



East Lambton Elementary School

East Lambton is Bus Zone 1
Principal: Kari Aubertin
Secretary: Suzanne Thorne
Phone: 519-346-2755

SEPTEMBER 2023 NEWSLETTER

Principal's Message: Welcome Back! I hope you all had a restful summer and are looking forward to a new year at East Lambton Elementary School. Our staff have been busy over the summer preparing for the new school year and we hope you are excited as they are to get reacquainted with old friends and to meet new ones. September always brings with it a sense of newness and the opportunity to start fresh. I hope you all enjoy this wonderful time of year. A big thanks to our custodial staff, Mr. Rob, and Mr. Keagan, Ms. Tina, and Mr. Addison who worked many long hours this summer to get our school looking top notch during and after construction. Thank you to Mrs. Thorne for all her hard work in the office for a smooth start to the year as well.

We warmly welcome our new families and staff members to East Lambton!

Throughout the summer there have been some important staffing changes.

Mrs. McCallum (gr. 8) has accepted an Instructional Coach position with LKDSB, to work with staff across our school district, and her new assignment begins on Tuesday, September 5th, 2023, until March 28, 2024.

We are very fortunate to welcome back some familiar faces to the ELES community. Mrs. Schram will be teaching grade 8 for Mrs. McCallum and Miss Cowell will be teaching grade 7 while Mrs. O'Neil is on leave. We also welcome Mrs. Berard (Dumais) to our teaching staff as she will be joining our grade 4/5 classroom in the afternoons.

Mrs. Rodenhuis will be joining our grade 1/2 class while Mrs. McFarlane is away on leave and Mrs. Langstaff, RECE, will be joining Miss Whitlaw's class while Mrs. Core is on leave.

East Lambton Staff 2023-2024

Mrs. Kari Aubertin	Principal
Mrs. Suzanne Thorne	Secretary
Miss Krystie Whitlaw	FDK
Mrs. Shelby Langstaff	ECE
Miss Lyndsey Sitlington	FDK
Ms Stacey Gale	ECE
Mrs. Ann Marie Rops	Gr. 1
Mrs. Deneen Rodenhuis	Gr. 1/2
Miss Katie Ferguson	Gr. 3
Mrs. Angela Mellis	Gr. 3/4
Mr. Brandon Owen (am) & Mrs. Sarah Berard (pm)	Gr. 4/5
Mr. Aaron Edlington	Gr. 5/6
Miss Rachael Cowell	Gr. 7

Mrs. Tara Schram	Gr. 8
Mr. Diverson Mzemba	Core French/Prep
Ms. Alysia Wyville	Prep/Learning Commons -- mornings
Mr. Brandon Owen	Primary Prep -- afternoons
Mr. Brian Jubenville	Resource/Guidance
Mrs. Nancy DeJeu	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Heather Sheppard	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Cindy Howes	Educational Assistant
Mr. Rob Hoskin, Mr. Keagan Brogden, Mrs. Tina Harris	Custodial Staff

Bell Times

Yard Supervision Begins	8:50 a.m.
Classes Begin	9:05 a.m.
First Nutrition and Activity Break	11:05-11:45 a.m.
Second Nutrition and Activity Break	1:25-2:05 p.m.
Dismissal	3:25 p.m.

The school calendar of events can be accessed through our website. Please visit our website often, as updates will be added to the site on a regular basis. A copy of the newsletters will also be posted on the website. Please visit [https://www.lkdsb.net/school/eastlambton/Pages/default.aspx#/="](https://www.lkdsb.net/school/eastlambton/Pages/default.aspx#/=)

Important Dates:

- September 5 – First day of school for SK -grade 8
- September 6-7 – Staggered entry for JK students
- September 14 – Student Verification Forms due to office
- September 15 – PA Day (no classes for students)
- September 18 – Parent Council Meeting 6:30 pm
- September 22 – Terry Fox Run
- September 28 – Meet the Teacher Open House 5:00 – 7:00 pm
- September 29 – Orange Shirt Day
- October 2 – Picture Day
- October 4 – Cross Country Meet at Lambton Centre (gr4-8)
- October 6 – PA Day (no classes for students)
- October 9 – Thanksgiving Day (no classes)

Construction Update: Installation of the new windows and doors took place throughout the school during the summer months. The classrooms are very bright and inviting with lots of natural light. A few finishing touches will be completed throughout the Fall.

