

Arthur Public School

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Vice-Principal: Laura Cozzarin

School Website: www.ugdsb.on.ca/ArthurPS/index.htm

September, 2015

Welcome back to School!

I would like to welcome all our families to the 2015-2016 year at Arthur Public School! I am especially excited to be starting this school year as I started my teaching career in Arthur twenty five years ago and taught at Arthur Public School for eight very happy years! I am returning after teaching grade eight at Elora Public School for ten years, then entering the role of a school administrator, most recently as Principal of Gateway Drive Public School in Guelph. My husband (who also taught at Arthur) and I live in Fergus, we have three daughters, two of whom work in Toronto and one who attends University in Ottawa.

Back to School



Once again I must say how excited I am to be back in Arthur and how much I am looking forward to this school year. Please drop by and either introduce or re-introduce yourself to me!



Amanda Leathem

Helping Your Child Succeed

Parents and Guardians play a very important role in helping children to be successful at school. The start of a new school year is a good time to review some of the practices that ensure students are ready and able to learn.

- Adequate sleep - establish a regular bedtime to ensure students get at least 10 hours of sleep
- Good nutrition - we know that students can be "picky" eaters but increasing their consumption of fruits, vegetables and milk products and decreasing the amount of sugar and "junk food" can increase their ability to focus as well as to fight diseases
- Increase activity - decrease screen (tv., video etc) time- ensures that students remain healthy and active
- Keep involved in your child's education - communicate regularly with school - take time to read the agenda each evening
- Set aside a time each night for reading and/or completing any homework sent home. If your child does not have assigned homework, they can read and/or use UG2GO

•Included with this newsletter:

- Freedom of Information Letter - Consent To Share
- Walking Trip Permission Form (one for each student)
- Student Safety at Second Nutrition Break Form (to be completed for ALL students)
- Acceptable Use of Computers Policy and form for Grades 4 - 8
- 2015/2016 School Year Calendar

AGENDAS

Communication between home and school is essential to the success of your child this year. The regular use of agendas, by parents, teachers and students, will help to ensure a consistent flow of information between home and school. We ask you to help establish with your child a routine for sharing this agenda each night.



We recognize that some students are now using an electronic device as an agenda and planner. If this is the case, there is no need to purchase an agenda. However, those students will be expected to use that device on a daily basis to communicate between school and home.

We are asking parents to contribute \$5.00 towards the cost of each agenda.

Parents in the Hall - Please Check In

In an effort to keep our school safe and our halls moving freely it is very important that parents **do not enter** the school with their child. If you need to come into the school for any reason, please sign in at the office and receive a visitor's pass. Parents are welcome to drop their children off on the playground in the morning, as we have supervision beginning at 8:30 AM for students who walk. We appreciate your support in our efforts to monitor the adults in the building.

All parents and visitors entering the school are asked to do so through the front doors and to sign in at the office. For safety reasons, it is important that we know who is in the school at all times.

Parent and Student Handbook Online

While many of the usual school routines are outlined in this September newsletter, please refer to the Parent and Student handbook for detailed information on school policies and programs.

As part of our "Earth/Green School" initiative, our Parent and Student Handbook can be found online on our school web page: <http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/Arthur/> If you would prefer to have a hard copy of this handbook, please contact Annette Brunkard in the office.

School Hours

This year because of changes to our busing supervision of the playground begins at **8:30 A.M.**

Students should not be at school before 8:30.

Please note that we follow a Balanced School Day schedule.

9:00 a.m. - **Entry Bell**

9:00 a.m. - 10:40 a.m. 1st Instructional Block

10:40 a.m. - 11:25 a.m. - Nutrition Break #1

11:25 a.m. - 1:05 p.m. - 2nd Instructional Block

1:05 p.m. - 1:50 p.m. - 2nd Nutrition Break

1:50 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. - 3rd Instructional Block

3:30 p.m. **Dismissal for walkers/bus students**

Office Hours

Our school office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



Freedom of Information Letter

Please read the Freedom of Information Letter that is included with this newsletter. If you have any concerns, please contact the school.

Student Information Forms

Please carefully check, sign and return the Student Admission Form that is being sent home during this first week. It is essential that the information on this form be correct and up to date. The following items are particularly important to us:

- Parent/Guardian contact numbers (home and work)
- Custody information
- Emergency contact number
- Family doctor and phone number
- Medical concerns/information

Please sign and return the form even if the information is correct.

