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|  | **Principal:** Paul Beasley  **Secretary:** Andrea West  **School Website:** <http://www.lkdsb.net/school/naahiiridge> | **NAAHII RIDGE**  Public School  **20473 Victoria Road**  **R.R. #3 Ridgetown N0P 2C0**  **Phone: 519-674-3173 Fax: 519-674-3347** |

***September 2023 Newsletter***

**From the Office - Welcome Back!**

We would like to start by extending a warm welcome back to all returning staff, students and newcomers to Naahii Ridge. We hope you all had a restful summer and are looking forward to a new year at Naahii Ridge. Our staff has been busy over the summer preparing for the new school year and we hope you are excited as they are to get reacquainted with old friends and to meet new ones. September always brings with it a sense of newness and the opportunity to start fresh. We hope you all enjoy this wonderful time of year.

A big thanks to our custodial staff who worked diligently this summer to get our school looking top notch. Thank you to Mrs. West for all her hard work in the office for a smooth start to the year as well.

We are excited to begin a new school year that promises to be one of tremendous growth and terrific learning for all. We strive to continuously improve the educational opportunities available to all students. At Naahii Ridge, we look forward to creating safe conditions to inspire and support learning at every level.

**Staff Updates**

We have a few staffing changes that were made over the summer. Mrs. Hoskins will be joining us in a Grade 4/5 classroom and Mrs. McKenna will join us in a Grade 5/6 classroom. We are very excited to have them join our team!

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| . **Our Dedicated Staff**  Principal Mr. Beasley  Secretary Mrs. West  JK/SK Ms. Natvik/Mrs. Hopper  JK/SK Mrs. Armstrong/Mrs. Myers  Grade 1 Mrs. Roy  Grade 1 Mrs. Desbiens  Grade 1/2 Mrs. Fleming  Grade 2 Mrs. Hillman  Grade 3 Ms. Sheppy  Grade 3/4 Mr. Pfaff  Grade 4/5 Mr. Dick  Grade 4/5 Mrs. Hoskins  Grade 5/6 Mrs. McKenna  Grade 6 Ms. Mackenzie  Phys Ed Mr. Lucio  Delaware/Prep Ms. Jacobs  French/Prep M. Deseure  French/Prep Mme. Kerr  Learning Resource Mrs. Dennis  Education Assistant Mrs. Konecny  Education Assistant Mrs. LaPier-Coulter  Education Assistant Ms. Srigley  Tutor Escort Ms. Whiteye  Indigenous Support Ms. Tobias  Custodian Mr. Deacon |

**Class Organization**

This has been a very busy start up with new students registering and joining us this year at Naahii Ridge PS. As always at the start of the school year, this could result in changes being needed in order for us to fit within ministry mandated class sizes, as well as LKDSB averages. We will keep our families up to date with any changes that we may have to make to class lists and orgs.

**2022-2023 School Calendar**

September 5: First day of classes

September 15: PA Day

September 21: Meet the Teacher BBQ

September 21: Terry Fox run/walk

September 22: Photo Day

September 29: Orange Shirt Day

October 6: PA Day

October 9: Thanksgiving

November 17: PA Day

December 25-January 5: Christmas Break

February 2: PA Day

February 19: Family Day

March 11-15: March Break

March 29: Good Friday

April 1: Easter Monday

April 26: PA Day

May 20: Victoria Day

June 7: PA Day

June 27: Last Day of School

June 28: PA Day

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| **School Hours**  9:00 Supervision begins  9:15 School Entry Bell  9:15-11:15 First Instructional Block  11:15-11:35 Primary Nutrition  Break/Junior Recess  11:35-11:55 Primary Recess/Junior  Nutrition Break  11:55-1:35 Second Instructional Block  1:35-1:55 Primary Nutrition  Break/Junior Recess  1:55-2:15 Primary Recess/Junior  Nutrition Break  2:15-3:35 Third Instructional Block  3:35 Dismissal |

**Safe Arrival and Dismissal**

Our school day begins with an entrance bell at 9:15   
am. Students are not permitted on the school yard before 9:00 as their safety on the yard cannot be monitored without a staff member present. Any student who arrives after 9:15 am will be considered late and be required to obtain a late slip from the office. Being present and punctual each day is critical in a successful school year. Following the routine of entering with their classmates and having a regular routine assists students with developing their own strong work habits.

