



Newsletter for September 2023 From the Principal's Desk

With great excitement, I introduce myself as the new Principal of Arbour Vista. I am delighted to join this school community and continue the work that Mme Langudoc and the teaching staff engage in to ensure students reach their full potential.

Throughout my 25-year career in education, I have had the privilege of working with students from various age groups, including High School, Junior, Primary, and Intermediate levels. I have served as a classroom and resource teacher in English and French Immersion programs. Before joining École Arbour Vista, I held administrative positions at Paisley Road Public School and Harris Mill. Most recently, I had that fantastic opportunity of being seconded to a central principal role leading and supporting work related to Foundational Education and Student Achievement board wide.

Mme Languedoc and I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all of you to the 2023-2024 school year! We hope that everyone has had a restful summer. We are eagerly looking forward to the start of the new school year in September, and I look forward to personally meeting you and your children.

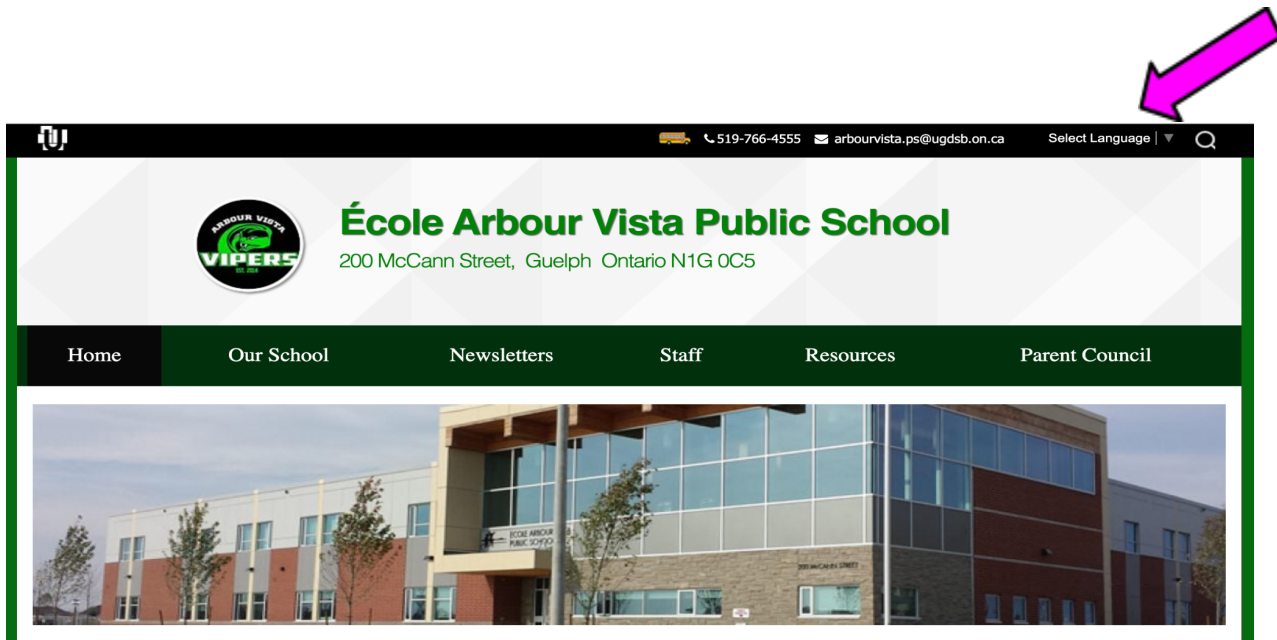
Mme Hare

School Communication

Please take a moment to read through the information in this letter. A lot of information is posted here all at once to start up for school. In the future, please look at the school website weekly, where information will be updated as it becomes

available. The school calendar is updated regularly, and events will be posted as needed.

If you prefer to access the school information that is posted directly to the website in another language, please note that this is possible by clicking on the arrow on the top right next to where it says English and select the language of your choice.



Please ensure the office has your most up-to-date email address, as this will be necessary for accessing your child’s report card, and school information is also shared through email.

