



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

April 2017

PRINCIPAL NEWS

As another spring season arrives, it is a good time to remember that students need appropriate clothing for outdoor activities. An extra pair of socks is a good idea in the event that your child's feet get wet. The weather can be so very unpredictable this time of the year. It is good practice to check the weather forecast for the day, first thing in the morning.

I have sent an email out to the LES community regarding the dates for this year's primary and junior EQAO assessments. A lot of work goes into planning for this annual event, including ordering special versions of the test, arranging for alternate locations for students to complete the test (those who will be using technology or accessing the support of a scribe), and arranging for numerous adult volunteers to support our students while writing the test. If at all possible, please do not book appointments for students during this time frame. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

A reminder that there is a PA day on April 28th. The school will be closed to students. Staff members will be completing our School Self-Assessment survey, and collaboratively assessing and discussing student samples of open-ended math tasks that students in all grades will complete prior to the PA day.

Have a wonderful month of April; as always, feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Darren Hale

SpringFling

Spring is in the air – finally! With the arrival of spring it also signals the start of increased activity for Parent Council. Save the date for this year's Spring Fling – June 8, 2017 from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm. We are looking for gently used Lego – please drop it off in the office. We are in desperate need of parent volunteers to help with this year's Spring Fling. Please watch for more information and signup sheets to follow.

Reminder

There will be no classes for students on Friday, April 28, 2017 due to the P.A. Day for teachers. There will also be no school for students on Friday, April 14th and Monday April 17th for the Easter holiday.



Safety on the Playground

With the warmer weather approaching, our students are anxiously waiting for our playground structure to reopen. This is a good time to remind everyone - students, parents, staff and yard supervisors of the rules on the playground and play structures that help make break times fun and safe.

On the playground..... Remember:

- play in the designated boundaries
- play safe, fair and appropriately
- use appropriate language
- avoid any physical contact games, rough play, or play fighting
- eating or drinking on the playground or play structures is not permitted
- share playground equipment
- respect playground equipment
- leave stones/rocks on the ground
- ask for permission to use the washroom or enter the school
- enter/exit through the appropriate door with permission
- respect the environment
- refrain from use of personal sports equipment (i.e. roller blades, skateboards, scooters)



We know how much the children enjoy our play structures and are looking forward to the spring weather so they can use them again. We make safety at play our primary concern, and will be reminding our students and staff on a regular basis about playground rules. We hope that you will reinforce them at home with your child.

Riding Bicycles to School



A reminder that permission from parents must be granted before riding bicycles to school. These forms are available in the main office at the school. Students are expected to wear mandatory head gear. Bicycles are to be parked in the bicycle racks located at the front of the school. At the end of the day, students who ride bicycles are dismissed after the last bus has departed from the school.



Music Tuesday

On Tuesday, May 9th, we will be having "Music Tuesday", our annual celebration of music that is celebrated across Canada. Parents and family members are welcome to join us during the morning festivities. The time of the event will be announced at a later date.

Chimes Choir

Our Chimes Choirs will be performing at various Retirement Residences during the month of April as well as preparing for the Dufferin Arts Festival which takes place on April 27, 2017. Many thanks to all the Chime Choir members who practice every Thursday under the direction of Mrs. Moritz.

Earth Day

Earth Day is just around the corner! **April 22nd** has been recognized as Earth Day since the early 1970's and was originally created to highlight the need for all of us to be involved with environmental protection. Please remember to reduce / recycle / reuse.



Milk Tokens

Milk tokens are available online. Please check out School Cash Online for more details. The tokens are sold in bundles of 20 tokens for \$17.00. Students can also pay \$1.00 cash by putting the coins directly in the milk machine.



Graduation Preparations

Graduation night is scheduled for Tuesday, June 27, 2017. Any parents of grade 8 students who are interested in helping to decorate for graduation night please contact Mrs. Jordan.

Moving

If you know you will be moving and will not be attending Laurelwoods Elementary School in the fall please let the office know.



Do you know an Everyday Hero?

Please nominate someone in your school community – an individual or a group - whose actions and efforts foster the development of a positive learning and working environment. Deadline for nominations is Thursday April 13, 2017. For nomination rules and criteria, and to download the nomination form, please visit www.udgsb.on.ca/heroes.

Jump Rope for Heart

Laurelwoods Elementary School is pleased to be holding a Heart and Stroke Foundation Jump Rope for Heart event on Friday, April 21, 2017. All money raised will support the Heart and Stroke Foundation in their mission to promote children's health and fund vital heart and stroke research.

