

Dear Parents/Guardians,

September 5th, 2023

First Day of School: September 5th (JK parents unsure of start date should contact the office)

PD Day: September 15, 2022 – no school

Orange Shirt Day: Recognized at school on Friday, September 29th (see below for info re: ordering a shirt/sweatshirt)

Principal's Message

I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our Panthers, new and old, for the 2023-24 school year. Staff have been working hard the last couple of weeks to ensure that classrooms are ready, and our custodians have done an amazing job this summer getting the school in pristine shape.

I am excited to be joining this amazing school community. I look forward to working with all the staff, students, and families who support them and the school to ensure that we are working towards meeting the needs of all our students.

We will continue to support the LKDSB's [Strategic Priorities](#) by setting classroom and school wide learning objectives. Equitable and inclusive education and the health and well-being of our students remain at the forefront along with setting academic goals for our school.

If you have a question or concern, you are encouraged to reach out to your child's teacher first, but please don't hesitate to contact myself or Mrs. Allison, the vice principal, at any time.

Sincerely,
Liz Townsend

Meet the Teacher Night/ Book Fair

The staff at high Park are looking forward to welcoming all our Panther families to Meet the Teacher Night on Thursday, September 21st from 4-6 PM. Meet the teacher, see the classrooms, and reconnect with other families. See you there!

Our Book Fair will be running Monday, September 18 to Friday, September 22. Our Learning Commons Coach, Ms. Gore will be sharing more information in the coming week, but students will have a chance to browse and purchase during the week, or the evening of Meet the Teacher. The Book Fair helps raise money to purchase new reading material for the school.

Orange Shirt Day

In honouring and remembering those impacted by residential schools, LKDSB had commissioned a new orange shirt design in 2021. Orange shirts are available for order by interested students from Screenart, a company in Wallaceburg. Screenart has created an online store for LKDSB orders, therefore staff and families will submit payment online directly through this website:

https://www.screenart.ca/lkdsb_ecm/shop/home.



High Park Public School
757 Kember Ave.
Sarnia, ON N7S 2T3
ph - 519.332.0474 fax - 519.332.8643

Principal: Mrs. Liz Townsend
Vice Principal: Mrs. K. Allison
Secretary: Mrs. Linda Orr
<https://highpark.lkdsb.net>

Zone 2

The store is open immediately for purchases, and will remain open until Monday, September 11th. All shirts which are ordered will be delivered to the schools via the board courier by September 28th.

Staffing changes

We have had quite a few staffing changes over the summer. I have attached a complete staff list at the end of this newsletter and will ensure the website is updated. Mrs. Orr is our new secretary and will be a friendly and welcoming face to all of you along with Mrs. Rockwood in the office!

Entry Procedures

Students should continue to remain off school property until the bell at 8:35 when yard supervision begins. Grade 7 & 8 students in Ms. Best and Mr. Lounsbury's classes are permitted to enter at the 8:35 bell and head to their classrooms.

Parents can help their child find their line-up on the first day but are asked to then wait off the yard after the first day. Chairs with class lists taped to them will be on the yard to help students find their bags.

Kindergarten students will be brought to the gated yard where staff will be present to meet them.

Dismissal Procedures

We are going to try a bus bell at 3:05 with dismissal for walkers at 3:10. It can be helpful for students (especially those transitioning to grade 1 who are used to being picked up in the fenced yard) to pick a spot in the yard to meet so they know where to look for you.

School Messenger and Attendance Reporting

Instructions for downloading the School Messenger app and navigating the website can be found attached to this email or on the school website. Please, use this to report any absences. There is an automatic call-out that we are unable to suspend that goes out about 9:30.

If your child(ren) is going to be absent for 5+ days, please contact the office to receive a form that is required to be kept on file for auditing purposes.

School Cash Online

If you are new to the school, please register for a school cash online account in order to receive notifications when payments are due for items such as field trips and hot lunch days. The link to the website can be found here: [School Cash Online](#)
Please contact Mrs. Orr in the office if you require your child's student number or assistance.

