



Victor Lauriston PS

44 1/2 Alexandra Avenue, Chatham, ON N7M 1Y1

<http://victor.lkdsb.net> T: 519-352-4530

Principal: Mr. Smit

Vice Principal: Mr. Hughes

Twitter: @VLS_School

Facebook: www.facebook.com/vlpslions

Instagram: @vlpslions

Welcome

We hope you have had a wonderful summer! We wish to extend a special welcome to families of our new students. We look forward to working with you and know that you will enjoy being a part of Victor Lauriston Public School. Let us know if you have any questions or concerns. We want to ensure that your transition to your new school is a smooth one.

The members of our staff have worked very hard to get our school ready for opening. You will find that the building and your individual classrooms look amazing! Thank you to Mrs. Hebert and our custodial staff for all their hard work this summer.

Message From Principal Smit

Welcome back to a new school year, Lions! We are excited to welcome all returning students to another great year of learning, growing and building friendships at our school. We also are welcoming some new staff: Vice Principal John Hughes, Grade 5/6 Teacher Mitch Koehler, and Educational Assistants Tina McFadden and Kim Unsworth. I hope every new member of our community feels at home from the minute they walk into our building.

For those of you active on social media, our school has new accounts on Facebook and Instagram – you can find us in both

Upcoming Events

September 5

First Day of Classes

September 15

PD Day – No school for students

September 30

National Truth and Reconciliation Day

October 6

PD Day – No school for students

October 9

Holiday

School Council

We are always looking for new parents to join us at our Parent Council meetings. If you have any interest in attending, please contact the office and let us know of your interest. Once we know of your interest, we will be sure to share details on when these meetings will take place.

places at @vlpstions. We are excited to share pictures, information and updates with our school community in these places, so please follow us on those new platforms as well as Twitter.

Please feel welcome to contact me at any time throughout the school year, and say hi next time you are at school. I am almost always outside on the yard before and after school.

Message From Vice Principal Hughes

I am excited to be joining the community of Victor Lauriston as your Vice Principal for this upcoming school year. I have been a member of the LKDSB for three decades in a variety of roles. The students and parents here at Victor Lauriston have an amazing staff ready to care for every child that enters the building. I am here to offer my services to you in whatever way I can to better the lives of your child and am looking forward to the journey ahead.

Allergies

Please remember that VLS is a **NUT AWARE** school. Students **may not** bring any nuts, peanut butter, or nut products (including Wow Butter) to school. Please make sure to read all labels before packing your child's lunch. We have several children with severe anaphylactic allergies to a variety of nuts. Thanks for your cooperation.

As well, if you have a child that has a serious medical condition such as: diabetes, epilepsy, anaphylaxis, asthma – please ensure the office is aware. If medications need updating, there are forms to fill in. Please contact the office as soon as possible.

Phone Numbers and Email Addresses

It is essential that we are made aware of any contact information changes in case there is an emergency at school. As phone numbers and email addresses may change over the course of the year, please remember to let Mrs. Norton in the office know so that we can update our files. Changes to items such as child custody information should also be reported promptly to the school as well. **Student Information Verification Pages are coming home next week (the first full-week of school) for every student. Everyone must return these forms to the school.**

School Access During the School Day

Traditionally, we know that parents and staff strive to reduce interruptions to instruction through the school day for students. The more we can reduce interruptions such as forgotten lunch deliveries, lost homework transfers, etc., the greater likelihood that students will have a productive academic day.

For this reason, under most circumstances, parents visiting the school to pick up their child, drop off items, will remain in the front hall and instructions will be provided depending on the nature of the visit. We appreciate your cooperation and understanding.

Breakfast Program

The Breakfast program will begin on Monday, September 12th. We are sticking with the same process as last year. The program will not take place before school starts in the morning. Food items will be available in their respective classrooms which is the same protocol as last year. We recognize that this is an essential program for students and believe that this strategy will ensure that students receive the nutrition they need. If you are looking for ways to contribute to sustain this program this year, donations are always welcome and can be brought to the office.

Communication

Communication between home and school is key to your child's success. If you ever have concerns or questions, please speak directly to your child's teacher(s). If any concerns remain, please contact school administrators as soon as possible. Do not think that you have to postpone concerns you have until Parent/Teacher interview time in November. Please contact us sooner rather than later. Please remember that meetings will be set up using technology to keep everyone safe this year.

