



# Grand Bend Public School

## September 2025

PRINCIPAL: MRS. M. HOLMES

SECRETARY: MS. S. GOODHAND

### WELCOME BACK

Welcome Back, Grand Bend Students and Families!

On behalf of the entire staff, it is my absolute pleasure to welcome you to the 2025-2026 school year! I am Mrs. Melissa Holmes, and I'm thrilled to continue my journey as your principal. It is truly an honour to be part of such a vibrant and supportive school community, and I look forward to another exciting year of learning and growth together.

Our hope is that each student has a successful and engaging school year; both academically and through participation in the many extracurricular opportunities available. As a dedicated staff, we are committed to helping every student reach their full potential, and we strongly value open communication with our parents and guardians as essential partners in this process.

A warm and special welcome goes out to all of our new students and families! We're so glad you've joined us. We are here to support you every step of the way as you transition into our community.

You'll also notice a few new faces among our staff this year. Be sure to check the list of staff members included at the end of the newsletter.

Let's make it a fantastic year ahead—together!

### OUR STAFF

Mrs. Holmes	Principal
Ms. Goodhand	Secretary
Mrs. Dewars	EA
Mrs. Fuller	EA
Ms. Murray	EA
Mrs. Madsen	Core French
Mrs. Schram	Curriculum Partner
Mrs. Goman	Resource Teacher
Ms. Vaughan	Resource Teacher & Curriculum Partner

# OUR STAFF

Mrs. Kobe Mrs. DeBoer / Ms. Heeringa	FDK
Mrs. Smith	FDK
Ms. Sitzes	Gr. 1/2
Miss. McKenzie	Gr. 1/2
Ms. Vanderheyden	Gr. 2/3
Ms. Jacklin	Gr. 3/4
Mrs. Hammond	Gr. 4
Mr. Douglas	Gr. 5
Mr. McLaughlin	Gr. 5/6
Mrs. Hewett	Gr. 6/7
Mr. Redmond	Gr. 7
Mrs. VanBree	Gr. 8
Mr. Rajendram	Custodian
Mr. Paramalingam	Custodian



## CLASSROOM PLACEMENTS

Student placements and classroom organizations are tentative during the first few weeks of school. Further adjustments may be necessary based on new student registrations and class size restrictions. If your child's placement changes, you will be notified by a phone call. We appreciate your understanding and support as we work to create the best learning environment for all students.

## ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On Tuesday, September 30, 2025, the Lambton Kent District School Board will honour the survivors of Residential Schools, their families, and the children who never returned home. Students and staff are encouraged to wear orange shirts as a symbol of remembrance and to engage in learning about the history and lasting impacts of the Residential School system on First Nations, Métis, and Inuit peoples. This day provides our school communities with an important opportunity to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope, affirming that Every Child Matters. As a mark of respect, flags at all LKDSB schools and facilities will be lowered.

## SCHOOL MESSENGER

At the Lambton Kent District School Board, one of our greatest priorities is ensuring students have arrived safely at school every day. You may have received notification about your child's absence from our School Messenger automated attendance messaging system.

Parents/guardians can use School Messenger in one of the following three ways to report your child's absence:

Option 1: Call a toll-free number (844-487-3695) and follow the prompts.

Option 2: Set up a secure online School Messenger account and login to a website <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca/#/home>

Option 3: Download and set up the School Messenger app (Apple or Android) to a smart phone or tablet.

Parents are also welcome to leave a message with the school regarding absences or respond to the messenger when it calls to report the absence.

## ARRIVAL & DISMISSAL

There will be supervision staff on the yard for arrival at 9:05 am. A friendly reminder that there will be no supervision before this time. Please contact the office or send a note to your child(ren)'s teacher if you will require an early dismissal. All early pickups are done at the main entrance to the school. Please ring the buzzer to request your child be dismissed to you. To decrease traffic at the front door we ask that all families arrange meeting points with their children or pick up from the class exit door (depending on your child's age).

## PARENT COUNCIL

We have a few members on Parent Council already and would love for you to join us! Our first meeting of the year will be on September 15th at 7:00 pm. Nominations and an election will occur at the first meeting. Anyone interested in learning more about our school and participating in decisions that help shape the future of Grand Bend Public School is welcome to attend.

