

Wildcat ROAR!

September 2019-Harwich Raleigh Public School

Website: <http://harwichraleigh.lkdsb.net>. School Twitter: @harwichraleigh

School Telephone: 519- 676-5481 School Fax: 519-676-5482

All the Good News from HRPS!

From the Office

Welcome back to all returning students and staff and a warm welcome to all new students to HRPS! We are very excited and pleased that you are joining our school community! Welcome to Mrs. Brownlee, Ms. Havens, and Mrs. Quinney who are joining our team this year. Mrs. Dresser will be working at Wheatley Public School now so we will have a new secretary in the office in a few weeks. Thanks to Mrs. Duff who will be with us in the interim. We look forward to an amazing and fulfilling school year!

HRPS Team- 2019-2020

- FDK (English)-Ms. Poag & Ms. Massong
- FDK (French Immersion)-Mme. Vandermeer & Mme. Gagnier
- FDK (French Immersion)-Mme. Quinney
- Grade 1 (French Immersion)-Mme. Janisse
- Grade 1/2 (English)-Mrs. Roberts
- Grade 2 (French Immersion)-Mme. Woods
- Grade 2/3 (English)- Mrs. Rice
- Grade 2/3 (French Immersion)-Mme. Ryall
- Grade 3/4 (English)-Mrs. Thompson
- Grade ¾ (French Immersion)-Mme. Roman
- Grade 4/5 (English)-Mrs. Houston
- Grade 5/6 (French Immersion)-Mme. Tsharke
- Grade 6 (English)-Mrs. Stickney
- Grade 6/7 (English)-Mrs. Stanford
- Grade 7/8 (French Immersion)-Madelle Myers
- Grade 7/8(English)-Mrs. Gillett
- Grade 8 (English) & SYSOP/Learning Commons-Mr. Jackson
- Core French & Prep Coverage-Mr. Jaques
- Phys-Ed. Coverage-Mr. Barnard
- Prep Coverage and Language (Gr 5/6FI)-Ms. Havens
- Learning Resource Teacher-Mrs. McNear
- Learning Resource Teacher, Prep Coverage, Language (Gr ¾ FI)-Mrs. Brownlee
- Educational Assistants-Mrs. Barnes, Mr. D. Myers
- Secretary-Mrs. Duff (interim)
- Custodial Team- Mr. Payne, Mr. MacMillan, Mr. Carriere
- Principal-Mrs. Balkwill

Thank-you

A huge thank-you is extended to our custodial staff who worked diligently this summer during some very hot and humid weather conditions to welcome us back to a clean, shiny environment. Thank-you also to our staff for their work in setting up bright and inviting classrooms. Our school is beaming!

School Hours

Please note that our second nutrition break/recess time has changed slightly.

- 9:15 a.m.-3:35 p.m.
- Instructional Time-9:15-11:15 a.m.
- Nutrition Break—11:15-11:35 a.m.
- Recess— 11:35-11:55 a.m.
- Instructional Time—11:55 a.m-1:35 p.m.
- **Nutrition Break-1:45-2:05 p.m.**
- **Recess-2:05-2:25 p.m.**
- Instructional Time-2:25-3:35 p.m.

Students being dropped off or walking are welcome to arrive at school beginning at 9:00 a.m., as there is no supervision of students until this time. Thank-you for your co-operation.

Safe Arrivals

It is that time of year again when our students are arriving and departing from school each and every day. It is important to remember that safety is our utmost concern and by working together we can make sure everyone has a safe year. There is a parking lot on the south side of the circular drive that is for parent/visitor use before and after school. All parents are asked to meet their children outside their end corridor door or at a pre-arranged spot for pick up as our front foyer space is reserved for bus students. Please do not enter the circular drive before or after school because the space is reserved for loading and unloading of buses.

School Visits

When entering the school at any time, we ask that all visitors sign in at the office. If you are staying in the school, you will be given a visitor badge to wear. If you are simply there to pick up your child early or to drop something off, please inform someone at the office and your child will be called down to the office to meet you. Parents volunteering in the school are asked to check in at the office first. Thank-you for your attention to these safety requests.

Meet the HRPS Staff -September 12th

Please join us on Thursday, September 12th from 4:30-6:00 p.m. for a chance to meet your child's teacher and see his or her classroom. We are looking forward to connecting with you!