Safe Arrival and Dismissal

As students arrive this year, they will be able to remain outside from 9:00 – 9:15 am. At this time, they are required to enter the school at their designated entry doors. Please remind your child(ren) that there will be no supervision on the yard before 9:00am. Students can't come to the school prior to 9:00, as we will not be prepared to receive students.

If driving a vehicle, parents are to pick students up IN THE BACK PARKING LOT. For the safety of students, THE FRONT PARKING LOT WILL BE UNAVAILABLE. Remember our parking lot is one way. Please enter off Willowmac and exit onto McFadden. Please note that some roads by our school have been designated as School Safety Zones where speed limits are set at 40 km/h.

Parents are asked not to block the bus pick up zone by the kindergarten yard (this is a safety concern and it interferes with our bus loading).

When picking up students, please park in the parking lot, turn off your vehicle, and take your keys. Also please remember that there are no school safety patrollers or municipal crossing guards. Also, please respect our neighbours by ensuring you are not blocking their driveways when waiting to pick up your child.

Also, please note that parents should not enter the building at the end of the day to gather their child(ren). Thanks for your assistance!

Inclement Weather

While we are not expecting snow or ice this time of year, in the past, the arrival of fall often brings fog around. The policy of the LKDSB is:

In the event of bus cancellation due to fog, all schools will remain open. Morning bus pickups will be cancelled and buses will run for the afternoon return home drop offs.

We encourage parents of bus students to arrange their own transportation to school when it is safe to do so.

Please listen to the radio for information if the weather looks questionable in the morning.

Please listen to 94.3FM, 95.1 FM, 92.9 FM or AM 600 for cancellations. Victor Lauriston School is in School **Bus Zone 8**.

Kids' Stuff Childcare Program

Kids' Stuff...the Family Learning Centre on the Thames will continue to run our before and after School Program at Victor Lauriston Public School in Chatham.

Program Hours: Before School 7:30 - 9:15 a.m.

After School 3:35 - 5:30 p.m.

Apply online today using the Chatham-Kent Online Childcare Waitlist at: [Chatham Kent childcare](#)

Terry Fox

We hope to be participating in the Terry Fox Run/Walk at the school again this year. More information will be forthcoming electronically informing parents of how we our school will be participating this year. More information will be provided about how students can bring in a "Toonie for Terry" as well. The date for our Terry Fox Day will be announced.

Newsletter

As was the case over the last few years, in looking for ways to reduce paper usage at the school, and to protect the environment, our newsletters will be posted to our website every month. We will communicate when it has been posted for your convenience. Paper copies will no longer be sent home monthly.

Staff Directory

Mr. Smit	Principal
Mr. Hughes	Vice-Principal
Mrs. Norton	Secretary
Ms. O'Phee	Educational Assistant
Ms. Lindner	Educational Assistant
Ms. Burchiel	Educational Assistant
Ms. Kominek	Educational Assistant
Ms. Unsworth	Educational Assistant
Ms. McFadden	Educational Assistant
Ms. Sprik	Kindergarten ECE
Ms. Coffey	Kindergarten Teacher
Ms. Kubica	Kindergarten ECE
Mr. Orlando	Kindergarten Teacher
Ms. von Uders	Grade 1
Mrs. Galbraith	Grade 1/2
Mrs. Raspburg	Grade 2
Mrs. Bezaire	Grade 2/3
Mrs. Moir	Grade 3/4
Ms. McKinlay	Grade 3/4
Mrs. Reaume	Grade 4/5
Mr. Koehler	Grade 5/6
Mrs. Quigley	Grade 5/6
Mrs. Jack	Grade 7/8
Mrs. Morkin	Grade 7/8
Mrs. Skodak	Learning Resource/French
Mlle. Russell	Junior & Intermediate French
Ms. Carrothers	Phys Ed.
Mr. Ray	Learning Resource
Ms. Hebert	Day Custodian
Mr. A. Seed	Afternoon Custodian
Mr. C. Seed	Afternoon Custodian
Ms. Lizmore	Afternoon Custodian

