

# BURGESS BULLETIN

SEPTEMBER 2023

H.W. Burgess Public School

519-627-3822

## From the Office

Welcome Back Bulldogs! We hope you had a terrific summer and are ready to get back to school, eager to learn. School staff have been busy getting the school ready for your return and everything is shiny and waiting for you!

Families, please read through this newsletter for all the information you need for school startup.



## Territorial Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which our school sits and on which we gather each day is a part of the traditional territory of the Chippewa, Odawa, Potawatomi and Delaware Nations.

These Indigenous Nations, known as the Anishinaabeg and Lunaapeew, agreed through their ancestral languages to the mutual sharing of the land, with obligations and responsibilities to the environment.

## Bulldog Days

As we look forward to a great year together, every Friday will be Bulldog Day – wear your green and white and show off your Burgess Pride!

**#BULLDOGSTRONG**

## Important Dates

- 15th | PA Day
- 21st | Meet the Staff (more news to come)
- 22nd | Terry Fox Run
- 29th | Orange Shirt Day
- Oct 2nd | Home & School Meeting 6:00

## School Hours

8:55 – Outdoor Supervision Begins  
9:10 – Classes Start  
9:10 – 11:10 – Instructional Block  
11:10 – 11:50 – Nutrition Break (outdoor play and eating time)  
1:50 – 1:30 – Instructional Block  
1:30 – 2:10 – Nutrition Break (outdoor play and eating time)  
2:10 – 3:30 – Instructional Block  
3:30 – Dismissal

## H.W. Burgess Staff

FDK – Mrs. Ouimette  
FDK – Miss McCallum & Mrs. Beselaere  
Gr 1 – Mrs. Simpson  
Gr 1/2 – Mrs. Armstrong  
Gr 2/3 – Mrs. Bogaert  
Gr 3/4 – Mrs. Babbitt  
Gr 4/5 – Mr. Lozon  
Gr 5/6 – Ms. Lung  
Resource – Miss Perry  
French – Mme. Hope  
French – Mme. Burns  
Prep – Mrs. Salasso  
Educational Assistants: Mrs Nicholson,  
Ms. Martin & Ms. Ripley  
Secretary – Mrs. Aubie  
Custodian – Mr. Heath  
Principal – Mrs. VanDenBossche

## Thank you Custodial/School Staff!

We appreciate the hard work of our custodial staff over the summer. The school looks terrific, from gleaming floors to shiny fixtures, their pride in providing our school community with a exemplary learning space is evident. Thank you!

A huge thank you as well to our school staff for their efforts in setting up welcoming classrooms for our students. Your efforts are so appreciated!



## Covid-19 Screening

We are asking every family to prescreen their child(ren) for Covid-19 every morning by following the steps on the [Ontario School Screening](#) tool. Please answer the questions honestly and if you receive the red X, do not send your child to school. There are instructions on what you should do next, under the X.

## Communication

**Monthly newsletters/calendars** – will be sent via email at the beginning of every month. They will also be posted on the school website. If you require a paper copy, please contact the office.

**School Website** – will be updated regularly with dates to remember, contact information, newsletters, forms, etc. – check it out at: [www.lkdsb.net/school/hwburgess](http://www.lkdsb.net/school/hwburgess)

**Twitter** – reminders of upcoming events, photos of student work and short student videos will be shared on our school Twitter account – please follow us @hwburgessps

**Facebook** – Our business page can be “Liked” at: [www.facebook.com/hwburgessps](http://www.facebook.com/hwburgessps) in order to keep up to date with what’s happening at school.

**Instagram** – Follow us @hwburgessps for all the latest happenings around the school

**Homeroom Apps** – our homeroom teachers are using a variety of different apps to keep in contact with parents, including Google Classroom and Seesaw. Please check with your child’s teacher to see what communication tool they will be using and ensure you are signed up.

**Phone** – Please call the school to set up appointments to meet with staff members or to arrange for a call back – 519-627-3822

**Email** – you may receive emails from the school principal, Mrs. VanDenBossche on occasion.

These usually include news items that are sent to all of our families at once.



## Student Pick Up/Drop Off

Drivers are asked to take extra care when driving along Lawrence Ave. and on school property. We have many children walking to and from school and they are not always as “traffic safe” as we’d like.

Please refrain from parking in the bus loading area in front of the school.

There are no crossing guards or Safety Patrollers at any of our school crossings. We ask that parents reinforce good walking habits with their children and that any parents who are driving take extra care around our school crossings.

