

Wildcat ROAR

Harwich Raleigh Public School

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September 2023

Welcome Back Wildcats

From the Office

Welcome back Wildcats, we are excited to kick off the 2023-24 school year with everyone. There will be a few new faces and many who are returning, including students and staff. We are looking forward to a wonderful year of learning, engaging in school activities and growing together.

We want everyone to remain aware that while the restrictions due to COVID are no longer something that we have in place, there are continually rising COVID cases and we all need to do our part to ensure that students are healthy when attending school. We are asking all families to remain diligent in determining when it is safe for students to attend school based on their health. If students are unwell, we kindly request that you keep your child(ren) home until they are symptom free. Maintaining a healthy classroom and school environment is important for everyone, students and staff alike.

Our JK students will begin in a staggered method, beginning September 6th when half of the JK students will attend. On Thursday, Sept. 7th, the other half will attend. Finally, on Friday, Sept. 8th, all JK students will be part of their class for their first full day together. Our newest Wildcats have had some different opportunities to see their learning space which helps to make for an easy transition.

A big shout out

The custodial team worked extremely hard over the summer to ensure that the school was well cleaned and any necessary repairs were made to be ready to receive students back in September. We would like to acknowledge their hard work and commitment to our school.

Additionally, many teachers and staff have been preparing their classrooms and learning spaces for when our students return. We are excited to begin fresh with new students in each class.

Mrs. Koluk has been working hard at getting new students who have joined HRPS registered and acquainted with the school as well.

Staff List and assignments:

FDK English	Ms. Poag & Ms. Massong
FDK French Immersion	Mme. Vandermeer & Mme. Gagnier
Grade 1/2	Mrs. Roberts
Grade 1/2 French Immersion	Mme. Janisse
Grade 2/3 French Immersion	Mme. Woods
Grade 2/3	Mrs. Ford
Grade 3/4	Mrs. Stickney
Grade 3/4 French Immersion	Mme. Roman
Grade 4/5 French Immersion	M. Durepos, Mrs. Brownlee
Grade 5/6	Mrs. Stanford
Grade 6 French Immersion	Mme. Ryall, Mrs. Charlton
Grade 6/7	Mrs. Gillett
Grade 7/8	Mr. Jackson
Grade 7/8 French Immersion	Mlle. Purdy
Core French and Prep coverage	Mr. Jacques
Phys. Ed. and Prep coverage	Mr. Barnard
Learning Resource and Prep coverage	Mrs. Brownlee
Learning Resource	Mrs. McNear
Educational Assistants	Mrs. Barnes Mr. Myers Ms. Downie
Custodial Team	Mr. Payne, Mr. Newcombe, Mr. Laselle
Secretary	Mrs. Koluk
Principal	Ms. Vander Pol

School Hours:

Outside time: 9:00-9:15

Instructional time: 9:15-11:15

Inside nutrition break 11:15-11:35

Outside recess time 11:35-11:55

Instructional time: 11:55-1:35

Inside nutrition break 1:35- 1:55

Outside recess time 1:55- 2:15

Instructional time 2:25-3:35

The start and end times of the day remain the same, but there are changes to second break time which everyone should note.

Parents are reminded that no students should be arriving to the school before the 9:00 point when staff are ensuring students are able to play safely on the school yard. Bus arrival always takes place from 9:00 am onward.

Students will play on the yard for a maximum of 15 minutes from 9:00 until 9:15 when the entry bell rings. All students will then enter their classrooms through their corridor entrances.

The gravel parking lot to the south of the main school driveway and parking lot should be the primary location for student drop off and pick up before and after school. This allows the main drive to be used by the numerous buses loading and unloading. We ask parents to attempt backing into their parking spaces to ensure better sight lines when leaving their parking space. Also, there is no smoking permitted on school property, including in your vehicle while parked and waiting in the parking lot.

P.A. Day

Our staff will be participating in professional learning on Friday, September 15th. This will help to guide the work that is done throughout the school year. On this day, as every P.A. day, students will have the day away from school. Please make sure you have this date marked on your calendar as it will quickly approach.

Meet the Staff Event

On Thursday, September 14th, from 4:30 until 6:00 pm, our staff will welcome all students and parents to the school, to be able to introduce themselves to one another. We will have the Blenheim Kinsmen here running a BBQ where families can purchase a bite to eat since the timing is occurring over the dinner hour. The event will take place in the gymnasium, where all teachers and staff will be located, therefore making it easy to see everyone you need to. Classrooms will not be accessible at this time. The purpose really is to just get to know each other, and shouldn't be an interview time, as our staff will only be getting to know your child and their progress at that point is too hard to define. If you feel that you would like to set up a separate time to speak with the teacher about an academic concern, please make those arrangements for another time.

