



# Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

**December 2018**

## **PRINCIPAL NEWS**

We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher(s) last week. The goal of these interviews is to remind students of the things that they are doing well, and the things that they need to improve upon. For some children, the focus is on the development of their learning skills, while for others, it might be an academic focus. We all have areas that we can improve in; we should all strive to be life-long learners.

Each school is required to perform two lockdown drills per year. During the drill, staff and students move to a designated safe area where the doors are locked, and students are out of sight. Staff and students stay in this area until they are given the all-clear signal. Our students are wonderful during these drills. The police came in to observe one of our drills last year, and marveled at how our students conducted themselves. Our first lockdown drill for this year will be taking place on December 7<sup>th</sup>. The students will be notified ahead of time that the drill will be taking place, and teachers will review the purpose and procedures of the drill with their students.

On behalf of everyone at our school, I would like to extend my best wishes to all of our families this holiday season; hopefully, I will see a number of you at our upcoming Family Christmas Night event taking place on December 6<sup>th</sup>.

Darren Hale



***Christmas Holidays – December 24<sup>th</sup>, 2018 – January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2019***  
***Students return on January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019***

## **Remembrance Day at Laurelwoods:**

Mrs. Jordan and the intermediate students organized an amazing, heartfelt Remembrance Day Ceremony on the morning of November 9th. We are proud of our students' involvement and the audience for their respect and thoughtful manner during this ceremony. Thank you also Mrs. Jordan for such a beautiful front hall display.



## **Primary/Junior Skating:**

The Primary & Junior students will be skating at the Grand Valley Arena in February. Please note that all students and adults must wear a CSA approved helmet on the ice. More information with dates and prices will come home in January.



## **Bundle Up!**

Please make sure that your child(ren) are dressed adequately for outside play. We go outside at both nutritional breaks every day except in extreme temperatures. Your help in ensuring your child (ren) have appropriate winter clothing is greatly appreciated.

## Lost & Found:

Please be sure to check the lost and found for any missing items before the Christmas Break. Any unclaimed items will be bagged and sent to a local charity by December 21st .

## Grade 9 Information Night at Westside:

Grade 8 students and their parents are invited to Westside Secondary School on Wednesday, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. Information will be given to students about the programs available at the school for Grade 9.

## Laurelwoods Family Christmas Night:



Please join us on Thursday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2018, for an evening of festive cheer at our Family Christmas Night. Mark the date on your calendar and join us from 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Festive fun the whole family can enjoy! There will be performances by our Primary and Junior Choirs, a drama club production of “How the Grinch Stole Christmas”, hot chocolate and cookie decorating, a bake sale, and new this year, Laurelwoods Vendor Market and of course a visit from Santa! Bake sale donations can be dropped off beginning Wednesday, December 5<sup>th</sup>.

## Laurelwoods Choir:

On December 6<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm the Choir will be performing for families in the gym. If your child is in the choir, please have them at the school for 5:40 p.m. that night where they will meet Ms. Gaudette and Mrs. Bryan in Room # 12. We are asking each choir member to wear black pants (or a skirt) and either a green top, red top or a Christmas top. (Please don't feel you need to go out and purchase clothing – just wear something festive).

## Recording Students:

This is a reminder that while photographing and filming student performances that take place at our school is completely acceptable, people are reminded not to post such content to social media sites, such as Facebook and Instagram, if the content includes any students other than their own children. It is important for the privacy rights of each individual to be respected. Sharing is only permitted once explicit consent to do so has been granted by the parent or legal guardian of each child in question.

## Cold and Illness:



Many thanks for keeping your children home when they are sick. It is very easy to pass on colds and flu in a school environment. Children who do not feel well do not learn well, and learning is definitely our goal! If students are well enough to be at school, then the expectation is that they go outside for recess. Unfortunately, we do not have the staff on duty inside during recess times.

## School Council:

Please mark your calendar for Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2019 @ 6:00 pm for the next School Council meeting in the school library.

