



September 2023

THE OXFORD SCHOOL

WELCOME NEWSLETTER

Head of School Message

Dear Parents, Caregivers and Students,

Welcome to the 2023-24 school year. I trust you had a restful summer that allowed you to engage with family and friends. As the Head of the School, I look forward to meeting you in person and continuing The Oxford School tradition of Honesty, Integrity, and Kindness started by Sandra Hurley, the founder of our school.

As The Oxford School Head of School, I will work to embed these into the school's values:

1. Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion.
2. Academic Excellence
3. Student and Faculty Wellbeing

I want to acknowledge the professionalism and service that The Oxford School Board members have provided the school. Their focus on the Mission and Vision of the school in their decision-making process will ensure that the school is focused on making The Oxford School an excellent learning community that will flourish. I would encourage you to continue to be involved in your child's/children's education. I look forward to working closely with the

Wild Community Connection that "exists to support, encourage and advocate for our students by partnering with staff, families and the wider community."

During the last three months, I have come to know the excellent teachers that have served your children. Their commitment to your children's learning and their life-long learning has been evident through discussions and observations with them.

I am excited to announce that we welcome the following faculty members to The Oxford School:

- Ms. Aziz - Grade 2
- Mrs. Vijayakumar - Grade 3
- Ms. Kleebaum - Grade 4
- Mr Li - Math - Gr 6, 7 & 8
- Miss. Mason - Physical Education
- Ms. Saeed - After-School Supervisor
- Mrs. Mulligan - Director of Strategic Development

We hired a Middle School Math teacher for Grades 6, 7 & 8, allowing us to implement a subject specialist timetable for these grades. I am very familiar with this model, and it

provides excellent academic benefits while providing students with preparation for high school.

- Ms. Moss - Grade 6 - Homeroom Mentor - Grade 6, 7 & 8 - Language Arts, Art
- Mr. Li - Grade 7 - Homeroom Mentor, Grade 6, 7, 8 - Math, Social Studies, Geography & History.
- Ms. Stinson - Grade 8 Homeroom Mentor Grade 6, 7, 8 - Science, Drama.

All students will receive Physical Education, Music, and Resource Support as needed. Students will receive French instruction from Grade 2 to Grade 8.

I look forward to serving you, your children and faculty at The Oxford School.

Sincerely,



Gerry Cockburn OCT, MSc.Ed
Head of School
The Oxford School

Important Dates

September						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

October						
SU	MO	TU	WE	TH	FR	SA
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

- SEP 5 FIRST DAY OF SCHOOL
- SEP 15 TERRY FOX RUN / SPIRITWEAR DAY
- SEP 25 PICTURE DAY (FULL SCHOOL UNIFORM)
- SEP 29 ORANGE SHIRT DAY
- SEP 29 WELCOME BACK BBQ

- OCT 5 SPIRITWEAR DAY
- OCT 6 FACULTY PD DAY
- OCT 9 THANKSGIVING DAY HOLIDAY
- OCT 31 HALLOWEEN COSTUME DAY

OUR NEW! HEAD OF SCHOOL:
Mr. Gerry Cockburn, OCT, MSc.Ed., is the new Head of School at The Oxford School, bringing a wealth of educational experience and qualifications. He holds degrees in Environmental Studies, Education, and a Master of Science in Administration and Supervision. Gerry has served in various educational roles, including internationally as a Head of School. He is a member of the Ontario College of Teachers and holds qualifications with the British Columbia Ministry of Education. He has been a guest speaker in Ontario schools in China and excels in developing Professional Learning Communities, accreditation processes, and strategic planning. In his free time, Gerry enjoys family, travel, reading, and sports.

Subscribe to the TOS calendar:
www.theoxfordschool.ca/subscribe/calendar

Important Information

DROP OFF & PICK UP

School Drop Off Grade 1-8

You may walk your child to their classroom (masks required) for the first week; after that we would ask that you drop your child off outside of the front doors. The Head of School is always there to greet families in the morning.

School Drop Off

JK/SK Children can be taken directly to their area at the side of the building. Parents are able to drive directly into the playground area and take their children inside of their classroom on the first week (masks required). Pre-School children may be taken into their classroom right inside the front door.

