

# Wildcat ROAR!

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## September 2020-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! We hope that you and your families have remained safe and well during our time apart, and that you had an enjoyable summer!

**We have certainly missed our students and look forward to working and learning alongside them!**

We understand that this school year will look and feel very different from previous school years, however our staff is very committed to making your child feel safe, happy, and welcome. We will work with our students to help them understand any necessary changes and protocols as a result of Covid-19. It's a learning curve for all of us but together we will successfully embrace these changes.

Included in this newsletter are many details regarding the school's re-opening and procedures. Please read through this information carefully as it may help to answer any wonderings you might have. For additional information about the LKDSB's Reopening Our Schools Plan, please visit the LKDSB website ([www.lkdsb.net](http://www.lkdsb.net)) Please communicate any relevant information with your child's emergency contacts.

### **Staggered Dates for School Re-Entry**

In order to support the successful transition back to school and assist students with learning school health and safety procedures and risk mitigation strategies, Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will have a staggered entry. Please note the following information;

#### **SK TO GRADE 8**

**Half of the student body (Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8) will attend school on Thursday, September 10 for one day. On Friday, September 11, the remaining students (those who did not attend the previous day) will attend school. On Monday, September 14, all Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will attend school.**

#### **JK Students**

**Half of the Junior Kindergarten students will attend school on Tuesday, September 15 for one day. On Wednesday, September 16, the remaining students (those who did not attend the previous day) will attend school. On Thursday, September 17, all Junior Kindergarten students will attend school.**

## **HRPS Team-2020-2021**

- FDK (English)-Ms. Poag & Ms. Massong
- FDK (French Immersion)-Mme. Vandermeer & Mme. DeGelas
- FDK (French Immersion)-Mme. Quinney & Mme. Gillanders-Kells
- Grade 1 (French Immersion)-Mme. Janisse
- Grade SK/1(English)-Mrs. Roberts
- Grade 2/3 (French Immersion)-Mme. Roman
- Grade 2/3 (English)- Mrs. Thompson
- Grade 3/4 (French Immersion)-Ms. Jackson (Mme. Ryall)
- Grade 3/4 (English)-Mrs. Stickney
- Grade 4/5 (French Immersion)-Mme. Woods
- Grade 5/6 (English)-Mrs. Stanford
- Grade 6/7 (English)-Mrs. Gillett
- Grade 6/7/8 (French Immersion)-Mme. Tscharke
- Grade 7/8 (English)-Mr. Jackson
- Core French & FI Prep Coverage-Mr. Jaques
- Phys-Ed.& Prep Coverage-Mr. Barnard
- Prep Coverage -Ms. Tiffin
- Learning Resource Teacher-Mrs. McNear
- Learning Resource Teacher/Prep Coverage -Mrs. Brownlee
- Educational Assistants-Mrs. Barnes, Mr. D. Myers, Ms. Downie
- Secretary-To be Announced
- Custodial Team- Mr. Payne, Mr. MacMillan, Mr. Newcombe
- Principal-Mrs. Balkwill

Welcome to Ms. Tiffin, and Ms. Jackson who are joining our team this year. Ms. Blanchard secured a school position closer to home so we will have a new secretary in the office in a few weeks. Mrs. Houston, Mrs. Rice, Madelle Myers and Mme. Gagnier will be working in the LKDSB virtual school.

## **School Hours**

- 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.

## **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, and safe environment. Thank-you also to our staff for their work in setting up bright and inviting classrooms. Our school is beaming!

## **Transition Back to School**

We understand that many of the school procedures will be new to students beginning Junior Kindergarten in September; however, we are committed to supporting safe and welcoming transitions to school for our students and families. In addition to supporting student learning, staff will help students become familiar with school and health and safety routines to reduce the opportunities for transmission of COVID-19.

The plan is a multi-layered approach with various safety measures to mitigate opportunities for the transmission of COVID-19. The implementation is a shared responsibility between Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) staff, local Public Health, family households, students and Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS). By collectively implementing the plan, our schools will be safe for our students and staff.

**Refer to the *School Safety Protocols and the Daily Screening Questionnaire for Parents/Guardians/Students Before Attending School* for more information.**

Please note: Parents/guardians will have limited opportunities within the school year to switch their child's school experience between face-to-face instruction and Learn at Home instruction (or vice versa). Families must notify the school in advance and there may be a waiting period prior to their child's admission to school, depending on scheduling and availability of classroom space.

## **School Arrival Procedure**

**Students should not arrive before 9:00 am (15 minutes before the morning bell) and students will proceed to their entrance door directly and enter their classroom.** Students will move to their entrance door regardless of transportation, bus, drop-off, before-school programming, or walking. **As students are expected to proceed directly to their classroom, staff supervision will not be available on the playground.**

**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.**

We understand that this will be a new process for Junior Kindergarten students and staff will be available to help support them.

Each student will be designated a location for their materials (coat, backpack, etc.) that will be consistent.

**Parents/Guardians: Please share school arrival information with emergency contacts for the student.**

**Please note: To maintain cohorts and contact tracing, parents/guardians will not be allowed to enter schools at this time, except in case of emergency or a pre-arranged appointment time.** Parents/guardians of students requiring extra support to help get to class once safely at school should contact the school administrator.

