



Welcome/Welcome Back

On behalf of Larkhall Academy we would like to extend a warm welcome to all students and their families as we begin another new and exciting school year!! It is great to see so many eager and excited faces and we extend a special welcome to all new families who have joined our school community. We look forward to working with all students and families throughout the school year. Together, we can ensure the best educational opportunities for all students.

School Calendar 2017 - 2018

September 13 – Curriculum Night
October 9 – Thanksgiving Day Holiday
October 12- Picture Day
November 10 – November Break
November 13 – Remembrance Day
December 22 – Last day prior to Christmas
January 8 – School Reopens
February 16-19 – February Break
March 16 – St. Patrick's Day
March 29 – Last Day of School – Easter
April 9 – School Reopens
May 21– Victoria Day
June 28 – Last day for Students
June 29 – Administration Day

Curriculum Night

Our curriculum night is scheduled for Wednesday, September 13th at 7:00 p.m. We will meet in the Gym for a short general information session then parents and guardians are invited to go to your child's classroom to discuss grade level academic programs and curriculum as well as classroom routines and expectations. This night provides you the wonderful opportunity to meet your child's teacher as well as all members of our school community. We look forward to seeing you.

New Opening Time

Please note that our doors now open at 8:30 Students should not be arriving prior to this time.

New Dismissal Procedures.

A memo was sent home with your child detailing our new dismissal procedure. Please make sure you take some time to review it. The purpose is to make for a smoother and safer dismissal for students.

Student Data Sheets

Student information sheets have been sent home. We would appreciate it if you would complete these and have your child return it to his/her teacher as soon as possible. It is very important that you include an **emergency phone number** should we ever need to contact you. In the event of an emergency evacuation or school closure we need to follow the procedure outlined on this sheet.

Student Agenda

The student agenda is a great tool for communication with home. Please look in it every night for teacher memos or notifications. The front section explains Larkhall expectations. We will review this section with our students. Please support the school in our initiative of providing a Safe and Caring learning environment.

Synervoice ~ Home School Communication

The SYNERVOICE Communication system is a valuable system in delivering messages and notifications to parents in a timely and efficient manner. This service is particularly helpful for situations such as unscheduled school closures due to weather or electrical failure. To assist with this process, it is essential that we have accurate and updated information regarding home contact and emergency numbers. Please notify the office immediately if you have changed address or telephone numbers throughout the year.

Larkhall Staff

We would like to take this opportunity to introduce and welcome our staff members for the coming year:

Kindergarten – Ms. Wight & Ms. MacInnis
Grade 1 – Ms. Byrne & Ms. Hearn
Grade 1-2 Combined - Ms. Molloy
Grade 2 – Ms. Rose & Ms. Holden
Grade 3 – Ms. Coady & Ms. Marnell
Grade 4 – Ms. Power-Blackmore & Ms. Fleming
Grade 5 – Ms. White & Mr. Kennedy
Instructional Resource Teachers – Ms. Williams, Ms. Power-Howell, Ms. Turner, Mr. Halliday, Mr. Worthman
Phys. Ed – Mr. Worthman
Learning Resource Teacher - Mr. Norris
Music/Band: Ms. Lee
Guidance – Ms. Castella
SLP – Ms. Clarke
Secretary – Ms. Snelgrove
Student Assistants – Mr. Noseworthy, Ms. Howlett, Ms. Feltham, Ms. Pearl, Ms. Brett & Ms. Browne
Maintenance Custodian – Mr. Victory
Evening Custodian – Mr. Davis
Evening Cleaner – Mr. Butt
Assistant Principal – Mr. Fitzgerald
Principal – Mr. Durdle

School Hours

Please note the timetable for the upcoming year is as follows:

8:30 Doors open, supervision begins
8:40 First Bell; National Anthem/Morning announcements
8:45 Classes begin
10:15 Recess
10:30 Classes resume
12:00 Lunch
12:50 Afternoon classes begin
2:55 Dismissal

Door Security

Parents / guardians and visitors to our school should use the main office entrance located on the east side of our building. This door will be locked during the school day and you are kindly asked to ring the doorbell, identify yourself and Ms. Snelgrove will buzz you in. For safety reasons it is important that we are aware of visitors in our school at all times. Parents and visitors are not permitted in the classroom areas unless permission is given by the administration.

Parking

Always be conscious while driving in this area especially when busses are off loading the children. Parents who drop off and pick up children are asked not to park right in front of the school on the road as you will be ticketed. Parking is very limited. Furthermore, we kindly ask that you not block off the staff parking area. This can cause a safety hazard as well as congestion in the mornings.

Smoke –Free Grounds

Please take note of our signage that is posted on the front of the school. We are a designated smoke free school area. Therefore there should be no smoking in or around the school property. We thank you for “butting out” before you come onto school grounds.

Music

Currently at Larkhall Academy we have choir for grades 1 to 5. There is optional band for our grade 5 students. There are many wonderful performances each year that showcase our music program.

Physical Education

We would like to remind students to check their calendars for Physical Education Days. Students are encouraged to wear proper attire on these days, i.e. sneakers, t-shirt and shorts/track pants. Thank-you for your cooperation.

