



Thamesville Area Central School

September 2024

Principal – Ms. S. Rowsome
Secretary - Mrs. L. Veldboom

Telephone - 519-692-3908
Website - <https://www.lkdsb.net/school/thamesville>
Twitter - @TacsSchool
Follow us on Facebook

From the Office

Welcome back to all returning students and staff and a warm welcome to all new students and staff to Thamesville Area Central School! We are very excited and pleased that you are joining our school community! We hope that you and your families had an enjoyable summer! On behalf of the entire TACS team, we would like to extend the warmest welcome to you and your child(ren) for our 2024-2025 school year!

Our staff looks forward to working with you and your child(ren). We invite you to contact the school whenever you wish to discuss anything pertinent to the education and well-being of your child(ren).

Thank you!

A special thank you to our custodial crew for doing such an excellent job cleaning in preparation for the first day of school! Our school looks amazing! As well, thank you to our staff for creating such bright and inviting learning spaces for our students. Thanks to Mrs. Veldboom for all of her organizational work in the office.

School Council

Our first school council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10th at 5:30pm. All parents/guardians are welcome. If you are interested, please contact the office.

School Bell Times

9:15: Entry Bell

11:15-11:55: 1st Nutrition/Outside Break

1:35-2:15: 2nd Nutrition/Outside Break

3:35: Dismissal

For students who may walk to school or be dropped off, we kindly ask that arrival not be before 9:00 as the yard is unsupervised prior to that time.

Thamesville Area Central School Staff 2024-2025

FDK	Leonie Burton (Teacher) and Tania Marchand (ECE)
SK/1	Ashley Milne (until Danielle Kloostra's return)
Grade 2	Mike Agnew
Grade 3	Alana Vink (am) / Lauren Vink (pm)
Grade 4/5	Daryl Doyle
Grade 6/7	Matt Handsor
Grade 7/8	Todd Read

Subject Specialists:	Joanne Badder	Core French and Prep
	Lauren Vink	Arts

Learning Resource Teacher: **Alana Vink**

Education Assistants: **Jenn Carroll**
 Sharron VanDamme

Caretaker: **Kim Lawrence**

Secretary: **Lori Veldboom**

Principal: **Stacey Rowsome**

September- Dates to Remember

September 3rd- First day of school

September 4/5- Staggered entry for JK students

September 10th- School Council at 5:30pm

September 20th- PA Day

September 23rd-27th- Book Fair

September 26th- Meet the Staff Night/BBQ 4:00-6:00pm

September 30th- Orange Shirt Day

Upcoming Events

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Orange Shirt Day – September 30th

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 Monday, September 30th, 2024 – 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 for a school

community to come together in a spirit of reconciliation and hope because “Every Child Matters”. Respectfully, both the “Every Child Matters” flag and the Canadian flag at all LKDSB schools and facilities will be lowered on September 30th.

This recognition day will be part of the activities and discussions occurring during the Truth and Reconciliation Week September 23rd to September 27th 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 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. https://www.screenart.ca/lkdsb_ecm/shop/home. The store is open immediately for purchases and will remain open until **12 pm, Monday, September 9th**. **All shirts ordered will be delivered to the schools via the board courier by September 27th.**

Meet the Staff

Meet the Staff Night: Mark your calendar for **Thursday, September 26th from 4:00 until 6:00 pm**. Students will be able to show their parents their individual learning environments and parents will be able to meet the teachers involved in their learning experiences. This time is designed to be a brief meet and greet as there can be upwards of 25 parents planning to speak with one teacher. In the interest of privacy, we ask that if you have individual concerns you wish to speak to the teacher about, please arrange with that teacher a convenient time to call or meet the teacher outside of the Meet the Teacher event.

Stay tuned for information to follow about the BBQ portion of the evening!

Reminders/Information for Parents/Guardians

Allergies: Please be aware that we are a “Nut Aware” school, 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.

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices: On April 28, 2024, the Ontario Ministry of Education released PPM 128 The Provincial Code of Conduct and School Board Codes of Conduct with an implementation date of September 1, 2024. In this document, there is information specifically about School Board Policy on Enforcement of Restrictions to Student Personal Mobile Device Use.

