



# Thamesville Area Central School

**September 2023**

Principal - Mrs. D. Maryschak

Secretary - Mrs. L. Veldboom

Telephone - 519-692-3908

Website - <https://www.lkdsb.net/school/thamesville>

Twitter - @TacsSchool

Follow us on Facebook

---

## Welcome back

Welcome back to the staff and students of Thamesville Area Central School and to all our new students and their families! We are all looking forward to a positive and healthy start to a new school year!

We are excited to introduce some new staff members! Mrs. Lauren Vink is joining us as our 3/4 teacher! She is joining us from London Road and is eager to see her new little Tigers! Because we already have a Mrs. Vink on staff as our resource & arts teacher, we will be calling Mrs. Lauren Vink – Mrs. V- to try to avoid any confusion! We are still waiting to hear who our permanent 0.5 EA will be this year. Stay tuned for that update.

As we start a new year at TACS, remember to approach each new learning experience with your child with positivity and your child will surely find success. The Mission statement for LKDSB states: Fostering Success for Every Student Every Day. In order to achieve Success for Every Student Every Day, it is imperative to have a positive working partnership with Staff, Parents, Students, and Community Partners. When all groups are able to work together towards a common goal, the results are incredible!

## School Arrival Procedure

Students are **not** to arrive before 9:00 am (15 minutes before the morning bell) as there is no supervision before 9am on the yard. Your child will enter the school and exit the school through a designated entrance/exit door.

## Zones of Regulation

TACS is a Zones school! Within understanding the Zones of Regulation, students are able to recognize at their own appropriate developmental level, how they feel in school and how to manage their emotional responses to various situations. More information from your child's teacher will come home in the next few weeks explaining how this is used in their classroom and how your child will learn how to manage their own behaviour. Your support with this initiative is important as it assists us in creating a positive and respectful school climate for students, staff, and guests, while developing life-long skills for success in each child. When you hear your child talking about Green Zone, Red Zone, Yellow Zone, or Blue Zone, ask them how they know they are in that Zone and if it is not Green Zone, what tools could they use to help them get back to the Green Zone. Your child will be able to explain to you what they need in order to regulate themselves and how to get back to feeling settled and positive again. If/when your child struggles with this, work together to problem solve some strategies to help them work through their frustration in order to come to a solution that works for both you and your child. For more information about Zones, check out our website.

## Bell Times

Our school is on the “Balanced Day”. Times have remained the same as last year

<b>START</b>	<b>9:15</b>
<b>NUTRITIONAL BREAK # 1</b>	<b>11:15—11:55</b>
<b>NUTRITIONAL BREAK # 2</b>	<b>1:35—2:15</b>
<b>DISMISSAL</b>	<b>3:35</b>

Busses have the right of way during drop off (9:00—9:15) and pick up (3:15—3:50) times. It is imperative that parents **do not pull in and/or park in our parking lot during these times** as it is difficult for buses to pull in and out safely.

## Safe School Arrival Policy & School Absences

All pupils are required to attend school on a regular basis. Studies have shown that regular and punctual school attendance has a positive effect on the academic achievement of students. However, if your child is ill, he/she should remain home until he/she is well enough to return to the regular school routine, which includes going outside at recess. Students who are too ill to go out at recess are too ill to come to school. The LKDSB Safe School Policy requests that if a student is going to be absent, please notify the school. We have an answering machine that will take this information before or after school hours. If we have not heard from you, a telephone call will be made by the school secretary for follow-up on the absenteeism. If a student is late, he/she is to report to the office before going to class. We appreciate everyone’s cooperation to help keep our students safe!

## Newsletters & Planners

Monthly school newsletters will be sent home by electronic means through the email addresses we have on file. All newsletters are available online each month on our school website. School-wide planners will not be used at TACS. We have found over the years with the increase in the use of technology and educational social media sites such as SeeSaw, Twitter, etc. the planners were becoming obsolete. To be environmentally responsible, we will not waste the printing and paper on planners that were not being utilized and use the preferred method of communication by the teacher. Each homeroom teacher will provide more information about classroom communication with their own students.

## Nut Aware School

Please note that to ensure the safety of our students, Thamesville Area Central School is a nut-aware school. This means it is imperative that students do NOT bring in snacks that contain any nuts- peanuts, cashews, almonds, etc. This also includes not using items such as WOW butter or similar products as it is too hard to determine if it is real peanut butter or not and it can be very confusing to students who think they can use peanut butter and can cause alarm with staff supervising during the lunch breaks. Thank you for your understanding.

