

King George VI Public School



SEPTEMBER 2009 NEWSLETTER

(519) 344-2942/(519) 344-4426 (fax)

www.kinggeorgesixth.com

Mr. Adam Miller
Principal

Janet Robbins
Secretary

Welcome to the 2009-2010 School Year!

Teachers, educational assistants and support staff are pleased to welcome your children back to school this week. Hopefully, everyone had a restful and enjoyable summer with lots of opportunities to interact with family and friends, vacation and enjoy the beautiful summer weather. September signals the beginning of a new academic year with renewed efforts of staff and parents to enable all students to excel and to reach their potential. Collectively, we need to work together in order to realize the achievements and goals that we set for personal and academic growth while ensuring the well-being of all. We extend a special welcome to students and staff who are joining our school for the first time.

We invite you to come and meet the staff during our Annual Meet the Teacher Open House and BBQ scheduled for Thursday, September 17, 2009 from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. This is a wonderful opportunity to meet teachers in an informal setting and interact with friends.

On behalf of the staff, I would like to encourage you to work together with us to provide a safe and positive learning environment for our students. By communicating with each other and working together, we can better support your child with their learning. Please contact your child's teacher if you have additional information, questions or concerns. Often a phone call or an appointment can clarify most issues that may arise. I am looking forward to another fantastic year at King George VI.

Yours in Education,

Adam Miller

SCHOOL HOURS

(Balanced Day Schedule)

Arrival	8:55 - 9:10	Third Period	1:50 – 3:30
First Period	9:10 -10:50	Dismissal	3:30
Nutrition Break	10:50 -11:10	Buses Load & Leave	3:30 – 3:40
Recess	11:10 -11:30		
Second Period	11:30 - 1:10		
Nutrition Break	1:10 - 1:30	(Crossing Guard on duty 1:10 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.)	
Recess	1:30 – 1:50		

Please Note:

Students can only leave the building during the day with the permission of parents and the principal.

KING GEORGE VI PUBLIC SCHOOL 2009 -2010 STAFF:

MRS. JEN MENHEERE (A DAYS)	JK/SK.	ROOM 14
MS DIXIE JAMES	JK/SK	ROOM 13
MRS. JUDY LAMB	GRADE 1	ROOM 16
MRS. JANE NICHOLSON	GRADE 1/2	ROOM 15
MS KIM DAVIS	GRADE 2	ROOM 11
MRS. COLEEN HIRTLE	GRADE 2/3	ROOM 2
MRS. ANGIE MORO-DAVISON	GRADE 3	ROOM 10
MRS. VALERIE TAYLOR	GRADE 4	ROOM 3
MS. SUSAN MURTHA	GRADE 5	ROOM 5
MR. JAMES SMITH	GRADE 6	ROOM 9
MS. DEBORAH DENNIS	GRADE 6/7	ROOM 8
MS. MELISSA DENT	GRADE 7/8	ROOM 6
MRS. LAURIE STEPHENSON	GRADE 8	ROOM 7
MRS. SHELLEY BROWN	RESOURCE	ROOM 4
MR. MICHAEL MURRAY	LIBRARY/PHYS ED/SYSOP	LIBRARY
MRS. JAN SEABROOK	FSL	ROOM 1
MRS. DOT DAVIS	MUSIC/PREP	
MRS. JOAN PLATT	GRADE 1 (FRI. PM)	
MR. ADAM MILLER	PRINCIPAL	OFFICE
MRS. JANET ROBBINS	SECRETARY	OFFICE
MRS. BRENDA COOPER	EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT	
MRS. SANDY DALY	EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT	
MRS. CATHERINE LANGIS	EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANT	
STACEY BREAUULT	CYW	OFFICE
GWEN STEPHENSON	CYW	OFFICE
MRS. RENE TAYLOR	CUSTODIAN	
MR. BILL GOGAS	CUSTODIAN (P.M.)	

MANDATORY PRIMARY CLASS SIZES

This September marks the third year of the implementation of the Ministry of Education's mandated Primary Cap on classroom size. We are required to organize our classrooms according to very clear guidelines provided to the Boards of Education on class size. Our plan for school organization submitted in June met the requirements and the addition of a classroom.

