



# W.J. Baird Public School

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

## September 2024 Newsletter

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

Follow us on Facebook: @WJBairdPS or <https://www.facebook.com/WJBairdPS>

### From the Principal's Desk

#### Welcome Griffins!

Welcome back to school from what was hopefully a restful and enjoyable summer! I would like to send a special welcome to our new JK students, we are excited for you to begin your journey at WJ Baird! We are looking forward to a year 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 19 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>, and consider following us on Facebook for notifications and reminders.

### Staffing List & Up Coming Dates

#### W.J. Baird Staff

H. McFarland	Principal
M. McTavish	Secretary
S. Hoskins	FDK
S. Barnard	SK/1
C. Kamarlingos	Gr. 2
C. Pickering	Gr. 3/4
C. Johnson	Gr. 4/5
N. Lovell	Gr. 5/6
P. Jones-Taylor	Gr. 6/7
L. Kistulinec	Gr. 7/8
W. Tinline	Prep/Learning Commons
H. Myers	French/Prep
M. Lethbridge	Resource
T. Gillanders	ECE
L. Armstrong-Peltier	EA
J. Kobyłka	EA
S. Knowles	EA
M. Marks	EA
S. Parajuli	EA
T. Raine	EA
J. Rivest	EA
J. Payne	Custodian
B. Lasall	Custodian
M. Dantzer	Custodian

#### Important & Up Coming Dates:

September 3	First day of school year
September 19	Meet the Staff
September 19	Day 5
September 20	PA Day
September 26	School Council Meeting
September 27	Terry Fox
September 30	Orange Shirt Day
October 3	Fall & Class Picture Day
October 11	PA Day
October 14	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.

# School Year Calendars

School year calendars are available online at: <https://www.lksb.net/Elementary/Calendars/Pages/default.aspx#/=>



Sarnia Education Centre  
200 Wellington Street  
Sarnia, ON N7T7L2  
Phone: 519-336-1500

Chatham Regional Office  
476 McNaughton Ave., E  
Chatham, ON N7M 5L7  
Phone: 519-354-3770

## ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR 2024-2025

Legend:

B - Board Designated Holiday	H - Statutory School Holiday	E - Evaluation Day	P - Professional Activity Day
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Month	1st Week					2nd Week					3rd Week					4th Week					5th Week				
	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
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March	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
April		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30		
May				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
June	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30				

Professional Activity Days
Friday, September 20, 2024
Friday, October 11, 2024
Friday, November 15, 2024
Friday, January 31, 2025
Friday, April 4, 2025
Friday, June 6, 2025
Friday, June 27, 2025
First Day of Classes
Tuesday, September 3, 2024
Education Week
May 5, 2025
Take Our Kids to Work Day
November 6, 2024



### 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

<b>SEPTEMBER 2024</b> <table border="1"> <tr><th>MON</th><th>TUE</th><th>WED</th><th>THU</th><th>FRI</th></tr> <tr><td>2</td><td>3</td><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td></tr> <tr><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td></tr> <tr><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td></tr> <tr><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td></tr> <tr><td>30</td><td></td><td></td><td></td><td></td></tr> </table>	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30					<b>OCTOBER 2024</b> <table border="1"> <tr><th>MON</th><th>TUE</th><th>WED</th><th>THU</th><th>FRI</th></tr> <tr><td>7</td><td>8</td><td>9</td><td>10</td><td>11</td></tr> <tr><td>14</td><td>15</td><td>16</td><td>17</td><td>18</td></tr> <tr><td>21</td><td>22</td><td>23</td><td>24</td><td>25</td></tr> <tr><td>28</td><td>29</td><td>30</td><td>31</td><td></td></tr> </table>	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31		<b>NOVEMBER 2024</b> <table border="1"> <tr><th>MON</th><th>TUE</th><th>WED</th><th>THU</th><th>FRI</th></tr> <tr><td>4</td><td>5</td><td>6</td><td>7</td><td>8</td></tr> <tr><td>11</td><td>12</td><td>13</td><td>14</td><td>15</td></tr> <tr><td>18</td><td>19</td><td>20</td><td>21</td><td>22</td></tr> <tr><td>25</td><td>26</td><td>27</td><td>28</td><td>29</td></tr> </table>	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29
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## 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, and we encourage all students arrive on time.

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. More information will be sent home regarding food orders. Prices will remain the same as the 2023-24 school year:

White & Chocolate Milk-	\$1.50
Popcorn-	\$2.00
Pizza-	\$3.00
6" Sub-	\$6.00

## BYOD & Cell Phone Use

Mobile devices such as cell phones and tablets are to be off or silenced and secured in lockers. Devices can only be accessed with the permission and supervision of a staff member. Parents are asked to sign the letter regarding PPM 128 and the use of mobile devices and return it to the school if their child will be bringing a mobile device to school. W.J. Baird P.S. will not be responsible for any loss, damage or theft of devices brought to school. Students are reminded that the acceptable use of technology policy is always in effect and includes the use of their own devices.

## Meet the Staff

We are excited to announce that we will host an informal Meet the Staff event on Thursday, September 19 from 4:30-7:00pm. This will be an opportunity to meet staff and take a self-guided tour of 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 30<sup>th</sup>

The Government of Canada has formally designated September 30<sup>th</sup>, 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 29<sup>th</sup>, 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 23<sup>rd</sup> to September 27<sup>th</sup> 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.

The store is open immediately for purchases, and will remain open until 12:00pm Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. All shirts which are ordered will be delivered to the schools September 27<sup>th</sup>. [https://www.screenart.ca/lkdsb\\_ecm/shop/home](https://www.screenart.ca/lkdsb_ecm/shop/home)

## School Bus Information 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/>



## **Medical Plans of Care**

2023-24 Plans of care have been sent home with students for parents and guardians to review, update and return to the school so that we can have the most up to-date information available. If the status of a student's allergies, asthma or prevalent medical condition changes, or a new condition is diagnosed, please contact the office to make changes to or fill out a new plan of care.

## **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 26<sup>th</sup> 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.