School Pick Up

JK/SK children are dismissed earlier than the other children in school. The gate will be open at 3:15pm for families to drive in, be announced by radio and pick up their child from the front of the school.

If your family has siblings in G1-8 please pick up all children in the family at 3:30. Only kindergarten will be available to pick up at 3:15 and we ask that you not arrive before your child's scheduled pick up time. Please click this link to see a brief video of our pick up procedure in action.

<https://youtu.be/NjQnaQ6kKaE>

LOVABLE LABEL FUNDRAISER

Please label all of your child's belongings and clothing. High quality labels can be purchased through our fundraising connection with Lovable Labels via the following link:

www.OxfordSchool.lovablelabels.ca

For reminders, announcements, upcoming events & more follow us on Instagram and Facebook!

[@theoxfordschool.ca](https://www.instagram.com/theoxfordschool.ca)



UNIFORMS

Students may wear their gym clothes to school on their scheduled gym days. This occurs 2 times per week per class, this schedule will be provided and communicated by your child's teacher. This eliminates a need to change at school.



Learn more about our uniform guidelines:

www.theoxfordschool.ca/uniform-guidelines

Our WCC run a clothing swap group on Facebook. It can be found here:

www.facebook.com/groups/782770932161320/

Learn more about where to purchase the school uniform:

www.theoxfordschool.ca/school-uniform

www.mccarthyuniforms.ca



GYM SHIRT & SPIRIT WEAR ORDERING

New students will be sorted into their houses at school, we are looking forward to this in early September.

For information on how to order spirit wear please contact our office or follow the link to our apparel guide here:

[Click here to view our Apparel Buying Guides](#)

TOS ONLINE LIBRARY

students of The Oxford School have access to the Online Library and Resource Management centre, and can log-in using their TOS Gmail account. For more information go to our website and follow the link: <https://theoxfordschool.ca/onlineibrary>



RETURN OF MATERIALS NOT RECEIVED

If you still have your child's mailbag please return as we re-use these year over year. Please ensure all instruments and Chromebooks have been returned.

CLASSROOM DOJO

Our updated calendar items can be found as reminders on our Classroom Dojo Application (please get in the habit of checking this daily).

Parents who were already connected last year will be connected to their new classroom by their child's teacher.

CALENDAR

[Click here to view and download an overview of the 2022/2023 school year.](#)

Subscribe to the TOS calendar:

www.theoxfordschool.ca/subscribecalendar



Welcome New Staff!



MS. AZIZ
Grade 2

Ms. Annie Aziz is a dedicated and experienced educator whose passion for teaching was ignited by her upbringing as the oldest sibling in a family of six. She holds a B.A. from York University and earned her Ontario College of Teachers (OCT) certification in 2014, marking the beginning of her professional teaching career. With five transformative years of teaching experience in Dubai within the prestigious GEMS Education school system, she honed her teaching skills and immersed herself in Middle Eastern cultures. Since returning to Ontario four years ago, she has been shaping young minds through the Ontario Curriculum, emphasizing both academic and emotional development. Ms. Aziz's educational philosophy centers on recognizing and embracing each child's unique needs and fostering positive teacher-student relationships. She is excited to continue her journey at The Oxford School in Woodstock.



MRS. VIJAYAKUMAR
Grade 3

Mrs. Namritha Vijayakumar brings a wealth of experience and passion to her role. Originally from India and now residing in Kitchener, she holds a master's degree in science and a Bachelor of Education degree. Since 2018, she has worked with students from primary to high school levels. After immigrating to Canada in 2020 and obtaining her OCT certification, she found her true calling in working with young minds, continually enhancing her teaching skills. In her classroom, Mrs. Vijayakumar emphasizes engaging and hands-on learning, fostering a love for learning and providing unwavering support. She is dedicated to creating an inclusive and welcoming environment that celebrates diversity and culture. Beyond teaching, she enjoys family time with her husband and 18-month-old son, crafting, beach relaxation, and spending time with friends. Mrs. Vijayakumar is excited to embark on a journey of learning and discovery with her students at The Oxford School.