The document discusses how positive relationships underpin effective school communities. Teaching and learning begin with relationships with students, school staff, parents, and community members. Cell phone management, particularly the teaching of responsible use of cell phones, is made more effective when these positive relationships are fostered. It is important for all members of the school community to model the responsible use of cell phones and other personal mobile devices.

In September, all staff will actively and purposefully make cell phone management strategies part of building school and classroom culture. All staff will engage learners as participants in this process. The Lambton Kent

District School Board will remind students, staff and community in September that personal mobile devices are not to be used during instructional time except under the following circumstances:

- for educational purposes as directed by an educator
- for health or medical purposes
- to support special education needs

Cell phones, cameras and other digital imaging and/or audio recording devices are NOT permitted to be used in change rooms or washrooms at any time.

Students in Grades 8 and below may not use cellphones or other mobile devices at school during the school day without the permission of an educator and/or in those instances cited above. In all instances, students' personal mobile devices must be turned off or set to silent mode and stored in their locker. Cell phones can be left at the office if your child is worried about it being left unattended in their locker.

If an educator sees a mobile device that is not stored out of view, they must discuss with the student and/or ask for it to be handed in for the day (Grades K-8). The student must place the device in a storage area in a location designated by the educator or principal.

Class Organization: As with previous years, the Ministry of Education has implemented caps for primary classes. As a result, we must adhere to these class caps. There is still a possibility that there could be another re-organization, and some classes might be subject to change depending upon any late registrations or additional moves out of our school area.

Inclement Weather: Thamesville Area Central School is in **Zone 6**. Please listen to local radio stations, visit 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.***

Labelling Student Items: A best practice is to label all student items so that it is easy to identify whom the item belongs to. Your assistance with this task is greatly appreciated.

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, epilepsy, diabetes, asthma, and/or at risk of anaphylaxis that requires special emergency attention please inform the school, and an “**Individual Medical Emergency Plan**” will be put in place. These medical conditions, also referred to as prevalent medical conditions, have the potential to result in a medical incident or a life-threatening medical emergency. The Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to providing a safe learning environment for all students. LKDSB strives to support students with prevalent medical conditions to fully access school in a safe, accepting, and healthy learning environment that supports well-being. It also strives to empower students, as confident and capable learners, to reach their full potential for self-management of their medical condition(s), according to their Plans of Care.

If the school is not aware of prevalent medical conditions for your child, you must contact the school immediately to complete a Plan of Care.

Parents/Visitors to the School: Each building has a secure entrance requiring visitors to buzz the office. Parents and visitors to the school are asked to enter through the front doors and report to the school office immediately upon arrival. This always ensures the safety of our students and eliminates disruptions. If you need to pick up your child(ren) early, please report to the office and Mrs. Veldboom will be happy to call your student to meet you in the office.

Safe Arrival Policy: We have a process in place to ensure the safe arrival of all students. Please call the school if your child is absent in the morning or the afternoon (unless a note has already been sent). Mrs. Veldboom is available after 8:30 a.m. to take your calls. We also have a 24-hour answering machine so you may call any time, day, or night. Students marked absent will receive a call from an automated service.

Thamesville School's automated attendance messaging system notifies parents/guardians when your child has been marked absent and the school has not been notified of the reason for the absence. To follow-up, we will contact the parent/guardian phone numbers and email addresses that we have on file and ask that you call the school to confirm the absence and provide the reason. You can help by ensuring that the school has your most updated contact information and by notifying the school office in advance if your child will be late or absent.

School Cash Online: Orders for food, special events, and field trips will only be accepted through School Cash On-line. ***Please do not send in money.*** Our school is "cashless" and all purchases will need to be done through School Cash On-line. Thank you to all families who have already signed up and are utilizing this program. Families who have not yet signed up are encouraged to do so immediately. If you need help with set up, or access to a computer to sign up, please either contact Mrs. Veldboom or stop in at the office. We appreciate your support in this endeavour.

School Emergency Procedures:

Throughout the school year, we practise emergency drills. Each fall and spring, we hold 3 fire drills and a lockdown, hold and secure, shelter in place, and tornado drill. Our alternate emergency location is Good Shepherd Catholic School.