*For students being dropped off/picked up, families are asked to do so at the school yard gates. Thank you.*



## Truth and Reconciliation

We are committed to fulfilling the Calls to Action as put out by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as they apply to the school setting. In order to increase the awareness of the legacy of the Residential School System, acknowledge its’ impact and begin on the path to reconciliation, ***we will once again wear our Orange Shirts every Thursday*** this year.

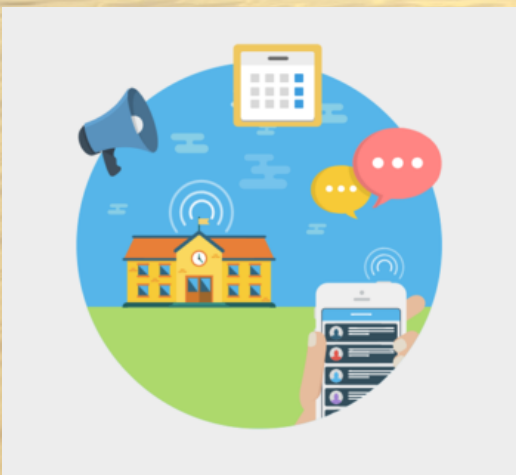
We encourage all of our students to do the same and if you aren’t sure why the orange shirt is so important, please talk with your child as we’ll be learning about Orange Shirt Day all this month.



## Student Absences

Due to Safe School policies, the school is required to contact all families of students who are absent without prior notice. If you know your child is going to be away, for any reason, please report it on the School Messenger app that was introduced last year. If you require instructions on how to find or use the School Messenger app, please let the office know and we’ll send an instruction page home.

If you prefer to phone instead of using the app, please call the dedicated absence line at 1-844-487-3695.



---

## NUT Aware School

Please note that we have students in our school who have anaphylactic allergies to peanuts, ground nuts and tree nuts. As these students are in various grades within the school, the following applies to all of our classrooms and students. In order to keep these students safe while at school, we ask for your cooperation in the following:

- Do not send in food that contains peanuts, ground nuts or tree nuts or their oils – this includes (but is not limited to) peanut butter, other nut butters, WOW butter and Nutella. Ensure that any pre-packaged snacks that may contain nuts (cookies, granola bars, candy bars) are labelled as Nut Safe or School Safe.
- Encourage your child to wash their hands before and after eating, or use hand sanitizer.
- Do not send in baked goods for class treats or parties – all food entering the school needs to be commercially made and packaged and labelled Nut Safe or School Safe and come from a Nut Free facility (ie. Maple City Bakery)
- Encourage your child to never trade or share food at school

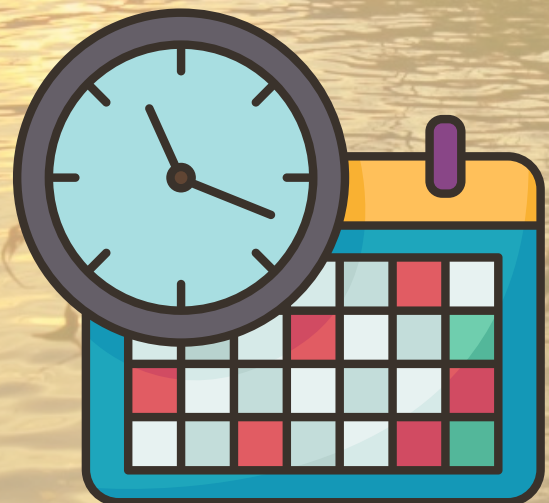
If you have any questions or concerns about our policies on anaphylaxis, please contact your child's teacher or the main office.



## Our Daily Schedule

Our instructional day begins at 09:10am and goes until 3:30pm. We have two breaks throughout the day – the first half of the break is outdoor play (20 minutes) and the second half is our nutritional break (20 minutes). These breaks occur from 11:10–11:50 and 1:30–2:10 daily.

Supervision on the yard begins at 8:55 – please do not have students arriving before this time.



---

## School Cash Online

SchoolCashOnline is available for families and once again, families are able to pay by credit card or similar cards, like Visa Debit. The program does not store your banking or credit card information, so you will need to enter it each time. If you have not already signed up, visit our school website and sign up today. You will need a student number when signing up, so please call the school to obtain that information if you need it.

Paying for school items just got easier!  
Sign up to get started today.

