



# Victor Lauriston PS

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Follow us on Twitter: @VLS\_School

## Happy New Year

As 2021 has come to a close, we reflect on a year of learning that was full of challenges and growth. We hope that 2022 brings on more reason for joy and celebration. We wish to thank everyone for their efforts in keeping everyone safe and healthy. We have many reasons to be thankful here at Victor Lauriston and in our community at large.

Face-to-face learning began today. Teachers are excited to begin reconnecting with their students back in the classroom. We want to thank all of the families who worked with us for the past 2 weeks while learning online. We know it isn't the easiest task, but we did it! We are asking for all devices that were borrowed for short term remote learning to please return to the classroom teacher as soon as possible as we rely on these devices for learning here at school.

We are so grateful for the efforts of students, staff and parents as we all transitioned to online learning for a short time and are now back to Face-To-Face Learning. It was nice to see all the smiling faces this morning.

## KinderSTART

KinderSTART is a special event for parents to register their children for Junior Kindergarten or students who are new to Senior Kindergarten. It is a opportunity for parents and children to learn more about school. Through KinderSTART, children and parents have an early opportunity to visit the school and register in preparation for Full Day Kindergarten in the fall of 2022. **Our school will host KinderSTART on January 31 from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm.**

Online registration form link: <http://www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten>

## Upcoming Events

### January 5

January 5 – 14<sup>th</sup> Short Term Remote Learning

### January 17

First Day of Face-To-Face Learning at the school

### January 27

Family Literacy Day

### January 31

P.A. Day

### January 31

KinderSTART – Kindergarten Registration

## School Council

Our next school council meeting will be at 6:30 PM on Thursday, March 31, 2022. Please contact school administration if you wish to attend, and a link to attend our virtual meeting will be provided to you.

## COVID-19 Reminders and Updates

Now that we have returned to Face-To-Face Learning, families are reminded that the Ontario COVID-19 Screening Tool at <https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening/> MUST be completed each morning before sending your child(ren) to school. Please follow the provided instructions after completing the survey, to protect your child's health and everyone's health in attendance at school that day. Please keep children at home until the Screening Tool recommends return to learning at school. Also, if students are sent home for illness from the school during the school day, they need to remain home for at least 24 hours, until they are feeling better or the single symptom is improving and the screening tool recommends a return to school. For example, should a student go home at 12:30 pm on a Tuesday, he or she can't return until sometime at or after 12:30 the next day on the Wednesday, after they have passed the Online Screening Tool.

This screener updates regularly. **At the current time, if ANY of your children have these symptoms: fever and/or chills, cough or barking cough, shortness of breath or decrease or loss of taste/smell – ALL people in the home must stay home and get a test completed before returning to school. For the other symptoms (muscle aches/joint pain, extreme tiredness, sore throat, runny/stuffy/congested nose, headache, nausea/vomiting/diarrhea, please follow the screener directions for your next steps for your family.**

Students in Grades 1-8 should be reminded of the importance of wearing their masks properly and having an extra to change during the day. Hand hygiene and other procedures should be reviewed with children. Teachers will be reviewing these protocols as well, but when students hear instructions from home and school, the likelihood of students understanding and complying is greatly increased.

## Inclement Weather

As we experience winter weather conditions, it is important to understand the school board's policies regarding inclement weather.

Our school is in Zone 8. If buses are cancelled in Zone 8 due to road conditions, they will not pick up or drop off children. The school is open even when buses are cancelled, unless otherwise stated. On days when buses are cancelled, academic programming will continue as normal. If your child is not a bus student they are expected to be at school. If they are not able to attend, please contact the office at 519-352-4530, so that we know they are safe.

To get school bus information, please visit the following website: <https://cklass.ca/> or download the SBI app to receive notification right to your mobile device.

Or listen to CKSY (94.3 FM) CFCO (92.9 FM) or Cool FM (95.1 FM) for any announcements regarding bus cancellations or school closures.

## Winter Dress, Snow and the School Playground

Students need to be dressed for the weather. Winter coats, hats, and gloves/mittens are safety needs for all students. With two twenty-minute blocks outside, hats and mittens help to prevent frost bite and mild hypothermia.

For safety reasons, scarves are discouraged as they present a choking/strangulation hazard. Bulky winter clothing and accessories, like scarves, can get caught in equipment.

With the onset of the winter weather, the playground equipment is now closed. Also, the frost in the ground doesn't allow the pebbles around the equipment to cushion or absorb a fall around our playground equipment. We would also encourage parents to keep their children off of the equipment after hours as well.

It is important that snow stays on the ground. Throwing snowballs at school or at the bus stop is unacceptable. Reminding children of this will help keep the school day safe for everyone.

With the colder temperatures, it is also important for students to have indoor shoes at school. The floors are too cold and wet for sock feet and in the case of a fire alarm; children's feet need to be protected from the elements.

We also ask that students go home at the end of day dismissal bell and do not hang around the snow piles at school. Students should go home first and check in with an adult at home.

### Twitter

Don't forget to follow our school's Twitter account. We periodically post items demonstrating student learning, special events, fun facts about our school, and timely announcements. You can follow us by visiting this link:

[https://twitter.com/VLS\\_School](https://twitter.com/VLS_School)