



Orchard Park Public School

50 Wychwood Park, London, Ontario N6G 1R6
 Telephone: (519) 452-8450 Attendance: 1-844-305-3756 Fax: (519) 452-8459
 Website: orchardpark.tvdsb.ca Email: orchardpark@tvdsb.ca
Principal: Mrs. Jennifer Tait Administrative Secretary: Ms. Rita Verberne
 Trustees for Ward 6: Mr. Peter Cuddy (p.cuddy@tvdsb.ca) Ms. Corrine Rahman (c.rahman@tvdsb.ca)
 Superintendent of Education: Mrs. Purveen Skinner (p.skinner@tvdsb.ca)

September 2023

MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN YOUR CHILD'S SCHOOL...JOIN OUR SCHOOL COUNCIL.

PIZZA DAYS & MILK PROGRAM

Milk Program: Tickets are \$23.00 for 20 tickets; payment must be made via School Cash Online. Please see Ms. Verberne to pick up tickets. Proceeds to grad.

Pizza: Pizza lunches are available every Wednesday. To order, click the LunchBox link in Cash Online or go to lunchboxorders.net; order by noon the Sunday before. Proceeds to Home & School.

Upcoming Dates

Tuesday, September 5 – PA Day
 No School for Kids

Wednesday, September 6 – First Day of School for Kids

Friday, September 22 – Return
 School Council Nominations

Tuesday, Sep 26 – Picture Day

Friday, Sep 29 – Orange Shirt Day

Monday, October 2 @ 6:30pm
 Home & School/School Council

Mon, Oct 9 - Thanksgiving

Wed, Oct 11 – Dental Screening

Wed, Oct 18 – Grade 7 Vaccines

When Calling the School 519-452-8450

- Press 1** – Address & Hours
- Press 2** – School Office
- Press 3** – Learning Support Teacher
- Press 4** – Library
- Press 5** – Principal

Bell Times

- 9:00 am School Begins
- 10:20 – 10:35 AM Recess
- 11:55 – 12:55 Lunch
- 2:15 – 2:30 PM Recess
- 3:30 pm School Ends

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL, MRS. TAIT

Welcome Back to School Orchard Park Bears! I understand that some of you did not receive my previous email, so I am resending this brief update with all of you. Back in June, I was diagnosed with breast cancer. I had surgery in July and will now continue with my treatment plan; unfortunately, that means I will not be able to start the school year at Orchard Park. **Mrs. Regina Smith** will be filling in for me. Regina is a retired principal and is looking forward to working with the OP staff, students, and community. Please feel free to reach out to Regina through email (r.smith@tvdsb.ca) if you have any questions. I can also continue to be reached via email (j.tait@tvdsb.ca). I look forward to returning to OP when I am healthy. Take care. Jen

Staffing Updates: We have added some new staff members to our OP team over the summer and had some last-minute changes. Danielle Holdsworth accepted a learning coordinator position and won't be returning to OP this year; because of that change, Megan Morris has moved into the grade 7/8 gifted classroom teaching position and Ashley Hall will be the grade 5/6 gifted classroom teacher. Please join us in welcoming:

- Nicole Fillmore** as our 0.2 primary prep teacher
- Ashley Hall** as our grade 5/6 gifted class teacher
- Matthew Vanderheide** as our grade 5/6 class teacher
- Priscilla Villalobos** as our 0.5 educational assistant
- Akter Jahan** as our 1.0 educational assistant

The start of the school year is an exciting time, and we know there can be some nerves about a new start. Orchard Park staff members are excited to see our students and families on **Wednesday, September 6th** and will be ready to greet everyone with a great big smile!

FIRST DAY PROCEDURE

Senior kindergarten (K2) children will gather at the front steps outside the kindergarten doors and **Grade 1-8 students** will gather in the playground at the back of the school beginning at 8:45am. Teachers, support staff and administration will have class lists to help students find their specific grade locations and classroom teachers. Classroom teachers will be standing near their line-up locations and will have signs identifying their names and grades.

Junior kindergarten (K1) students will come to school on a 'staggered' basis. This means that some of the K1 children will arrive on Thursday, September 7th and the rest will come on Friday, September 8th. Each K1 family has been contacted by phone; feel free to contact the school if you need a reminder.