Busing

Bus information can be found in the Parent Portal here: [Parent Portal](#) If you are new to the school and have not used the portal you will have to register first. You will need your child's student number to register, and Mrs. Orr can help you with that if you call or email her (linda.orr@lkdsb.net).

MySBI4 is an app you can download that can send you notifications of any cancellations or delays. This version must be downloaded and is different than the MySBI app that the board has been using the last couple of years (if you currently have the MySBI app, it has become obsolete and should be deleted). See the instructions attached to the same email as this newsletter for assistance.



Nut-Free (and nut substitution) free school

We are a nut free school. This includes all products made with nuts and substitutions (such as WOW!butter). There are cases where an anaphylactic student has had a psychosomatic reaction to these products believing that they have been in contact with a nut product . It is also difficult for staff to have to determine what is and isn't true nut products (i.e., peanut butter vs. WowButter!) while on supervision at lunch.

School Council and a Call for Nominations

Being involved in your children's school is a great way to stay connected. This year our meetings are held in person in the learning commons with an option to login virtually. Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, September 19th @ 6:30 PM. New members are always welcome!

Please send an email to me to indicate if you are interested in running for one of the 4 executive positions (chair, vice-chair/co-chair, secretary, treasurer). If you currently hold the position, please indicate that in the email as well. We will discuss and hold a vote/election at the end of the first meeting. If you would like more information on what responsibilities each role entails, please send me an email.

(Elizabeth.townsend@lkdsb.net).

Appointments During the Day/Picking up Early

If you need to pick your child(ren) up before dismissal, please call and let Mrs. Orr or Mrs. Rockwood in the office know and they will ensure your child is ready and waiting. Once you have arrived, ring the doorbell outside the main office doors to notify the office of your arrival and your child will be dismissed. It's always a good idea to send the classroom teacher a notification as well.

PARENTS WILL NOT BE PERMITTED BEYOND THE FOYER FOR ANY REASON OTHER THAN A SCHEDULED MEETING WITH TEACHING STAFF OR THE PRINCIPAL.



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Staff List 2023-24 (current) Brackets indicate a staff member who is currently on leave

Educational Assistants	English Instruction	French Immersion Instruction
L. Armstrong	K. Best- gr 7/8	K. Courtis- FI gr 5/6
B. Fontaine (D. Baarschers)	R. Lounsbury- gr 7/8	K. Lemieux- FI gr 4/5
S. Biscaia	J. Van Wolde - 6/7	T. Donais (C. Garvin)- FI gr 2/3
S. Davis	K. Jones- Gr. 6	P. Kehn- FI gr 1/2
M. Dumont	S. Snauwaert gr. 5	A. Hessel- FI FDK/C. Rennie (RECE)
S. Gordon	S. Kaldeway gr.4/5	A. Nixon- FI FDK/B. Frayne (RECE)
S. Laur	Z. Miller (C. Kohut) gr. 4/5)	J. Speed- FI prep and FSL
S. Mackenzie	L. DenBoer- gr 3/4	
K. Mellow	S. Siebert- gr. 3/4	
R. Hill	C. Mackay-gr.2/3	Administration
B. Simard	N. Schultz-gr. 2	L. Townsend – Principal
J. Somlai	B. Slack – gr. 1/2	K. Allison – Vice Principal
P. Tamming	S. Evangelista (C. McLeay)- gr. 1	
	C. Houle- FDK/K. DeGuire (RECE)	Office
	M. Paulley- FDK/E. Denham (RECE)	L. Orr – Elementary Secretary
Resource/Prep Providers		A. Rockwood – Elementary Clerk
A Schenck- Resource		
J. Turner- Resource and Prep		Custodians
C. Benacquista- FSL and prep		E. Pash
K. Gore- 0.5 Prep and LC		J. Evans
L. Gill- Prep		S. Evans

