

Bright's Grove Public School

2612 Hamilton Rd, Bright's Grove, ON N0N 1C0

T: 519-869-4285 **Bus Zone 2**



Message from the Principal

Hello and welcome to the 2023-2024 School Year!

My name is Nick Nienhuis, and I will be the principal at Bright's Grove Public School beginning this new year. I can't begin to tell you how thrilled I am to have the opportunity to join such a wonderful school community!



In my first few days at the school I spent a few moments looking at the grad composites in the front hall. I could not believe the number of students I recognized from my time at Northern Collegiate! It was very clear that such a huge number of memorable and amazing students came from one elementary school. This alone speaks to the experience that our students have here at Bright's Grove. The foundation for an enjoyable and enriching education with the school system is developed in elementary. I am so excited to now be a part of that early education and continue the tradition of supporting and nurturing the next cohorts of students. I can already appreciate that this is an incredible staff that is dedicated and caring. I am also very thankful for all the work that Liz did here at the school to make it such an inviting, well-run building.

An essential part in ensuring your child(ren) have a positive experience at school involves open, two-way communication between the school and parents and guardians. I am excited to get to know all the students within the building and work to develop relationships with each of you that will allow us here at Bright's Grove to meet the individual needs of each child that walks through our door. I am passionate about education and will work hard to support our staff here at the school and ensure each child is given the best opportunity to meet his or her potential. It is our hope that our school community will recognize that we are committed to creating a welcoming space for all students where they can feel a sense of belonging and engage in meaningful learning experiences.

I am looking forward to a great start-up and enjoyable school year! Thank you in advance for all that you do to support our staff and students; we can't do it without you!

Sincerely,

Nick Nienhuis

Upcoming Dates

September 15

PA Day - No school for students

September 19

Verification and media release forms returned

September 20

Meet the Families BBQ

September 23

Terry Fox Run

September 30

Orange Shirt Day

October 6

PA Day - No school for students

October 9

Thanksgiving Holiday

October 19

School Picture Day
(Re-takes Nov 16)



School Start-up Information

2022-2023 School Calendar Dates

Sept 5: All SK-Gr 8 students at school

Sept 6: ½ JK students at school

Sept 7: Other ½ JK students at school

Sept 8: All students in attendance

Sept 15: PA Day

Oct 6: PA Day

Oct 9: Thanksgiving

Nov 17: PA Day

Dec 25-Jan 5: Winter holidays

Feb 2: PA Day

Feb 19: Family Day

Mar 11-15: March Break

Mar 29: Good Friday

Apr 1: Easter Monday

April 26: PA Day

May 20: Victoria Day

June 7: PA Day

June 27: Final day of school

June 28: PA Day

The LKDSB school calendar can be accessed here:

[2023-2024 Elementary School Calendar](#)

Important information for parents can also be found on our LKDSB portal here:

[Information for Parents](#)

[2023-2024 Elementary Student Handbook](#)

Important Announcements

COMMUNICATION

- Newsletters, forms, and communication to parents/guardians will **primarily occur via email**. We strongly recommend that you agree to accept email from the school when completing the **Student Verification Forms** sent home in the first week of school.

- Please remember to sign up for **School Cash Online** as Riverview will handle all transaction through this method of payment. Information is available on our Riverview and LKDSB website.

[School Cash Online Link](#)

- All bussing information for parents/guardians can be viewed at the following website:

[Bus Information Link](#)

Cell Phones and Electronic Devices

All electronic devices, such as cell phones, digital game devices, computers are not to be used while the student is on school property before, during, or after school without the permission of school personnel and may only be used for educational purposes under the guidance and supervision of staff. At no time will students use electronic devices for digital, audio or video recording without permission from the teacher. The school is not responsible for lost, damaged or stolen property.

Communication

Communication between home and school is key to your child's success. Primary communication from administration will be through phone or email. **If you had previously declined receiving email notifications from the school, we ask that you consider allowing for email communication from the school so that you can receive newsletters, forms, and any pertinent information to the school year.**

Staff Updates

Our Bright's Grove School family welcomes back Rachel Bigras who will be teaching 4/5 this year and Alicia Greenwood returning in the FDK room! We also welcome Michelle McKay who will be here as an educational assistant (EA). Amber Passingham will be filling in for our newest staff member, Blair Warner, who will be joining us as an early childhood educator (ECE) in November. Welcome aboard!

Forms

There will be numerous forms which you will receive home within the first week. Completing these forms accurately and returning them promptly **(DUE back on Tuesday, September 19th)** to the school is essential to the well-being of your child. You will receive the **Student Verification (Information) Forms** where addresses, phone numbers and contact information can be changed and updated. **Should your phone number change at some point later in the school year, please call the school to update this information.**

Media Release forms will be sent home with each child. These forms are a method to have your student's photo published in the local newspaper or on the school website. Should you wish to have your child's photo remain out of the media, this information would be indicated on the Media Release form.

