



THE OXFORD OWL

August 2022 | www.theoxfordschool.ca



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WELCOME!

Dear Oxford School families,

Welcome to our special Owl

We especially welcome nineteen new students who come to us at every level from Pre-School through Grade 7; we certainly grasp your hopes, even a few fears, of entrusting your children to a new school, and there are several points of contact as you settle in. You will find parents who already have children at the school an invaluable resource, and our wonderful parent council, the 'Wild Community Connection' (WCC) is here to help you as well. www.theoxfordschool.ca/wcc

Along with our new students we welcome two new teachers and our After School Administrator whom you can read about below.

This summer has seen all kinds of activity at the school including continued work on our library resources and system, and faculty PD on reading and writing. All signs point to normalcy where health guidelines are concerned and we continue to maintain regular contact with Southwestern Public Health, as well as public and independent schools, to ensure best practices. www.swpublichealth.ca

APRIL SACKRIDER

After School Supervisor

April comes to us with experience in Music and Theatre, having worked with Children and Youth from pre-school ages to high school, directing teen choirs, teaching drama and music. She was raised in a traveling singing family group and toured Canada extensively in her growing up years. She has operated her own business locally now for the last 11 years. Her passion is people and investing in the lives of others, helping them reach their fullest potential. She is excited to get to know our students and families of Oxford School.



WE WELCOME TWO NEW TEACHERS AND OUR NEW AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISOR...

NICOLE KROPF

Grade 5; maternity leave

Nicole graduated from Redeemer University in Hamilton with a degree in English and a minor in history and psychology and went to teachers college at Western. While at Redeemer Nicole studied abroad at the "other" Oxford, that would be University (you know, the one founded in the twelfth century...) She has also done Advanced Qualification courses in the Primary Years at Queen's in Kingston; in fact, Nicole's commitment to professional development was just one of many impressive planks to her application with some ten courses completed over the last two years.

Nicole has taught as an early childhood educator in Ingersoll, and lists three years teaching at our own Trinity School from 2010 to 2012. Nicole also coordinated children's programs at Innerkip Presbyterian Church, including their summer camp.

Nicole told me: I'm my family's biggest cheerleader and am often found at the baseball field, hockey arena, or dance studio cheering them on. I enjoy reading and writing for pleasure. I love baking. When time allows, I also enjoy making homemade cards for my friends and family".

Nicole is married to Travis and is mother to Oliver and Emerson.

I know our Grade 5 parents will be delighted to have Nicole as their child's teacher; she is covering one of the maternity leaves for the bulk if not the entire year.



DONALD DOBRENSKI

Grade 6; maternity leave

Donald is an experienced teacher and librarian with several years work at IB (International Baccalaureate) schools in Europe including schools in Dusseldorf, Germany and in Switzerland in Schaffhausen, Baar, and Reinarch. A graduate from Wilfrid Laurier in Communications, Donald completed his teachers college at Niagara University in Lewiston, NY. His librarian credentials were completed at the University of Aberystwyth in Wales.

Donald's professional development and accreditations are extensive with courses not just in Germany and Switzerland where he was working but also Hungary, Spain, Belgium and Austria.

Donald's twenty five years' experience are steeped in primary and middle school grades and he is thoroughly familiar with the Ontario curriculum as well the IB; Donald comes to us from an intriguing and challenging assignment working at W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind in Brantford.

As well as his classroom responsibilities for Grade 6, Donald will spend time reading to and introducing our very youngest students to our library.

Outside of school Donald enjoys, not surprisingly, reading, cooking, skiing, travel and in the art world glass and ceramics.

Donald lives with his wife Jen and two children Ethan (20) and Leah (19).



LOVABLE LABELS FUNDRAISER

Please label everything!

We have a fundraiser for the school, as well as you can get high quality labels www.oxfordschool.lovablelabels.ca

TUITION PAYMENTS

Please ensure that if you are paying by cheque for tuition that you mail your cheque **prior to September 1, 2022** to 969 Juliana Drive, Woodstock, ON N4V 1C1. Cheques may also be dropped off to Ms. Carter during open office hours at the end of August.

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.

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL

Before care starts anytime after 7:15 - 9:00

After School runs 3:30-5:00

This program is available for JK-G8 students and only by signing up in advance by August 30, 2022. Please forward both the Before and After Care Application form and the Before and After Care Booking Form to info@theoxfordschool.ca

> Click to download the Application Form.

> Click to download the Booking form for Sept 2022.

MEET THE TEACHER OPEN HOUSE

On **Thursday September 1st** please join us any time between 2pm-4pm for this drop in style open house. Teachers will be on hand in their classes to greet you and your student and give a little sneak peek. Ms. Carter will be available in the school office where you can purchase gym shirts or spirit wear. Houses for new students will be announced on the first Friday tea and purchases of spirit wear will also be available after by contacting the main office. The first spirit wear day of the year will be September 16th.