## SCHOOL CALENDAR

PD DAYS	September 19th October 10th November 21st January 30th April 24th June 5th June 26th
HOLIDAYS	Labour Day: September 1st Thanksgiving: October 13th Winter Break: Dec. 22nd – Jan. 2nd Family Day: February 16th Good Friday: April 3rd Easter Monday: April 6th Victoria Day: May 18th

## SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

School Cash Online is a web-based solution that gives parents the ability to pay for student items online. For information on using school cash online and registering please visit the school website.

## BUS INFORMATION

Information on student busing can be accessed through <https://klass.ca>.

When logging into the parent portal and reviewing bus pick up and drop off times, please be sure to click on "contacts" and scroll down to look at the seat assignment for those in your family riding the bus. CKLASS plans to continue with assigned seating this year.

You can also download an app for updates on cancellations and delays. The following steps will help you download the Chipmunk app.

### One-Time Steps to Get Chipmunk:

- Download Chipmunk from the [Google Play](#) or [Apple App Store](#).
- Select CLASS from the dropdown menu
- Log in using the same email address & password used to create your [parent portal](#).
- Children attached to your CLASS parent portal will be automatically assigned to the Chipmunk App.

Our bus zone is 1. If your child will not be riding the bus, please send a note or make a phone call that day in advance of dismissal time.

## QUESTIONS / CONCERNS

Throughout the school year, you are encouraged to contact us with any questions or concerns. For classroom related items, it is best to first contact the classroom teacher before reaching out to the office. The relationship between classroom teacher and home is an important one that benefits from open communication. For special education questions or concerns, you are still encouraged to connect with the classroom teacher as they are responsible for programming. Our resource teachers, Mrs. Goman and Ms. Vaughan, can also support with questions related to meeting your child's learning needs.

## SAFETY DRILLS

Throughout the months of September and October we will be conducting a number of safety drills. This is to ensure that we are prepared in the unlikely event that we have an emergency. If your child comes home indicating that one of these drills occurred, rest assured that we are just practicing.

# USE OF STUDENT PERSONAL INFORMATION

At times, students will be photographed and videoed during special events and learning at the school. These images might be shared on our social media accounts and website. If you give permission for this to occur, please complete the form that is coming (appendix B) and return it to the school as soon as possible. If you do not wish for your child's images/videos to be shared please inform us as well.

# MEDICAL CONDITIONS

We are a nut aware school. Please do not send any nuts or nut products to school. We want our school environment to be safe and healthy for all our students and staff. Thank you for your understanding. If your child is new to the school or if your child has developed a prevalent medical condition (asthma, epilepsy, diabetes, or anaphylaxis), please notify the office immediately. Plans of Care will be updated in September.

# DIGITAL CLASSROOM

Every classroom has a digital classroom platform; either Seesaw or Google Classroom. Please ensure that you, as a parent/guardian, are connected with your child's digital classroom, as these platforms are used as a vehicle for sharing information. Please reach out to your child's classroom teacher if you have questions regarding the digital classroom platform.

# VERIFICATION FORMS

The Student Information Verification Form will be coming home in the near future. Please confirm all the information that appears on the form and make any necessary changes. It is very important to verify that your email and phone number is correct. We communicate regularly by email, so it is important to have your email up to date.

If you change your information throughout the year, please be sure to let us know so we can reach you in an emergency.

# MEET THE STAFF

We will be hosting a Meet the Staff Night on September 18th from 4:30 – 6:00 pm. Your child will receive further information regarding this evening in the near future. We hope that you are able to stop in and meet our staff on that evening.

# LEAVING FOR LUNCH

In the past, Grade 6–8 students were permitted to bring in a signed permission form to leave school grounds during both Nutrition Breaks. After careful consideration, we have decided to allow a blanket permission for Grade 6–8 students to leave during First Nutrition Break only. This change brings our school in line with the practice of other elementary schools in the LKDSB. Additionally, we value the important leadership role our older students play on the yard, supporting and setting a positive example for our younger students. Thank you for your understanding as we make this change in practice

# UPCOMING DATES

First Day of School .....	Sept. 2nd
Parent Council .....	Sept. 15th
Meet the Staff .....	Sept. 18th
PD Day .....	Sept. 19th
Bus Safety / Evacuation .....	Sept. 17th
Terry Fox Run .....	Sept. 26th
Orange Shirt Day .....	Sept. 30th
Picture Day .....	Oct. 2nd
Cross Country .....	Oct. 7th
Cross Country (Rain Date) .....	Oct. 8th
P.A. Day .....	Oct. 10th
Thanksgiving .....	Oct. 13th

