



W.J. Baird Public School

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

September 2023 Newsletter

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

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

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. A new school year is an exciting time, and we look forward to the learning journey as well as all the special events that enhance the educational experience! We will be holding a Meet the Staff event on Thursday, September 21 that will offer families an opportunity to meet staff on an informal basis and take a self-guided tour of the school. For those who wish to join us for dinner, the Optimist Fry Truck will also be on hand. Watch for pre-order forms to come home with students.

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	SK/1
N. Lovell	Gr. 1/2
C. Kamarlingos	Gr. 3/4
L. Polowick	Gr. 3/4
C. Johnson	Gr. 5
P. Jones-Taylor	Gr. 5/6
W. Tinline	Gr. 7/8
L. Kistulinec	Gr. 7/8
A. Hough	Prep
H. Myers	French/Prep
B. Vandehogen	Prep
M. Lethbridge	Resource
T. Gillanders	ECE
L. Armstrong-Peltier	EA
J. Kobyłka	EA
M. Marks	EA
S. Parajuli	EA
T. Raine	EA
A. Jansen	EA
J. Payne	Custodian
B. Lasall	Custodian

Important & Up Coming Dates:

September 6	First day of school year
September 14	School Council Meeting
September 15	PA Day
September 21	Meet the Staff
September 22	Terry Fox
September 29	Orange Shirt Day
October 5	Day 5
October 6	PA Day
October 9	Thanksgiving- No school
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.

Scooters, Skateboards & Bikes

Students are welcome to ride scooters, skateboards and bikes to WJ Baird, however they must not be ridden on school property, and they will need to be secured in the bike racks. We have far too many of these to allow them to be stored in the school as it causes tripping hazards, and we lack adequate storage space for them. Students are encouraged to secure their item with a lock and families are reminded as with any item brought from home, the school will not be responsible for loss, theft or damage.

Arrival & Dismissal

Our school day begins with an entrance bell at 9:10 am. Any student who arrives after 9:10 am 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.

Milk & Popcorn Sales & Special Food Days

WJ Baird will once again offer daily sales of chocolate and white milk as well as various flavours of popcorn. Watch our Facebook page for an announcement when our supply arrives. Pizza and Subway lunches will also be offered beginning in October. Order forms will be coming home with students.

Due to increases in the cost of items, prices will be:

White & Chocolate Milk-	\$1.50
Popcorn-	\$2.00
Pizza-	\$3.00

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. Devices will only be used with the permission of and under the supervision of a staff member. Students who are permitted to bring a cell phone to school must submit the WJB Cell Phone at School Agreement and comply with the expectations outlined in it.

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 Staff

We are excited to announce that we will host an informal Meet the Teacher event on Thursday, September 21 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

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – Orange Shirt Day – September 30th

The Government of Canada has formally designated September 30th, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as a statutory holiday for employees in the federal government and federally regulated workplaces. 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 29th, 2023 – 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 for 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.

This recognition day will be part of the activities and discussions occurring during the Truth and Reconciliation Week September 25th to September 29th which will also include discussions about the truth of Indigenous treaties, languages and culture and First Nation, Metis, and Inuit land claims.

In honouring and remembering those impacted by residential schools, LKDSB had commissioned a new orange shirt design in 2021. Orange shirts are available for order by interested staff and students from Screenart, a company in Wallaceburg. Screenart has created an online store for LKDSB orders, therefore staff and families will submit payment online directly to Screenart.

https://www.screenart.ca/lkdsb_ecm/shop/home The store is open immediately for purchases, and will remain open until Monday, September 11th. All shirts which are ordered will be delivered to the schools September 28th.



School Bus Infor-New App

CLASS uses the SchoolBusInfo - Bus Status 4 app to push notifications to subscribers for inclement weather cancellations and school bus delays. **This is a new app that differs from the one used in past years.** The MySBI Bus Status app is available for iPhone and Android.

REMINDER: As school bus routes change every year; you will need to re-select your symbols for the new school year after August 1st.

For more information visit: <https://cklass.ca/services/student-transportation/delays-cancellations/>

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 Thursday, September 14th at 6:30pm. 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.