## Parents arriving at school

Please note the school will have locked doors in order to provide a safe environment for the students. **Parents are not permitted to go down hallways to collect their children** as it is a disruption to the classroom lesson. This is an LKDSB policy. It is also in effect for the playground. While school is in progress, parents are not to be on school property because it becomes a security issue when other adults arrive on the yard during school hours. Thanks for your understanding and helping to keep TACS a safe school for all children.

## School Cash Online

School Cash Online is a convenient, web-based solution that gives parents/guardians the ability to pay for student items online. Parents/guardians can make payments, print or view their receipts and their current account history all in real-time. School Cash Online provides multiple payment options, including eCheck (direct withdrawal from your bank account) and credit card. Please note, banking information is not saved in School Cash Online and must be re-entered for every transaction. In order to sign-up, parents/guardians must provide your child's last name, birth date and student number. Our school will be providing you next week with a copy of the Registration Verification Form, which includes the student number. Please note: There is a 2% administration fee associated with using School Cash Online. Further information about School Cash Online is available on our school website.

## Hot Lunches

School Cash Online will be the only method to purchase the lunch. More information about hot lunches will come out at a later date.

## Professional Development Days

Teachers will be participating in professional activities such as education about the Math Curriculum, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Report Card Writing etc. on Professional Development Days. The following are the PD Days for 2023-24: September 15, October 6, November 17, February 2, April 26, June 7, and June 28. Students do not attend school on those days.

## Appendix B form and CASL form

The office staff would appreciate these forms filled in quickly and sent back to the office asap. Please note, if you are a parent of a JK student or new to TACS student, you would have already filled in these forms at registration so it is not necessary to fill them in again.

## Terry Fox Run

Thamesville Area Central School will be participating on September 22<sup>th</sup> in this year's Terry Fox School Run for cancer research. We are proud to continue the legacy of one of our country's greatest heroes. We hope you will support this wonderful cause by donating to our Terry Fox School Run fundraising page at: <http://www.terryfox.ca/ThamesvilleAreaCSThamesville> Thank you! We are only accepting online donations at this time. The future of cancer research has never looked brighter! #terryfoxliveshere @theterryfoxfoundation #terryfoxschoolruns

## National Day for Truth & Reconciliation - Orange T Shirt Day- September 29<sup>th</sup>



The Government of Canada has formally designated September 30<sup>th</sup>, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as a federally 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 29, 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. This recognition day will be part of the activities and discussions occurring during the Truth and Reconciliation Week September 25<sup>th</sup> to September 29<sup>th</sup> 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://www.screenart.ca/lkdsb_ecm/shop/home). The store is open immediately for purchases, and will remain open **until Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>**. All shirts which are ordered will be delivered to the schools via the board courier by September 28<sup>th</sup>.

For additional information, please click the following links:

**National Day for Truth and Reconciliation:** <https://www.canada.ca/en/department-national-defence/maple-leaf/defence/2021/07/federal-statutory-holiday-national-day-for-truth-and-reconciliation.html>

**Orange Shirt Day:** <https://www.orangeshirtday.org/>

**Truth and Reconciliation Week:** <https://nctr.ca/education/truth-and-reconciliation-week/>

## Student Accident Insurance

Program is available for purchase, beginning August 1, 2022 and expires September 30, 2023 no matter when it is purchased. For example: if someone purchases a new plan on October 2, 2022, it still expires September 30, 2023.

## Meet the Teacher - Save the Date September 21 4:00-6:00pm

This year we are excited to able to host a Spaghetti Dinner Meet the Teacher night! Teachers will have their classrooms open for parents/families to formally introduce themselves. Families can come and grab some dinner as you meet your child’s teacher! Look for more details from your classroom teacher and save the date on September 21! In the meantime, **follow us on Twitter** for more school-wide activity updates and cool messages to the entire Tiger family! **@TacsSchool**

## Communicating with Staff

Teachers will have some form of online communication tool to set up with parents to allow smooth communication between the teacher and the parents. Each teacher will send home information about how to sign up for SeeSaw etc. While this tool is an excellent way to have easy communication with the teacher, parents are still reminded that teachers are only available to provide a response during the school day/hours. Teachers are **not expected** to respond to parents on nights and weekends/holidays. Also, asking for teacher’s personal cell phone numbers is not allowed via the Policies and Procedures from the LKDSB. Only under

extreme circumstances will teachers respond to personal questions/concerns from parents after work hours. We thank you in advance for respecting the teacher's personal family time outside of school.

## **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 (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.



# September 2023

School Bus Zone 6



SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
					1	2
3	4 Labour Day	5 First Day of school	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15 PD Day- no classes	16
17	18	19	20	21 Meet the Teacher 4-6pm	22 Terry Fox run	23
24	25 Truth & Reconciliation Week	26	27	28	29 Orange Shirt Day	30