**If a student leaves school property during the school day for an appointment, the student will be able to return to school after his/her appointment**

## Screening

Parents/guardians are required to assess their children daily and report whether they are experiencing any signs of illness and are expected to keep them home if they are. **Parents/guardians should refer to the *Daily Screening Questionnaire and School Safety Protocols Before Attending School* to perform daily screening of their children before arriving at school (see attached sheets).**

All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not attend school and should seek appropriate medical attention as required, including getting tested at a COVID-19 testing centre. The closest testing centre to our school is **47 Emma Street, Chatham, On.**

## Students and Masks

**Students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, including in hallways and during classes. Outdoor times like recess can be used as opportunities to provide students with breaks from wearing masks as long as the students are organized to remain within their cohorts. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in indoor spaces. Masks are also mandatory in bus lines and on the bus for Grade 4-8 students.**

Students are encouraged to practice wearing masks and learn what type of mask is most comfortable for them. Parents/guardians should provide non-medical masks or cloth masks for their children to wear to school. The LKDSB will provide backup non-medical masks for students who do not have their own. Face coverings that provide a tight seal at the chin and nose and cover the mouth are permitted (a gaiter for example), whereas face coverings that do not provide a tight seal at the chin and nose and cover the mouth are not permitted (a bandanna for example).

For some students with special needs, or significant medical conditions, wearing a mask may be problematic. Families should work with the school to determine if your child may be exempt from wearing a mask. Parents/guardians can expect that there will be time spent in class during the first days of school reviewing the proper use of masks, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

## Before-and-After School

The LKDSB and Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS) continues to work closely with all child care providers who provide child care options in LKDSB schools to ensure that before-and after-school programs are available to support our students and families.

More information can be found at the following link: <https://cklass.ca/covid19/child-care/>

## Student Transportation

CLASS is planning service for all eligible students; there is no need to register for busing. Go to <https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/address-eligibility/> in order to confirm your eligibility for transportation. Students will be assigned a bus seat, be required to wear masks and will sit with their siblings or classroom cohort. Additional information is available on the CLASS Student Transportation website: <https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/>

Download the MySBI app for school bus updates during the school year, including school bus delays and weather cancellations.

## Personal Student Items

Any personal items (e.g., backpack, clothing, water bottles, food, etc.) should be labeled and kept in an area designated for the student and should not be handled by other students.

## Recess and Playgrounds

Elementary students will have the opportunity to enjoy recess. At this time, Medical Officers of Health have advised that outdoor activity has reduced risk and that playground equipment may be used. Classes will be assigned specific areas of the playground/schoolyard at recess. Students will practice hand hygiene before and after the break.

## Lunch and Food Services

Students will be required to bring their own food. Students will eat their lunch with their class in a designated area. Students will not be allowed to share any food.

At this time we will not be offering any special food days until further notice.

Students will not be permitted to leave school property during lunch.

Students should bring labelled refillable water bottles instead of accessing drinking fountains. If you do not have a refillable water bottle, please contact the school.

## Student Learning

Classes will resume according to a conventional in-person model. When specialist teachers provide instruction to a class (such as French), students will remain in their classrooms, and teachers will move between rooms. Minimizing student movement will reduce congestion and student-to-student interaction between classrooms.

For additional information about programming, read the [Reopening Our Schools plan section on Programming: Elementary](#) on the LKDSB website ([www.lkdsb.net](http://www.lkdsb.net)).

## Moving Between Learn at Home and Face-to-Face Instruction

Families wishing to transfer between face-to-face learning to Learn at Home or transfer from Learn at Home to face-to-face instruction must contact their principal according to the following timelines:

- **Fall date: Families notify school by October 22. Student begins new program type on November 16.**
- **Winter date: Families notify school by January 12. Student begins new program type on February 3.**
- **Spring date: Families notify school by March 30. Student begins new program type on April 20.**

**Students moving between program delivery choice (i.e. face-to-face learning or Learn at Home) should anticipate changes in teacher(s). If space is available, the LKDSB will attempt to accommodate all requests sooner than the dates above; however, this will vary from school-to-school and grade-by-grade and may not be possible. Transportation delays may also occur.**

**Please note: Parents/guardians will have limited opportunities within the school year to switch their child's school experience between face-to-face instruction and Learn at Home instruction (or vice versa).**

### Special Education Staff Support

Teachers, Educational Assistants and other special education support staff essential for daily academic programming in the classroom will use personal protective equipment when physical distancing is not possible. Information about Special Education staff support is available in the [Reopening Our Schools](#) plan. Should you have any specific questions about your child, please follow-up with the school.

### Individual Education Plan

Individual Education Plan (IEP) and Plan of Care for students will be reviewed and updated in consultation with families and school staff as we begin the 2020-2021 school year. Parents and guardians can expect to receive an updated IEP and/or Plan of Care. If parents and/or guardians have any questions or concerns, please contact our Resource Teachers, Mrs. Brownlee or Mrs. McNear.

### Mental Health

Families are encouraged to contact the school to discuss any concerns regarding their child's transition to school. For additional resources, please access information at:

<https://www.lkdsb.net/Board/Community/MentalHealth/>

### Volunteers and Sports-Post Poned Until Further Notice

We certainly appreciate the support of our many parent volunteers during the school year, however at this time, volunteers are not permitted in the building.

Sports teams are also post poned until further notice.

We will look to the CK Public Health Unit for further direction on both of these initiatives.

### 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/Prevalent Medical Condition

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.

If your child has a prevalent medical condition (for example, anaphylaxis, asthma, diabetes, epilepsy), a specific prevalent medical condition form will need to be completed. **The forms for this purpose are available on our school website. You can also send a note with your child and we can send a copy home.**

### School Planners

Students 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).

### 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](http://www.schoolbusinfo.com)

### 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 will not be having a formal Breakfast Program this year however we might have snacks available for our students (i.e., prepackaged individual vegetables or piece of fruit). **At this time our snack program will be delayed and we will look to announce a possible start date in a few weeks.** 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.

### 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.** 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](http://www.harwichraleigh.lkdsb.net). You can also learn more about this process at;

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

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