ARTHUR PUBLIC SCHOOL 2015 - 2016 STAFF LIST
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Kindergarten A	Sherry Fleming
Kindergarten B	Emily Elder
Kindergarten C	Lorna McLean
Grade 1B	Steve Wild
Grade 1/2A	Natalie Airdrie
Grade 2/3BA	Glenna Ruffolo
Grade 2C	Cheryl McCabe
Grade 3C	Frank MacLean
Grade 3/4A	Angela Hustler
Grade 4/5B	Eugene Sidlar
Grade 5A	Kelly Werth
Grade 6B	Megan Scott
Grade 6/7A	Natasha Backer
Grade 7/8B	John Duncan
Grade 7/8C	Angela Novikow
Special Education (SE) Resource	Laura Cozzarin, Lisa Marshall
Jr/Int SE Classroom	Lisa Marshall
Health and Phys. Ed.and	John McCabe
Planning Time	Mary Kay Goindi
	Jaslyn Hall
	Sarah Nichol
Library	Mary Kay Goindi
French	Sherry Butchart, Jaslyn Hall
Early Childhood Educators (ECE)	Kathy Watson
	Debbie McManus
	Laurie Walser
Educational Assistants	Tracey Geddes
	Leanne Hill
	Amy Koebel
Child Youth Counselor (CYC)	Dana Forsey
Office Coordinator	Annette Brunkard
Caretaker	Dave Fowlie
Vice-Principal	Laura Cozzarin
Principal	Amanda Leathem

Class Organizations

As it has been for some time, our class lists that are in place for September are tentative. Many of our families move in and out of Arthur over the summer, changing the dynamics and numbers in each grade level. Our school is allocated staff from the Board Office depending on our numbers and class organizations are determined centrally at the board level. The UGDSB staffing process depends on how many students are registered and attending in September, then adjustments are made. For that reason, it is important to understand that adjustments to classes may be made to balance our classes and fit any new organizations that we may be given. Your son or daughter may have a change to their class as soon as Monday, September, 14th. We appreciate your understanding, knowing these decisions are not in the control of school administration.

Custody and Child Access Orders

Your child's emotional and physical well-being is always of the greatest concern to our school staff. Please send copies of any Custody or Access orders, affecting your child, to the office so that we can have them on file.

Safe Arrival Program

If your child will not be in attendance at school, or will be late arriving to school, we ask that you let us know. You may call and leave a message on the answering machine. If we do not hear from you, we will make phone calls to determine your child's whereabouts. We will call: home number first, then parent/guardians' work numbers, then emergency contact.

Students arriving late are expected to check in at the office.

Snack Program

We were fortunate to receive funding this year which will allow us to continue to provide every student with a healthy snack during nutrition breaks. A healthy snack consists of a fruit or vegetable and a milk or grain product. For example: an apple and a yogurt or cucumbers and cheese. We try to provide a variety of healthy foods and encourage students to try new foods. This will begin the first week of school!

If your child has any food allergies, please inform your child's teacher.

In order to continue to run our healthy snack program, we require parents and volunteers to help with food preparation, set up and/or clean up. Hours are flexible. If you, or a family member or a neighbour, can assist us by volunteering an hour one day per week, please contact Mrs. Cozzarin at the school.

Bicycle Safety



All children attending our school are required by law to wear helmets when biking. Students should also have a lock to secure their bicycle to the bike racks outside. Please remind your children of the danger and hazards associated with bicycle helmets being worn when they are playing on the playground equipment.

Reminder

Skateboards, roller blades, scooters and roller shoes are not permitted on school property at any time.

Arthur Public School Welcomes Personal Technology in the Classroom

Arthur Public School is very excited to announce that personal technology is allowed for use within our classrooms for the purpose of enhancing student learning. Devices such as Smartphones, laptops, chromebooks, iPads and other tablet devices are welcome for educational use, at the discretion of the classroom teacher. Our new BYOD (Bring Your Own Device) policy has been explained to students, as well as the rules and responsibilities that are explained below:

Why BYOD?

