



Laurelwoods Elementary School January 2019 Newsletter

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Welcome back. I hope you had a wonderful time with your families over the break.

We have an incredible play area for our students to use, both during instructional time, and during recess breaks. Many teachers will take their classes out to the forest for some snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, or to play co-operative games. If our students dress appropriately, playing outside can be a great deal of fun. If students are not dressed for the weather, it invariably becomes a less enjoyable experience for them. During the winter months, it is imperative that students come to school with a winter hat, gloves, boots, winter jacket, and snow pants.

As part of enhancements to the security measures across the board, all elementary schools are being fitted with video surveillance cameras. This practice has been in place for many years in our secondary schools and has been very helpful as a deterrent for vandalism and as another level of data to support any school-based investigations. Our cameras were installed during the holiday break. If you have any questions, please feel free to call me anytime.

I would like to remind our families that the front of our school is not an area to park vehicles. We need the front area clear for deliveries and bus access, especially at the end of the day. Our parking lot is quite spacious; we have lots of spaces available for visitors to park their vehicles. Your help with this matter would be greatly appreciated.

On behalf of all of the staff at Laurelwoods ES, I would like to wish everyone a wonderful new year!

Sincerely,

Darren Hale

**P. A. Day – There will be a Professional Activity Day
on February 1, 2019. There will be no classes for
students.**

March Break – March 11th to March 15th, 2019.





Snow Safety

Forts and tunnels are fun to build. However, forts and tunnels built at the side of the road spell trouble. 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. 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.

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. Contact the school if your child has lice, and treat your child and remove all nits. We have product on site for families in need; please ask at the office. After treating your child, it is important to recheck for eggs 7 days later. Thank you for your help.

School Records

Families should notify the school if there are any changes in their child's information (such as work numbers and emergency contact numbers). It is extremely important that we maintain current information in the case of an emergency.

Attendance/Pick-up

Please telephone the school at 519-940-3666 ext.100 if your child will not be attending school on any given day (or will be late) and include their teacher's name and bus number. It is extremely important that parents notify the school if their child(ren) will be absent. If you are picking your child up prior to 3:15 p.m., send a note with your child or call the school before 2:30 p.m. so that a bus slip can be completed. Please include the teacher's name and bus number. We would appreciate it if families only pick up their children early if it is absolutely necessary. The calls to classrooms can interrupt the learning for other students. Thank you for your cooperation.



Grade 9 Information Night at Westside

Parents of grade 8 students are invited to attend a Grade 9 information night being held at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, January 16th, 2019 at Westside Secondary School. There is an optional Open House and tour running from 6:00 – 7:00 pm. Westside staff will also review course selection procedures for the 2018 – 2019 school year.

Parent Council Corner

Welcome Back – and best wishes to all for a healthy and happy New Year.

Did you know that Pizza Fridays are administered by the Parent Council and that they are one of our biggest fund raising activities? The funds are used to sponsor such activities as:

- ✓ Scientists in the School
- ✓ Arts Day
- ✓ Purchasing books for the library
- ✓ Playground maintenance and equipment
- ✓ Purchasing school team uniforms



Pizza Fridays are also a great break – for both the students and the parents! For these reasons we owe a huge “thank-you” to those families that take advantage of Pizza Fridays and to those parents that volunteer their time to help organize and support this project. We would like to have all of our second term Pizza orders submitted using our Cash Online system. If you are unable to sign up, please give our Office Coordinator, Karen Gardhouse, a call at the school to assist you with your order.

Pizza for the Winter/Spring term is now available online. Payment accepted until January 28, 2019. No late orders will be accepted!

Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for the School Year September 2019



Kindergarten online pre-registration will take place between the weeks of January 8th to 18th, 2019. Eligible students for the Junior Kindergarten program must be four years of age on or before December 31st, 2019 and students must be five years of age on or before December 31st, 2019 to register for Senior Kindergarten. Complete the online pre-registration at www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten and then come into the school between the hours of 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. to complete the registration. Parents will need their printed online preregistration form, child's birth certificate and immunization records for registration as well as proof address. We look forward to meeting you! Please pass this information on to families in our area. For more information visit www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten.