Safe Arrival and Dismissal

School Arrival: Students are expected to arrive at school **no earlier than 8:40 am**, as their safety on the yard cannot be monitored without a staff member present. Classes will begin at 8:55 am. **Parents are asked to remain off the yard. Students in JK and SK may be brought to their ECE by the parent for 'hand-off' but are asked to leave the yard.** Parents can help their child find their line-up on the first day but are asked to then wait outside the fence. Pylons with teachers' names will be on the primary yard to help students find their bags.

Dismissal Procedures: Students who walk or are getting picked-up should be met at a pre-appointed spot on the yard. Older students will be dismissed at the bell to collect younger siblings/students. It is important that you practice this meeting spot ahead of time. Parents are asked to wait outside school property until the bell rings as classes are often outside to play at the end of the day.

Early Pick Up: Should there be a need to arrange an earlier pick-up time, please call the school office and ask that the message be given to the teacher and your child through the office. To avoid this, we ask that parents please call the school before 2:50 pm to make alternate pick-up arrangements.

School Hours

8:40-8:55	Student arrival at school
10:35-11:15	First Break
1:15-1:55	Second Break
3:15	Dismissal

Medication and Medical Needs

Medication, both prescription & non-prescription, should not be administered to students by school staff. Specific criteria must be met for staff to administer prescription medication when it cannot be administered from home. An “**Authorization for the Administration of Oral Medication**” form (available from the office), must be completed by the parent/guardian and physician, then forwarded to the principal for each school year. This includes the administration of occasional use medications as well.

School Cash Online

Bright’s Grove Parents/Guardians: Please remember to sign up for School Cash Online as BGPS will handle all transactions through this method of payment. Information is available on our BGPS and LKDSB website.

<https://lkdsb.schoolcashionline.com>

Orange Shirt Day: Every Child Matters.

This is an event that started in 2013 and was designed to educate people and promote awareness about the residential school system and the impact this system had on Indigenous communities for more than a century in Canada. If possible, please have your child wear an orange shirt on Friday, September 29th.

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 via the board courier by September 28th.

This is time sensitive, so orders will only be accepted online until Monday, September 11th, 2023.



Attendance Reporting

Instructions for downloading the School Messenger app and navigating the website can be found attached to this email or on the school website. Please, use this to report any absences. There is an automatic call-out that we are unable to suspend that goes out about 9:30 am. If your child(ren) is going to be absent for 5+ days, please contact the office to receive a form that is required to be kept on file for auditing purposes.

School Photos

School photos will take place on **Thursday, October 19**. Forms will go home prior to picture day and all payments will be made through school cash online. Re-take will be November 16.

Parent/Guardian and Community Volunteers

We tremendously value community and parent volunteers at the school and greatly appreciate the help to allow our students to participate in activities that require additional support and supervision.

School Council

The Bright’s Grove School Council is made up of parents, staff representatives, community members and the principal. Input from the various council members shapes school policies and priorities. **Our first meeting will be scheduled for September 13 – 6:30-7:30 PM.** If you are interested in participating, please call or email Nick Nienhuis.

BGPS is “Nut and Other Allergy Aware”



Please be aware that we are a “Nut and Milk Aware” school and as a result, we ask that parents not send foods containing nuts (including peanuts and tree nuts), to school to protect the safety of all members of our school community. This includes any peanut substitution products, as once the product leaves your home, it is impossible to tell the difference. For great suggestions on nut free lunches, visit www.eatrightontario.ca.

COVID-19 Pre-Screening and Etiquette

Prior to attending school, it is still recommended that all students, staff and visitors complete the [daily COVID-19 School Screening assessment tool](#) and follow directions. **Following Public Health guidance, individuals should stay home if they are feeling ill to prevent the spread of illness.**

Electronic Newsletter

In an effort to reduce the amount of paper and copying, we are asking that parents please access the monthly newsletter and calendar through the BGPS website or via our Facebook page (BGPS The newsletter will also be emailed out to the primary and secondary emails provided by parents/guardians. There will be no paper copies sent home this school year.

Pediculosis (Head Lice)

As outlined in Board policy, routine checks for head lice are conducted during the first week of school and periodically as needed throughout the year. Every effort is made to prevent the spread of head lice but affected students will need to be sent home and may be re-admitted after the appropriate treatment has been administered. Parents are encouraged to check their child(ren's) heads at home on a regular basis.

Student Accident Insurance – voluntary participation

The Lambton Kent District School Board does not provide accident insurance coverage for student injuries that occur on school property or during school activities, including extracurricular sports. If a student is injured, parent(s)/guardian(s) are responsible for any costs not covered by their Government Health Insurance Plan or their employer's health care plan. The Board encourages all parents/guardians to review this or other available Student Accident Insurance plans, especially those with a child(ren) participating in medium to high-impact physical activities (both during school and outside of school hours). The [insuremykids®](#) student accident insurance program offers three plans with a variety of benefits and affordable rates. Their most affordable plan is available for as little as \$17 per year. All plans provide 24/7 coverage. For more information or to purchase insurance, please visit www.insuremykids.com or call 1-800-463-5437.