



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 Griffins! This has truly been an extraordinary year. The school lay-out, procedures and protocols have been modified to adhere to guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education and Chief Medical Officers to ensure the safety of all. This year will certainly have its challenges, but we will get through this pandemic with the support of everyone. # GriffinStrong.

STAFF

FDK- Mrs. Pickering/ Mrs. Gillanders
SK/1- Mrs. Barnard
Grade 2- Mrs. Pfaff
Grade 3/4-Mrs.Taylor
Grade 4/5- Mrs. Johnson/ Mrs. Hough
Grade 6/7- Mrs. Tinline
Grade 7/8- Mrs. Kistulinec
Resource- Mrs. Lethbridge
French- Mme McGuire
Educational Assistants: Ms. Cofell, Mrs. Cook
Miss Downie, Mr. Hoffman
Custodian: Mrs. Payne
Secretary: Mrs. McTavish
Principal: Mrs. Zondag

Ms. Leach and M. Longpré transferred to schools closer to home. Mrs. Lovell, Mrs. Hoskins, and Mrs. Newcombe will be working in the Virtual School.

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

STUDENT ARRIVAL PROCEDURES

Upon arrival (8:55-9:10) students will proceed to enter the building through appropriately marked doors and report to their classroom. Exterior doors will be marked indicating which grades enter/leave through them. Students will move to their entrance door regardless of transportation, drop-off, before-school programming, or walking. Bus students will enter the building through the front doors supervised by staff.

As students are expected to proceed directly to their classroom, staff supervision will not be available on the playground.

STAGGERED DATES FOR RE-ENTRY

In order to support the successful transition back to school and assist students with learning school health and safety procedures and risk mitigation strategies, Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will have a staggered entry. Please note the following information;

SK TO GRADE 8

Half of the student body (Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8) will attend school on Thursday, September 10 for one day. On Friday, September 11, the remaining students (those who did not attend the previous day) will attend school. On Monday, September 14, all Senior Kindergarten to Grade 8 students will attend school.

JK Students

Half of the Junior Kindergarten students will attend school on Tuesday, September 15 for one day. On Wednesday, September 16, the remaining students (those who did not attend the previous day) will

attend school. On Thursday, September 17, all Junior Kindergarten students will attend school.

TRANSITION BACK TO SCHOOL

We understand that many of the school procedures will be new to students beginning Junior Kindergarten in September; however, we are committed to supporting safe and welcoming transitions to school for our students and families. In addition to supporting student learning, staff will help students become familiar with school and health and safety routines to reduce the opportunities for transmission of COVID-19.

The plan is a multi-layered approach with various safety measures to mitigate opportunities for the transmission of COVID-19. The implementation is a shared responsibility between Lambton Kent District School Board (LKDSB) staff, local Public Health, family households, students and Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS). By collectively implementing the plan, our schools will be safe for our students and staff.

Refer to the *School Safety Protocols and the Daily Screening Questionnaire for Parents/Guardians/Students Before Attending School* for more information.

Please note: Parents/guardians will have limited opportunities within the school year to switch their child's school experience between face-to-face instruction and Learn at Home instruction (or vice versa). Families must notify the school in advance and there may be a waiting period prior to their child's admission to school, depending on scheduling and availability of classroom space.

SCREENING

Parents/guardians are required to assess their children daily and report whether they are experiencing any signs of illness and are expected to keep them home if they are. **Parents/guardians should refer to the *Daily Screening Questionnaire for Parents/Guardians/Students Before Attending School* to perform daily screening of their children before arriving at school.**

All students who are experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 must not attend school and should seek appropriate medical attention as required, including getting tested at a COVID-19 testing centre. The closest testing centre to our

school is **47 Emma Street, Chatham, ON (Chatham-Kent Health Alliance)**

Students who become ill during the day will be isolated and must be picked up from school as soon as possible. Symptomatic students will not be able to use student transportation.

The most [common symptoms of COVID-19 \(PDF\)](#)

include:

- Fever (temperature of 37.8°C or greater)
- New or worsening cough
- Shortness of breath (dyspnea)

Other symptoms of COVID-19 can include:

- Sore throat
- Difficulty swallowing
- New olfactory or taste disorder(s)
- Nausea/vomiting, diarrhea, abdominal pain
- Runny nose, or nasal congestion (in absence of underlying reasons for these symptoms such as seasonal allergies, post-nasal drip, etc.)

The Ontario Ministry of Health advises everyone to take an active role in protecting themselves from COVID-19. Here are a few things that you and your family can do:

- wash your hands often with soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer
- sneeze and cough into your sleeve
- avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth
- avoid contact with people who are sick
- stay home and [isolate](#) if you or anyone in your household is sick

STUDENTS AND MASKS

Students in Grades 4 to 12 will be required to wear non-medical or cloth masks indoors in school, including in hallways and during class time. Outdoor times like recess can be used as opportunities to provide students with breaks from wearing masks as long as the students are organized to remain within their cohorts. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will be encouraged but not required to wear masks in indoor spaces. Masks are also mandatory in bus lines and on the bus for Grade 4-8 students.

Students are encouraged to practise wearing masks and learn what type of mask is most comfortable for them. Parents/guardians should provide non-medical masks or cloth masks for their children to wear to school. The LKDSB will provide backup non-medical masks for students who do not have their own. Face coverings that provide a tight seal at the chin and nose and cover the mouth are permitted (a gaiter for example), whereas face coverings that do not provide a tight seal at the chin and nose and cover the mouth are not permitted (a bandanna for example).