Jump Rope for Heart encourages kids to get active by skipping rope while they collect pledges for heart disease and stroke research. They also learn the importance of living a healthy lifestyle and giving back to their community. This year marks Jump Rope for Heart's 35th Anniversary and the Heart and Stroke Foundation is striving to get 1 million kids Jumping in close to 4,000 schools across Canada. Let's be part of it!



We need your help to reach our School fundraising goal of \$5000.00.

Please help support your child's fundraising efforts by registering them online at JumpRopeForHeart.ca and send out donation request emails to friends, family and colleagues. Online fundraising is the quickest way to reach all of your contacts and online donors receive an automatic tax receipt. Plus, when students receive their first online donation (of any amount), they will receive a \$5 kick-start and a **free skipping rope*** from the Heart & Stroke Foundation!

Please visit JumpRopeForHeart.ca and start fundraising today!

Each student was given a pledge envelope if you prefer to collect donations in-person. Please ensure that their pledge envelope is returned on the day of their school's Jump Event Day.

Thank you in advance for your support.



I Read Canadian Book Challenge

The Forest of Reading staff are challenging young readers across Canada to read 150 Forest of Reading books from now until the end of the year. The Forest books are the best of Canadian children and young adult books. Since 1994, there have been 1,270 titles nominated! Participants must read, or have read to them, any of the nominated titles in any of the programs from any program year. They must record the title of the book on this reading log. All participants who complete the challenge will be entered into a draw to receive a free set of 10 books for the 2018 list (announced in October 2017) for themselves and a free set of 10 books for their school or library. An online certificate will be emailed to all participants who complete the challenge. Please see Ms. Kerr if you are interested.

Make it Sow Fundraiser

A GREEN WAY TO FUNDRAISE!

For the Gardener in Your house - big or small!

Add some "Spring" to your garden and help raise funds for the school. 50 percent of the money raised from the orders will go directly to Laurelwoods Elementary School.

Make it Sow, a Canadian Company guarantees their seeds 100%. They are #1 certified fresh and non GMO and each packet delivered gives true value (the number of seeds meeting or exceeding the standard number of seeds).

Seed catalogues and order forms have been sent home. Please return your order and payment in the collection envelope provided.

Please be sure to fill **YOUR NAME** as the Collector, the group: **Laurelwoods Elementary School**, that this fundraiser is for and the deadline on the collection envelope which is April 23rd, 2017.

Any orders placed on your Order form from your friends and family will come home with your child once the seeds have come to the school and have been sorted accordingly.

The Master Seed Packet you will receive will contain the individual seed packets of the seeds listed on the outside of the larger envelope.

Thank you for participating in this green fundraiser.

Laurelwoods ES Parent Council

Sideline Basketball



On March 7th, 2017 Laurelwoods hosted the Junior Sideline Basketball Tournament. The event ran smoothly and everyone enjoyed themselves. Laurelwoods was able to have two teams play in the tournament along with teams from East Garafraxa Public School, Primrose Public School and Grand Valley Public School. The Laurelwoods students showed great team spirit and worked very hard as a team during the games. The athletes were also lucky enough to be the first students to wear our new Laurelwoods pinnies that our amazing Parent Council recently purchased for us. Thank you Parent Council. Great job LES Sideline Basketball Team! You made your coaches proud.

The Children's Foundation of Guelph and Wellington

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped to make our Food & Friends student nutrition program such a success this school year. The donation of time that you have given and your ongoing support says so much about your capacity for compassion and generosity.

Thanks for your continued support of our programs as well!

EarthKeepers



The Grade 5 students at LES visited Island Lake in January to take part in the Earthkeepers program. While they were there each Grade 5 student earned their K and E key. K stands for Knowledge and E stands for Experience. Each Earthkeeper in training received a Y key task to work on at home. The Y stands for Yourself. A small group of Grade 5 students completed this task and were able to move onto the S Key task. S stands for Sharing. This small group shared their gained knowledge with the primary classes by helping them sort their garbage, recycling and compost items while at school. Congratulations to Sophia, Claire, Jade, Abby and Ashley for graduating as a Level 1 Earthkeeper. Keep up the good work!

Update from the EcoCrew

Thank you to everyone for your generous donations to our Laurelwoods Clothing Drive. We collected 100 bags of clothes! We are thankful for such great support from our Laurelwoods community.

