



## Arthur Public School

155 Conestoga Street North

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Principal: Marni Barrow Vice Principal: Alan Gouk

### Principal's Message:

Thank you to our parents for scheduling and attending a virtual interview with your child's teacher. We all know how important it is that we work together as a team to support your child in achieving many successes throughout their elementary school experience. Your child(ren) continues to be involved in exciting and rewarding learning experiences. The time that you and your child spend discussing and identifying goals for the second half of term one is a valuable investment in helping them to plan for improvement and success in term one.

As the winter break is just around the corner, the APS staff would like to extend a special thank you to our parents for the support that you offer your child(ren) and their teachers each and every day. Our teachers have been communicating to you through the Google Classroom about what is happening in your child's classroom and what learning expectations are addressed on a monthly basis. We hope that you find each class newsletter/blog informative, a basis for home-school curricular discussion, and a guide for you to support your child's learning journey.

With the unpredictable weather and playground conditions, please make sure that your child(ren) is dressed for outside play. At times, our play space can be muddy and wet; therefore we encourage students to wear boots and splash pants or snow pants depending on the temperatures. Thanking all parents in advance for helping to ensure that our students have appropriate clothing as we do go outside at both nutrition breaks every day.



To our School Council and all our parents, we want to thank you for ALL your support in helping us and your child(ren) through the learning process. We are so proud of our school community as the participation and support in education during these challenging times continues to be very much appreciated. Parents, students, staff, you are all part of a great TEAM! Thank you and enjoy the holidays. Ms Barrow, Mr Gouk, Mrs Brunkard

## Travelling over the Holidays:

Please remember to follow all public health protocols and guidelines.

<https://wdgpublichealth.ca/your-health/covid-19-information-public/status-cases-wdg>

Continue to self screen, be safe and enjoy your Christmas break.

## Snowball Boards:

We know that often with snowfall comes the temptation of making snowballs to build and throw. As we know, throwing snowballs can be dangerous and we do not allow students to throw snowballs at school. Having said this, we also recognize that in a school environment it is very difficult to manage this expectation. As a result, at Arthur P.S. We have worked with some of our students to design snowball boards that will be placed in specific areas on the playground that will allow students to throw snowballs at the targets. Our hope is that by providing students with a structured space where snow can be thrown, we will contribute to a safe playground environment. With the introduction of the snowball boards, we will focus on safety and spend time developing games that can be played while engaging in throwing snow at the boards.



## Indoor Shoes:

Parents are asked to send indoor shoes or an extra pair of running shoes for their child. Not only is it unhealthy and dangerous for students to walk around the floors of the school in socks, we want students to be prepared in the event of an emergency where we have to exit the school building.

## **Student Safety - Important Communication Needed on “NO BUS DAYS”**



We experienced our first “No Bus” day in the month of November. Please remember to contact the school if your child is a walker and will not be at school. We had to make over 75 calls home to make sure students are safe at home.

We make the safety of your children our highest priority, and we have systems in place to ensure our students are accounted for. When we cannot account for a student, we will do everything possible to find them.

### **School Bus Code of Conduct:**

Our school bus drivers are trained professionals who are committed to providing a safe environment for your child while they are traveling to and from school. Please share the following information with your child(ren) and encourage them to respect safety first when traveling on the bus. The Upper Grand District School Board endorses the following bus protocol:

- follow the direction of the bus driver
- be at your stop for at least 5-10 min. before your pick up time
- stay seated in assigned seat
- no eating, drinking or using inappropriate language
- keep books, lunch bag and school bag on your lap

### **Kindergarten Registration January 4-21 2022**

For more information and to pre-register visit:

[www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten)

## **Snow Safety:**

Forts and tunnels are fun to build, and the recent snow fall provides enough white stuff to do this. Forts and tunnels built at the side of the road spell impending disaster. Passing snow plows and the debris and ice they push can be dangerous for a child who can be buried or struck indirectly or directly. These incidents often happen in the early morning or evening when it's dark and children are playing. Plows are loud and the driver's visibility is minimal. Never assume a plow operator can see you. Please remind your children to play safely, and tell them that tunnel building is not a safe play activity. Let's keep all our children safe this winter.

