



Arthur Public School

155 Conestoga Street North

PO Box 148

Arthur, ON N0G 1A0

Phone: (519) 848-3793 Fax: (519) 848-5994

Principal: Marni Barrow Vice Principal: Alan Gouk

Principal's Message

We would like to start by thanking the entire school community for being able to pivot to online learning so quickly and effectively. This could not have been done without parental support so the entire staff at Arthur thanks you for making this transition for the students so smooth. If you are still having technology issues or have any concerns about online learning please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's teacher or the office.

May is finally here! The last of the snow has fallen and we are looking forward to warmer days. It is hard to believe that there are only 8 weeks of school left. Please continue to support your child(ren) to work hard right to the end of the school year so they are prepared for their return to school in September.

We have been able to visit with many classes during synchronous learning times. We were excited to see all the wonderful work, presentations and activities, during the month of April and on Earth Day. The students were learning and becoming more aware of what we can do to take care of our earth. Way to go Patriots!

Please continue to check the school website for any announcements from the Board and School.

Wishing all families a safe and healthy May!

Mrs. Marquis
Principal
(covering for Ms. Barrow)

Mr. Gouk
Vice Principal



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September Class

Organization

Another administrative task that we begin to explore at this time of year is determining the 2021-2022 school organization, and the make-up of classes for next year. Teacher collaboration occurs around determining student placement for the subsequent year. Teachers spend a considerable amount of time determining the best possible placement for each student. Teachers have the expert knowledge about how your child learns, their learning style and work habits, and what kind of social groupings foster their growth.

Although the staffing process and student placements begin at this time of year, teaching assignments, school organizations and student placements will not be finalized until the second week of September. We continue to work towards minimizing disruptions to class organizations; however, student registrations in August may result in changes to class placements. With this in mind, class lists for September will be available on the first day of school.

We appreciate your trust and understanding in our professional judgement in the student placement process.

Math Website for Families

The elementary curriculum department invites families to come and explore a new math website for Parents and Guardians called, [Games and Activities that Support Mathematical Thinking at Home](#). The site is full of parent/guardian resources and activities you may use at home to strengthen foundational numeracy skills with your children. The purpose of this site is to share hands-on and interactive math games you can play in a home setting while also exploring how we can nurture a love of mathematics with our children. The site includes low prep activities meaning games require little to no materials and are suitable for children grades K-8. The games highlighted here are hands on and not digital. As technology continues to develop and provide wonderful learning opportunities, these games allow for a break from the screen and promote face to face interaction. There is also a form linked to the site inviting families to share their own math games as well. We hope this site is helpful to families looking to explore math together.



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Arthur Food Bank

The Arthur Food Bank is available for families in the Arthur area to access for food once a month. They are located at 146 George St in Arthur 519-848-3272 and are open on Tuesdays 10-noon for families to pick up food supplies. Please email arthurfoodbank@gmail.com to register/book your appointment. Food boxes are pre-packed for families so appointments are necessary.

Food and Friends

For this school year, our Student Snack Program will be supported at home only. Please make sure you send enough food for your child to eat for the two nutrition breaks each day. If you are interested in signing up for the “at home” program, please click on this link for more information

<https://www.childrensfoundation.org/what-we-do/food-friends/food-friends-at-home>

School Council Fundraiser

Thank you to all those who participated in last month's school council meat and plantables fundraisers, your support is greatly appreciated. We also wish to thank the volunteers to help make these efforts a success.



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Talking About Mental Health: May 2021

Let's talk about AUTONOMY

Autonomy, our theme for May, is our ability to make decisions and have a say in the direction of our lives. Autonomy helps with the development of independence and trust and is an important part of our individual growth and development. As a parent nurturing autonomy, we aim to create a cooperative bond between ourselves and our children while also paying attention to secure and reasonable boundaries and expectations. Autonomy goes beyond teaching independence and is about supporting our children in a way that allows them a sense of comfort in themselves.

Why is autonomy important?

- Helps to create a sense of mastery – over body, mind and environment
- Supports independent and critical thinking
- Encourages intrinsic motivations
- Inspires confidence
- Allows for individuality and uniqueness to emerge

So what can you do? (adapted from Dr. Shenfield, What is Autonomy Supportive Parenting and How to Practice It, 2019, article)

- Involve your child/ren in household decision making – age appropriately of course!
- Give your child the opportunity to have input in their daily routine when possible
- Help your child to express their own emotions and opinions within safe boundaries
- Keep loving them! Let them know through your actions and words that you love them.
- Respect their preferences and choices when possible. And when they can't be met you can still acknowledge that you heard their preference/choice.
- Really listen to your child and help them label and express their feelings.

Social Justice

You can use this month's focus to look at what your child/family are interested in in terms of the broader community. What is important to each of you? Where do they see that they could make a difference? Be creative and have fun while making a difference.

I think there's great potential for autonomy, but we have to remember that we live in a world where people may have free will but have not invented their circumstances. Thomas Frank





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Monthly Environmental Activities to help celebrate our planet



May 22nd is International Biodiversity Day!

It is vital to teach our children to respect and take care of the environment

Celebrate Biological Diversity Day on May 22nd!

The United Nations has proclaimed May 22 The International Day for Biological Diversity to increase understanding and awareness of biodiversity issues. <https://www.un.org/en/events/biodiversityday/>



International Day for
Biological Diversity

Biodiversity simply means: 'A wide range of life'" Some of the things we do are harmful, so we need to learn more about how to protect all the different types of life on our planet.

<https://www.cbd.int/>

Ideas for your family to celebrate Biodiversity Day!

- Visit farmers markets in your local area to try new types of produce. Whether you incorporate heirloom tomatoes into your cooking, or try one of the rainbow of colours of carrots, biodiversity can bring a great new experience to your table.
- View photos of endangered species on the Internet with your child and discuss the reasons why these animals are threatened and why they should be protected.
- Join a community group and help to remove invasive plants from your local environment.
- Get out into the world and enjoy all the different types of life your local area offers. Even your street or a local park can have an amazing variety of life you've never noticed, from insects, birds, chipmunks, to trees and flowers.
- Consider planting a pollinator garden in your yard (or in a flowerpot) to help save the bees and butterflies from declining.

For more ideas on how to increase the biodiversity of your own backyard, go to:

<https://biodivcanada.chm-cbd.net/biodiversity-your-backyard>

Celebrate the diversity of our natural world every day!