



Arthur Public School

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Principal: Marni Barrow Vice Principal: Anneke McCabe

Welcome Back and Happy New Year! 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 2024; 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. As well, our gaga ball pits are still very popular at recess time. With the accumulation of some snow that we've had, the students were busy building forts, playing snow soccer, and throwing snowballs at the snowball boards. We hope to see more snow in the coming months to allow us more time to continue our winter fun on the playground at recess. 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.

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.

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

Mrs. McCabe

Mrs. Brunkard

Principal

Vice Principal

Office Coordinator

Term One Report Cards: Please remember that Friday, January 26 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 will continue to use our student made snowball boards in specific areas on the playground to throw snowballs at the targets following our safety procedures.

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 junior team placed first in their tournament. As well, our intermediate girls team placed third and our intermediate boys team placed fourth. 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. 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 .

Mrs. Hustler's December Sing Along: During the final week of December three mornings Ms. Hustler led the school through a seasonal "Sing Along" in the gym. The participation and enthusiasm demonstrated each morning by our students was very respectful. It was so nice to share in the holiday cheer with each other through music and caroling!



Legion Poster Contest: Congratulations to Katelyn Jergins for her 1st Place WIN!

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. About \$1000.00 was raised that will help to support the cost of our junior/intermediate sledge hockey experience.



Indigenous and Métis Presentations: We would like to thank the Indigenous education department for planning a visit to our school with Alyssa Delbaere-Sawchuk, a Métis musician and fiddle player, for Louis Riel Day. Alyssa and her brother Conlin performed for Grade 6-8 classes and shared Métis history. We would like to welcome Indigenous artist Naomi Smith, who will be sharing a craft with some classes this January.

You're The Chef! (YTC) for Intermediate Classes

Mme. Butchart has organized "You're The Chef" for our Intermediate classes in 2024. YTC is a collaborative bilingual literacy program, which will give students an opportunity to develop food and cooking knowledge, skills, and confidence. Our Grade 7 and 8 students will learn to apply grade level French vocabulary in an authentic atmosphere, as they learn, prepare, and enjoy eating their creations. Equipment has been provided through the UGDSB Experiential Learning, and partial funds and recipes have been provided by Public Health. Given the increase in food

costs, donations to support the program are welcome. All donations can be made through cash online January 15-February 29, 2024.

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](#)

On BUS CANCELATION DAYS our school is open for students that can safely make it here. If your child does not take the bus, and is staying at home, please notify the school office of their absence.

The [STWDSTS website](#) contains the most up-to-date information on school bus delays and cancellations. Cancellations will also be tweeted @stwdsts. An email will be sent to those [subscribed to STWDSTS delays and cancellations](#).

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.

Safety At APS: A reminder that we ask all parents, volunteers, guests and supervisors to enter using the **front doors** of the school and sign in at the office. Please help in keeping our students safe by following our safety 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.

PIZZA DAYS start again January 10th for those who placed an online order in December. Pizza days will continue on Wednesdays and Fridays until the end of March. Below is a list of our pizza days:

January: 10, 12, 17, 19, 24, 31 **February:** 2, 7, 9, 14, 16, 21, 23, 28

March: 1, 6, 8, 20, 22, 27

Message from UGDSB

ILLNESS PREVENTION MEASURES: As we enter a New Year it is a good time for reminders about some of the supports in place to keep students and staff healthy throughout the cold and flu season:

Key Protective Measures

- Continue to follow key strategies such as frequent hand washing, respiratory etiquette and making the most of our outdoor spaces for learning continue to contribute to the health and well-being of students and staff.
- Classes in the UGDSB will continue to have a standalone HEPA filter unit with more than 2500 of these units deployed across the system. Please ensure these continue to be on and functioning in classrooms and working spaces.

- Hand Sanitizer - Continue to make hand sanitizer available for students, staff and visitors. Additional supplies remain available for ordering should your site be running low.
- In addition to these measures, the UGDSB will continue to support students, staff and visitors to our schools and respect their individual choices about masking.

The UGDSB will continue to follow the direction of WDGPH for appropriate responses to illnesses in our community. Please visit their website for the most current information about respiratory illnesses including COVID-19 on their updated site:

- <https://wdgpublichealth.ca/covid-flu-rsv/protecting-yourself-and-others-respiratory-illness>

UGDSB's website for illness prevention strategies:

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/blog/management-of-illness-in-schools-key-protective-measures/>



Get Ready for School!

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION JANUARY 9-26, 2024

Online Pre-Registration

Our online tool allows parents/guardians to pre-register their children

Online pre-registration is required for all new JK and SK students in the Upper Grand District School Board

For more information and to pre-register visit:
www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten

How to register

1. Pre-register online at www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten
2. Once the pre-registration has been successfully submitted, make an appointment at the school to show the required documents
3. If applying to French Immersion, you must complete the application process, including submission of all required documents by 4 pm on January 26, 2024



Our website can be translated by selecting the preferred language from the "Select Language" button on the top right-hand side of the website.
There are over 90 languages to choose from.