OUR SCHOOL DAY SCHEDULE

We operate on a traditional day schedule. *Please note that our times have slightly changed.*

- Entry: 9:00am
- AM Recess: 10:20 – 10:35am
- Lunch: 11:55am – 12:55pm
- PM Recess: 2:15 – 2:30pm
- Dismissal: 3:30pm

Attendance

If your child is going to be absent, please notify the attendance reporting system "SchoolMessenger". It is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. There are three ways you may 'connect' with SchoolMessenger:

- Call: 1-844-305-3756
- Email: tvdsb.schoolmessenger.com
- App: SchoolMessenger

VISITING THE SCHOOL

FOR SAFETY REASONS, ALL SCHOOLS HAVE A BUZZER / CAMERA SYSTEM INSTALLED AT THE FRONT DOORS SO DOORS WILL BE LOCKED. WE ASK THAT YOU PRESS THE BUZZER AND WAIT FOR INSTRUCTION FROM THE OFFICE.

LATE ARRIVAL: Ask your child/ren to use the buzzer. Students are asked to stop at the office for an admit slip to give to their teacher. Kindergarten children will be escorted to their class.

LEAVING EARLY: Please understand that we must see who is picking up your child. Stop at the front doors, buzz the office, and you will be admitted to retrieve your child. If your child is returning after being signed out, they may enter immediately and are asked to stop at the office to inform of their return.

OUR SCHOOL STAFF 2023-24

| | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| Principal | Mrs. J Tait |
| Acting Principal | Mrs. R Smith |
| Secretary | Ms. R Verberne |
| Kindergarten | Mrs. C Pertschy |
| ECE | Mrs. A Ivany |
| Kindergarten | Mrs. T Riehl |
| ECE | Mrs. A Forster |
| 1 | Mrs. S Knight |
| 2 | Ms. C Renders |
| 2/3 | Ms. C Edwards |
| 3/4 | Mr. F Suito |
| 4/5 | Ms. M Da Silva |
| 5 | Ms. N Eissa |
| 5/6 | Mr. M Vanderheide |
| 6/7 | Mr. T Coppard |
| 8 | Mrs. S Ayres |
| 5/6 Gifted | Ms. A Hall |
| 7/8 Gifted | Ms. M Morris |
| French | Mme T Bojmelgrin |
| Music | Mrs. F Gorbasesw |
| Library | Mrs. K Elliott |
| Prep | Ms. N Fillmore |
| LST | Ms. L Corsaut |
| EA | Ms. S Thibodeau |
| EA | Ms. J Minten |
| EA | Ms. C Clipson |
| EA | Ms. A Jahan |
| EA | Ms. P Villalobos |

Student Supervisors

Mrs. B Moosavi, Mr. B Keeler

| | |
|-----------|------------------|
| Custodian | Mr. L Crawley |
| Custodian | Mrs. M Schleihau |

VOLUNTEERS, PRC / DECLARATION

TVDSB policy states that *all volunteers must have a police record check (i.e.. vulnerable sector screening check) and an Offence Declaration* on file at the school.

If your PRC was completed after January 1, 2013, then you must submit an Offence Declaration every school year. You may pick one up at the office.

Go online to police.london.ca and follow the instructions for a volunteer; cost is \$15.00:

LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES

As another school year gets underway, please remember the importance of allergy awareness within the school community. Some things such as peanuts, latex or bee stings can cause a life-threatening allergic reaction (anaphylaxis) for some people. It is important to work together to provide the safest environment possible for those at risk. If information comes home regarding students with severe allergies, please be respectful of any requests and encourage your child to:

- ◆ wash their hands before and after eating
- ◆ avoid sharing food and utensils
- ◆ keep eating surfaces clean to avoid cross-contamination
- ◆ be supportive of the student with an allergy—don't bully or tease them or pressure them to eat something

Since some allergies can be fatal, it is important that we all do what we can to try to prevent a tragedy from occurring.



