



King George VI Public School

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A Few Words from the Principal

September 2023

Welcome to what's been an incredibly positive but HOT start to the 2023-24 School Year! I hope you've all enjoyed the summer break with family, friends, and plenty of sunshine.

Please join me in welcoming teachers, Greg Van Bunderen and Laura Russell, to King George VI, along with EA, Alicia Morse. I've had the pleasure of working with these incredible folks in the past and look forward to having them on our team. We also have two departures; please join me in thanking ECE, Kate Clarke, and EA, Jessica Doucet, for their many years as integral members of the King George VI team.

Thanks to a recent storm, the site line to the front of the school is now much clearer – a giant tree came down and has since been removed. You'll also notice that the rusty yellow railing near the front door has been removed and there's a new concrete sidewalk (no more giant puddles!) and pad for the bike rack. All metal interior doors have been painted for consistency, and the exterior of entrances to the building re-faced with new siding, soffits, and fascia. The water main running from O'Dell into the school has also been replaced; a huge job that led to an opportunity to renovate and furnish (thank you School Council!) a major hub of our fantastic little school: the Learning Commons. Our new space is not only more visually appealing, but it's much more functional for staff and students to use for literacy, FDK centres, meetings, STEM activities, and much more.

A positive home-school partnership is critical to our children's success at school, and that partnership begins with our wonderful staff. If you have questions or concerns, please reach out – we're here for you...our King George VI families. I'd like to express my sincere appreciation to the staff of King George VI, the cornerstone of our amazing school – their tireless efforts to prepare for students' arrival have not gone unnoticed.

On Thursday, September 21 @ 5:30 p.m. we invite you to our **Open House and Family BBQ!** Please join us to meet your child(s) teachers, see their classroom, and enjoy a free hot dog, courtesy of School Council!

Check out our online spirit store through Team Outfitters! Items will be available for sale until October 7. Remember to buy items in your child('s) team colour: Team RED or Team BLACK. If you're not sure which team they're on, please reach out to their teacher. <https://kinggeorgefall2023.itemorder.com/shop/home/>

I prefer to fill our newsletters with action shots, celebrations, academic updates, and notices of upcoming events, but I'm afraid this newsletter tends to be a bit ...okay, *a lot* more dry. The focus on policies, procedures, and housekeeping is important at the onset of the school year, so please take time to read thoroughly and reach out to the office or your child(s) teacher with any questions.

Please visit King George VI on Facebook – it's a great way to get a sneak-peek into our terrific little school. Call, email, or pop by if you have questions or concerns – my door is always open. (adam.carswell@lkdsb.net)

Warmest regards,

Dates to Remember in September & October

Wednesday, September 13, 2023	School Council Meeting – all are welcome!
Friday, September 15, 2023	PA Day – No School
Thursday, September 21, 2023	Open House & Family BBQ + Book Fair Begins
Friday, September 22, 2023	KGVI Terry Fox Run
Friday, September 29, 2022	Orange Shirt Day – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
Monday, October 2, 2023	Fall Photo Day (Re-Takes November 7)
Friday, October 6, 2023	PA Day
Saturday, October 7, 2023	Online Spirit Store (Team Outfitters) CLOSES
Monday, October 9, 2023	Thanksgiving Holiday – School Closed
Tuesday, October 31, 2022	Halloween

Student Attendance Matters

Each day at King George VI offers valuable learning experiences, so maintaining regular attendance is critical for student success. Although it's nearly impossible to attend every day of school, excessive absences can create gaps in learning. Developing consistent morning routines helps to ensure that students arrive on time and begin their day without the stress often that often accompanies a rushed morning.

Safe Arrival

If your child will be absent, please call the school (519-344-2942) or use School Messenger so we can report the absence appropriately in our system. When leaving a message, please leave your child's name, grade, teacher, and the reason for their absence. Please note that school begins at 9:10 a.m. and ends at 3:30 p.m.

If end-of-day plans change, please contact the school **before 2:30 p.m.**

If you have moved or changed phone numbers or email address, please let the school know.

Interested in Volunteering?

We love to welcome parents, guardians, and community members into our amazing school!

If you are interested in volunteering, please contact the office or your child's teacher(s).

We ask that all parents and community members who volunteer at King George VI on a regular basis first complete a Criminal Reference Check with a Vulnerable Sector Check.

School Council

School Council is an integral part of our King George VI community and has a track record of being a dynamic, positive, and productive team. Among other things, the objective of School Council is to ensure accountability, make recommendations to the school, and engage in fundraising activities. I encourage parents and guardians to consider joining School Council in 2023-24; to participate in monthly meetings (2nd Wednesdays 6:30-7:30 p.m.) and engage in special events and projects. Our first meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 13, 2023, beginning **at 6:30 p.m.** in the newly renovated King George VI Learning Commons.

School Visitors

We are always happy to welcome visitors at King George VI! Please be sure to sign in and out at the table just outside the office when visiting the school.

Nut Awareness

King George VI is a *NUT AWARE* school. Please do not send nut products with your child to school. In addition to nut products, please do not send substitute nut spreads as it is difficult for lunch monitors to distinguish the nut products from the substitutes. Thank you for your diligence and support in ensuring a safe and healthy environment for all students and staff.

Student Cell Phone Use

Student cell phone use is not permitted at school unless given permission from a teacher for instructional purposes. The office phone is available for student use, with permission from a teacher. If students choose to bring a phone to school to use on their way to and from school, the phone should be stored in their backpacks. If you need to reach your child during school hours, please call: 519-344-2942. If students use cell phones during the school day, the phone will be held at the office for the parent to pick up at the end of the day.

Inclement Weather (Zone 2)

The Lambton-Kent District School Board encompasses a large geographical area which includes eight bus weather zones; King George VI, Sarnia, is in Weather Zone 2.

Announcements about bus cancellations can be found at www.schoolbusinfo.com.
If in doubt, please call the school.

On days where the buses are not running but schools are open, parents are encouraged to bring students to school unless safety will be compromised. Classes will be conducted as usual on these days – every day counts!

Mental Health Support

St. Clair Child & Youth (129 Kendall St., Point Edward) is an accredited children's mental health centre serving children, youth and families by providing a continuum of high-quality mental health services for infants, children, youth, and their families who live in Lambton County.

They can be reached by phone: 519-337-3701 or at their website: www.stclairchild.ca
They also have a Child & Youth Crisis Line: 1-833-622-1320 which can be called anytime.

Fair Notice Communication Regarding Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals will most often employ progressive discipline strategies to help a

student take responsibility for their actions, learn from their mistakes, and make better choices in the future.

In more extreme cases however, when a student's behaviour poses a potential threat to their own or others' well-being, the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTTRA) supports principals in taking further steps to safeguard everyone.

The VTTRA protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening incidents including but not limited to: possession of a weapon or replica weapon, bomb threat or plan, verbal or written (including electronic) threats to harm oneself or others, other threats of violence, and fire setting.

The initial response team is likely to include the Principal / Vice-Principal, police, and board staff. Should conditions warrant, a Community Threat Assessment Team will be convened. This community team includes representatives of community agencies who work with schools and boards to keep our students and staff safe, such as local police and children's mental health organizations.

Parents and guardians will be notified if their child will be discussed through the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment may still proceed. Personal information shared throughout this process will respect and balance each individual's right to privacy with the need to ensure the safety of all.

As always, student safety is our first priority. This notification is being provided via avenues such as school newsletters, and school and board web sites as fair notice to parents and guardians of the existence of the VTTRA Protocol and its application if situations warrant. If you have any questions regarding the Lambton Kent District School Board Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol, please contact your school principal as the first step.