Upcoming Events:

Terry Fox Run: Our school wide Terry Fox run will be held on Friday, Sept. 22nd beginning at 2:15 pm. Please consider donating a Toonie for Terry.

School Council Meeting: Our first School Council Meeting of the year will take place on Monday, September 18th @ 6:30 p.m. in the Learning Commons. All parents are encouraged to join us, to learn about school operations, and assist in planning for school fundraising events, etc.

Meet the Teacher Night: Mark your calendar for **Thursday, September 28th from 5:00 until 7:00 pm**. Students will be able to show their parents their individual learning environments and parents will be able to meet the teachers involved in their learning experiences. This time is designed to be a brief meet and greet as there can be upwards of 25 parents planning to speak with one teacher. In the interest of privacy, we ask that if you have individual concerns you wish to speak to the teacher about, please arrange with that teacher a convenient time to call or meet the teacher outside of the Meet the Teacher event. Individual Parent-Teacher Interviews will take place after progress reports in mid-November.

Orange Shirt Day: On Friday, September 29th, staff, and students across the Lambton-Kent District School Board will be encouraged to wear an orange shirt. Orange Shirt Day is held to educate people and promote awareness about the Residential school system and the impact this system had and continues to have on Indigenous communities in Canada. On this day, classes will participate in learning activities that will continue to build an understanding of residential schools and our Indigenous communities.

Reminders/Information for Parents:

Allergies: Please be aware that we are a “Nut Free” school and as a result, we ask that parents not send foods containing nuts (including peanuts and tree nuts), to school to protect the safety of all members of our school community. This includes any peanut substitution products, as once the product leaves your home, it is impossible to tell the difference. We recognize that this is an inconvenience for some families but thank you in advance for respecting the health needs of others. For great suggestions on nut free lunches, visit www.eatrightontario.ca.

Breakfast & Snack Program: Our snack program will continue to operate as in past years. A breakfast/snack bowl will be delivered to classrooms each morning at the start of the day. Snacks will be “grab and go” items, such as whole pieces of fruit, muffins, granola bars, yogurts and cheese sticks. These are for all students to enjoy to ensure they start the day with a full belly and ready to learn.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices: All electronic devices, such as cell phones, media players, digital game devices, computers and cameras **are not to be used** while the student is on school property before, during, or after school without the permission of school personnel and only for educational purposes. If a student has a cell phone, he/she is responsible for the cell phone at all times and the **cell phone is to be always stored in their locker**. Cell phones can be left at the office if your child is worried about it being left unattended in their locker. At no time will students use electronic devices for digital, audio or video recording without permission from the teacher. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen property.

Class Organization: As with previous years, the Ministry of Education has implemented caps for primary classes. As a result, we must adhere to these class caps. There is still a possibility that there could be another re-organization and some classes might be subject to change depending upon any late registrations or additional moves out of our school area.

Inclement Weather: East Lambton School is in Zone 1. Please listen to local radio stations, visit [Student Transportation \(cklass.ca\)](http://StudentTransportation(cklass.ca)), or download the **My SBI Mobile App** to receive updates on bus delays or cancellations due to inclement weather or other. Busses in the morning that have been cancelled in the morning **due to inclement weather will not** return students to school in the afternoon. If parents drive students to school in the morning, they are responsible to pick their children up and take them home in the afternoon. Busses that have been cancelled in the morning **due to fog will** operate in the afternoon and to return students to their homes. ***Please remember to call the school if your child will be absent due to bus cancellations.***

Labelling Student Items: A best practice is to label all student items so that it is easy to identify whom the item belongs to. Your assistance with this task is greatly appreciated.

Medication: Medication, both prescription & non-prescription, should not be administered to students by school staff. Specific criteria must be met for staff to administer prescription medication when it cannot be administered from home. An **“Authorization for the Administration of Oral Medication”** form (available from the office) must be completed by the parent/guardian and physician, then forwarded to the Principal for each school year. This includes the administration of occasional use medications as well. Should your child have a medical need (such as a severe allergy) that requires special emergency attention please inform the school and an **“Individual Medical Emergency Plan”** will be put in place. The forms for this purpose are available in the office.

