

# Victor Lauriston PS

44 Alexandra Avenue, Chatham, ON N7M 1Y1

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Principal: Mr. Eryn Smit

Vice Principal: Mr. John Hughes

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/VLPSLions>

## March Break

March Break will run from March 11<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Students that have lockers will be doing a locker clean-out on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>. Indoor shoes will also be sent home with students. Classes will resume on Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>. Enjoy the week off together!

## Easter

Easter is early this year! The school is closed to students on Friday, March 29 and Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of this statutory holiday.

## April PA Day Change

Remember that the PA Day that was supposed to take place on Friday April 26<sup>th</sup> has now been moved to Monday April 8<sup>th</sup>.

## Contact Information

Parents and guardians are reminded to please keep the school updated with new phone numbers and email addresses. It is very important that we can contact you or one of your emergency contacts in the event of an emergency or illness.



## Upcoming Events

### March 4 – 7

School Floor Hockey  
Tournament

### March 11-15

March Break

### March 22

Term 2 IEP's Go Home

### March 29

Good Friday (No school)

### April 1

Easter Monday (No school)

## Student Transportation



Many of our students ride on the bus to and from school. It is required that these students are to remain seated in their assigned seating locations for the entire ride. They cannot eat on the bus and are expected to leave nothing behind when exiting the bus. The noise level of the bus should also remain at what we like to refer to "indoor voice". If your child is a bus student, we would appreciate it if you took a few minutes to review the rules for riding the bus.

## School Cash Online

Our school will be going **cashless** for almost all transactions for the 2024-2025 school year. Payment for items like hot food days, spirit wear, and field trips will only be accepted through SchoolCashOnline using your debit card or credit card.

At this time, more than half our families have already registered for SchoolCashOnline and are using it regularly, and we encourage all families to be registered before the end of the year. Your child is always registered once you sign up and there is no additional cost per transaction!

If you'd like more information or are ready to register your child, please visit <https://lkdsb.schoolcashonline.com/> to complete the process. Please contact Mrs. Norton at the school office or your child's teacher if you need help.

## Parent Involvement Committee Virtual Event Series

The Parent Involvement Committee would like to invite parents and families of Victor Lauriston to be a part of the virtual event series featuring parenting author and speaker: Ann Douglas.

The presentation dates and topics are:

Tuesday, March 19, **Parenting Through the Storm** (parenting a child who is struggling)

Tuesday, April 16 **The Truth About Teens** (parenting a teenager)

Tuesday, May 7 **Healthy Parents, Healthy Kids** (family health and well-being)

Tuesday, June 4 **Big-Picture Parenting** (self-compassion and parenting with your hopes and dreams in mind) with some strategies from **Happy Parents Happy Kids.**

There will be advertising on the board website which will include a Zoom link for everyone to join for each presentation and each presentation will be held **6:30 pm to 7:30 pm.**

## Kindergarten Registration

If you know of someone in our area with a child born in 2020, who has not yet registered for school, please have them follow the link below to register. Registration forms are available online if one would like to get the form filled out ahead of time.

<https://www.lkdsb.net/Elementary/Registration/Pages/default.aspx#/=>

## Indoor Shoes and School Supplies

We are at that time of year when resources that were provided at the start of the year might need to be replenished or replaced. Other than the obvious pencils, erasers, glue, etc., which might need to be replenished, an important concern this time of year is always indoor shoes. Please speak with your child to see if their indoor or outdoor shoes need to be replaced. Part of promoting student success is providing a clean learning environment. Ensuring that every student has a pair of indoor shoes is part of this endeavor. If you know that your child needs a new pair of indoor shoes, but you need some assistance with this purchase, please reach out to the school and speak with the school administration to access methods by which the school can assist. We appreciate your assistance with this effort.

## Black History Month Highlights

There were so many opportunities to learn about and explore Black History during the month of February. Many classes were engaged in the celebration of Black history in a variety of ways, from virtual lessons in partnership with community organizations, to individualized lesson plans created by the teachers. It was a full month of learning and appreciating the history that surrounds us every day. It is also a reminder that Black history is something to be celebrated and learned about all throughout the year.



