



Arthur Public School

155 Conestoga Street North

PO Box 148

Arthur, ON NOG 1A0

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

Principal: Marni Barrow Vice Principal: Alan Gouk

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! We certainly began the holidays with a lot of snow for tobogganing and skiing. The Arthur community should be proud of their willingness to support and acknowledge others. The food drive items collected this year were extremely generous. Arrangements were made for the food collected at APS to be used for the Arthur Lions Christmas Hamper Program. The Lions club distributed hampers to assist families within our community. As well, the APS staff were very appreciative of the many thoughtful gifts and kind words as we approached the holiday season.

We hope that all our Arthur families enjoyed a safe and fun-filled holiday. We now find ourselves starting the first week of classes for 2023; therefore, it is important to get back into routine and make sure homework is completed each night as it is assigned, and to follow the deadlines set by the teachers. On the playground, many of our students continue to access the tarmac games such as four square, basketball, etc. With the accumulation of snow at times, the students are busy building forts, playing snow soccer, and soon will be throwing snowballs at the snowball boards. We continue to teach students the proper way to play outside focusing on playing safely, including others, and being respectful in order to maintain safe and active break times.

As the New Year begins, January often brings colder temperatures, so be sure to dress your child for the ever-changing weather conditions. At times we experience some icy conditions; therefore we ask all students, parents and volunteers to be extremely careful to prevent slips and falls.

All the best in the New Year!

Ms. Barrow

Mr. Gouk

Mrs. Brunkard

Principal

Vice Principal

Office Coordinator

Term One Report Cards: Please remember that Friday, January 27 is a Professional Development Day for teachers. On this day, teachers will be working on Term 1 report cards. Term 1 report cards will be distributed on Wednesday, Feb. 15. We encourage parents to take time to celebrate the areas of success and discuss a plan to support your child with working towards their next steps for improvement.



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 use of the snowball boards, we will focus on safety and spending time developing games that can be played while engaging in throwing snow at the boards.

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.

Recess and Outdoor Learning Times: We wish to remind you that your child is outside during all recess times. It is necessary for students to dress warmly in layers. It is important to have snow pants, boots and a couple of pairs of mittens and socks in case something gets wet.

Students need time outside to get some fresh air and a bit of exercise so their brains will function at full capacity. Students who are not well enough to go outside are probably not well enough to be at school. If we get into extreme weather conditions, we will make the decision at school to shorten our time outside or keep children indoors; however, it will be our goal to give them as much outside time as possible. Thank you for supporting our outside time.



Volleyball: Congratulations to all our volleyball teams. Our intermediate girls team placed first, our intermediate boys team placed third and our junior volleyball team placed third. All teams represented our school exceptionally well.

A busy December with our Student Government: At APS our students enjoyed rolling out of bed and heading to school in their comfy clothes/pajamas for a day of learning. Our kindergarten to grade 3 students engaged in a Jingle Bell Ball in the gym that was led by some of our amazing intermediate student leaders. As the month proceeded we witnessed students on a scavenger hunt working in groups to find various seasonal items that were placed throughout the school. In addition, we saw the long line ups of students at break times to purchase candy grams while dressed in their striped attire.

Mrs. Hustler's Sing Along: During the final week of December each morning Ms. Hustler led the school through a "Sing Along" in the gym. The participation and enthusiasm demonstrated each morning by our students was very respectful.



Annual Winter Bazaar: Thanks to everyone for their donations to the Bazaar. The students enjoyed doing some of their holiday shopping here at school. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with this event. Just over \$800.00 was raised to go towards classroom skating trips.

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.



Allergies: Just a reminder that we have children and staff in the school with extreme allergies. The allergy for these children is so severe that it could be life threatening. These students and staff are aware of their allergies and are beginning to know to avoid certain products.

Head Lice: Head lice are tiny bugs that live on the head. They are about the size of a sesame seed and are grey to reddish brown in colour. Nits are the eggs of head lice. Nits are small, yellowish white ovals that are about half the size of a pinhead that are attached to hair. While head lice are a nuisance, they are not a health hazard or communicable disease. The control of head lice requires the cooperative efforts of parents and school personnel. We are asking all our APS parents to check their children regularly for head lice and if found please notify the school and treat your child.

Volunteers: Please remember that there has been a change to the UGDSB Volunteer Policy. All volunteers working within the school, including attending field trips must have a Vulnerable Sector Police Records Check. Criminal Record Checks, including Vulnerable Sector Checks can only be applied for online at the Ontario Provincial Police site: <https://www.opp.ca/index.php?id=147>

Inclement Weather: With winter weather here, now is a great time to review the Upper Grand District School Board's procedures for Inclement Weather Days. Updated information has been posted on the UGDSB website outlining the different procedures for bus cancellations, school closures due to inclement weather, and more. LINK: [UGDSB INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCEDURES](#)



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. Please remember the following:

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

School Safety Reminders: Please continue to call the office if your child will be absent, whether they are ill, have an appointment or for any other reason.

Thank you for using Walton Street and the opposite side of Conestoga Street (across from the school) as pick up and drop off locations for your children.

Parents who are dropping off students at school are asked to drop off their children on Walton Street at the sidewalk that runs alongside the bus lane. Students can walk straight onto the school playground from this access point. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

As slippery driving and snow banks begin to appear, please review safe walking rules with your children. Cross only at the crosswalks and obey all crossing guards.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to ensure student safety. We appreciate you helping our students arrive at school safe and ready to learn.

This is a reminder that if your child is not going to be at school, please notify the school office. Each child needs to be accounted for in our Safe Arrival Program. Voicemail messages can be left on the Attendance Line any day any time. 519-848-3793.

On **BUS CANCELTION DAYS** our school is open for students that can safely make it here. If a student that does not take a bus is staying at home parents must notify the school office of their absence.

If there is a change in your child's normal pick up routine, i.e. they ride a bus and you are picking them up instead, please notify the office before 2:30 that day. This gives time for messages to be delivered and students to be marked off the bus attendance prior to our busy dismissal time.

The Upper Grand District School Board - Before and/or After School Program (BASP) survey will be opened for parents/guardians starting on January 10, 2023.

The survey is intended to gather information about the number of children who need before and/or after school care for September 2023 at schools that do not currently offer a BASP. **You may complete the BASP survey if your child will be entering JK/SK in September 2023 or is currently registered in Kindergarten to Grade 5 and will need access to a BASP.** Only parents requiring care at these schools are asked to complete the survey (one per family). The survey will close at the end of the day on January 31, 2023, and will not reopen after this point in time, so please take a moment to fill out the survey in the time frame allotted.

You can find out more information by visiting the BASP page of the board website [here](#).

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/gcvi/2023/01/11/understanding-human-trafficking-an-information-sessions-for-parents/>

Please join Women In Crisis Educator Cindy McMann and Jaseth Purcell, Human Trafficking Counsellor for an informative webinar which will provide information to parents and guardians about human trafficking: what it is, how traffickers operate, red flags and risk factors and ways to talk about this issue with young people. January 31st 6pm-7pm on Zoom. [Registration link](#)

Daily Self -Screening: Remember to self-screen before coming to school each day. <https://www.ontario.ca/school-screening/>