



Cathcart Boulevard Public School

1219 Cathcart Blvd, Sarnia, ON N7S 2H7 Office: 519.542.5651 Fax: 519.542.3774

Principal: Mr. Eryn Smit

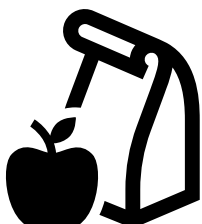
Vice-Principal: Mrs. Tabettha Core

Secretary: Mrs. Stacey Stewart

September 2024

Welcome Back!

Cathcart staff have been working hard to prepare the school to welcome back our students and community. We are excited to celebrate the start of another wonderful school year and look forward to seeing what our students can achieve through academics, athletics, creativity, and character growth!



Principal's Message

I am excited to start a new school year at Cathcart and have found the staff, students and parents to be warm and welcoming this first week! This is my thirteenth year as an administrator with the LKDSB and my twentieth year overall, and I love the energy that accompanies a new year. My career has been split fairly evenly between Chatham and Sarnia and it is refreshing to return to a community with as much to offer its residents as Sarnia does.

It has been particularly wonderful seeing all our new students – whether they're starting school for the first time in Junior Kindergarten or joining us at a later stage in their schooling – make new friendships, look to their teachers for reassurance and guidance, and grow in comfort and confidence every day.

Our registrations were strong to start the year and I'd like to give all families a heads up that a reorganization of our school is a possibility.

We'll try our best to make this as unobtrusive as we can and I'm confident that our school team will make the necessary changes with thought and care, but this can be difficult for students and we are very mindful of that. We'll contact affected families, if there are any, in the next couple of weeks.

Throughout the year I encourage you to stop by and introduce yourself or reach out to me or our wonderful Vice Principal, Mrs. Core, with any questions or concerns you have. Our goal is to help every student achieve their very best every day, and the most effective way to accomplish this is with a strong school-home partnership. See you around the school this year!

Mr. E. Smit, Principal

New Staff:

We would like to welcome Mr. Jason Tedball as the 0.5 PM Grade 7/8 English to FI teacher, and Ms. Megan Palimaka as the Grade 5/6 and 6/7 English to FI teacher LTO, to the Cathcart Cougar Den. Our school is excited to have both teachers on board!

Balanced Day Schedule:

Supervised Entry (15 min)	8:45 am
Entry Bell	9:00 am
1 st Block (120 min)	9:00 – 11:00 am
Lunch/Recess (40 min)	11:00 – 11:40 am
2 nd Block (100 min)	11:40 – 1:20 pm
Lunch/Recess (40 min)	1:20 – 2:00 pm
3 rd Block (80 min)	2:00 – 3:20 pm
Dismissal	3:20 pm



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Crossing Guards:

Crossing Guards will be at the Cathcart and Murphy intersection during the following times:

Before School – 8:10 am to 9:05 am

Dismissal – 3:10 pm to 4:10 pm

Arrival Procedures:

Students who walk to school may enter the building at their designated entrance. Parents/Guardians who drive their students to school are asked to use the school's west parking lot, located at the side of the school, or park directly on Cathcart Blvd.

The **North Parking Lot (along the front of the school parallel to Cathcart Boulevard) is closed for use** between the following times

due to Bus Loading and Unloading:

8:30 – 9:30 am

2:45 – 4:00 pm

Bus Information/MySBI – Bus Status App:

CLASS has a mobile app that will provide subscribers with real-time notifications whenever buses are delayed by 10 minutes or greater. The notifications will come in the form of alerts, which will include service cancellations due to adverse weather conditions. For additional information about mobile app, please visit: www.mysbi.ca



Cathcart Boulevard Public School is in Zone 2. Bussing information is available at

www.schoolbusinfo.com. Buses cancelled due to snow do not pick up students at the end of the day. Buses cancelled due to fog will return to the school to take students home.

Only regular eligible riders or courtesy seat students have permission to ride the bus that they are assigned to. Due to insurance and safety issues, permission is not extended to students who are not listed on the bus lists.

Safe Arrival:

We have a process in place to ensure the safe arrival of all students. Parents/Guardians must do their best to see that their student is regularly at school and arrives on time. We have the School Messenger Parent/Guardian Reporting Tool for you to use to notify the school about your student's absence or late arrival.

Please visit www.lkdsb.net and click Elementary, then Attendance for more information.