Absence Reporting

If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the school at **519- 676-5481**. When you leave a message, include the first and last name of your child, his/her teacher, and the reason for your child's absence and when he/she will return to school. Thank-you in advance for your assistance with reporting any absences. Notes and phone messages are of great assistance to the office staff.

Communication-Newsletter/Calendar Online

During the first of every month HRPS produces a newsletter to communicate to parents about current events. In supporting the LKDSB's initiative regarding the reduction of paper consumption and being financially efficient, **this will be the only monthly edition of the WILDCAT ROAR that will be printed and sent home.** All newsletters will be available <http://www.lkdsb.net/school/harwichraleigh/Pages/default.aspx> at the beginning of each month or at the office upon request. If your family might need a paper copy, please let your teacher know and it will go home with the youngest/only student.

Authorization for 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 at 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 diabetes, asthma, epilepsy etc.) 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.

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 a re-organization and some classes might be subject to change depending on any late registrations or additional moves out of our school area.

Volunteers/LKDSB Volunteer Policy

We are grateful to have volunteers at HRPS (assisting in the classroom, snack program, special events, fundraising distribution etc). If you are interested in volunteering in our school in any capacity, please let us know at the office so that we can add your name to a list for events that we might need assistance with from time to time.

In September 2016, the LKDSB introduced a policy regarding volunteers and volunteer drivers.

The following volunteers require a Vulnerable Sector Criminal Background Check (C.B.C.) every five years at their own expense and must undergo the formal screening process and provide an annual Offence:

- a) Parent/guardians and community volunteers who assist in the school on a daily or weekly basis
- b) Elementary parents/guardians and community volunteers on overnight excursions of any kind
- c) Parent/guardians and community volunteers accompanying secondary students on overnight excursions with exceptions only to be approved by the principal.
- d) Non-parent, non-guardian volunteers not known to the school community.
- e) **All volunteer drivers of all students.**
- f) Others, as deemed necessary by the principal.

A copy of the document must be given to the principal and need to be screened by the principal.

Below is the link to the ONLINE Chatham Kent Police Background Checks or this check can be obtained at the CK Police Station. <http://www.policelutions.ca/checks/services/chathamkent/>

NOTE: If you submitted a Vulnerable Sector Background Check to the office in the past two years, and your background check is still valid, please stop by the school office to update your declaration form for this school year.

School Planners

Students in grades 1-6 who purchased a school planner to record homework assignments and dates of school activities will receive one within the first few days of school. Planners are helpful tools for parents and teachers to communicate with each other. School expectations and routines are included in the front of each planner. Please review this information with your child(ren). We have a very limited number of school planners available to purchase at the cost of \$5.00. Please see the office if interested.

Bus Cancellations

During the fall we might experience some heavy fog in which there could be the potential for bus cancellations. When there are bus cancellations due to fog, busses will not run in the morning but will run in the afternoon.

HRPS is in BUS ZONE 7. To check for any bus cancellations during the school year, please tune into the local radio stations or the following website: www.schoolbusinfo.com

Registration Verification & Freedom of Information Requirements

A Registration Verification form will soon be sent home with each child and we ask that you review this form and note any necessary changes. If no changes are necessary, please confirm your consent at the bottom of the form for your child in regards to LKDSB media. **Please return these signed forms to the school as soon as possible.** Throughout the school year, many school activities occur and may be the subject of photographing, audio-taping, video-taping and filming. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, a signed release is required for the photographing or filming of student participation in these activities. In addition, the public media organization, upon notification, may be present to cover events by videotaping and filming students involved in activities which are outside of the jurisdiction of the School and/or Board.

School Council-2019-2020

HRPS is fortunate to have a dedicated group of parents who have volunteered to be members of our School Council. In their role as advisory council, their input is appreciated. We have appreciated those parents/community members who have joined us in the past and look forward to their return, as well as the addition of new parents.

Joining HRPS school council is:

- a. Social (great opportunity to meet new people-parents, admin, and teachers)
- b. Constructive (rewarding feeling by helping with an initiative and the impact it has on our students)
- c. Educational (learn about new developments in Education)
- d. Supportive (being a representative of our parent community).

We meet about 6 times a year and your attendance is not necessary at every meeting. There is no formal commitment to join School Council. We invite any interested parents to join us at anytime!

If you are interested in running for a role on School Council, please pick up a nomination form at the office by September 13th. Our first school council meeting will be Tuesday, September 17th, at 6:30 p.m., in our Learning Commons.

PA Day

Our first Professional Activity day is Friday, September 27th. There will be no classes for students on this day.