Last week we experienced a large number of registrations for students who live within our school boundaries and we may continue to receive a few more this week. We ask that parents to remain understanding of the possible need to make adjustments to class organizations over the next week or so in order to meet the guidelines as established by the Ministry of Education. Priority is given to students who live in our school area.

VANDALISM

During the summer months our school, one of the many schools, sustained a lot of vandalism in the form of broken windows. It takes time, effort and money to deal with this kind of destruction and make our building safe for our students. We seek your assistance, especially those who travel or live near the school to be an extra set of eyes and ears for us. If you should learn of information or witness something please, contact the school.

STUDENT SAFETY

Please:

- Call the school if your child will be absent or late.
- Send a note if you are picking your child up before regular dismissal time.

Our 344-2942 telephone line has a 24 hour answering service for your convenience.

Absences or lates may be reported by using this service if our telephone line is busy. If you need to inform us of changes in arrangements for your child, please do not leave a message. Call back and speak directly with office personnel.

STUDENT SAFE ARRIVAL

Please note that the school day commences at 9:10 a.m. and yard supervision does not begin until 8:55 a.m. Therefore, students are not to arrive at school until 8:55 a.m. so that they may be adequately supervised.



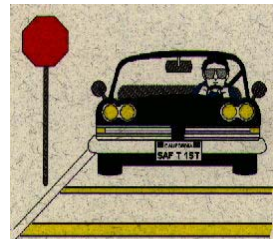
Students do need to arrive on time. Habitual tardiness is disruptive to the classroom and often complicates our attendance procedures. Students arriving late must check in with the office before proceeding to class. The office will be monitoring this situation closely this year and contacting parents when needed.

A student verification form will be sent home later in the month on which you will be asked to indicate changes to any personal student information. Please keep the office updated if any information changes throughout the year.

CROSSWALKS

Students are reminded that they must wait on the sidewalk until the crossing guard has stopped traffic. Students should walk on the crosswalk, walk their bikes and obey the crossing guard at all times. Students are reminded the guard is there to escort them across the street safely and quickly. Interference with the guard could cause a serious accident.

The crossing guard will be on duty before school (8:30 a.m.- 9:10 a.m.), during the second nutrition break (12:50 - 1:55 p.m.) and at dismissal (3:20 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.).





BUS TRANSPORTATION

Parents and students are reminded that bus transportation is provided only for students who are eligible to ride the bus. **Students will not be given bus passes to ride a bus to another student's home for sleepovers or birthday parties etc.**

Please make your own transportation arrangements for such events. **Eligible students must ride only the bus they are assigned to ride. King George VI School IS A ZONE 2 SCHOOL. IMPORTANT INFORMATION CONCERNING INCLEMENT WEATHER WILL BE FORTHCOMING.**

Inclement Weather

Please be aware that if busses are **CANCELLED in the MORNING** due to **FOG** if conditions have improved **BUSSES WILL RUN IN THE AFTERNOON AND STUDENTS WILL BE PICKED UP IN THE AFTERNOON from school AND BUSSED TO THEIR DESIGNATED DROP OFF POINT.** In the event of an emergency circumstance or severe weather, announcements will be made on local radio stations. An announcement will be made prior to 7:00 a.m. whether busses will be late or cancelled or whether schools are open or closed in each ZONE. **SCHOOLS WILL BE IDENTIFIED BY ZONES ONLY. WE ARE IN ZONE TWO. THEREFORE AN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL STATE THAT BUSSES IN ZONE ONE ARE CANCELLED BUT THE SCHOOLS IN ZONE TWO ARE OPEN.** Early dismissal of students will be determined as the situations dictate. The following stations will carry the news AM CHOK (1070); CKTY (1110); CFCO (630); CFPL (98); FMBX (92.7); CFCX (99.9) THE FOX; CBC 1550 (90.3); FM 96 (95.9). **In the event of SEVERE WINTER WEATHER, BLACK ICE or other unsafe conditions and busses are cancelled in ZONE TWO BUT SCHOOLS ARE OPEN, parents/guardians may decide not to risk their children's safety and NOT SEND their children to school.** If parents decide to send their children to school even though busses are cancelled, parents are responsible for transporting their children to and from school. Parents and guardians need to be aware that in the event of severe weather some teaching staff **MAY NOT BE ABLE** to drive to the school to carry out their teaching duties. If circumstances dictate early dismissal from school, we will telephone parents/ guardians of students from Grade JK/SK to Grade Six. Older brothers or sisters may be released if they are within a reasonable walking distance from the school or we receive a telephone call that a parent is picking them up. We would ask parents to discuss with their children what their **family plan** is, should school be dismissed early. This would ensure that children are familiar with where they should go and who will be looking after them.