Notes from home are needed to excuse a student from class and for any early dismissal. If you need to pick up your student before the day's end, please notify the school office before 2:00 pm.

End of Day Dismissal:

Students who walk home from school will be dismissed at 3:20 pm each day and will exit through their designated door. Please wait for your student at the fence entrances or on the



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tarmac. Please remember that dogs are not permitted on school property.

Kindergarten to Grade 8 bus students will wait inside their classrooms prior to heading to line up with their bus cohort. Buses will be loaded one at a time and in the order they arrive. FDK students will wait for their bus at the front foyer. Grades 1-8 bus students will wait in the gym foyer in their bus cohorts.

Parents and caregivers are asked to pick up their children following the dismissal bell at their exit door or designate a meeting spot in the yard rather than through the front doors due to the busy nature of the front-of-school at the end of the day.

Allergies:

Our school is a Nut and Scent-Aware building. Many students and staff members have severe allergies to peanuts, nuts, and scents. In some cases, these allergies can be fatal. Please do not send your student with any nuts (including nut milks, Nutella, or sesame seeds) and have students, as well as visit adults, refrain from wearing perfumes or strong aerosol scents such as Axe Body Spray. Thank you for ensuring a healthy and safe learning environment!

School Emergency Procedures:

During this month, we will start practicing our emergency procedure drills for fire, tornadoes, and procedures for lockdown, hold and secure, and shelter in place.

If we need to evacuate our building, Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School (on Michigan Ave.) is our alternate emergency location.

Prevalent Medical Alerts:

Please notify the office immediately if your student has a prevalent medical condition (Asthma, Epilepsy, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes). We will provide you with further information.

Medication:

Consent for Authorization of Medication: If it is necessary for a student to take medication at school, Board policy requires us to have a Medical Physician complete a consent form. Please request the blank form from Mrs. Stewart in the office. Students should place any medication in the teacher's hands as soon as they arrive at school with it.

Dropping Off Medication: Student medication can be brought to the office by scheduling appointment. Please call the office staff or email Mrs. Stewart (Stacey.Stewart@lkdsb.net)

Visitors:

In compliance with the Ministry of Education regulations, Cathcart and all other schools in LKDSB (Lambton Kent District School Board) will be securing all doors and entrances into the school. Effective on our first day of school, Tuesday, September 3rd, 2024, all doors will be locked, including the front door of the school. Late students and/or visitors to the school will ring the intercom (front entry) to enter the school.



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Visitors will then be required to sign into the building. Students will be admitted with a late-slip prior to attending class.

School Cash Online:

School Cash Online is a web-based solution that gives parents the ability to pay for student items online (i.e., field trips, hot lunches, etc.). Cathcart is a School Cash Online school – please register your student(s) as soon as possible. If you require assistance, feel free to contact our secretary, Mrs. Stewart.

Human Development and Health Curriculum:

Exemptions are limited to instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations found in Strand D of the Ontario Health and Physical Education curriculum, which is available to the public on the Ministry of Education website.

Students will not be exempted from instruction related to any other expectations in this curriculum, or related to expectations in other curriculum subjects.

If you choose to have your student(s) exempted from instruction related to Human Development and Sexual Health expectations, parents and caregivers may access the expectations for the curriculum and the exemption form on the LKDSB website.

Please be advised that this process applies to planned, formal lessons providing instruction related to the expectations outlined in this section of the curriculum. Natural

conversations that are developmentally appropriate may occur throughout the day and cannot fully be addressed through the exemption process.

Playground Equipment:

Equipment is out of bounds from 8:45 – 9:00 am and 3:20 – 3:45 pm. During school hours, students using the equipment are required to wear running shoes. Crocs and flipflop sandals are not permitted.

The playground will close for the winter when weather changes – more information will be shared prior to closure.

School Spirit Wear Available:

This year Cathcart Cougar Spirit Wear is available all day/every day! Go to: <https://shop.teamoutfitters.net/collections/cathcart> to view our spirit wear and purchase! Check back regularly to see any new and exciting gear being added! We look forward to seeing red, white, and black clothing on our students, staff, and school community – Go Cougars!

Character Development:

Our character trait for the month of September is Resilience! We will be keeping an extra eye open for our students learning and showing this especially important trait. The Golden Kiwanis Terrific Kid character development program will continue to shine with awards happening at the end of the month.