Please do not send 'Peabutter' or 'Sunbutter' or other peanut butter substitutes to school. Although it does not contain any of the anaphylaxis allergens attributed to peanut butter, it is very difficult for our staff and lunchroom supervisors to differentiate between the two products. We thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS WITH PREVALENT MEDICAL / HEALTH CONDITIONS IN SCHOOLS

To ensure children with potentially life-threatening medical conditions remain safe while attending school, TVDSB requests parents/guardians update the necessary medical information so that an Individual Plan of Care (IPOC) for the student can be reviewed by the school's administration. Medical conditions considered potentially life-threatening:

1. Asthma
2. Anaphylaxis
3. Epilepsy
4. Type 1 Diabetes
5. Any other potentially life-threatening condition that could result in a medical incident* (discuss with principal)

Parents/Guardians can provide important information about their child's life-threatening or prevalent medical condition by logging into the TVDSB Parent Portal and clicking on the following tab: Student Medical Information.

Parents/Guardians who cannot access the parent portal on the internet should contact the school office. Please note that parents/guardians are expected to be active participants in supporting the management of the student's prevalent medical condition(s) while the student is in school. It is the responsibility of parents/guardians to inform the school of such conditions to ensure the student's safety at school.

**A medical incident is a circumstance that requires an immediate response and monitoring, since the incident may progress to an emergency requiring contact with Emergency Medical Services – 911.*

IMMUNIZATIONS, DENTAL HEALTH AND VISION SCREENINGS

The Middlesex-London Health Unit plans to offer immunization clinics (Hepatitis B, Menactra, Gardasil, human papillomavirus vaccines) details to follow.

Consent for vision screening (K-2 students only) and dental screening (any elementary student) performed by the MLHU will now be done through a passive consent process. Passive consent means that all eligible students will receive dental or vision screening unless the parent/guardian indicates that they do not want their student to participate. Parents/guardians may decline screening on the parent portal or by submitting written communication to the school.

PARENT PORTAL

This online resource allows a parent/guardian to view their child's information such as attendance, report cards, IPOCs, IEPs and much more. To create an account, parents/guardians must be the legal guardian and have a unique email address entered in the student management system. Visit www.tvdsb.ca/parentportal to login.

GO TO YOUR PARENT PORTAL AND COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING THREE DOCUMENTS BY FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15TH

View Student Information and Student Contact Information
Verify your child's student information sheet and contact information.

Parent/Guardian Consents
Indicate 'yes' or 'no' for the release of your child's information, participation in dental screening, and other school based activities.

Student Medical Information
View your child's medical information.

BUS INFORMATION

www.mybigyellowbus.ca

Our bussing system is STS (Student Transportation Services).

They post information about school bus delays and cancellations on their website, AND there's an app for that:

1. download the free app
2. enter access code "mbyb"
3. select 'for my child's transportation'
4. select school from list
5. select bus run numbers (available in parent portal); be sure to add both AM & PM numbers.

Please review this link to the STS newsletter with important updates.

<https://www.mybigyellowbus.ca/uploads/sts-news-aug2022.pdf>

SPECIAL RECOGNITION DAY National Day for Truth and Reconciliation-Orange Shirt Day Friday, September 29



On Friday, September 29th staff and students will honour Orange Shirt Day. Orange Shirt Day is a day where we take the time to learn about the adversity and challenges faced by Indigenous children and remember those who attended Residential Schools.



WATER FOUNTAIN AND WATER FILLING STATION

We strongly encourage all students to bring their own water bottle to school and use the filling stations to fill them up. We are happy to announce that the water fountains at each station are working. The office will not provide plastic cups to get a drink of water.

HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION AND SCHOOL COUNCIL NEWS

First Meeting: Monday, October 2, 2023 @ 6:30pm Home & School and School Council

We will let you know well in advance if the date and/or the time changes.

Home & School will be discussing various items. The 2023-24 School Council will be elected and if all are present, then a meeting will proceed. Send an email if you are interested in joining our Association. All are welcome to attend. Home & School Contact: Email ophomeandschool@outlook.com; Facebook 'Families of Orchard Park Public School'

PIZZA LUNCH, GO TO LUNCHBOXORDERS.NET OR GO TO THE LINK IN SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

We will be doing Domino's Pizza again this year. It will be every Wednesday like last year, starting with the first delivery on Wednesday, September 20th. Parents can go in and order right away. Marina will be coordinating volunteers again.

We have added frozen yogurt from Marble Slab. We are going to start with one Thursday a month, with the first delivery Thursday, October 12th. This will come pre-sorted and labeled by classroom. We must have at least 50 orders of Marble Slab for them to deliver, so I want to make sure people know about. Details will follow!