## Spring is Coming, But It Is Not Here Yet!

Spring sometimes feels like it might be just around the corner with the increased amount of sunlight each day. We're all anxious for warmer temperatures and longing for an early spring! Just a friendly reminder that students are expected to dress appropriately for the weather to participate fully during their outside recess time.

Students are often tempted to remove their coats during outside play. Please encourage your learners to bring proper attire to school, as maintaining a healthy body temperature is part of the steps, we all should take to promote a strong immune system.

## Sports Roundup!

Senior Basketball season officially ended last week. During the middle of February two students from both the girls' and boys' teams represented the school proudly in the All-Star Game held at John McGregor Secondary School.

Congratulations goes out to the senior girls for competing in the semi-final game against Queen Elizabeth. The girls did not advance to the finals, but they played a fantastic game of basketball. The coaches were very proud of how much they learned and grew over the season.



A huge congratulations goes to the senior boys basketball team on their win in the finals against Queen Elizabeth, winning 53 to 35. They worked hard and challenged the opposing team throughout the game to bring us to victory. The coaches, staff and students are proud of all of you, and they are grateful for your dedication to the team. Way to go on a great season!!!

Upcoming athletic opportunities are badminton, junior basketball and track and field.

## Head Lice

Sometimes students arrive at school infected with pediculosis. Your assistance in early detection is greatly appreciated. Please check your child 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 children. Infestation by head lice is an unpleasant nuisance, but not a health problem. Head Lice do not carry or spread disease. If we detect head lice on your child, you will be notified and asked to come to the school to pick up your child. We then ask that you use the necessary treatment on his/her hair. Your child(ren) is welcome to return to school when the pediculosis is no longer evident. Hopefully, by working together we can control the spread of head lice.

## Speech Competition

This year's speech competition was a huge success. So many students demonstrated their abilities to develop their ideas, write them into existence and present them to their classes. For the ones selected to advance, they were able to present to our judges Mrs. Dittmer and Mr. Harwood to see who had the most effective speeches. Our winners were:

- Augusta from Ms. Coffey and Ms. Sprik's FDK class with the speech titled "The Silly Frog."
- Noah from Ms. Bezaire's Grade 2 class with the speech titled "Sledding Song."
- Destiny from Ms. Raspburg's Grade 3 class with the speech titled "Helping the Homeless."
- Derwin from Mr. Koehler's Grade 5/6 class with the speech titled "Derwin's Invention's."
- Liberty from Ms. Morkin's Grade 7/8 class with the speech titled "Animal Cruelty."

Congratulations to all participants for their efforts!

## Well-being

We want to remind all families of the importance of staying healthy, both physically and mentally. Tips and Strategies for Taking Care of your Mental Health:

- Take care of your body
- Connect with others
- Reach out for help if you need to
- Be kind to yourself
- Pause. Breathe. Reflect.

Please encourage each other and take the time to talk with the people closest to you. If your child needs support, please remember the Kids Help Phone: 1-800-668-6868. They can also text 686868. Additionally, check out the LKDSB's website under Mental Health for additional supports and excellent resources provided to all, including relaxation technics for everyone. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to the school.

## Parent's Guide to Ontario's Education System

The Ministry of Education has launched the [Parent's Guide to Ontario's Education System.](#)

This new resource will provide parents with helpful information that allows them to have a stronger role and actively participate in their children's education. The guide covers a number of subjects such as knowing how their child is doing in school, learning about suspension and expulsion processes, attending a school council meeting or parent involvement committee meeting, and knowing about specialized supports to help all children succeed.

This initiative is part of the government's recent efforts to increase transparency and accountability in our school system.

The full guide, translated into 10 different languages, can be found on our Parent/Guardian Resource page: [Parent/Guardian Resources - Lambton Kent District School Board \(lkdsb.net\)](http://Parent/Guardian Resources - Lambton Kent District School Board (lkdsb.net)) This information has also been shared to our board website and synced to each school website, as well.