Terry Fox Run-September 25th

Traditionally at Harwich Raleigh, our staff and students participate in the Terry Fox School Day Run. **This run/walk will take place Wednesday, September 25th.** Students will be asked to bring in donations to support this cause the week preceding the event. Details and information will follow closer to the actual date. We thank you all in advance for your support and invite you to walk/run with us.

Orange T-Shirt Day

We will be having Orange T-Shirt day on Monday, September 30th to honour the survivors of Residential schools. We encourage our staff and students to wear orange on this day. Together we are learning and understanding more about the residential school system and the impacts that system has had on First Nations, Metis, and Inuit people and communities.

Picture Day-September 26th

School pictures will be taken on **Thursday, September 26th**. Remember to bring your smile!

Nut Aware Environment

Please be aware that some students have an allergy to nuts which includes peanuts, peanut butter, peanut oils, peanut bi-products, sesame seeds and other tree nuts. Exposure to these kinds of nut products – even trace amounts - could result in a life-threatening reaction. Nut products are not to be sent to school, as our goal is to provide a “**peanut and nut aware environment**”. While we appreciate the generosity of our parents, please be aware that treats sent to school may not be distributed if there is any concern of nut contents or exposure.

Breakfast Program

We are pleased to be offering a breakfast program for students, beginning near the end of September (date to be announced). A light breakfast of toast, juice or milk, and fruit will be available upon arrival at school, from 9:00 -9:15 a.m. Please look for the permission form being sent home soon, if you wish your child to participate in the breakfast program. There is no cost or obligation to parents and all students are welcome to participate. Special thanks to members of the Blenheim Ministerial Association as well as some of HRPS staff members, for volunteering to run this program for our students.

Pediculosis Check

Sometimes students arrive at school infected with pediculosis. Spring and fall are the seasons when head lice is most prevalent in school children. Your assistance in early detection is greatly appreciated. Please check your child for head lice weekly. If you find evidence of head lice, please contact the school immediately. This will allow us to notify other parents in the classrooms affected, so that they may check their child. Infestation by head lice is an unpleasant nuisance, but not a health problem. Head lice do not carry or spread disease. If we detect head lice on your child, you will be notified and asked to come to the school to pick up your child. We then ask that you use the necessary treatment on his/her hair. Your child(ren) are welcome to return to school when the pediculosis is no longer evident. By working together we can control the spread of head lice.

Milk/Popcorn Sales

Milk and popcorn are available during first and second break at HRPS. Both white and chocolate milk are \$1.00 each. Tickets can be purchased from the office. We recommend this so that your child does not have to carry cash (Tickets are sold in groups of 5's, 10's or 20's). Proceeds go towards helping fund school events. We will also continue to have regular daily prize draws! **Milk/popcorn sales will begin during the second week of school.**

Food Days

Special food days will be beginning sometime in October. More information to follow.

Fall Fundraiser- Fall Mums/Flowerbed Nursery

We are pleased to work with Flowerbed Nursery again this year to offer beautiful Fall mums to purchase. We will be sending home correspondence regarding this fundraiser mid September. Please consider supporting this fundraiser as you begin thinking about decorating your homes/gardens for the fall season. Proceeds will benefit our students.

School Cash OnLine

School Cash Online is a convenient, web-based solution that gives parents/guardians the ability to pay for student items online. Parents/guardians can make payments, print or view their receipts, and their current account history all in real-time.

Our goal this year is to have 100% participation and our preferred method of payment for food orders, field trips etc., will be School Cash OnLine.

School Cash Online provides multiple payment options, including eCheck (direct withdrawal from your bank account) or "MyWallet" (virtually add funds and reload like a gift card). Please note, banking information is not saved in School Cash Online and must be re-entered for every transaction. Unused funds in "MyWallet" will be carried over to the next year for back-to-school purchases unless a refund is requested (more information about refunds will be available on the School Cash Online website once launched).

In order to sign-up, parents/guardians must provide your child's last name, birth date and student number. Your child's student number will be on the student information profile sheet sent home, or please call the office at anytime for this information.

Further information about School Cash Online is available on our school website:

www.harwichraleigh.lkdsb.net. You can also learn more about this process at;

<http://www.lkdsb.net/Board/BudgetFinance/SchoolCashOnline/Pages/default.aspx>

Please sign up for School Cash Online so you will be all set with this system for the entire school year. It's an easy way for school payments right at your fingertips!