### What is School Cash Online?

School Cash Online is an easy to use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees.  
[Learn more](#)



Register

Sign In

## School Council/Home & School Association

The first meeting of the year will be on Monday, October 2nd at 6:00 pm at the school. Each parent must be nominated in writing; please contact the office for nomination forms. If you can't fill one out ahead of time, we will have some sent home after the meeting. We will elect our Chair at this meeting, as well as solicit a volunteer to act as recording secretary.

The School Council acts as an advisory group for the Principal of the school – they advise the school with community input and in turn, take information from the school to the community at large.

The Home and School Association is a group of parent volunteers focusing on fundraising for related school items or events. Last year, the Home and School helped with field trips, our Spring Banquet and our new sound system. We are always looking for new families to join as many hands make light work. The first meeting will be held in conjunction with School Council.

## Medications & Medical Plans of Care

If your child requires prescription medication to be administered throughout the school day, an "Authorization to Administer Oral Medication" form will need to be completed and signed by both the parent and a doctor/nurse practitioner. This form then needs to be returned to the Principal and will be kept on file for the full year. School staff are unable to administer any prescription medication unless this form is complete and on file at the school. Administration of non-prescription medication still requires an Authorization form to be completed but does NOT require a doctor/nurse practitioner's signature. Please contact the office to obtain this form as needed.

Any students who have been diagnosed with diabetes, anaphylactic allergies, epilepsy or any other medical condition that might require medical attention will need to complete an "Individual Medical Emergency Plan".

---

## Pediculosis (Head Lice)

Sometimes students arrive at school infected with pediculosis or head lice. Finding this early really helps to stop the spread and your help in this is greatly appreciated. Please check your child for head lice weekly. If you find evidence of head lice, please let the school know. This will allow us to notify other parents in the classrooms affected so that they may check their child(ren). Children who are suspected of having head lice will be excused until appropriate treatment has been administered. Infestation by head lice is an unpleasant nuisance, but not a health problem. Head lice do not carry or spread disease.



## Bus Information

During the fall we might experience some heavy fog in which there could be the potential for bus cancellations. When there are bus cancellations due to fog, buses will not run in the morning but will run in the afternoon. H.W. Burgess is in BUS ZONE 7.

To check for any bus cancellations during the school year, please tune into the local radio stations or the following website:  
<https://schoolbusinfo.busstatus.ca/>

## Registration Verification

A Registration Verification form will be sent home with each child in the coming days. We ask that you review this form and note any necessary changes. If no changes are necessary, please confirm your consent at the bottom of the form for your child with regard to LKDSB media (see below) and return these signed forms to the school as soon as possible.

Throughout the school year, many school activities occur and may be the subject of photographing, audio-taping, videotaping and filming. In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, a signed release is required for the photographing or filming of student participation in these activities. In addition, the public media organization, upon notification, may be present to cover events by videotaping and filming students involved in activities which are outside of the jurisdiction of the School and/or Board.

---

## Refillable Water Bottles

We are fortunate that our school is equipped with two refillable water bottle stations. We kindly ask that you send your students with refillable water bottles. As environmental stewards, our goal is to reduce single use plastics as much as possible. Thank you for your support!



## Community VTRA - Violent Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The Lambton Kent District School Board is committed to providing safe learning environments for all students, staff, school visitors, and community members. When a student behaves inappropriately, principals will most often employ progressive discipline strategies to help a student take responsibility for their actions, learn from their mistakes, and make better choices in the future. In more extreme cases however, when a student's behaviour poses a potential threat to their own or others' well-being, the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (VTRA) supports principals in taking further steps to safeguard everyone. The VTRA protocol outlines how a school responds immediately to threatening incidents including but not limited to possession of weapons or replica weapons, bomb threat or plan, verbal or written (including electronic) threats to harm oneself or others, other threats of violence, and fire setting. The initial response team is likely to include the Principal/Vice Principal, police, and board staff. Should conditions warrant, a Community Threat Assessment team will be convened. This community team includes representatives of community agencies who work with schools and boards to keep our students and staff safe, such as local police and children's mental health organizations. Parents and guardians will be notified if their child will be discussed through the Community Violence Threat Risk Assessment Protocol. If parents/guardians cannot be reached, or if they choose not to provide consent, but a concern for safety still exists due to threatening behaviour, the threat assessment may still proceed.

**SEE YOU IN SEPTEMBER!**

