



GRIFFIN GAZETTE



<http://wjbaird.lkdsb.net>
<https://twitter.com/WJBaird1>

182 King Street,
Blenheim, ON N0P 1A0
Phone: 519-676-5407

Principal: Mrs. D. Zondag
Secretary: Mrs. M. McTavish

ZONE 7

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Welcome back! Hopefully everyone has enjoyed a fun and relaxing summer break. Welcome, to the new students and families who have joined the Griffin Family. We are excited to be back and look forward to another year of supporting your child(ren) in becoming a life-long learner. We believe that in today's world the most important thing for children is understanding that learning is not something that ends at the bell. As a team we believe that we can prepare children for an ever changing and fast-paced world. We look forward to working with each child and family to ensure an excellent education for **Every Student Every Day**.

STAFF

FDK- Mrs. Hoskins/ Ms. Leach
SK/1- Mrs. Barnard
Grade 1/2- Mrs. Butcher
Grade 2/3- Mrs. Pfaff
Grade 3/4- Mrs. Pickering
Grade 4/5- Mrs. Johnson/ Mrs. Hough
Grade 5/6- Mrs. Taylor
Grade 7/8- Mrs. Tinline
Grade 7/8- Mrs. Kistulinec
Resource- Mrs. Lethbridge
French- M. Longpré
Rotary- Mrs. Lovell
Educational Assistants: Ms. Cofell, Mrs. Cook
Miss Downie
Custodian: Mrs. Payne
Secretary: Mrs. McTavish
Principal: Mrs. Zondag

SAFE ARRIVAL



It is important to remember that students should not arrive at school before 8:55 a.m. when there is yard supervision.

To help ensure the safety of your child please do not drop off or send students before 8:55 a.m.

STUDENT ABSENCES AND SCHOOL VISITORS

Regular school attendance is extremely important to the success of all students! As hard as it can be some days, starting the school day on time is important. Our Safe School Policy requires that parents or guardians notify the school at **519-676-5407** if students will be absent or late. We have an answering machine that will take this information before or after school hours. When leaving a message, please state your child's first and last name, teacher's name, reason for absence and when your child will be returning to school.

It is essential for safety reasons that we are aware if your child is not at school. If we have not heard from you, a telephone call will be made by the school secretary for follow-up on the absenteeism. Any students arriving after the 9:10 bell are required to enter through the front doors and report immediately to the office where they will be given a late slip by the school secretary. We appreciate everyone's cooperation!

Nutrition Breaks—Students who wish to leave the school grounds during first break (11:10-11:50) **will require written permission to the teacher each day they plan to leave or a letter of permission for the year if your child will walk home each day. All students are expected to stay at school during the Second Nutrition Break (1:50-2:30).** Thank you for your understanding. This will help with our student attendance recording.

Our school doors are locked throughout the day, and our front entry has a camera and bell to notify us of guests. To maintain a safe and healthy learning environment for our students and greater school community, **all visitors and parents must sign in at the office** upon entering the school. If you are staying in the school, you will be given a visitor's badge to wear.

If you need to pick up your child early, please inform the office and your child will be called down to the office to meet you.

All parents are asked to meet their children outside their end corridor or at a pre-arranged pick-up spot outside at dismissal time.

If you are using the pool parking lot to drop off your child, please drive with extreme caution and know that pedestrians and cyclists also use this parking lot as a means to get to school.

If you wish to speak with a teacher, we ask that you arrange after school as teachers are busy preparing lessons before class begin each morning. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

ZONE 7

In case of inclement weather (fog or snow) and bus cancellations, please tune in to local radio stations or check the following website: www.schoolbusinfo.com

MEDICATION

If your child requires prescription medication administered during school hours, please see the office for an "Authorization for the Administration of Oral Medication" form. It must be completed by the parent/guardian and physician and forwarded to the Principal each school year and whenever the physician directs a modification of the prescribed medication.

PLEASE INFORM THE SCHOOL OFFICE OF ANY MEDICAL ISSUES THAT MAY AFFECT YOUR CHILD.

ALLERGY ALERT

Please be advised that we have several students with life-threatening allergies to certain foods and scents. We ask that the following products not be sent to school:

- Peanuts and all nuts-foods containing nuts
- Wow Butter
- Nutella
- Soya Peanut Butter
- Scented products (Axe cologne, perfume)

SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

This payment option is an online parent portal that offers safe, fast and convenient way to pay for field trips, monthly food orders, yearbook, etc. An information step-by-step sheet is included with this newsletter.

MONTHLY FOOD ORDERS

Food orders will begin in October. Milk and popcorn will be sold daily for \$1.00 at both nutritional breaks beginning mid-September.