Our day ends with a dismissal bell at 3:35 pm. Buses   
will pick the students up, in two rounds, following   
dismissal. All students who are picked up by parents   
will be dismissed from the gym entrance. We ask   
that parents please meet the students on the   
sidewalk outside of the gym entrance to ensure safe   
crossing in our busy parent parking lot. Those who   
ride their bike/scooter or walk will be dismissed by   
their teacher. Should there be a need to arrange an   
earlier pick up time, please call the school office and   
ask that the message be given to the teacher and   
your child through the office. During dismissal time,   
there can often be congestion and confusion in the   
office area. To avoid this, we ask that parents please   
call the school before 3:00 pm to make alternate   
pick-up arrangements. We ask that parents and   
guardians refrain from using electronic methods to   
contact their children over the course of the day as   
this is very difficult to monitor and interrupts the   
learning which is happening in the classrooms.

In the event that your child is absent from school, we   
would appreciate a phone call with the child's name,   
their homeroom teacher and the reason for their   
absence. If this information is not received by the   
school, a Safe Schools call will be made to determine   
the reason for the absence and that the parent is   
aware of the student's absence. According to Board attendance regulations, if there is no call and the office cannot reach a parent about reason for absence, the child’s absence is recorded as truant.

**Inclement Weather - Zone 6 **

Naahii Ridge Public School is in Zone 6. Please listen to local radio stations, visit [www.schoolbusinfo.com](http://www.schoolbusinfo.com), or download the My SBI Mobile App to receive updates on bus delays or cancellations due to inclement weather or other. Busses in the morning that have been cancelled in the morning due to inclement weather ***will not*** return students to school in the afternoon. If parents drive students to school in the morning, they are responsible to pick their children up and take them home in the afternoon. Busses that have been cancelled in the morning due to fog ***will*** operate in the afternoon and to return students to their homes.  ***Please remember to call the school if your child will be absent due to bus cancellations.***

**Communication**

Communication between home and school is key to your child’s success. If you ever have concerns or questions, please speak directly to your child’s teacher. If any concerns remain, please contact school administration.

**Forms **

There are two forms that you should receive in the first week. Completing these forms   
accurately and returning them promptly to the school   
is essential to the well-being of your child. You will   
have received the Student Verification Forms where   
addresses, phone numbers and contact information   
can be changed and updated. Having current phone

numbers is essential if there happens to be a medical   
emergency and the school needs to contact parents.   
Should your phone number change at some point   
later in the school year, please call the school to   
update this information. Media Release forms were also sent home with each child. These forms are a method to have your student's photo published in the local newspaper or on the school website. Should you wish to have your child's photo remain out of the media, this information would be indicated on the Media Release form.

**Student Accident Insurance**

Did you know? Expenses from your child’s accident may exceed the benefits provided by your government and group insurance plans! Some costs may not be covered at all!

Please note that the Lambton Kent District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities including extracurricular sports. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any costs not covered by the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) or their employer’s health care plan.

To help protect your family, consider obtaining student accident insurance which provides coverage against accident expenses including emergency dental care, ambulance transport, casts, crutches, physiotherapy, and more.

As a convenience to you, the Lambton Kent District School Board has made an arrangement to offer student accident insurance through insuremykids®.

Whether your child is involved in an accident at school or during non-school hours, insuremykids® can help protect you financially. Their most popular plan, the Platinum Plan, offers 24/7 coverage against accident expenses *as well as* out-of-province emergency medical coverage.

To learn more or purchase an insuremykids® plan, visit [insuremykids.com](http://www.insuremykids.com).

**Medication**

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 from 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. Should your child have a medical need (such as a severe allergy) that requires special emergency attention please inform the school and an **“Individual Medical Emergency Plan”** will be put in place. The forms for this purpose are available in the office.

**Naahii is “Nut Aware”**

Please be aware that we are a “Nut Aware” school and as a result, we ask that parents not send foods containing nuts (including peanuts and tree nuts), to school to protect the safety of all members of our school community. This includes any peanut substitution products, as once the product leaves your home, it is impossible to tell the difference. We recognize that this is an inconvenience for some families, but thank you in advance for respecting the health needs of others. For great suggestions on nut free lunches, visit [www.eatrightontario.ca](http://www.eatrightontario.ca).

**Pediculosis (Head Lice)**

In accordance with Board policy, routine checks for head lice are conducted periodically as needed throughout the year. Every effort is made to prevent the spread of head lice but affected students will need to be sent home and may be re-admitted after the appropriate treatment has been administered. Parents are encouraged to check their child(ren’s) heads at home on a regular basis.