Terry Fox Run

The Terry Fox Walk/Run for our school as well as schools all over Ontario will take place on September 24. Rain Date: September 28. We intend to walk to Canatara Park for students from Gr. 4 to Gr. 8. in the afternoon. JK/SK to Gr. 3 will walk at the school. Further information will be forthcoming.

OPEN HOUSE/MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT BBQ:

Our first major event will be the Open House/Meet the Teacher night on Thursday, September 17, 2009, from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. Staff will be available in their rooms to greet students and parents. We look forward to visiting with you.

Picture Day

Please see the school calendar for picture day dates for our school. Our school class and individual picture days are scheduled for **Tuesday, September 22nd for Grade 1 to 3 and Group B JK/SK and on Wednesday, September 23 for JK SK Group A and grades 4 - 8.**

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

The Lambton Kent District School Board carries liability insurance through the Ontario School Board's Insurance Exchange as required under the Education Act. **The Board does NOT provide coverage for accidental injuries to its students.** Many parents believe, mistakenly, that the Board provides coverage for accidental injuries to its students. In order for the Board's insurance to respond to a student accident, the accident has to be shown to have occurred as a result of negligence of the Board and/or its staff. The student accident insurance forms are being sent home this week.

- **The Board does not provide accident insurance for students.**
- **Student accident insurance covers accidental dental claims, out of province hospital coverage, disability and rehabilitation benefits, and much more.**
- **Accident insurance forms should NOT be returned to the school but rather to the insurance company directly.**

School Dismissal

As a prudent safety measure all students should report **directly home (or to a prearranged sitter) at dismissal at 3:30 p.m. to check in.** If a student is requested to stay after school for any reason, the teacher will contact the parent or leave a message. Busses will leave promptly at 3:30 p.m. to allow co-ordination of transportation with other schools. Parents picking their children up at school are encouraged to meet with their children outside of the school building at a predetermined place. Congestion in the hallways during dismissal can pose a safety issue if the numbers are high enough. **Parents are also strongly cautioned to go slowly as they leave the school area in their vehicles. Safety of the students of King George is this school's highest priority. Since many students have allergies and animals pose a safety concern for many students, parents are requested to not bring any animals onto the school property without the direct permission of administration.**

LIFE-THREATENING ALLERGIES

Many of our students and staff have allergies. A few are life threatening. Some children, for example, are severely allergic to peanut butter and latex products. Even a tiny bit can be fatal within minutes. Nuts, shellfish, fish, eggs, milk and latex products are also known to cause severe reactions. Knowing that your child has allergies and knowing how to deal with them is your best defense. If your child is severely allergic to something, please tell us and we will put together a response protocol. With your help, we will do our best to prevent mishaps and to make sure that all of our students are safe, healthy and able to concentrate on learning.

We ask that students do not bring peanut or foods containing peanut oils to school as well as any latex products. Snacks and lunches will be eaten indoors.

HEAD LICE (PEDICULOSIS)

Fall is one of the seasons when cases of head lice (pediculosis) are most prevalent. Your assistance in early detection is greatly appreciated. Please check your child for head lice regularly. 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. 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. By working together we can control the spread of head lice in our community.

