



W.J. Baird Public School

182 King Street, Blenheim, ON 519-676-5407

September 2022 Newsletter

Visit our website @ <https://www.lkdsb.net/school/wjbaird>

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/WJ-Baird-Public-School-104296819088991

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From the Principal's Desk

Welcome Griffins!

Welcome back to school from what was hopefully a restful and enjoyable summer! I would like to extend a special welcome to our new JK students, we are excited for you to begin your journey at WJ Baird! I am confident that this year will be full of valuable educational opportunities and fun activities for all. It is hoped that we will see the return of events and opportunities that occurred prior to COVID-19. I look forward to meeting and getting to know students and families in the school community!

This will be the only paper newsletter that will be distributed this year. We encourage our students to become stewards of the environment, and in keeping with this, we will ask families to access newsletters online at

<https://www.lkdsb.net/school/wjbaird>.

Staffing List & Up Coming Dates

W.J. Baird Staff

H. McFarland	Principal
M. McTavish	Secretary
S. Hoskins	FDK
S. Barnard	FDK
N. Lovell	Gr. 1/2
P. Pfaff	Gr. 2/3
C. Pickering	Gr. 3/4
C. Johnson	Gr. 4/5
P. Jones-Taylor	Gr. 6
W. Tinline	Gr. 7/8
L. Kistulinec	Gr. 7/8
A. Hough	Prep
C. Kamarlingos	Prep
M. Lethbridge	Resource
H. Myers	French/Prep
T. Gillanders	ECE
K. Cofell	EA
M. Marks	EA
S. Parajuli	EA
T. Raine	EA
A. Szabon	EA
J. Payne	Custodian
B. Turner	Custodian
B. Lasall	Custodian

Important & Up Coming Dates:

September 7	First day of school year
September 12	School Council Meeting
September 16	PA Day
September 22	Meet the Teacher
September 30	Orange Shirt Day
October 6	Day 5
October 7	PA Day
October 10	Thanksgiving- No school
October 12	Day 1
October 31	Halloween

Keep WJB Up To Date!

Students will be bringing registration verification packages home. Please ensure that all contact and student information is correct, make any changes necessary and return it to the school with your child(ren). Should your information change during the school year, please update the school office.

Arrival & Dismissal

Our school day begins with an entrance bell at 9:10am. Any student who arrives after 9:10am will be considered late, and will report directly to the front office, where their arrival will be recorded before they go to class. Being present and punctual each day is critical in a successful school year and for academic success.

Morning supervision begins at 8:55am. **Students cannot arrive at WJB prior to 8:55am when supervision is available.** If your child needs to be picked up from school prior to the dismissal bell, please call the office and our staff will arrange for your child to meet you at the office. We ask that all parents communicate directly with the office for such matters rather than communicating directly with your child via electronic device. This allows our office staff to manage student attendance and safety for students. Please note that any change in a student's normal routine such as not getting on their bus at the end of the day needs to be communicated directly by parents to the school, otherwise the usual daily routine will be followed.

Bell Times

9:10-11:10	First Instructional Block
11:10-11:30	Nutrition Break
11:30-11:50	Recess
11:50-1:50	Second Instructional Block
1:50-2:10	Nutrition Break
2:10-2:30	Recess
2:30-3:30	Third instructional Block
3:30	Dismissal

Visitors at WJB

To ensure the safety of all students, all visitors to WJB must enter the building through the front doors and report directly to the office. Should you wish to speak with your child's teacher, please contact the teacher via the office, email or phone to schedule an appointment.

Lunch Policy

All students remain at WJB for nutrition breaks and recesses, unless signed out by a parent at the front office. Intermediate students will receive, with parent approval, lunch passes on a monthly basis.

BYOD & Cell Phone Use

Mobile technology has become a part of daily life. The LKDSB has invested in a BYOD Wi-Fi network that will allow students to Bring Their Own Device and login to use the internet much like they would on a school computer. We welcome students to bring their own mobile devices to support their learning. The BYOD users are subject to the same expectations as when using LKDSB technology, and the Acceptable Use of Technology Policy always applies. The use of technology will be at the discretion of the teacher, and there will be times that students will not access devices. Please be aware that the LKDSB and WJB will not assume responsibility for any device that is lost, stolen, or damaged when brought to school.

The use of personal devices and cell phones will be to the discretion of the teacher, and students will be able to access these devices only with permission from the supervising teacher. Should you need to contact your child during instructional time, please contact the office.

Meet the Teacher

We are excited to announce that we will host an informal Meet the Teacher event on Thursday, September 22 from 4:30-7:00pm. This will be an opportunity to meet staff and to visit classrooms and school areas. The Optimist Fry Truck will be on hand as well. More information will be sent home closer to the event. We look forward to seeing you there!

Orange Shirt Day

The Government of Canada has formally designated September 30th, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as a federally statutory holiday. 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 30, 2022 – 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.



School Council

The school council meets at different times throughout the school year. These meetings are open to any parent, guardian or community member who is interested in attending. There are positions such as school council chair and secretary which are open for nomination and election. Should you be interested in either of these roles or finding out about what they entail, please contact Miss McFarland. Please watch our social media accounts and website for school council meeting dates. Our first school council meeting will be on Monday, September 12th at 6:30pm in the learning commons. We hope to see you there!

Staying Connected with WJB

For the most up-to-date information, please consider following us on Facebook. Our Facebook page is intended to be an information page that gives reminders about upcoming events. This page is information only and does not take comments or messages. Should you ever need more information regarding an item posted on our Facebook page, please contact the office. In addition to this our school website can be found at <https://www.lkdsb.net/school/wjbaird>. You can find information about upcoming important dates, and our newsletters will appear on this page.