Nutrition policy

Please note that the Newfoundland English School District has a Nutrition Policy that encourages students to eat healthy and bring snacks that are appropriate and nutritious to school. Please take the time to discuss with your child healthy choices for recess and lunch. Refrain from sending fizzy pop, potato chips, chocolate bars etc. during the school day.

School Lunch Association Program

We are delighted to once again partner with the School Lunch Association for hot lunch service at Larkhall Academy Monday – Friday of each week. A registration form will be sent home with all students and must be returned by the specified date to the SLA. Parents / guardians are also encouraged to register online.

A menu will be forwarded to you soon to select the meals you would like your child to avail of for the following weeks. Please mark the envelope with your selection, enclose your money and send the envelope back to your child’s teacher. You should keep the menu at home so you will know when your child is on SLP or when they need to bring a bagged lunch. There is no lunch service at Larkhall until Monday, September 25th. All students will need to

bring a packed lunch from home for the next few weeks.

Going Home to Lunch

Please note, that when students go home to lunch we encourage them to return to school at 12:45pm to be ready for afternoon classes.

If you give your child permission to go out to lunch you must provide a written note to the classroom teacher stating this, dated and signed. No students will be permitted to leave school grounds without a note during the lunch hour.

Allergy ALERT

Please take note that we have a number of students who have severe life threatening allergies in our school. Parents are requested not to send the following items to school: **Nuts, Peanut butter, Eggs, Seafood.** Contact with these items may result in a severe allergic reaction requiring immediate medical attention. We thank you for your support.

We ask that you **do not** send in food treats for an entire class due to the many allergies in our school. We will have guidelines at a later date to outline Halloween procedures.

Birthday Invitations

We realize it is difficult to distribute birthday invitations. We can provide the first name of students in a class only and no other contact information will be provided. Often invitations are distributed in class. We will only permit this to occur if the entire class receive an invitation. Children get very upset if they are singled out and not invited which takes away from instructional time.

Medical Concern

We have two students who could have a fatal reaction if they come in contact with the chicken pox virus, fifth disease and any other contagious diseases. Stomach bugs and cold are not a concern. **PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE IF ANY SUCH DISEASES ARE SUSPECTED. EVEN IF YOU DO NOT HAVE A DIAGNOSIS LET US KNOW.**

SCENT AWARE

We also have a number of students and staff who have allergic reactions to scented products. We ask you to please refrain from using perfumes and cologne when visiting the school.

Student Medications

Medication is administered at the school **only when absolutely necessary.** If at all possible, we ask that parents administer medicine at home and avoid bringing any medicine to school.

Medication may only be administered from the office with the signed consent of parents and medical professionals. Non-prescription drugs should not be sent to school.

Please alert your child’s teacher as soon as possible if your child has any serious medical conditions or life threatening allergies. (There is also a place for this data on the student information sheet.) Where necessary, a medical alert form will be sent home for parents to complete.

Recycling

If you would like to contribute your recyclables to our school we have a program set for every Thursday. Students who pass in recycling will have their names submitted for special prize draws. Please ensure you remove caps and straws from the containers. Thank you to our parent community for your past support.

Telephone messages:

To ensure your child receives appropriate instruction in all subject areas we try to avoid interruptions to the classroom throughout the school day with phone messages. Please discuss with your child after school arrangements before they come to school. Ms. Snelgrove cannot keep up with the phone messages to all classrooms at dismissal times. Unless emergency changes occur in after school transportation, we will not be able to take messages. Your cooperation with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

Student Belongings

Each year we accumulate a large number of items in our Lost and Found and a great percentage of these are never claimed. Most families have spent a considerable amount of money to get their children ready for the new school year. In order to protect against loss of sneakers, clothes, lunch bags, school bags etc...you are urged to write your child's name with a permanent marker on all of these items so if retrieved it can be easily returned to the children. As well we do not encourage students to bring electronic devices or expensive toys to school as these often go missing and this can be very upsetting for the child as well as very costly to you. Electronics are not allowed to be used by students during school hours, unless permission is given by a teacher.

RNC – Child Exploitation Advisory

As in past years we assist the RNC by sharing this information with you:

The RNC Child Exploitation Unit has noted an increase in the number of Internet Luring complaints. The RNC is advising parents to:

- Monitor all children's contact on the internet.
- Ensure the "do not talk to strangers" message is understood to apply to the virtual world
- Only allow children and young teenagers access to webcams in common areas of your homes.

Larkhall Academy Website

We are currently in the process of updating our website. We will post information, memos and newsletters for your reading pleasure. Please visit the website for up to date information.
www.larkhallacademy.com

Larkhall App

Last year we introduced our Larkhall App as another way to share information with you. We are currently working on some upgrades. This should be complete in the near future and we will be posting information there again.

Volunteers

We are in need of volunteers to assist in many ongoing programs here at Larkhall. We will have more information on Curriculum Night. If you have an hour to spare any time during the day we would certainly appreciate your assistance.

Reminders:

Please return Student Data Forms as we would like to update our school database as soon as possible.

Twitter

Larkhall Academy is on Twitter! Please follow us @LarkhallAcademy for updates about Larkhall Academy.

**Best Wishes for a
Successful
2017 – 2018
School year!!**