## Intermediate Skiing:



The Intermediate students (and grade 6 students, cross country only) are all booked at Mansfield for cross country and downhill skiing. Permission forms have already been sent home. Please make sure you return your child's permission form as soon as possible. Please check Cash Online for different payment options. The skiing dates are January 16<sup>th</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup>, February 6<sup>th</sup>, and 13<sup>th</sup> .

## Kindergarten Registration:

Online pre-registration for the 2019-2020 school year begins on January 8<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Our online tool allows parents to pre-register online when it's convenient for them! 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 online please visit: [www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten)

How to register:

- Pre-register online at [www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten)
- Make sure you get a pre-registration confirmation email after completing the online form
- Visit your home school to drop off the required documents
- If registering for French Immersion, you must submit all documentation and receive a FI Application Receipt from the school office by January 18, 2019 at 4:00 pm.



## Equity Corner:

Our equity team has been working hard planning for the school year! We continue to enjoy our We Read Together classroom time every month; November saw teachers sharing Remembrance Day books with our students! Last month on November 20<sup>th</sup>, students took part in We Are Silent, by taking a vow of silence in solidarity with those who go unheard, on United Nations Universal Children's Day. As well, coming up on December 6<sup>th</sup> through 21<sup>st</sup>, we will be selling Rafiki bracelets and Fair Trade Chocolate Bars from Ecuador, with all proceeds going to support various pillars in our global village, such as Education, Clean Water, and Health. Look for our table in the Vendor's Room on Family Christmas Night!

Chocolate Bars: \$5.00

Rafiki Bracelets: \$10.00

#GirlLove Share and Pair Bracelets: \$20.00

Cash or Cheques made payable to Laurelwoods ES.

Our bulletin board is up in the front hall, with a lot of information and special dates that are coming up this month. Please feel free to check it out!

Some notable dates we will be highlighting this month, include:

Dec. 1 - World Aids Day

Dec. 2 - International Day of the Abolition of Slavery

Dec. 3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Dec. 6 - National Day of Remembrance of Action on Violence Against Women

Dec. 10 - International Human Rights Day

Dec. 25 – Christmas

Dec. 26 - Jan. 1 – Kwanzaa

Great job so far, Laurelwoods!

Mme. Neumann et Mme. Whittington



## **From The Book Stacks:**

### **LLC News from Your Friendly Neighbourhood Library Ninja**

#### **FREE BOOKS Table:**

Your Library Ninja has been working hard weeding books from our collection to make room for new books! These discarded books are usually: in poor condition (ripped, stained, water damage, missing or loose pages, literally held together by a curious mix of tape, glue, rubber bands), more than a decade old AND have not been circulated in more than two years. These books are currently free for the taking on a table beside the library until supplies run out! All discarded books have lines through their barcode, and have the inside stamped 'discard'. They are NOT library books! Enjoy!

**Volunteers Needed!** The LLC is also looking for volunteers during school hours to help with shelving, discarding, inventory, book fairs, and other jobs. If you would like to help out, please contact Mrs. Whittington at extension 225, or drop by the LLC.

#### **Lego and Maker Space Materials Wanted!**

Thank you to the families and students who have generously donated LEGO, and other items to the LLC! The students have been enjoying crafting shapes, patterns, buildings, and complex machines during our open recess times! Mrs. Whittington is gratefully accepting donations of gently used Lego pieces. We are also looking for any crafting materials to use in our maker space, such as marbles, toilet paper tubes, egg cartons, beads, used tools, string, yarn, and other things. Please feel free to drop them off at the LLC during the school day! We currently have 2 Maker Space bins in use for students, Origami and Colouring Pages, with several more coming soon!

Thank you so much!

Mrs. S Whittington, Your Library Ninja!

