



GRIFFIN GAZETTE



W.J. Baird Public School

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<http://wjbaird.lkdsb.net/>

Zone 7

Principal: Mrs. Zondag

Secretary: Mrs. McTavish

Head Custodian: Mrs. Payne

January 2021, All the Good News from W.J. Baird

RE-STOCK, RE-SUPPLY, INDOOR FOOTWEAR

This is a reminder that January is a great time for fresh starts and new beginnings. This holds true for school supplies and indoor footwear. Please take the opportunity to check with your child to ensure that:

- a) they have indoor footwear
- b) the footwear they have fits
- c) the footwear is appropriate for wearing during physical education periods with non-marking soles

It is essential that all children have appropriate indoor footwear for safety reasons. In cases of emergency and fire drills, students without footwear do not have time to seek outdoor footwear and could find themselves standing outside (perhaps for an extended period of time) without appropriate or sufficient protection for the elements.

Also, many students have used up or misplaced their pencils supplied for them in the Fall. It is a good time to re-stock pencil cases and make sure that your child(ren) have the necessary supplies to complete their work at school. As always, we recommend that all supplies (**and clothing!**) be individually labeled with your child(ren)'s name so that they may better be able to keep track of their belongings.

INCLEMENT WEATHER

At this time of the year, if it is announced that "busses are not running" or "busses are

cancelled" due to snow or poor road conditions, that is for the ENTIRE DAY. Arrangements have to be made to have your child picked up at school at 3:30 p.m. It is always the parents' decision as to whether it is safe or not to send their child(ren).

On **fog** days, when busses do not run in the morning, they will run in the afternoon. Listen to the local radio stations for accurate information.

Our school is located in **ZONE 7**.

If your child is not a bus student, they are expected to be at school and will be marked absent if they do not attend. If they are not able to attend, please contact the office at 519-676-5407, so that we know they are safe. Our phones are busier than normal on these days so feel free to leave a message.

Please refer to www.schoolbusinfo.com for any transportation concerns or listen to CKSY (94.3 FM) or Cool FM (95.1 FM) for any announcements as to bus cancellations or school closures.

COLD WEATHER PRECAUTIONS

Weather and temperature this time of year can be quite unpredictable and is therefore monitored closely by the Lambton Kent District School Board and individual schools. When extreme weather and temperatures occur, schools will follow safety protocol which may result in shortening the recesses or keeping students inside during recesses. Please check the weather and ensure that your child(ren) is dressed with appropriate clothing each day.

GRIFFIN CHARACTER TRAITS

On January 29th we will be recognizing our Honesty winners.

RESILIENCE RIBBONS

Every W.J. Baird student received this blue ribbon in December from School Council to acknowledge the great resiliency that Griffin students continue to demonstrate throughout the COVID pandemic.

LEARNING MODELS

January 12 deadline to request change in learning program

Families wishing to transfer students between face-to-face learning and Learn at Home (or vice versa) **must notify the Principal by Tuesday, January 12** by noon (12 p.m.). Please provide the following information by phone or email:

- Student name
- Learning model choice (face-to-face instruction or Learn at Home); and
- Phone number for school to follow-up

Students transferring between program delivery (i.e. face-to-face learning or Learn at Home) will begin their new program type on Tuesday, February 2. Students moving between program delivery choice should anticipate changes in teacher(s).

MAKE MATH PART OF YOUR DAY-TO-DAY ROUTINE

You can use the following methods to help make learning fun and find real world applications of math. ~ Ministry of Education

- **Math games** – math puzzles, or card and board games can show that math is fun. They also require trial and error thinking, enhance numeracy and logical thinking, and promote discussion.
- **Math in digital games** – if your child enjoys using technology, introduce them to fun and educational online games and activities.
- **Math at the grocery store** – talk to your child about how to weigh items on a

scale or how to estimate the total bill as you fill your cart.

- **Math with money** – create a budget together or save to make a special purchase to help your child manage money. You could go shopping together and ask your child to estimate the amount of a purchase, calculate tax and check their change.
- **Math in the kitchen** – bake, cook and prepare food with your child. There are many great math opportunities in the kitchen, such as measuring ingredients.
- **Math on TV** – watch educational TV shows. Many shows, for example, [TVO Kids](#), have websites with activities to do together, including free games, apps, math crafts and songs.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY

Wednesday, January 27, 2021

It can be celebrated by simply setting aside 15 minutes of family time to read with your children, play a board game such as Scrabble, write a letter or even follow a recipe together and make or bake a family “treat”. Here are some tips and activities to assist you in making family literacy a priority in your home: More ideas can be found at

<http://abclifeliteracy.ca/flf/family-literacy-day>

1. **Watch a Book:** Many children’s stories have been made into movies. Read these stories and watch the movie equivalent.
2. **Once Upon A Time:** Build a story with your friends. Write the 1st paragraph on some paper and then pass it on. The next person builds on your paragraph and passes it on to another friend, etc. Read the story together when it is finished.
3. **Tell knock-knock jokes** while doing the dishes.
4. **Invent 2 new endings** to your favourite book.

Is your child ready for
KINDERGARTEN?
It's as easy as 1, 2, 3!



February 4, from 4-7p.m. February 5, from 9a.m. - 3p.m.
www.lkdsb.net/kindergarten

Feb 4 from 4-7 p.m. & Feb 5 from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.

kinderSTART is a registration event in each school for parents and children who are beginning Junior Kindergarten in September 2021. (A child who is 4 years old on/before December 31, 2021.) This event serves as a school visit to meet the staff and engage in activities in preparation for Full Day Kindergarten. If you have a child or know someone in our area who will be attending Junior Kindergarten in September, *please go to our Sign-up Genius link to reserve a scheduled appointment:*

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/904054eba829a4f85-wj>

Please bring proof of residency (i.e. utility bill, rental agreement, etc.), birth certificate or proof of Canadian Citizenship, and emergency contact information when registering.

COVID-19 Protocols will be in place.

LIFETOUGH PHOTOS

Fall photos currently scheduled for Feb. 1

Retake and Grade 8 Graduation- March 3

JANUARY DATES OF IMPORTANCE

4– School begins – Welcome back!

12-Last Day to notify school of changing between virtual/face-to-face learning models

FEBRUARY DATES OF IMPORTANCE

1- Lifetouch Fall Photos

2-Entry date for virtual/face-to-face learning models

4 & 5-kinderSTART registration

5-PA Day (new date-formerly Feb. 2)

15-Family Day (Holiday)

17- School Council 6:30 p.m. virtual meeting

19- Term 1 Report Cards go home



Happy New Year!