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

All parents and students are invited to join us from 3:45 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. on Thursday, September 19th to meet the Griffin staff and your child's teacher.

Online Cash sign-up support will be available to you.

We look forward to seeing you!

SCHOOL COUNCIL

WJB is fortunate to have a dedicated group of parents who volunteer to be members of our School Council. In their role as an advisory council, their input is much appreciated. New members are welcome! Our first meeting is Wednesday, September 11, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. in our library. Parent involvement is key in creating a successful school community.

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PRIVACY PROTECTION

During the school year, students are involved in a variety of school-related activities consistent with the purpose of educating in accordance with the Education Act.

Examples may include but are not limited to:

- School Yearbook
- School Plays
- Field Days/Athletic Functions
- Science Fairs
- Annual Report of the Director
- School/Board Curriculum Presentations
- School and Class Photographs
- Education Week events
- School/Board memorabilia

Throughout the school year, we may photograph, audiotape and videotape students involved in school activities. In addition, public media organizations, upon notification, may be present to cover these events by photographing, audiotaping, or videotaping students involved in the above-mentioned routine in-school activities.

If you wish your child to be excluded from photographing, audiotaping, or videotaping as a part of activities such as outlined above, **please notify the Principal of the school in writing as soon as possible.** Otherwise the school will assume your consent.

A Special Event Student Release Form is required for the imaging or audio recording of specific programs or activities of the School or Board which are not considered part of routine activities and which may be shared outside of the jurisdiction of the School or Board. Release forms will be sent home for students participating in these types of out of school/special Board-sponsored activities, or special projects, as they occur.

A signed release is also required for images or audio recordings to be included on School/Board websites. Consent will be obtained each year on student profile sheets.

These procedures are designed to ensure the privacy of students in the school and for students within the jurisdiction of the Lambton Kent District School Board. This is also in accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

A form titled "Appendix B-Notification and Permission for the use of Student Personal Information" is being sent home with this newsletter that requires your attention.

Please read it carefully and return the completed form to the office as soon as possible.

Meet the Teacher 3:45 p.m.- 5:30 p.m.	Sept. 19
Picture Day	Sept. 26
Terry Fox Run (Asking donation of a toonie for Terry)	Sept. 26 (2:30-3:30)
PD Day (No School)	Sept. 27
LKDSB Orange Shirt Day	Sept. 30

PEDICULOSIS

Sometimes students arrive at school infected with pediculosis. Spring and Fall are the seasons when head lice is most prevalent in school children. Your assistance in early detection is greatly appreciated. Please check your child's head for head lice weekly. If you find evidence of head lice, please contact the school immediately. This will allow us to notify other parents in the classrooms affected so that they may check their child. Infestation by head lice is an unpleasant nuisance, but not a health program. Head lice do not carry nor spread disease. By working together, we can control the spread of head lice in our community. A school wide head check will occur following long breaks (summer, Christmas holiday, March Break). Students found with nits/lice will be sent home until appropriate treatment has been administered and all nits have been removed.

POSITIVITY DAY

Near the end of the month, we will be visited by Captain Positive. To show Captain Positive how positive we are in the community, Mrs. Pickering and her class will be organizing a food donation campaign to the Word of Life Church that supports Blenheim families. Please consider donating a food item (beans, corn, canned fruit, Kraft Dinner, snacks for student lunches, canned ravioli/spaghetti, and oatmeal) from Sept. 16- Oct. 4 for this worthwhile cause.

LIFETOUCH PICTURES

Thursday, September 26

Our classroom picture will switch to a composite format which will mean less time out of class for students. In addition, it will allow for anyone who is absent to be included when retakes are done. Composites will be produced following Retake Day.

IMPORTANT DATES

School Council 6:30 p.m.	Sept. 11
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SCHOOL TIMES

Instruction -9:10-11:10 am
 Nutrition Break—11:10-11:30 am
 Recess— 11:30—11:50 pm
 Instruction—11:50-1:50 pm
 Nutrition Break—1:50-2:10 pm
 Recess—2:10- 2:30 pm
 Instruction— 2:30-3:30 pm
 Dismissal- 3:30 pm

COMMUNICATION

During the first week of every month WJ Baird produces a newsletter to communicate to parents about current events. In supporting the LKDSB's initiative regarding the reduction of paper consumption and being financially efficient, **this will be the only monthly edition of The Griffin Gazette that is printed and sent home.** All newsletters will be available <http://www.lkdsb.net/school/wjbaird/Pages/default.aspx> or at the office upon request.

SOCIAL MEDIA

The Lambton Kent District School Board is now on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube. To keep up-to-date with LKDSB school bussing information, download CLASS' app: MySBI.

Visit WJBaird at <http://wjbaird.lkdsb.net> or follow us on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/WJBaird1>.