STUDENT PLANNERS (AGENDAS)

This year we are continuing the use of Premier Student Planners across the building. These age appropriate planners are intended to assist students in developing their organizational and time management skills as well as reinforcing

skill development in a variety of subjects. Teachers will be using the planners on a regular basis with students. We ask that if you can contribute \$4.00 to offset the cost of the planners it would be greatly appreciated.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY

In an effort to ensure safety on the playground at all times, teachers will be reviewing rules for safe play with students this week. We have noticed an increase in the number of dogs we are seeing on the playground and it is a safety concern. Please assist us by keeping pets off the grounds during school hours, including dismissal.

Freedom of Information Act

If you wish your child to be excluded from photographing, audiotaping, or videotaping as a part of activities, please notify the Principal of the school in writing as soon as possible.

Flu Shots

Flu shots administered by the Lambton Health Unit for our school will take place later this year for students and staff. This is a free service. **Flu shots are voluntary.** Consent forms will be forwarded when they become available. The target group for this flu shot is **Gr. 1 to Gr. 8 only.** No dates have been determined yet.

Fundraising

To be able to provide extra experiences and opportunities for the students, fundraising is an integral part of our activities. We have many active parents and would like to thank all of our volunteers both past and present for doing such an excellent job of making King George an excellent place to learn and grow. Volunteers are always welcome. Drop by the office or talk to any parent council member to find out how you can be involved.

Smile Check

As part of the School Health Services, dental hygienists from the Lambton Health Unit do annual dental screenings in certain grades. The screening uses individualized presterilized mirrors and takes only 30 seconds per student. The program allows the Health Unit to inform parents of any child needing individual care. Information about assistance is provided to help families locate dental care if it is required. The hygienists checked over 9,000 "smiles" last year. If you **DO NOT**, as a parent/guardian, wish your child to be involved with this health program, please write a note to the school with your child's name, grade and teacher to indicate this.

please write a note to the school with your child's name, grade and teacher to indicate this.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

We will be holding our first School Council meeting on Tuesday September 8th at 6:30 p.m. We encourage parents to come out and become actively involved in discussing ways in which we can improve the learning environment for our students.

If you would like the opportunity to have a formal role in this year's council please fill out the nomination form and submit it to the office by September 15, 2009. Should an election be required, more information will be sent home prior to the September 25th election meeting if necessary.

SCHOOL COUNCIL NOMINATION FORM
(Return to School Office by September 15, 2009)

I. THE UNDERSIGNED, DO HEREBY NOMINATE:

Name: _____ *(print in full)*

Residential Address:

Telephone: _____

e-mail or fax: _____

FOR THE POSITION OF _____ REPRESENTATIVE.
(parent, teacher or non-teaching)

NOMINATOR

Name: _____ *(please print)*

Residential Address:

Telephone: _____

e-mail or fax: _____

Signature of Nominator: _____

CANDIDATE TO COMPLETE

I ACCEPT THE NOMINATION AND I AM PREPARED TO SERVE AS A MEMBER
OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL.

Signature of Nominee: _____

Date: _____

King George VI Public School
SARNIA, ONTARIO
519-344-2942

NUTRITION BREAK ATTENDANCE

In order to closely monitor student attendance during the Nutrition Breaks, we need to know when we can expect your child to stay or go home. Please indicate if your child will regularly stay or leave during either break. If, on occasion, you need to make a change to the arrangement listed below, please send in a note to keep us informed. Keep in mind that the crossing guard will only be on duty during the second nutrition break (1:10 p.m. – 1:50 p.m.).

Please complete one form for each child, sign and return it to your child’s classroom teacher by Friday, September 11, 2009.

Student’s Name: _____

Grade: _____

Teacher: _____

FIRST NUTRITION BREAK/RECESS (10:50 A.M. – 11:30 A.M.) Crossing Guard is **NOT ON DUTY**.

My child _____ be staying at school during the nutrition break and recess.
(will or will not)

SECOND NUTRITION BREAK/RECESS (1:10 P.M. – 1:50 P.M.) Crossing Guard is **ON DUTY**.

My child _____ be staying at school during the nutrition break and recess.
(will or will not)

Date: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Daytime Phone Number: _____