For some students with special needs, or significant medical conditions, wearing a mask may be problematic. Families should work with the school to determine if your child may be exempt from wearing a mask. Parents/guardians can expect that there will be time spent in class during the first days of school reviewing the proper use of masks, hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

CLASS is planning service for all eligible students; there is no need to register for busing. Go to <https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/address-eligibility/> in order to confirm your eligibility for transportation. Students will be assigned a bus seat, be required to wear masks and will sit with their siblings or classroom cohort. Additional information is available on the CLASS Student Transportation website: <https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/>

Download the MySBI app for school bus updates during the school year, including school bus delays and weather cancellations.

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. When there are bus cancellations due to fog, busses will not run in the morning, but will run in the afternoon.

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 are to remain at school for both breaks.

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, entry is only permitted for essential visitors and must do so by making pre-arranged appointments. Should you wish to communicate with the school or your child's teacher, please contact the school through phone or email.

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 outside of the front doors.

All parents are asked to meet their children outside their entry/dismissal doors 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.

STUDENT LEARNING

Classes will resume according to a conventional in-person model. When specialist teachers provide instruction to a class (such as French), students will remain in their classrooms, and teachers will move between rooms. Minimizing student movement will reduce congestion and student-to-student interaction between classrooms.

For additional information about programming, read the [Reopening Our Schools plan section on](#)

[Programming: Elementary](http://www.lkdsb.net) on the LKDSB website (www.lkdsb.net).

Moving Between Learn at Home and Face-to-Face Instruction

Families wishing to transfer between face-to-face learning to Learn at Home or transfer from Learn at Home to face-to-face instruction must contact their principal according to the following timelines:

- **Fall date: Families notify school by October 22. Student begins new program type on November 16.**
- **Winter date: Families notify school by January 12. Student begins new program type on February 3.**
- **Spring date: Families notify school by March 30. Student begins new program type on April 20.**

Students moving between program delivery choice (i.e. face-to-face learning or Learn at Home) should anticipate changes in teacher(s). If space is available, the LKDSB will attempt to accommodate all requests sooner than the dates above; however, this will vary from school-to-school and grade-by-grade and may not be possible. Transportation delays may also occur.

Please note: Parents/guardians will have limited opportunities within the school year to switch their child's school experience between face-to-face instruction and Learn at Home instruction (or vice versa).

MENTAL HEALTH

Families are encouraged to contact the school to discuss any concerns regarding their child's transition to school. For additional resources, please access information at: <https://www.lkdsb.net/Board/Community/MentalHealth/>

POSTPONEMENT UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

We certainly appreciate the support of our many parent volunteers during the school year, however at this time, volunteers are not permitted in the building.

Sports teams, clubs, and Intramurals are also postponed until further notice.

We will look to the CK Public Health Unit for further direction on both of these initiatives.

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 and between virtual/face-to-face learning.

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.

BEFORE AND AFTER CHILDCARE

The LKDSB and Chatham-Kent Lambton Administrative School Services (CLASS) continues to work closely with all child care providers who provide child care options in LKDSB schools to ensure that before- and after-school programs are available to support our students and families.

More information can be found at the following link: <https://cklass.ca/covid19/child-care/>

PERSONAL STUDENT ITEMS

Any personal items (e.g., backpack, clothing, water bottles, food, etc.) should be labeled and kept in an area designated for the student and should not be handled by other students.

LUNCH AND FOOD SERVICES

Students will not be permitted to leave school property during lunch and therefore will be required to bring their own food. They will not be allowed to share food and not permitted to access their lockers. **Students are encouraged to bring a refillable water bottle (labelled with name, already filled)** as drinking fountains will be inaccessible. At this time, special food days will not be possible and no milk/popcorn will be sold – until further notice.

We are working with our student nutrition program partnerships to develop a plan for the 2020-21 school year. Stay tuned... Special thanks to members of the Blenheim Ministerial Association volunteering to run this program for our students.

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. This includes the administration of occasional use medications as well. 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.

Should your child have a medical need (such as diabetes, asthma, epilepsy etc.) that requires special emergency attention please inform the school and an “**Individual Medical Emergency Plan**” will be put in place. **The forms for this purpose are available on our school website. You can also send a note with your child and we can send a copy home.**

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)

RECESS AND PLAYGROUNDS

Elementary students will have the opportunity to enjoy recess. At this time, Medical Officers of Health have advised that outdoor activity has reduced risk and that playground equipment may be used. Classes will be assigned specific areas of the playground/schoolyard at recess. Students will practice hand hygiene before and after the break.

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.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Parents should note that The Lambton Kent District School Board does **not** provide accident insurance for students. Application forms for student accident insurance covering accidental dental claims, out-of-province hospital coverage, private tuition, disability and rehabilitation benefits will be distributed to students in early September. Parents may use these as they see fit. www.insuremykids.com

SCHOOL COUNCIL 2020-2021

Baird is fortunate to have a dedicated group of parents who have volunteered to be members of our School Council. In their role as advisory council, their input is appreciated. We have appreciated those parents/community members who have joined us in the past and look forward to their return, as well as the addition of new parents. Joining WJBaird School Council is:

- a. Social (great opportunity to meet new people- parents, admin, and teachers)
- b. Constructive (rewarding feeling by helping with an initiative and the impact it has on our students)
- c. Educational (learn about new developments in Education)
- d. Supportive (being a representative of our parent community).

We meet at least 4 times a year and your attendance is not necessary at every meeting. There is no formal commitment to join School Council.

Meetings will be held virtually until further notice. Please refer to school website for more information regarding a virtual meeting.

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.

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

For the **full LKDSB COVID Return to School Plan** please check the link at the top of the LKDSB website: www.lkdsb.net or WJBaird website:

<https://www.lkdsb.net/school/wjbaird/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

The information in this newsletter is current up until the time of posting. Please check the websites above regularly for any updates.