Fall Photo Day

On Monday, September 25th, fall photos will take place. Lifetouch is the provider of the photos again this year. Please ensure that your student is prepared for this. Photo proofs will go home with students approximately 3 weeks after this date, and then orders can be submitted following your decision.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day

On Friday, September 29th, we will do our part to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. This day honours the children who never returned home and survivors of residential schools, as well as their families and communities. Our staff ensure that approaching this day, and throughout the school year, students learn about the significance of orange shirts and the history of Indigenous people in our national history. Please show your support by wearing orange on September 29th. For any families who are interested in ordering a shirt for this day and to wear throughout the year, please follow this link https://www.screenart.ca/lkdsb_ecm/shop/home. This store will remain open until Monday, September 11th. All shirts which have been ordered will arrive to the school through board courier by September 28th.

School Council Meeting

School Council HRPS is fortunate to have a dedicated group of parents who have volunteered to be members of our School Council. 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 any new parents. We meet at least 4 times a year. Our meetings are held in person and **Tuesday, September 26th at 6:30 pm** in the Learning Commons/Library will be the first meeting of the year. *This date is a change compared to what was established in the spring, so please double check your calendars for the correct date.* If you are interested in running for a school council position (Chair, Secretary), please see the nomination form on our school website. School Council positions will be determined at this meeting.

Lunch Days

We are pleased to offer lunch options from both Wayne's Pizza and Subway in Blenheim on a regular basis for students here at the school. These options have been set up in School Cash online. The cut-off dates are set, and we need to stick with these dates to be able to collate and submit the order totals to each restaurant ahead and therefore cannot accept any late orders.

Fall Fundraiser

We have partnered with Flowerbed Greenhous in Blenheim to sell tickets for 9" pots of fall mums. The tickets can be purchased through School Cash Online, and then redeemed at the garden center where you can choose the colour which suits you best. Families need to keep track of the individuals who support the fundraiser on a sheet which will come home with each student. The office will just provide the total number of tickets purchased for each family to that family. School Cash Online will be open beginning September 5th, and close September 18th. Tickets will be ready to pick up at the school office beginning Wednesday, September 20th and can be redeemed at Flowerbed Greenhouse until September 30th. Please consider redeeming your tickets early as to ensure the best selection of colours.

Terry Fox Run

On Friday, September 22nd, our school will hold the Terry Fox run. This event is meant to be a fundraiser and an opportunity for students to learn about the efforts that a heroic Canadian made to bring awareness to cancer and the treatments required. Please send a "Twoonie for Terry" if you are able in the week approaching or the day of the event. Also, on the day of the event, please ensure that your child(ren) have the appropriate equipment to participate such as running shoes, sunscreen, water bottle, hat, etc. as we will be outside for a period longer than our usual 20-minute recess time.

Student Verification Forms

During the first week of school, each student will bring home a Student Verification form. This form contains information such as address, phone numbers, and emergency contacts. It is crucial that this information is kept accurate and up to date at this point in the fall, and as well, any point throughout the year when a change occurs, as this information is often requested by government agencies in relation to income tax or child tax credits.

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. You may also use the online absence reporting tool to report a student absence and then avoid the need to make a phone call to the office. Thank-you in advance for your assistance with reporting any absences. Notes and phone messages are of great assistance to the office staff.

Office Communication

Our main office is a very busy place, with parents calling the school and arriving to have students excused. While we try our best to get the messages to students, we are also human and there are times this isn't always done. **We ask that parents please call the office as early as possible, ahead of second break, when there has been a change to the end of day plans for your child(ren).** This will help Mrs. Koluk to ensure that the correct information is given to each student on time. We appreciate your help with this.

Newsletter/Calendar Online

At the beginning 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, the WILDCAT ROAR that will be shared electronically. All newsletters will be available at <http://www.lkdsb.net/school/harwichraleigh/Pages/default.aspx> at the beginning of each month or at the office upon request. Teachers will also be able to share the newsletter through their online platform. If your family might need a paper copy, please let your teacher know and it will go home with the youngest/only student.

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, buses 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

A new app, MySBI 4 has just been rolled out and replaced the previous MySBI app. Using this app and selecting your child's bus will allow you to receive updates when buses are cancelled or delayed. This is helpful to keep everyone aware and avoid the feeling of panic when a bus isn't on time. You can find the MySBI 4 app in the app store for Android and Apple users.

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 will not be distributed if there is any concern of nut contents or exposure.

Breakfast Program

Our Breakfast Program will look similar this year as it did last, where we will have daily snacks available for our students (i.e., prepackaged individual vegetables, cheese string, yogurt tube, piece of fruit etc.) starting on the first day. There is no cost or obligation to parents and all students are welcome to participate. If you do not wish for your child(ren) to receive a snack from the snack program, please let their teacher know. We are thankful to the leadership of Eric Skillings in purchasing these nutritional items and to our team of EA staff for getting them to each class for students to consume.

