to spend with students at East Mersea Public School so she either needs to drive herself to or be dropped off at the school. She's been doing it for 11 years now – and bad weather, illness or even an erroneously scheduled engagement will not keep her from her voluntary responsibility.

Lila is at East Mersea on Wednesdays for either a half or full day working with individual or small groups of students to improve their reading skills.

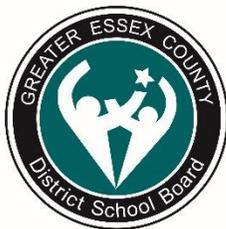
She's a retired teacher, who was urged by a friend at church, about a decade ago, to use her considerable skills to support children in the community. Lila was a teacher for more than 20 years, first at Roseland Public School then at M.D. Bennie in Leamington.

When Lila was teaching in a classroom a hashtag was something that stuck to the pan when you cooked leftovers and on-line was a laundry reference. But reading and literacy skills haven't changed over the years and she is able to work with her students to improve their overall academic achievement.

Lila has become a distinguished member of the East Mersea school community. She brings in treats on special occasions, such as Valentine's Day. She celebrates with everyone at concerts and assemblies and she is genuinely concerned and interested in what's going on at school. If you have new pictures of your children or grandchildren, you have to share them with her.

Students, especially look forward to spending some time with Lila and they all want a turn. Her kind, gentle style not only improves their reading but boosts their self-esteem. Lila makes learning a treat to be acquired and enjoyed.

Lila is a role model for other retired people with skills and energy to share, but Wednesdays at East Mersea are taken by Lila MacVicar, a Champion for Education.



*Greater Essex County District School Board
Champions for Education Awards, April 16, 2019*