Bell Times

2023–2024 Bell Times	
Period 1	8:20–9:20
Period 2	9:20–10:00

Recess/ Nutrition Break	10:00 -10:20 (K-6 snack, 7-8 outside)
	10:20-10:40 (K-6 outside, 7-8 snack)
Period 3	10:40-11:40
Period 4	11:40-12:20
Recess Nutrition Break	12:20 -12:40 (K-6 snack, 7-8 outside)
	12:40-1:00 (K-6 outside, 7-8 snack)
Period 5	1:00-2:00
Period 6	2:00-2:40
Dismissal	2:40

Yard Duty Times The following are the times when our playground is supervised by school staff. Please Note: there is no yard supervision until 8:05

8:05 a.m. - 8:20 a.m.

10:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m.

12:20 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.

2:40 p.m. - 2:55 p.m.



Class	Teacher
FKA	Leanne Laurin/Courtney Drewry
FKB	Holly Nixon/Candace Dickert
FKC	Harry Webb/Kim Townsend
F1A	Maren Kasulke
F1B	Evelyn Mauch
F2A	Jennifer Girard

F2/3B	Becky Saar
F2/3C	Johanna Hunse
F3/4D	Rachel Greonewald
F4A	Jonathan Fischer
F4/5	Courtney Hagan
F5/6	Susan Dodds
F6A	Sarah Gat
F6B	Jennifer Pigeon
F7A	Elizabeth Ciaravella
F7B	Julie Linwood
F7/8C	Lena McDonald
F8A	Abraham Gerges
F8B	Charlotte Fleischauer
F8C	Lyndsay Koivisto
Resource Teacher	Tess De Nardis
Planning	Estella Diaz
Planning	Natalie Sylvestre
Planning	Debbie Edwards
Planning	Aida Chaarani
Library/ Planning	Steve Uger

First Day Procedures



First Day Procedures

*This information has already been emailed to all parents and posted on our website. It is reprinted here for your convenience.

- First Day of school this year is Tuesday, September 5th. Students are encouraged to arrive about 15 minutes before school starts.

Please note that students will be advised of their class placement by staff on Tuesday, September 5th. At this time new registrations will be completed, and class lists will be finalized for the interim period.

The school yard on the first day is quite busy and crowded. Please be assured that we will have many staff to help our youngest learners with this critical first day of school. They will be wearing a brightly coloured, highly visible vest. Staff situated at the entrance to the tarmac will have class lists to assist your child with finding their teacher.

We ask that you arrive at the school between 8:05 and 8:20. If it is raining, students are advised to dress for the weather and bring an umbrella. If you have plans of care and/or medication, please drop them off at the office once you have dropped off your child. If you require a plan of care, please access this link:

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy/policy-518-students-with-life-threatening-medical-conditions/>

Grade 1-8

We will meet in the courtyard behind the school. Grade number signs (Gr. 1, Gr. 2, Gr. 3, etc.) will be posted on the school wall and grade 7 and 8 will be posted on the field. Students in grades 1-8 should go to their grade number.

- Each teacher will call out their students' names and take them to their classroom
- In case of heavy rain, students will enter the school through their usual door (The doors will be labelled as Primary, Junior or Intermediate), where our teachers will meet them and escort them to the gym. The same procedure as above will take place in the gym

* Parents are not permitted into the gym with the students for fire safety reasons.

Kindergarten Students

Kindergarten students should go directly into the Kindergarten yard at the back of the school, where they will be greeted by their teacher and ECE and welcomed into their new classroom. We will have many staff on hand to help our youngest learners with this crucial first day of school.

- In case of heavy rain, students will enter the school through their usual door, where teachers will meet them and escort them to their classes.

School Routines and Protocols Lates

Research shows a negative correlation between academic achievement, chronic tardiness, and attendance. While we understand that there are appointments and other commitments, we respectfully ask that appointments be made outside of school hours and that students arrive on time. We thank you for your consideration.