## **Periodic Head Lice Checks:**

Winter seems to be a bad time for head lice. Please check your children weekly under bright lights, parting and lifting strands of hair. This weekly check will save you a great deal of time and work in the long run. While head lice are a nuisance, they are not a health hazard. Head lice cannot fly or jump. They are spread from direct head to head contact or indirectly on hats, combs, headphones etc. Please remind your child not to share these items with other children. Please contact the school if your child has lice, and treat your child and remove all nits. Thank you for your help.

## **Thank you!**

I would like to extend a big thank you to all members of the school community who support the events at Laurelwoods. Without the efforts of the school council members and the volunteers who give of their time on a frequent basis, many of the fun and exciting events at the school would not happen. In addition, I would like to thank our Nutrition-Break Supervisors, Reading Volunteers, Breakfast Club Volunteers and our Chimes Choir Leader:

Supervisors:	A. Arkema, K. Burton, G. Hartley, S. McPherson, & S. Oosteroff
Reading Volunteers:	A McKechnie, R. Webber
Breakfast Club Volunteers:	J. McPherson, M. Milley, K. Bryan, R. Awa
Chimes Choir:	S. Moritz

## **Hats On Dufferin:**

A very special thank you to the non-profit organization HatsOnDufferin who donated beautifully knitted hats and mittens to Laurelwoods Elementary School. Their goal is to provide any child coming into the office or asking their teacher for a hat (either because they do not have one or they forgot theirs) with a hat. Thank you

## **Volleyball:**

The Boys Intermediate Volleyball team has been working hard to keep our competitors on their toes. With a mix of wins and losses, the team is looking forward to showing their skills at the tournament games On December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018.

The Girls Intermediate Volleyball team continues to practise and play in many exhibition games, in preparation for their upcoming tournament on December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018. The girls are improving greatly at their bumps, sets, and overhand hits!

## **Junior Volleyball:**

The Junior Volleyball Team played in a one day tournament at Spencer Avenue Public School on November 6<sup>th</sup>. The kids had a lot of fun and represented Laurelwoods well.



## **Spirit Club**

Help join in the Laurelwoods Spirit by dressing up on the following days:

- Partridge in a Pear Tree Pajama Day – Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
Wear festive pajamas and get comfy and cozy!
- Christmas apparel / Red & Green Day – Friday, December 21<sup>st</sup>, 2018  
Wear fun Christmas attire or red and green to bring the spirit into school for the Holidays!

## **White Lights Wanted.**

As you go through your holiday decorations this season, consider donating any extra white lights that you might have. We often incorporate them in our décor for graduation, particularly those with white cords.

## **Grade 3 Dictionaries**

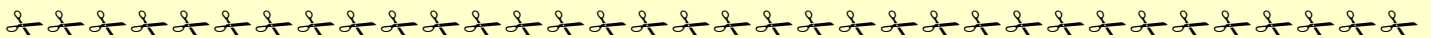
A special thank you to Mr. Roy and Ms. Wright from the Rotary Club who graciously donated a new Dictionary to every Grade 3 student on November 13, 2018.

## **School Messenger:**

Important information around a new communication tool that we will be using is included in this newsletter. There might also be times when we use the calling feature to notify parents of an unexpected emergency (such as early dismissal due to severe weather). It will take a while to implement the features of this program fully, but the first important step of downloading the app is a start. Please contact your child's teacher about plans for specific use with the school and class, as usage will vary greatly amongst staff members as we all work through the process.

## **Movember:**

Thank you to all who participated in the Laurelwoods Movember Fundraiser. Students were able to donate to help support men's health and received a moustache to wear during the day on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2018 along with Mr. Johnson, Mr. Gertzbein, Mr. Gordanier, Mr. Parr and Mr. Hale who all grew their own! Thank you for supporting men's health. We raised over \$300.00!



### **Win a Dairy Queen Gift Card.**

After your family has read this newsletter, please sign and detach this coupon. "Our family" must include at least one parent/guardian who has read the newsletter. This month's draw will be held on Friday, December 21st, 2018.

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_