## **APS Student Government - December Activities**

### **Spirit Days**

*Friday, December 3rd* - Winter Woollies Day- Celebrate the winter season with all your warm wool sweaters and accessories. Wool socks, hat( toques) , mitts, scarves as well as sweaters will be worn today.

*Wednesday, December 8th* - Red and Green - Celebrate all things red and green today by wearing your favourite shades of red and green.

*Tuesday , December 14th* - Winter Character Day - Dress up as your favourite winter character. Snowflakes, snow people, the grinch all these winter favourites come to life that day.

*Thursday, December 16th* - Favourite holiday sweater day - Break out your favourite holiday sweaters today and join others to celebrate all the holidays of the winter season.



## Community Outreach

We will be collecting **food items** for the Arthur Lions Christmas Hampers, beginning December 1st and running until December 15th. Each classroom will have a blue recycling bin to collect food items in. Canned food items as well as toiletries such as toothpaste and soaps are welcome. Please give generously to support those around our community.

## Friendly Competitions-December 1st to 10th



Each class will receive a set of coloring sheets to decorate. Kindergarten students will have gingerbread people, primary and junior students will have snow people, and intermediates will design their own snow globes. This will take place from December 1st to 10th. We will also be having a "Guess the number of Candy Canes" contest. Each class will have an opportunity to guess the number of candy canes in a jar. The class with the closest number without going over will win! Each class will get 5 guesses.

## Community Care Cards

Each class will be given 1 piece of bristol board to create a card for a business/group in the Arthur community. These cards can be seasonal wishes or simply thank you cards to everything these businesses and individuals have done during the pandemic and festive season to help support our community. Some examples of the locations we will be distributing to are Caressant care ( to the staff for their hard work during this time) and to patients who may be isolated so they feel less alone. The grocery store, library, pharmacy, fire station , legion and Lions club, or lunch supervisors and parent council.

## **Arthur Lions Christmas Hamper Program**

Families can apply for a Christmas Hamper at The Wellington County Learning Centre located at 207a George St in Arthur until December 15th 2021.



## **The Arthur Food Bank**

The Arthur Food Bank is open for families within our community that may require support during these difficult times. We are open on Tuesdays from 10am to noon for families to pick up food. We are located at 146 George St in Arthur. In January we will also be open the 2nd Tuesday of the month 6-8pm. Please contact us by email at [arthurfoodbank@gmail.com](mailto:arthurfoodbank@gmail.com) to set up an appointment to pick up food or to Register if you are a new client.

Thank you ,The Arthur Food Bank Committee 519-848-3272

## **UGDSB: Mental Health and Wellness**

### Wellness Works December 2021- Gratitude

Gratitude is not just "good manners" and it plays a significant role in overall wellbeing. Gratitude can be expressed by a simple "thank you" but there are many other ways to nurture and identify gratitude. Gratitude can happen in four ways:

- NOTICE what it is that you are grateful for
- THINK about why you are able to be grateful or why the thing you are grateful for is there
- Identify how you FEEL about the things we are grateful for
- DO express appreciation back "outwards"

Gratitude is not just about receiving, it is also about giving. So what can you do with your child/ren or even yourself?

- Point out the things you are grateful for and remember that modeling for your child/ren is a very powerful technique
- When you are grateful make sure to point out why you feel grateful
- Help your child/ren find gratitude in the things they may take for granted such as something in nature, or a simple meal
- Encourage them to use their own areas of strength to give back and be helpful and cooperative with others
- Notice accomplishments - even the smallest ones are something we can be grateful about
- Have a gratitude wall or space on your fridge where everyone can write something they are grateful for - the whole family, visitors, friends. Seeing what others are grateful about is also quite powerful
- Identify someone your child/ren is grateful to have in their life (e.g., an extended family member, an elder, a peer, a teacher, a principal, a counsellor) and encourage them to let that person know

Taking just a bit of time to identify gratitude can have an impact. We are very grateful to all of the parents, guardians, elders, and caregivers who support our communities' children and youth. Jenny Marino, Mental Health Lead And the Wellness Works Committee