MORE TECHNOLOGY - with students bringing technology from home, this allows more students to have access to school technology

COLLABORATION & ESSENTIAL SKILLS - students are able to work together easily (especially with UGCloud), and are being prepared for the ever changing skills they will require in the workplace

DIFFERENTIATED INSTRUCTION - students can use programs and technology that supports their learning needs

DIGITAL CITIZENSHIP - students learn to be **safe, responsible, and positive** contributors online

TEACHABLE MOMENTS- allows teachers & students to be flexible & creative in their teaching and learning

BYOD RULES FOR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL:

1. Technology is allowed with direct supervision (e.g., in the classroom during teaching time), at the discretion of the classroom teacher.
2. Technology is not allowed in unsupervised areas or areas that are not directly supervised (e.g., washrooms, hallways, lunchroom, outside at recess).

The Upper Grand District School Board is committed to developing engaged and technologically literate 21st century learners who are able to communicate, collaborate, create, and think critically. The incorporation of this new BYOD policy into our school community is a way to ensure our students are prepared, responsible, safe and literate 21st century learners.

All devices need to be turned off during the school day, beginning at 8:58 AM and ending when they have left the building, unless being used in the classroom under teacher direction and supervision.

Students who use their devices inappropriately will have the following consequences:

1st infraction- Teacher warning

2nd infraction - Warning by Principal/Vice Principal and parent contacted

3rd infraction - Student will turn device in to office in the morning and pick it up at the end of the day for a period of one week

4th infraction - Plan as discussed with parent

Please note: We currently have many mobile devices in the school that students have access to. It is NOT a requirement that students bring a device from home. We have tablets, iPads, iPods, Laptops, Desktops, and Chromebooks available at all times. If your child does not have a device to bring to school, or chooses not to bring it, there are plenty available at the school. Be aware that we will not accept responsibility for the damage, loss or theft of devices which are brought to school. If a device is brought to school, it will be important to follow the guidelines above. Please discuss these guidelines with your child to help them comply with the expectations.

Medication at School

If medication must be taken at school, the following rules apply:

- All medication at school must be kept in a secure place in the office. This applies to all prescription and non-prescription drugs (does not apply to epi-pens).
- We must have an Upper Grand District School Board consent form filled out and signed before school personnel can administer any medication at school. If you require a medication form, please contact the office. This form must be completed even if a student has previously used a specific medication at school in the past.
- Medication must be delivered to the office in the original container and must include the pharmaceutical sticker (prescription medications) indicating the name of the child and directions for administering and storing the medication.



Important Websites

www.ugdsb.on.ca

You will find information about school bus cancellations on inclement weather days and lots of information that pertains to our schools.

www.ugdsb.on.ca/ArthurPS/index.htm

You will find specific information about our school. Copies of school newsletters, Parent and Student Handbook and other information about our school community are included at this site. *Check us out!*

Head Lice

Fall can be one of the worst times of the year for the nuisance of head lice.

During recent years we have been successful in avoiding serious outbreaks of head lice due to good preventive approaches and regular checks at home. With the help of parent volunteers we would like to continue with head lice checks at school. If you do not wish your child(ren) to be included in the class screening checks, please forward a note to Ms. Leathem who will contact you to discuss screening steps that can be taken at home. It takes home and school working together to stay ahead of head lice for the sake of all of our students and families. We are looking for parent volunteers to help with the periodic checks. Training is provided. If you can help, please call the office.

Walking Trips

From time to time, various classrooms will be going on short walking trips around town as part of their regular program. The trips could take the form of going to the store, going to the county library, going to a neighbouring field, etc. You will be informed as these trips come up; however, a permission form will not be sent home for each walking excursion. Please sign the Walking Trip Permission Form that is attached to this newsletter to cover all walking tips.



Changes to Home time

If your child is not going home the way they normally go home (walking to a friends, getting picked up, etc), please contact the office no later than 2:30 PM. It is very important that we ensure every student is accounted for and this information is vital. **If we do not receive notification from parents, we will send students home the way they have always gone home.**

Student Pick - Up at 3:30 p.m.

Dismissal time at the end of the day is a very busy time. As a result, we appreciate your cooperation with the following dismissal routines:

Bus students are to gather in their designated areas. Bus attendance will be taken before the bus lines are dismissed to the bus loading area.