Grade 8 Graduation Photos

Photographers from Edge Imaging will be at Laurelwoods on January 24th to take photos of our Grade 8 students. Students can order an 11 x 14 composite for \$30.00 on photo day or online. Class composite payment envelopes will be sent home shortly. Two weeks after the photo day, your child will receive a set of proofs. You will also receive online ordering information.

Student Safety

Thank you for diligently using the sign in and sign out procedures and wearing a visitor's badge when at Laurelwoods. Please also note that adult supervision begins at 8:25 a.m. each morning. Children should not be dropped off prior to 8:25 a.m. unless previous arrangements have been made.

Procedures:

1. All visitors and volunteers need to check into the office and obtain a visitor badge (unless simply picking up your child – see #3).
2. When leaving the school, all visitors and volunteers must sign out and return their visitor badge to the office.
3. All parents picking their children up during the day need to report to the office to sign out their children. Their children will then be called down to meet them.



Carnaval 2019

Laurelwoods will be having our annual Carnaval D'hiver again this year. The tentative date is Thursday, February 14, 2019. More information will follow regarding soap sculptures, opening and closing ceremonies etc. Stay tuned...

Spirit Days

January 25th, is Jersey Day. Don't forget to wear your favourite Team Jersey.

Win a Dairy Queen Gift Card

After your family has read this newsletter, please sign and detach the coupon. "Our family" must include at least one parent/guardian who has read the newsletter. This coupon must be placed in the yellow mailbox in the front hall of the school. A ballot will be drawn from the yellow mailbox each month indicating the winning family for the month. This month's draw will be held on Thursday, January 31, 2019.

Our family has read the newsletter corresponding to this draw.

Family Name: _____

Parent's Signature _____

Earth Keepers

The Grade 5 students participated in the Earth keepers Program at Island Lake Conservation Area in early December. While there, they enjoyed three days outdoors completing various activities that help raise awareness for reducing our waste, the importance of reusing items and recycling properly, as well as ways to make others aware of our wastefulness. The students earned their K and E keys and became Earth keeper Apprentices. The students will continue to work towards becoming Level One Earth keepers by doing tasks to earn their Y and S keys.



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 5 Maker Space bins in use for students: Origami, Binary Coding Bracelets, Magnetic poetry, Lego Marble Mazes, and Colouring Pages, with more coming soon!

Thank you so much and Happy 2019!
Mrs. S Whittington, Your Library Ninja!

Equity Corner

Our equity team is excited for 2019! We continue to enjoy our We Read Together classroom time every month. December saw teachers sharing some holiday books with our students! Last month we sold 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. We will be selling Rafikis later on in the year to continue supporting our Me to We initiatives.

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:

Jan. 1 - Kwanzaa, Gantan-Sai New Years, New Years Day

Jan. 20 - World Religion Day

Jan. 27 - International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust

Before and/or After School Program Need Survey

This survey is for parents of children who will be registered in Kindergarten to Grade 6 for September 2019 and who need a Before and/or After School Program where one is not already offered in a school. This survey will help decide if a Program will be offered at your child's school.

Completion of this survey does not place your child(ren)'s name on a waitlist or guarantee that a Before and/or After School Program will be offered.

New programs being offered for September 2019 will be posted on the board website by May 1st, 2019. The survey will be open January 8, 2019 and remain open until the end of January. For information about fee subsidies please contact the County of Wellington or County of Dufferin.

Survey link: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/BASPSurvey>

Volleyball

Congratulations to both our Boys and Girls Volleyball teams who had a spectacular season. The girls were able to produce a very strong winning record during our exhibition season. Each member of the team improved their skills and worked hard to help the team be successful.

The boys' team also had a spectacular season with epic wins at their games at Westside. Thank you to Mr. Gerrits for jazzing up their uniforms with bright socks and headbands. The boys' team went on to play a great game in the semifinals at Island Lake. Congratulations everyone.