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School Council:

A new school year means the first meeting of Cathcart's School Council! All Parents and Guardians are welcome to attend. The purpose of School Council is to employ a variety of strategies to engage parents/guardians and the community in strengthening student achievement – through fundraising, events, etc.

Our **first School Council Meeting is Wednesday, September 11th, 2024**, at 6pm in the Learning Commons.

Cathcart Open House:

With a new school year comes a new open house! This is a great opportunity for families to come out and have their student(s) show them around the school!

Cathcart Open House will be on **Wednesday, September 18th, 2024 from 4pm to 6pm**. There will be more information coming shortly about this event.

IMPORTANT DATES:

September Happenings:

Every Friday – School Spirit Wear!
Sept 11 th – School Council Meeting
Sept 18 th – School Open House
Sept 16 th – 19 th – Book Fair!
Sept 20 – PD Day
Sept 26 – Terry Fox Run
Sept 37 – Orange Shirt Day

Holidays

October 14 th , 2024	Thanksgiving
December 23 th , 2024	Winter Holidays Begin
January 6 th , 2025	Return to School
February 17 th , 2025	Family Day
March 10 th – 14 th , 2025	March Break
April 18 th , 2025	Good Friday
April 21 st , 2025	Easter Monday
May 19 th , 2024	Victoria Day

P.D. Days

Friday, September 20 th , 2024
Friday, October 11 th , 2024
Friday November 15 th , 2024
Friday, January 31 st , 2025
Friday, April 4 th , 2025
Friday, June 6 th , 2025
Friday, June 27 th , 2025

Report Cards and Interviews

Progress Reports Home: Friday, Nov 8 2024
Parent/Teacher Interviews: Nov 14-15, 2024
Term 1 Reports Home: Friday, Feb 14 2025
Term 2 Reports Home: Thurs, June 26 2025



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Cathcart Staff 2024-2025

Mr. Eryn Smit	Principal	Mrs. Erika Lopes/ Mrs. Judy Bachus	FDK
Mrs. Tabetha Core	Vice-Principal	Mr. Warren Donner/Mrs. Amanda Dunn	FDK
Mrs. Stacey Stewart	Secretary	Mrs. Terra Bakker	Gr. 1
Mrs. Emma Lajoie	Receptionist (AM)	Mrs. Courtney Teather	Gr. 2
Mrs. Nadia Persaud	Receptionist (PM)	Mrs. Jennifer Fazio	Gr. 3
Mrs. Lisa Fazzalari	Daytime Custodian	Mrs. Julia Hodgins	Gr. 3/4
Mrs. Karen Davies	Resource	Mrs. Deanna Henry	Gr. 4/5
Mme Helena Esteves	0.5 Resource (AM)	Ms. Paige Harding	Gr. 5/6
Mme Rosie Gill	FI/FSL & Eng. Prep	Ms. Sijtske Kingma	Gr. 6/7
Mme Avery Whalen	FI/FSL & Eng. Prep	Mr. Greg McDonald	Gr. 7/8
Mlle Sami Morlog	FI/FSL & Eng. Prep	Mr. James Edgar	Gr. 7/8
Mme Allison Preiss	FI/FSL & Eng. Prep (PM)	Ms. Katie Kawasaki	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Heather Stone	0.5 Prep (PM)	Ms. Ciera Harding	Educational Assistant
Mrs. Carilyn Piquette	Gr. 7/8 Eng. to FI (AM)/Prep/Guidance (PM)		
Mr. Jason Tedball	Gr. 7/8 Eng. to FI (PM)		
Mme Emily Kirk	Gr. 7/8 FI		
Mme Tricia Babin	Gr. 5/6 FI & Gr. 6/7 FI		
Ms. Megan Palimaka	Gr. 5/6 & Gr. 6/7 Eng. to FI		
Mme Meghan Kelly	Gr. 3/4 FI & Gr. 4/5 FI		
Mrs. Sarah Freer	Gr. 3/4 & Gr. 4/5 Eng. to FI		
Mme Lauren Dalrymple	Gr. 2/3 FI		
Mlle Alyssa Fowlie	Gr. 1/2 FI		
Mme Kelli Forbes	Gr. 1 FI		
Mme Kate Kirkland /Mme Patti Jamieson	FDK FI		
Mme Krista Pruys / Mme Laura Larocque	FDK FI		