Junior and Senior Kindergarten students may be picked up outside the Kindergarten gate at the end of the school day. If a JK or SK student is walking with an older sibling they can be picked up at the classroom after dismissal. JK/SK bus students will be picked up by their bus buddies at the classroom. Parents, if it is inclement weather you may pick up your son or daughter in the front foyer of the school. Please arrange for a meeting spot outside of the school with your children who are in grades 1 and up.

Please respect the No Parking signs in front of our school and along the side of our parking lot.

We are encouraging students to use the pedestrian safety rules which teach children to use sidewalks and cross at corners.

NUT FREE



"While schools cannot create an "allergen-free" environment, The Upper Grand District School Board expects its schools to be "allergy-safe". Providing a safe learning environment depends on the cooperation of all members of the school community - parents and student, administrators, teachers, support staff, volunteers and visitors - so anaphylactic reactions and fatalities can be avoided." (UGDSB Anaphylaxis Life-Threatening Allergies Handbook, p. 2, 2013)

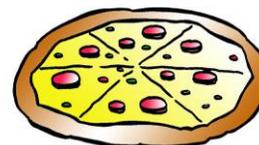
Classes in which students have food allergies are prohibited from having that food in the classroom.

We will "avoid having allergens in the classroom. This includes allergen alternatives, products that mimic the taste, smell, and appearance of the allergen (WOWBUTTER used instead of peanut butter) and other possible allergens." (UGDSB Anaphylaxis Life-Threatening Allergies Handbook, p. 5, 2013)

We appreciate your co-operation in providing a safe environment for all students.

Pizza Days

Watch for information coming home shortly in regards to Pizza days.



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New Curriculum Information From the Program Department

In September the new Health and Physical Education curriculum will be fully implemented in Ontario schools. For elementary schools, the new curriculum has existed for several years, but will now include an updated portion of its 'Healthy Living' component to include Human Development and Sexual Health. The document as a whole aims to educate children to understand themselves and others, think critically to make healthy choices, develop and maintain healthy relationships, be safe physically and emotionally, and to be physically active for life. The curriculum is available on the Ministry of Education's website.

The Human Development and Sexual Health component of the curriculum had not been updated since 1998. Since then much has changed and kids need to know more to keep themselves healthy and safe. This education starts with children learning about themselves, their feelings, their bodies and about showing respect for themselves and others in a reliable and accurate way. This learning is most effective when parents and schools work together. Parents help their children form values about relationships and their behaviours. Teachers will endeavour to communicate upcoming topics from the Human Development and Sexual Health units to families. Open and honest conversations at home about body parts, their functions, physical changes, healthy relationships and effective living habits help children connect learning and lets them know they have someone to talk to about questions they might have. Questions about topics can always be directed to the teacher or school principal.

As mentioned above, Human Development and Sexual Health is one sub-component of the curriculum. The document also focuses on skills related to Active Living, which involves physical fitness, safety and active participation; Movement, which teaches specific movement and physical activity skills and tactics; and Healthy Living, which focuses on understanding health concepts, making healthy choices and making connections to healthy living.

There are plenty of ways you can support your children's learning from the Health and Physical Education curriculum. Consider what you and your child can do together that is fun and healthy. Enjoying physical activity or making meals together is a great start. Ask your child and their teacher about what is being taught and have discussions where you provide factual, straightforward answers to your child's questions. Finally, learn how to be safe online and use that information to guide your child's use of any device that connects to the internet. There are plenty of resources available for parents to support the learning from the HPE curriculum. The best place to start is the Ministry of Education's website:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health.html> or at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/sex-education-ontario>.

Character Education at APS

We will continue to enhance our character education program at Arthur P.S. and look for ways to integrate the Upper Grand District School Board's five core character traits- ***Compassion, Fairness, Honesty, Respect and Responsibility***. This year we will also celebrate the message "Together We are One".

For September, we will emphasize the character trait of **Community** and help students understand what it means to be a member of a community with its rights, rules and responsibilities.

Our first school assembly will be held on Friday, September 25th at 9 am. We invite parents, as well as all members of our school community, to join us for this assembly as well as for future assemblies and celebrations.