School Messenger:

At the Lambton Kent District School Board, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring students have arrived safely at school and are participating in classes every day. You may have received notification about your child's absence from our School Messenger automated attendance messaging system.

We kindly ask you to now use School Messenger as the main way to report your child's absence to the school.

Please sign up now using your e-mail or your phone number that matches the school's records and use School Messenger in one of the following three ways to report your child's absence:

Option 1:

Set up an online School Messenger account and login to schedule and report absences or late arrival. [To create your account or login in click here.](#)

Option 2:

Download the free School Messenger app (blue) to your smart phone or tablet to schedule and report absences or late arrival.

- Click here to [Download the app for Apple devices.](#)
- Click here to [Download the app for Android devices.](#)

Option 3:

Call the LKDSB toll-free Attendance Reporting number [1 \(844\) 487-3695](tel:18444873695) and follow the prompts to report your child's absence. For your security it is recommended that you set a PIN.

When you create a School Messenger account, you will be able to see General and Emergency Broadcasts that have been shared with you by your school or the LKDSB. *Attendance* is a menu feature that gives you access to enter, edit, or delete a School Messenger absence notification for your child(ren).

Click the links below to view the Reference Guides for information on signing up, setting preferences, reporting an absence, and setting a PIN.

- [School Messenger Quick Reference Guide & Sign-Up Instructions](#)
- [School Messenger Parent Guardian Guide for Mobile App](#)

Snack Program: Our snack program will continue to operate. A snack bin will be delivered to classrooms each morning at the start of the day. Snacks will be “grab and go” items, such as whole pieces of fruit, granola bars and cheese sticks, so that little handling and preparation of food is required. Limited items will be available within classrooms during the second break for those students who require them. It may be necessary to send students to school with a couple more food items each day, as limited items will be available during the second break. A reminder that no plastic cutlery will be provided to students, so please send students with cutlery needed to eat their lunch.

Student Registration Verification Form: Please take a moment to look over the Student Registration Verification Forms being sent home shortly. Please make any necessary changes on the form and have your child *return it back to his/her teacher as soon as possible*. It is requested that you sign the form to show that you have looked at it. The office will update your child's information in the student database accordingly. Please note that it is your responsibility to contact us throughout the school year when any changes occur with regards to any pertinent information regarding your child's status: address, phone numbers, contacts, etc. Thank you for your help in this matter.

Along with the Student Registration Verification Form will be Appendix B. Please also ensure to fill this out. *Please note that if you are a new student, or a JK student, this has already been completed during the time of registration.*

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/>

Water Bottles: Students are encouraged to bring a reusable water bottle to school each day and bring it home to be washed at the end of each day.

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.

2024-2025 School Year Calendar



Sarnia Education Centre
200 Wellington Street
Sarnia, ON N7T7L2
Phone: 519-336-1500

Chatham Regional Office
476 McNaughton Ave., E
Chatham, ON N7M 5L7
Phone: 519-354-3770

ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2024-2025

Legend: B - Board Designated Holiday, H - Statutory School Holiday, E - Evaluation Day, P - Professional Activity Day

Month	1st Week					2nd Week					3rd Week					4th Week					5th Week				
	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
	September	2 H	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20 P	23	24	25	26	27	30			
October		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11 P	14 H	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31	
November					1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15 P	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29
December	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23 B	24 B	25 H	26 H	27 B	30 B	31 B			
January			1 H	2 B	3 B	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24 E	27 E	28 E	29 E	30 E	31 P
February	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17 H	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28					
March	3	4	5	6	7	10 B	11 B	12 B	13 B	14 B	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
April		1	2	3	4 P	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18 H	21 H	22	23	24	25	28	29	30		
May				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19 H	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
June	2	3	4	5	6 P	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20 E	23 E	24 E	25 E	26 E	27 P	30				

Professional Activity Days
Friday, September 20, 2024
Friday, October 11, 2024
Friday, November 15, 2024
Friday, January 31, 2025
Friday, April 4, 2025
Friday, June 6, 2025
Friday, June 27, 2025
First Day of Classes
Tuesday, September 3, 2024
Education Week
May 5, 2025
Take Our Kids to Work Day
November 6, 2024