MS. KLEEBAUM
Grade 4

Ms. Melanie Kleebaum, brings a rich educational background and international teaching experience to her role. She holds an Honours B.A./BSc from Lakehead University and earned her B.Ed. with First Class Standing from the same institution. Ms. Kleebaum has over 8 years of teaching experience in England, where she taught various grade levels and contributed to curriculum development, library setup, and even coached a soccer team. Her passion for teaching stems from a desire to make a difference in children's lives by instilling a positive mindset and creating a safe, supportive learning environment. Outside of the classroom, she enjoys reading, running, and hiking, with a goal of running a half marathon one day. Ms. Kleebaum is excited to continue her teaching journey at The Oxford School.



MR. LI
Grade 7 - Homeroom Mentor | Grade 6, 7, 8 - Math, Social Studies, Geography & History

Mr. Tiger Li is a highly qualified educator with a strong academic background. He holds a B.A. in Mathematics from the Harbin Institute of Technology, an MSc. in Mathematics from the University of Windsor, and an MA. in Economics from Carleton University. Originally from Baotou, Inner Mongolia, China, Mr. Li's passion for math led him to a teaching career in Canada, starting in Ottawa, where he taught math and Chinese. He is dedicated to creating a safe and nurturing learning environment for his students, guided by the belief that "knowledge puffs up, but love builds up." Beyond teaching, he enjoys traveling, sports, music, and making new friends. Mr. Li is excited to be part of The Oxford School.



MISS. MASON
Physical & Health Education

Miss Samantha Mason brings a wealth of experience and knowledge to her role. She holds a RECE (Registered Early Childhood Educator) certification and a Diploma in Early Childhood Education, earning a place on the Deans Honour Roll for her excellence in the field. After spending the last five years raising her two daughters, Samantha actively volunteered as a soccer and hockey coach, demonstrating her commitment to child development. She is not only an educator but also an environmentalist, actively involved with the Woodstock Environmental Advisory Committee, where she contributes to initiatives like the "Seed Library" and "Seedy Saturday" events in collaboration with the Woodstock Public Library. Outside of her teaching role, Samantha embraces homesteading and teaches her children the value of growing their own food, embodying her passion for sustainability and education.



MS. SAEED
After-School Supervisor

Ms. Saeed, our after-school supervisor, is a kind and professional presence at The Oxford School. With the after-school program extending until 5 pm, she plays a vital role in providing a safe and enriching environment for families. Parents can easily book this program either by contacting our office directly or conveniently through our online booking form. Ms. Saeed's dedication and caring nature ensure that students have a positive and nurturing experience after regular school hours, giving parents peace of mind while their children continue to engage in productive activities.



MRS. MULLIGAN
Director of Strategic Development

Mrs. Sarah Mulligan brings a wealth of experience and dedication to her role. She possesses a diverse skill set, including strategic planning, project coordination, fund development, donor relations, marketing, and social media management. Sarah's exceptional communication skills and empathy ensure everyone's voice is heard within the school's inclusive community. She has also worked as a Youth Mental Health Worker, reflecting her deep care for children and families. In her current role, Sarah channels her passion for children's welfare and strategic planning to enhance opportunities for The Oxford School's students. Beyond her professional endeavors, she enjoys spending time with her family and indulges in adventurous hobbies like motorcycle riding and international travel.

Welcome Back!

RETURNING FACULTY

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to our returning teachers, a remarkable team of dedicated and experienced educators whose passion for education and commitment to our school's mission enriches the learning environment, fostering excellence and growth for our students. Their continuous efforts in providing a caring, supportive, and stimulating atmosphere, along with their expertise in delivering a comprehensive and enhanced curriculum, are instrumental in shaping the bright future of The Oxford School community!



MS. DAVIDSON
School Administrator



MS. DORKEN
Director of Admissions
Grade 1



MISS. PELLAR
Early Years



MRS. BARLOW
Junior Kindergarten



MRS. MILLER
Senior Kindergarten



MRS. KROPF
Grade 5



MRS. MOSS
Grade 6 Homeroom
Grade 6, 7 & 8 - Language Arts, Art



MRS. STINSON
Grade 8 Homeroom
Grade 6, 7 & 8 - Science, Drama



MRS. FORGIE
Music



MS. VAN HAEREN
Resource Teacher



MME. EGGLETON
French