ROUTINE FOR 1ST DAY

Please have your student wear their formal uniform on the first day. Then they may wear the spring uniform for the rest of September.

IF YOUR CHILD IS BETWEEN GRADES 3 AND 8 THEY DO REQUIRE A BLAZER AS PART OF THE UNIFORM; THESE MAY BE PURCHASED AS PER OTHER ITEMS AT MCCARTHY'S OR THROUGH THE WCC CLOTHING SWAP. PLEASE REACH OUT TO MELISSA IN OFFICE RE. ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT OUR UNIFORM.

SCHOOL DROP OFF GRADE 1-8:

You may walk your child to their classroom 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:

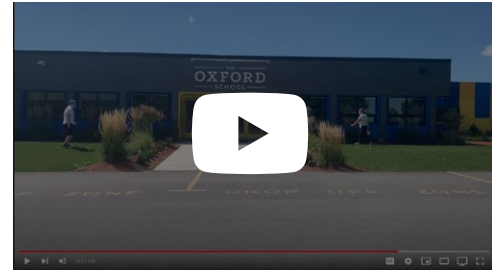
JK/SK children can be taken directly to their area at the side of the building. Parents are able to drive directly into the playground area and take their children inside of their classroom on the first week. Pre-School children may be taken into their classroom right inside the front door.

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>



STUDENT MATERIALS NEEDED

INDIVIDUAL TEACHERS MAY HAVE SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS BEYOND THIS LIST AND MAY CONTACT PARENTS

PRE-SCHOOL

- Lunch/Snacks and spill proof refillable water bottle.
- Indoor/Outdoor shoes.
- Spare "Just in Case" seasonally appropriate clothes inc. socks/underwear
- Sun hat.
- Diapering supplies i.e.: Wipes, Diapers/ Pull Ups if necessary.
- Comfort Items for nap time: Snuggly blanket and cuddle toy to be left at school. (Other toys are discouraged to be brought to school)

JUNIOR KINDERGARTEN - GRADE 1

- Lunch/Snacks and spill proof refillable water bottle.
- Indoor dress shoes & Gym shoes, Outdoor shoes.
- Spare "Just in Case" seasonally appropriate clothes inc. socks/underwear
- Sun hat.

GRADE 2 - GRADE 3

- Lunch/Snacks and spill proof refillable water bottle.
- Indoor dress shoes & Gym shoes, Outdoor shoes.
- Pencil case with: Pencil, Pen, Ruler and Eraser, Glue Stick, Coloured Pencils/Markers.

GRADE 4 - GRADE 8

- Lunch/Snacks and refillable water bottle.
- Indoor dress shoes, & Gym shoes, Outdoor shoes.
- Pencil case with: Pencils, Pens, Coloured Pencil Crayons/Markers, Glue Stick, Ruler, pair of Scissors, Eraser, Scientific Calculator and Math Set Kit (protractor set).
- Binders for work (suggest 2 x 2") with 6 subject tabs (no bulky zipped folders).

ATTENDANCE... MATTERS

I want to address the subject of attendance. The pandemic led to unavoidable absences from the classroom, but as things opened up this was compounded by absences of the avoidable kind, some for days, weeks, and even months. The result of all this time off was easily predicted where student performance was concerned. What was less visible, but very much real from my perspective was the burden this placed on our teachers who were asked to provide all manner of assignments and direction, often at the last minute. We also noticed heightened stress and anxiety of students both while away and on their return. Teachers told me they felt complicit in all this truancy, and we jealously guard the academic reputation of the school.

I am not judging the very important time that families need together and being cooped up during the lockdowns meant that getting away was entirely understandable.

Now however, we are in a more normalized environment and we are planting a flag for regular attendance in this coming year. Our holidays are all published and we think provide ample rest for students, teachers and parents. To put the attendance matter in perspective, Ontario has one of the lightest number of teaching days of any jurisdiction in the world. Singapore, whose mathematics curriculum we teach, has 240 teaching days compared to 185 in Ontario.

So moving ahead, any request for time off of school should come to me directly and not the teacher. I will consider each case as it comes, but hope we will find common ground on this important issue.

In the meantime, we wish all of our families the best in the last days of summer and will look forward to seeing everyone soon.

Adam de Pencier
Head of School



2022-2023 SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR

> Click to download our 2022-2023 School Year Calendar.



UNIFORMS

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

Our WCC runs a clothing swap group on Facebook. It can be found here: www.facebook.com/groups/782770932161320/ McCarthy's: 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.

Our school office hours Aug 22nd - September 1st are 9am-3pm for anyone looking to pick up gym shirts. Please call ahead to check stock.

> Click to download the apparel order form.



Subscribe to the TOS calendar:

www.theoxfordschool.ca/subscribecalendar

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

Families new to the school will receive email notification and set-up instructions at the beginning of September. Please note that there is no cost to use Classroom Dojo for parents, teachers or the school. Upon sign up you may be prompted to pay to upgrade - just skip through these steps unless you would like to utilize additional features at home. These additional features are not required for use at school.