The Monthly Character Traits We Celebrate at Arthur Public School Are:

- September: Community
- October: Honesty
- November: Respect
- December: Compassion
- January: Responsibility
- February: Kindness
- March: Fairness
- April: Positive Attitude
- May: Positive Choices
- June: Resilience



A Message Regarding Local Construction From the Township

September 2015

Frederick Street (County Road 14) Reconstruction County Contract No. CW2015-028

Arthur, ON – School starts back Tuesday, September 8th which means students will be running, walking and biking to school. While construction continues on Frederick Street East, Moorefield Excavation Ltd. will be responsible for providing a safe crossing zone for students through Frederick Street East (work zone). While construction continues the Township's crossing guard will be patrolling the intersection of Domville Street and Tucker Street each morning and afternoon.

Tucker Street serves as the detour during construction, so this move will provide additional crossing safety at this intersection.

The Township's crossing guard will be moved back to Frederick Street and Domville Street / Eliza Street when construction is completed.

If you have questions please contact:

Township Office

P: 519-848-3620

Tel 519-848-3620 Toll Free 1-866-848-3620 Fax 519-848-3228 www.wellington-north.com
township@wellington-north.com



A Message From CCAC and The Upper Grand D.S.B.

Dear Parent or Guardian,

Occupational therapists through CCAC (Community Care Access Centre) will become part of school supports this school year. They will help teachers learn more about how children develop motor and sensory skills. They will also screen children who may need further assessment. Here is some further information about the new program.

What is an occupational therapist?

Occupational therapists are health professionals who work with children in many different settings. They know a lot about fine and gross motor and sensory skill development. Fine motor skills are things like printing and writing, cutting with scissors, opening juice boxes and doing up zippers. Gross motor skills include things like jumping, getting onto the school bus, climbing stairs and running. Sensory skills include things like coping strategies to manage noise levels and too many things to look at, as well as movement breaks for kids who have a hard time sitting still.

What will they do in the school?

Occupational therapists will spend time in our classrooms, gym and playground.

They will:

- Observe and screen children by looking at fine, gross motor and sensory skills
- They will offer teachers different materials, tools and methods that make it easier for children who need help to learn and do motor and sensory-based activities
- Help teachers understand how they can use activities in the classroom to help children develop motor and sensory skills.
- Suggest strategies to teachers and be available to answer their questions

If an occupational therapist feels your child is having more difficulty learning new motor and sensory skills than is typical for his or her age, you will be contacted and a further assessment may be recommended.

If you have any questions about this program, please feel free to call and speak with a Pediatric Care Coordinator at the Community Care Access Centre (519-823-2550).

If you do not wish for your child to participate in this service, please contact the **school office** to let them know.

Do you believe that all children can excel in mathematics?

Do you believe that children are born with the math gene?

Do you believe that children can suffer from math anxiety?

If you answered yes to any of these questions, then please take a moment and continue reading.

This year our work in math will continue to focus on helping your children understand that math is about learning, not performing. Research indicates that every time any one of us makes a mistake in math our brains grow and connections are made¹. We need to help our children understand that making mistakes is not a 'bad' thing. Making mistakes is how we understand and get better at math.

At school, we want to help your children understand that math is about problem solving, reasoning and proving, making connections, communicating their thinking and persisting when tasks are challenging. We want to help them adopt an "I Can do Math" attitude.

In order for this to happen, we need to teach math differently than the way many of us were taught. No longer is the teacher robotically demonstrating mathematical methods that your children don't understand or care about.

Sebastian Thru, CEO of Udacity, says that we do not and cannot know what mathematics students will need in the future. The best preparation we can give them is to teach them to be quantitatively literate, think flexibility and creatively and pre-solve and use intuition as they develop mathematical ideas². Math is about so much more than plugging numbers into a formula. Math is about children actively engaging with the problems, so that they understand how math is used in their own life. We need to teach our children to use mathematics in the world they will live in now and tomorrow. We're not sure what that world will look like, although we do know that it will be different from the world we grew up in. We also know that we want our students to love math and say with confidence "I can do math". As parents we think you want that too!

For ideas to support your children in math go to www.YouCubed.org

UGDSB Curriculum Department

1. International Journal of Environmental & Science Education 7, no.1 , January 2012
2. What's Math Got to Do With It, Jo Boaler, 2015