



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

February 2017

PRINCIPAL NEWS

After a rather long stretch of milder weather, it appears that winter has returned. I am often asked about how cold is too cold, when it comes to sending students outside. Generally, when the temperature falls below – 20 with the wind chill, we will often reduce the length of time that our students stay outside. If the temperature gets below – 30, we will most often keep our students inside for the duration of the recess. Of course, there are other variables, such as the wind direction (permanent structures help to reduce the impact of the wind), and whether or not it's snowing or the sun is out, that can affect our decision making. It is important that our students come to school prepared for outdoor play. A trend that seems to develop at most schools is that our youngest students come to school with snow pants, gloves, and a winter hat, jacket, and boots. Our oldest students tend to be the students that need the most reminders about the need to bundle up. With a consistent message from the home and school, our hope is that all of our students can get outside and enjoy our wonderful Canadian winters!

Staff members are busy completing report cards (and the new Communication of Learning for kindergarten students). Report cards will be sent home with students, February 14th. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or concerns. The names of rotary teachers will appear on the report card in the event that you have questions regarding a particular subject area.

As always, please feel free to contact me at the school. Our next Parent Council meeting is at 6:30 pm on February 7th; all are welcome!

Sincerely,

Darren Hale



Live Free Campaign

The Live Free campaign is coming up for the Food and Friends program that supports our Breakfast Club. Laurelwoods ES is participating in the Live Free Campaign and we need your support! March 3rd is Live Free Day; the students at our school are being challenged to Live Free of something they take for granted, like their computer or candy for an example, for one day. Every day many children in our community live without the basic necessities that many of us take for granted. This can change and you can make a difference by raising funds for the Children's Foundation Food & Friends Program through the Live Free Campaign.

This year our Student Nutrition Program would like to offer a hot meal, Tuesday, February 28th for our Live Free Campaign Fundraiser. For only \$5.00 your child can receive a Pancake Breakfast at the first Nutrition Break. This will include: Pancakes with real maple syrup, fresh fruit and a juice box. 100% of the money raised through our campaign comes back to our Laurelwoods Student Nutrition Program which has provided over 2500 meals so far this year!

Laurelwoods is asking you to help our 9th annual Live Free Campaign by supporting this hot meal day. For more information, or simply to make a donation, visit www.livefreewdg.ca. Let's ensure these children and youth hunger for knowledge and not food. This hot meal will be available for purchase on our Cash Online system. The order deadline is February 15th, 2017. If you require assistance with ordering online, please contact our office coordinator, Karen Gardhouse at 519-940-3666 ex 0.

Carnaval 2017

From February 22nd, to February 24th, Laurelwoods will be having their 5th annual **CARNAVAL D' HIVER**. Students can start their soap sculptures at home and bring them to school by Thursday, February 23rd. On Wednesday February 22nd, we will have our **Opening Ceremonies** at 9:00 a.m. and students will be participating in outdoor activities such as snowshoeing, curling, tug o'war and a snow-angel relay so please make sure everyone dresses warmly. Thursday will be 'Toque Day'. On Friday, our festivities will end with our **Closing Ceremonies** at 9:00 a.m. along with prizes for the soap sculptures. Students are asked to wear anything Quebec or French related. **Bonhomme Carnaval** is very excited to visit Laurelwoods again this year!



Grand Valley Public Library

The Grand Valley Public Library is sponsoring a Family Free Skate on Friday, March 17th, 2017 at The Grand Valley & District Community Centre from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm.



The library is also holding many workshops and theatre productions over the March Break

1. Children's Drama Workshop
Ages 6 – 14 yrs. Registration is required.
March 13th, 2017.
2. Hands on Exotics - March 14th
3. Three Little Pigs – March 15th
4. Cosima Grunsky – March 16th

Please contact the Grand Valley Public Library as there is an admission cost and registration is required for some programs. Children should be accompanied by an adult or older sibling.



2017/2018 Extended Day Program

Each school with full day kindergarten has been asked to survey our parents of JK/SK to Grade 6 students to determine if there is any interest in an Extended Day Child Care Program at Laurelwoods. Parents are asked to complete a survey at:
https://docs.google.com/a/ugcloud.ca/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd_jWPnRmkL_IkeLnmbrijgMZYbZRQj9kEK8iETXh8BRXAoNlug/vi/wform#start=openform

Programs are offered only where there is sufficient interest from parents and the numbers are viable for operators to run a program. Upper Grand District School Board is working in collaboration with the municipalities to gather data about demand and viability of BASP's. Please complete the survey, even if you are not requiring care, prior to the end of February 10, 2017.

At this time, it is important that families keep their current child care arrangements. We cannot guarantee that the programs you've indicated interest in, will be offered at your school. Programs being offered for September 2017 will be posted on the board website by May 1st, 2017.



Junior Kindergarten Registration for September 2017

Junior Kindergarten Registration took place January 9th to January 27th. If you have not registered your child, please stop into the office to complete the necessary forms. Parents are asked to bring in their child's birth certificate, immunization card and proof of address.

CASL

From time to time we will send out information to the community in a mass bcc email. If you consent to receiving commercial electronic messages from us, please complete and submit the Subscribe information found at the following website (if you haven't already done so.)