Parents/Visitors to the School: Each building has a secure entrance requiring visitors to buzz the office. Parents and visitors to the school are asked to enter through the front doors and report to the school office immediately upon arrival. This always ensures the safety of our students and eliminates disruptions. If you need to pick up your child(ren) early, please report to the office and Mrs. Thorne will be happy to call your student to meet you in the office.

Prior to attending school, all visitors and family members are strongly encouraged to complete and follow the directions of the daily [COVID-19 School Screening assessment tool](#).

Recess: School community is important to the morale of our school, and we are looking forward to being together again outside at recess. All students will have nutrition break first followed by recess.

Safe Arrival Policy / School Messenger:

At the Lambton Kent District School Board, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring students have arrived safely at school and are participating in classes every day. Please be sure to let the school know when your child will be late or absent. **We kindly ask you use School Messenger as the main way to report your child’s absence to the school.** Alternatively, you may contact the school office and leave a message.

If the absence is not recorded in School Messenger by 9:25 each morning, you will receive a telephone call and email notice from the automated attendance system.

SIGN UP FOR SCHOOL MESSENGER:

Please sign up now using your e-mail or your phone number that matches the school’s records and use School Messenger in one of the following three ways to report your child’s absence:

Option 1:

Set up an online School Messenger account and login to schedule and report absences or late arrival. [To create your account or login in click here.](#)

Option 2:

Download the free School Messenger app to your smart phone or tablet to schedule and report absences or late arrival.

Click here to [Download the app for Apple devices.](#)

Click here to [Download the app for Android devices.](#)

Click the links below to view the Reference Guides for information on signing up, setting preferences, reporting an absence, and setting a PIN.

[School Messenger Quick Reference Guide & Sign-Up Instructions](#)

[School Messenger Parent Guardian Guide for Mobile App](#)

School Cash Online: Please remember to sign up for school cash online. Info is available on our East Lambton website and the LKDSB website. Hot lunches, fields trips, etc can be paid online.

<https://lkdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

Student Registration Verification Form: Please take a moment to look over the Student Registration Verification Forms being sent home. Please make any necessary changes on the form and have your child *return it back to his/her teacher* **by Thursday, September 14th, 2023, with or without corrections.** It is requested that you sign the form to show that you have looked at it. The office will update your child's information in the student database accordingly. Please note that it is your responsibility to contact us throughout the school year when any changes occur with regards to any pertinent information regarding your child's status: address, phone numbers, contacts, etc. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Student Transportation: Reminder that parents all have access to an online portal where they can retrieve bus information for their students, update medical conditions and find other useful tools / information. Please use the following link: <https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/>

Water Bottles: Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle to school each day and bring it home to be washed at the end of each day.

Fair Notice Communication Regarding Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

To Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers of students in the Lambton Kent District School Board:

The Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals will most often employ progressive discipline strategies to help a student take responsibility for their actions, learn from their mistakes, and make better choices in the future.

In more extreme cases however, when a student's behaviour poses a potential threat to their own or others' well-being, the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA) supports principals in taking further steps to safeguard everyone.

The VTRA protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening incidents including but not limited to: possession of a weapon or replica weapon, bomb threat or plan, verbal or written (including electronic) threats to harm oneself or others, other threats of violence, and fire setting.

The initial response team is likely to include the Principal / Vice-Principal, police, and board staff. Should conditions warrant, a Community Threat Assessment Team will be convened. This community team includes representatives of community agencies who work with schools and boards to keep our students and staff safe, such as local police and children's mental health organizations.

Parents and guardians will be notified if their child will be discussed through the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment may still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

As always, student safety is our first priority. This notification is being provided via avenues such as school newsletters, and school and board web sites as fair notice to parents and guardians of the existence of the VTRA Protocol and its application if situations warrant. If you have any questions regarding the Lambton Kent District School Board Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol, please contact your school principal as the first step.

We are looking forward to another exciting and successful school year!