Arrival Procedures: We are asking that parents/ guardians remain in their vehicle and drop their child(ren) off from their car in our Kiss'n Ride area of the school parking lot. Getting out of the car in the Kiss'n Ride lane is not permitted as it clogs traffic onto the street and creates an unsafe situation. Students should exit their car from the **right side** of the vehicle and immediately make their way to the schoolyard. Students who arrive after the bell must enter through the front door and check in at the office.

Dropping Off Medication: Student medication can be brought to the front office. Please note that a permission form must be filled out and signed before the school can administer any medications. Please let us know if you would like a form, and we will send it to you with your child.

Peanuts and Nuts: Please abstain from sending any foods containing nuts due to the many students with life-threatening allergies. We ask that you avoid sending allergen alternatives, products that mimic the taste, smell, and appearance of the allergen.

Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions UGDSB Policy 518:

This policy outlines the roles and responsibilities of all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy/ Seizure Disorders. If your child has one or any other life-threatening medical condition, please visit [www.ugdsb.ca/ board/ policy](http://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy) (and look for Policy 518) or contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a Plan of Care to support your child.

Life-Threatening Allergies



Our school has children with potentially life-threatening allergies (anaphylaxis) to various foods and other materials. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you are aware that we aim to create an allergy-safe environment at our school. If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child or has anaphylaxis, you will be informed by the classroom teacher. Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office, and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for being so understanding in ensuring an allergy-safe environment for all our students.

Food Programs



Food items are purchased through School Cash Online. Please stay tuned. More information to follow

School Driveway For Buses



Please do not drive onto our bus lane **at any time of the day**. The bus lane is only for school buses and emergency vehicles. Police have been ticketing vehicles in our bus lane as it is a safety concern. Thank you for respecting this rule and helping us keep our kids safe.

Student Verification Forms

Forms will go home on the first day of school. Please make any necessary changes to the information provided. Please sign and return the verification form to school by Friday, September 15th.

Notifying the School of a Student Absence

Schools operate a Safe Arrival Program in conjunction with daily attendance. The parents'/guardians' responsibility is to notify the school in writing or by telephone when a child will be late or absent. Parents are expected to provide the names and current telephone numbers of emergency contacts to be notified in the case of an unexplained absence. In all cases where a child is absent from school, the school will initiate phone calls in this order unless parents make an alternate request: child's home number, parent/guardian's cell number, parent/ guardian's work number, emergency contact, or police (as necessary). Please ensure the school has updated contact names, emails, and numbers if changes occur during the year.

Picking up Students from School To Ensure Student Safety

If you are picking up your child early from school, please arrive in advance to pick them up to allow time for students to be called to the office with their belongings packed. Students will be called down from class when you arrive.

Volunteers

We acknowledge the value of volunteers in schools and encourage parents to join our team of volunteers. Any volunteer that comes into contact with a student will need a Vulnerable Sector Check or Offence Declaration. New Volunteers must also complete a Volunteer Application and Agreement Form. You may request a hard copy of these forms from the office.

Visiting the School

When visiting the school, enter through the front door, and please sign in at the Office. Only visitors with a Visitors Badge can leave the main foyer area. This process is to ensure the safety of all students.

Smoke and Vape-Free Environment



The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke- and vape-free environment for its students, staff and others while on Board property, per the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and Board Policy 208.

This policy refers to all forms of tobacco and any processed tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed,

including e-cigarettes. Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g., tobacco and sage) that forms part of the indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents will be informed using the school's usual forms of communication when smudging occurs in our school. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony.



Open House



Please join us on Thursday, September 28th between 5:30 and 7:00 PM to walk through the school, visit your child's

classroom, and meet your child's teachers. We hope to see you there!

School Council

The School Council meets on the first Tuesday of most months. Everyone is welcome to attend the meetings, and once you come to one, there is no requirement to attend all the meetings for the year. Meetings will be held virtually and announced shortly; the dates will also be posted online. Please consider joining us and learning what the Council is all about!

