



King George VI Public School
585 O'Dell Avenue
Sarnia, ON N7V 4H7
Office: 519.344.2942
Fax: 519.344.4429
Website: <http://kinggeorges.lkdsb.net/>

A Few Words from the Principal

October 1, 2022

Thank you so much to all the families who joined us for our Open House and Family BBQ – we hope that you enjoyed the hot dogs...but more importantly, the opportunity to meet with teachers, see the school, visit your child's classroom, and stop in at the Book Fair! For those who may have missed my opening remarks in the gym, here is a summary of the message I shared:

The pandemic has impacted all of us in a variety of ways; but it's especially impacted our students. Learning gaps exist – that's the reality – and we all need to come together and work hard to close those gaps. We need your help!

Creating a literacy rich home environment to compliment the work being done at school is essential if we are to close the learning gaps that exist. Practising letters and their sounds, learning sight words, practising handwriting, reading to and with your children...anything that engages them in reading and writing will help tremendously!

We also need your help with numeracy: practising number facts (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division) - there's no easy button, it just takes practice to achieve the automaticity required for fluent thinking when tackling complex math problems. Talk about math with your children; talk about money, order pizza and discuss fractions, engage kiddos in home projects involving measurement...any real-life math that crosses your path, talk about it! And play math games - again, anything that gets your child(ren) thinking about math in a fun and engaging way!

We need your help at home now more than ever. There are plenty of great resources available online and locally in stores, but if you would like ideas on how to help and support your child at home this year, please reach out to your child's teacher – they will be happy to help!

Finally, last year our staff decided to work together to address students choosing to wear hats and hoodies in the building. The result was incredible; our students responded really well and are now in the habit of removing hats and hoodies while in the school. This year, we've decided to make a concerted effort to remind our King George VI students to demonstrate appreciation by using manners such as "please" and "thank you." We'll also ramp up our efforts to address students' use of inappropriate language. These 'little things' make a big difference in creating a respectful and positive school culture, so please help us by reinforcing these efforts at home.

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

Warmest regards,

Dr. Adam Carswell, Principal



September PA Day – our incredible staff learning, reflecting, and setting goals for the year ahead!



Terry Fox Run



Congratulations Character Award recipients for displaying courage throughout the month of October. Congratulations, as well, to our Knight Award recipients: Scotia, Cadence, Greysen, and Narisse!

School Council

King George VI School Council met on Wednesday, September 14, 2022, and were thrilled to welcome so many new faces. Our next meeting takes place at school on **Wednesday, October 12, 2022 @ 6:30 p.m.** If you would like to attend, please reach out so that I can share the agenda when it's ready.

During our September School Council meeting, we discussed these upcoming fundraisers:

Hot Lunch Days: We're excited for the return of monthly hot lunch days. The first Hot Lunch features BEANZZ Café on Friday, October 21, 2022. The order form is available via School Cash Online; orders must be submitted no later than October 14, 2022.

King George VI Bazaar: Bring friends and family on Saturday, November 5, 2022, 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. when the gym will be transformed into a market featuring a variety of vendors selling their unique products. Join us for more of our infamous KGVl hot dogs and make holiday shopping a breeze!

Character @ King George VI

Throughout the month of October, students and staff will discuss **empathy**, what it means, why it's important, and how it can lead to a more safe and caring school community. Interestingly, kids and adults alike often use the words *sympathy*, *empathy*, and *compassion* interchangeably, so I felt compelled to explore their differences. When you are compassionate, you feel the pain of others (empathy) or recognize that a person is in pain (sympathy) and then you do what you can to alleviate that person's suffering. One strategy to help develop thoughtful children with a keen sense of social awareness is to speak with your child(ren) about compassion – discuss what it's like to walk in other people's shoes. Share a prompt or short story, then ask: "How might they feel?" and then "How would you feel?" Here's an example to begin the dialogue at home:



When Abigail saw Lilly passing out invitations to her friends at school, she got excited – Lilly had been talking about her birthday party for weeks! But Abigail didn't get an invitation even though most of the other girls in her class did.

Another way to teach compassion is to find a way to give back in your community through social action, service projects, or volunteering. It can be hard to fit into our busy lives, but starting small often leads to big outcomes. How can your family help in our community?

Outdoor Classroom & Kindergarten Playground

Thank you to all who contributed financially to our fundraising campaign that has literally changed the school experience for our littlest Knights – no longer must we stay inside on wet days or track mud into our kindergarten classrooms! If you haven't already done so, please take a look at the south side of our school – Phase 1 of our new Kindergarten Playground is complete!

Phase 2 of our plan includes a tricycle 'road' around the perimeter of the unfinished portion of the yard, along with a large play structure and swing set in the center. We also plan to re-fence the yard to include the mini soccer goals and field so that our kindergarten friends can run, and run, and run!

Also included in our Phase 2 plans will be the addition of one, or perhaps two (if funding allows), Outdoor Classrooms. Teachers are excited about the idea of taking classes outside to learn - to write, read, present a math lesson, or conduct a messy science demonstration. The possibilities are endless!

Of course, Phase 2 will require significant funding – a continued team effort. Please reach out if you would like to discuss how you can contribute, or continue contributing, to our Kindergarten Playground and Outdoor Classroom(s). In the meantime, if you are aware of any grants or funding opportunities, I would be delighted to hear from you.

A Few Important Reminders

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, leave your child's name, grade, teacher, and the reason for their absence. 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.

Dates to Remember

Thursday, October 5, 2022	Optimist Club Cross Country Meet, Petrolia
Friday, October 7, 2022	PA Day
Monday, October 10, 2022	Thanksgiving Holiday – School Closed
Week of October 11, 2022	Cross Country Meets at Canatara
Friday, October 14, 2022	Beanzz Hot Lunch Orders Due, Spirit Day (Knights Gear)
Wednesday, October 19, 2022	FDK Field Trip to Zekveld's
Friday, October 21, 2022	Beanzz Hot Lunch Day, Spirit Day (Knights Gear)
Monday, October 24, 2022	Diwali
Friday, October 28, 2022	Fall Photo Retakes, Spirit Day (Knights Gear)
Monday, October 31, 2022	Halloween (Black & Orange Day)
Saturday, November 5, 2022	King George VI Bazaar
Friday, November 18, 2022	PA Day