<https://webapps.ugdsb.on.ca/casl>

Black History Month

For those of you that aren't aware, February is Black History Month. Black History refers to the stories, experiences and accomplishments of people of African origin. People connected by their common African History and ancestry have created Black History here in Canada.

It has been celebrated in Canada since the 1950's and is an opportunity for all Canadians to recognize significant contributions African-Canadians have made in education, medicine, art, culture, public service and politics. Black History Month is a chance for us to understand the role that the African-Canadians have played in our history; one that is often forgotten in our History books. Portia White, Oscar Peterson, Jackie Robinson, Laurence Miller and Donovan Bailey are just a few that have helped put Canada on the map!

At Laurelwoods, we will be recognizing Black History Month through class discussions and morning announcements. At home, you can also visit the website www.blackhistorycanada.ca for more information.

Student Safety

Thank you for diligently using the sign in and sign out procedures when at Laurelwoods. Please also note that adult supervision begins at 8:25 a.m. each morning. **Children should not be dropped off prior to 8:25 a.m.** unless previous arrangements have been made.

Procedures:

1. All visitors and volunteers need to check into the office.
2. When leaving the school, all visitors and volunteers must sign out.
3. All parents picking their children up during the day need to report to the office to sign out their children. Their children will then be called down to meet them.
4. Any parents visiting the playground need to check into the office and obtain a visitor's badge. They may also be asked to identify themselves to staff/supervisors on duty.



Inclement Weather

Laurelwoods is a school entirely dependent on bussing. It is important for parents to check the Board's website as well as www.findmyschool.ca for any bus delays or cancellations. Schools dependent entirely on bussing are closed to students on No Bus days.



Attendance/Pick-up

Please telephone the school at 519-940-3666 ext.100 if your child will not be attending school on any given day or will be late and include their teacher's name and bus number. It is extremely important that parents notify the school if their child(ren) will be absent. If you are picking your child up prior to 3:15 p.m. send a note with your child or call the school before 2:30 p.m. so that a bus slip can be completed. Please include the teacher's name and bus number. Thank you for your cooperation.

LES Clothing Drive

Starting February 14th, the ECO Crew at LES will be collecting items for a clothing drive through the Kidney Foundation. Please go through your closets and donate anything you don't need anymore. We will have a designated area in the front foyer of the school. There is a potential to raise a small amount of money from the donations we receive. The ECO crew will use any funds earned towards future environmental projects. The final day we will be collecting is Wednesday March 22nd.

We will be collecting:

- men's, women's and children's clothing (in season and out of season)
- belts, shoes, boots, purses, hats, mitts, scarves, gloves, slippers**
- draperies, curtains, bedding, linens, towels, shower curtains, math mats
- wallets, makeup bags
- wool, yarn, fabric, craft materials
- sports bags, knapsacks



Thanks in advance!

The ECO Crew

Pink Shirt Day

Wednesday, February 22nd is Pink Shirt Day. Wear Something pink to symbolize that you are taking a stand against bullying.



Parent Council Corner



In light of the winter weather that we have been experiencing, please be advised that in the event of a “snow day” or “no bus day” on a Friday, we will reschedule the missed Pizza Day to a future date and notify everyone accordingly when that day will be. Please do not assume that the following Monday will automatically be a Pizza Day as this is not the case.

Our Annual Spring Fling is only a few short months away; unfortunately we are finding it very difficult to continue this event due to a lack of parent volunteers to assist with running the stations. Without your help, we may not be able to hold this event this year. Spring Fling is planned for June 8th from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. If you are interested in volunteering please email school council at SC.Laurelwoods@ugdsb.on.ca or contact the office at 519-940-3666 to leave your name and number.

Our next Parent Council meeting is Tuesday, February 7th, at 6:30pm in the Library. All are welcome!!

Cash Online Payments

A thank you to all the families that signed up for our Cash Online Payment system. If you have not signed up yet, you can register by going to: ugdsb.schoolcashionline.com and select “Get Started Today”. It takes less than 5 minutes to register. If you require assistance, click the SUPPORT link in the top right hand corner of the screen, or contact 1-866-961-1803. School Cash Online is an online parent portal that offers a safe, fast and convenient way to pay for school activity fees.



Stay Well Month

Reduce the risk of serious infections - proper hand-washing is one of the best ways to avoid getting sick.

Stay home when you are sick and limit contact with others -Children should not be in school with a fever, undiagnosed rashes, vomiting, or diarrhea and should stay at home at least 24 hours following the end of symptoms.

Cover your mouth and nose - when you sneeze or cough; use a tissue or the bend of your elbow. You can prevent many serious illnesses by keeping immunizations up-to-date for you and your children. Call 1-800-265-7293 for more information.



Important Dates to Remember.

Family Day

Monday, February 20, 2017



March Break Holiday

March 13th – 17th, 2017

March
Break

Win a Dairy Queen Gift Card

After your family has read this newsletter, please sign and detach this coupon. “Our Family” must include at least one parent/guardian who has read the newsletter. This coupon must be placed in the yellow mailbox in the front hall of the school. A ballot will be drawn from the mailbox each month. This month’s draw will be held on Tuesday, February 28, 2017.

Our Family has read the newsletter corresponding to this draw.

Child’s Name: _____ Parent’s Signature: _____