**Orange Shirt Day**

Friday, September 29th is Orange Shirt Day at the school. On this day we honour the survivors of residential schools as well as those children and young people who never returned home. We encourage staff and students to wear orange and by using this day as a catalyst to encourage learning and understanding about the residential school system and the impacts that system has had on Indigenous Peoples.

**Electronic Newsletter**

Again this year, in an effort to reduce the amount of   
paper and copying, we are asking that parents please   
access the monthly newsletter and calendar through   
the Naahii Ridge Public School website. Each month,   
the newsletter will be posted as close to the   
beginning of the month as possible. There will be no paper copies sent home but we will have paper copies available in the office for pick up if you prefer. You can   
bookmark the site using the address   
<http://www.lkdsb.net/school/naahiiridge/Newsletters>

**School Cash Online**

Thunderbird parents/guardians - please remember to sign up for school cash online; info available on our Naahii Ridge website and the LKDSB website. Pay school fees online as a convenient option.

<https://lkdsb.schoolcashonline.com>

**Student Transportation**

Reminder that parents all have access to an online portal where they can retrieve bus information for their students, update medical conditions and find other useful tools / information. Please use the following link: <https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/>

**Meet The Teacher BBQ**

We are excited to be able to host a Meet the Teacher BBQ again this year at Naahii. We will be having this event on Thursday, September 21 from 5-7. The Kiwanis Club of Ridgetown will be running the BBQ and there will be food that you can order and donations will be accepted for the food at the BBQ. More information will come out during the first week of school around what this will look like and what food will be available.

**Mum Fundraiser**

We will be running our mum fundraiser again this year after a short hiatus due to previous restrictions. More information will be coming out during the first week of school about this opportunity.

**VTRA Fair Notice**

To Parents, Guardians, and Caregivers of Students in the Lambton Kent District School Board:

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 (VTRA) supports principals in taking further steps to safeguard everyone.

The VTRA 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 VTRA 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.

**New School Bus App**

There is a new version of the MySBI app for weather cancellations and bus delays. The new app has improved speed and reliability but will look and function the same as the current app.

Unfortunately, the app currently installed on your phone will NOT automatically update to the new version, so all users must download the new app from the App/Google Play Store before September 29th to continue receiving school bus delay and cancellation notices. After this date, the old version of the app will no longer function.

**School Council**

We are always looking for new parents to join our school council. If you are interested, please reach out to the office to let us know! Our first meeting date is September 13. Give us a call at 519-674-3173.

**Terry Fox**

We will be having our Terry Fox run/walk on September 21 during the last block of the school day. Donations will be accepted on School Cash Online as well as sending in “Toonies for Terry”. If you require information on accessing School Cash Online, please give us a call at the office and we will be more than happy to help.

**Photo Day**

Our photo day is scheduled for September 22. As soon as we get more information sent to us, we will get it out to families. Stay tuned!

**National Day for Truth and Reconcilliation**

The Government of Canada has formally designated September 30th, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as a statutory holiday for employees in the federal government and federally regulated workplaces. This day will be observed to honour First Nations, Inuit and Metis survivors and their families and communities, and ensure the public commemoration of their history and the legacy of residential schools.

The Lambton Kent District School Board will commemorate the impact of residential schools on Friday, September 29th, 2023 – Orange Shirt Day. Students and staff are encouraged to wear orange shirts and use this day as a catalyst to encourage learning and understanding about the residential school system and the impacts that system has had on First Nations, Metis and Inuit people. This is a meaningful way as school communities to come together in a spirit of reconciliation and hope because “Every Child Matters”. Respectfully, flags at all LKDSB schools and facilities will be lowered on this day however, administrators may choose to fly the flag for the entire month.

This recognition day will be part of the activities and discussions occurring during the Truth and Reconciliation Week September 25th to September 29th which will also include discussions about the truth of Indigenous treaties, languages and culture and First Nation, Metis and Inuit land claims.

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 staff and 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 to Screenart.  Please share this link with your families and staff in upcoming newsletters and on your website [https://www.screenart.ca/lkdsb\_ecm/shop/home](https://can01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.screenart.ca%2Flkdsb_ecm%2Fshop%2Fhome&data=05%7C01%7CPaul.Beasley%40lkdsb.net%7Cb5f5a74d1a534e67b2b608dba99463e0%7C4bbfe989df0e4ac2afefb0fc99677a10%7C0%7C0%7C638290227049763475%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=HkgAOW2POo%2BsrsBZ9Xb1KDbbsg%2F2wireASw0L1C5x3M%3D&reserved=0) . 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.