Receiving Bus Notifications

To receive email notifications of bus delays or cancellations, you must re-register, even if you were subscribed last year. Please go to <https://stwdsts.ca/bus-subscription/> and click on "Subscribe." Your registration from last year will not carry over to this year.

Report Identity-Based Harm and/or Bullying

We take all incidents of bullying seriously. If your child is the victim of bullying or sees bullying behavior at school, please encourage him/ her to speak with someone at school or use our board's online reporting tool. Your message gets sent directly to the school principal for follow-up. You'll find the Report Identity-Based Harm/Bullying button on our school's website .

First Nation, Métis, Inuit Self-identification

Parents of all UGDSB schools are asked to voluntarily identify their child as being of First Nation, Métis, or Inuit ancestry or non-Indigenous ancestry. Individual data will not be shared and will be kept confidential.

The data collected through the self-identification process will be the foundation of our efforts to further support the success and well-being of First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students in our board.

The board's actions are based on the government of Ontario's First Nation Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework. You can find out more about the province's Indigenous education strategy at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/aboriginal.

[Download the Self Identification form \(PDF\)](#)

Accessibility and Equity

There may be times throughout the year when we will ask parents to send in money to cover the cost of field trips, pizza, special events etc. We understand that for some families, these funds may cause financial hardship. We never want a child to miss out due to financial hardship. If you are ever in this situation, please get in touch with Ms. Hare, and she will arrange to have the school cover the cost.

Dress for the Weather



September weather can be unpredictable. We plan to go outside for every recess break and some physical education classes unless there is heavy rain or the threat of a severe storm. Children should have a sweater or light jacket in their backpacks to wear outside if necessary.

All children must have two sets of footwear, one for indoor and one for outdoor use. The best choice is running shoes, which can double as gym shoes. For safety reasons, flip-flops and other shoes without backs are unsuitable for school.

PA Days

Please note that this year we have the following full Professional Activity Days: on Monday, September 18th, Friday, October 27th, Friday, November 24th, Friday, January 26th, Friday, April 19th and Friday, June 7th, Friday June 28th.

School Photographs



This special day has been booked for October 25, 2023. Remind your child(ren) to wear their smile(s)!

Video Surveillance

Arbour Vista Public School is monitored by 24 hour video surveillance. Security cameras are in operation for the safety of the students, staff and the school community and for the protection of the Upper Grand District School Board property. For additional information please contact the Principal (519-766- 4555) of the school or contact the F.O.I. Co-ordinator at the Upper Grand District School Board office at 519-822-4420.

Pets

If you bring your dog during drop off and pick up please walk them along the grassed area on the opposite side of the parking lot (rather than the sidewalk/tarmac). There are students and adults who are not comfortable around pets. We appreciate your support with this. These measures help us to ensure that our community members feel safe at school.

Health and Safety

The following link to the board website will provide up to date information on Health and Safety Information as well as support for illness prevention. [Health and Safety Information](#)

Insurance

Parents and guardians are responsible for expenses related to student injuries on school premises or during school activities. Accidents can and do happen and the costs involved might not be fully covered by Provincial health care or employer group insurance plans.

The Upper Grand District School Board is empowered under *The Education Act* to offer Accident and Life Insurance for students.

A letter from the Upper Grand District School Board letter will be sent home with students containing information with respect to two Programs available for the purchase of Student Accident Insurance. The Insuremykids Program is offered

through Old Republic Insurance Company of Canada and the Studyinsured Program is underwritten by Certain Lloyd's Underwriters through AON Insurance.

Each program offers a variety of options, including family rates at affordable prices. The cost must be paid by the parent or guardian. Paper copies of the application are no longer available. Purchase is done directly on line or by contacting the Provider:

www.insuremykids.com or call toll free 1-800-463-5437

www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com or call toll free 1-833-560-0527.

For today's active children, especially those who participate in field trips, co-curricular and other school activities outside the school day, Student Accident Insurance is valuable.

We look forward to welcoming you on Tuesday. Have a wonderful weekend!