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We are always looking for volunteers to join our School Council. The School Council is a group of parents, a teacher, a non-teaching staff member, a community representative, and a student who work together to:

- advise the principal and vice principal on matters that pertain to the management and operation of the school
- assist in promoting opportunities for parent involvement through Pro Grants and Parent Involvement Funds

School Councils must:

- elect a chair, co-chair, secretary and voting members at large; elected positions must be from the community
- follow a set of by-laws and a constitution
- liaise with the TVPIC (Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee)
- meet at least four times per year
- hold their first meeting within 30 school days.

We are taking nominations for our School Council. If you are interested in being a member, please complete the attached form and return it to the school office with your child.

- Friday, September 22nd – forms returned to the school office
- An election meeting will be held if necessary
- Monday, October 2 @ 6:30 pm – first new School Council meeting

FOOT POWER ONLY

Students are reminded that foot power is the only mode of transportation permitted on the school grounds. Bicycles, in-line skates, scooters and skateboards are to be 'walked in' to maintain order and ensure student safety; bike racks and scooter storage are available. All transportation devices brought to the school are the responsibility of the student.

ELECTRONIC DEVICES

- All electronic devices and technology used at school are for educational purposes only.
- If cell phones are brought to school, they are to remain off throughout the day, and are to be kept in the student's backpack while on school property, unless otherwise directed by school staff.
- The school assumes no responsibility for the theft or damage of cell phones and electronic devices.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

For the 2023-24 school year we are pleased to offer families the option of two student accident insurance providers to choose from if they wish to purchase insurance for their children.

<https://www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com/>

<https://insuremykids.com>



PICTURE DAY

Tuesday, September 26th is our picture day. Lifetouch Photographer will be in to take individual and class photos. So come with your smiles, especially on this day!



MILK PROGRAM

We will continue with our milk program. It will start the first day of school, Wednesday, September 6th. For those people who are new to OP, our milk program is based on the honour system. You purchase a sheet of 20 tickets for \$23.00 via School Cash Online (we do not accept cash). Ms. Verberne will give your child their tickets. The milk cart is set up in the office; your child will bring their ticket, put it in the container and take their milk.

**SCHOOL COUNCIL
NOMINATION FORM**

It is that time again to elect a School Council for the 2023-2024 school year.

There are two types of nominations: self-nomination or candidate nomination (someone else). Forms are to the right.

Please email all forms to school office orchardpark@tvdsb.ca by Friday, September 22nd. Election information (if needed) will be communicated once all forms are received.

The first school council in-person meeting will be held on Monday, October 2nd at 6:30pm.



SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

A monthly newsletter is emailed directly to your inbox. You may also view it on our website.

SETTLEMENT WORKER IN SCHOOLS (SWIS), Mrs. Margarita Rubiano
Email: margarita@lcclc.org;
Phone: 519-697-9731

I am a Settlement Worker from the London Cross Cultural Learner Centre as part of the Settlement Workers in Schools program. I look forward to supporting all families whether you are new to Canada, landed immigrants, visitors and/or citizens by:

- providing settlement services such as information, referrals, resources and advocacy
- providing resources to help with employment, education, housing, finances, medical needs, activities and community services
- helping newcomer parents understand the Canadian education system
- providing orientation for school staff about settlement needs of newcomers.

ORCHARD PARK SCHOOL COUNCIL

Section A: Self-Nomination Form

I wish to declare my candidacy for an elected position on the School Council (circle one position.)

Chair Treasurer Recording Secretary Communication Officer

Name: _____

Home Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

I am the parent / guardian of _____

I am an employee of the Thames Valley District School Board. Yes No

Candidate's Signature: _____

Please include a short bio of yourself and why you are interested in this position: _____

Section B: Candidate Nomination Form (nominate someone else)

I wish to nominate the following person for an elected position on the School Council (circle one position).

Chair Treasurer Recording Secretary Communication Officer

Name of Nominee: _____

E-mail of Nominee (if known): _____

Nominee is the parent / guardian of _____

The Nominee is an employee of the Thames Valley District School Board. Yes No

Name and Signature of Nominator: _____

Please include a short bio of the nominee and why you are nominating them: _____

Nomination form received by the school on: _____

Please return to the office by Friday, September 22, 2023.