



# Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

*February 2019*

## **PRINCIPAL NEWS**

After a rather long stretch of milder weather, it appears that winter has returned. I am sometimes asked about how cold is “too cold”, when it comes to sending students outside. Generally, when the temperature falls below – 20 with the wind chill, we will often reduce the length of time that our students stay outside. If the temperature gets below – 25, we will most often keep our students inside for the duration of the recess. Of course, there are other variables, such as the wind direction (permanent structures help to reduce the impact of the wind), and whether or not it’s snowing or the sun is out, that can affect our decision making. It is important that our students come to school prepared for outdoor play. A trend that seems to develop at most schools is that our youngest students come to school with snow pants, gloves, and a winter hat, jacket, and boots. Our oldest students tend to be the students that need the most reminders about the need to bundle up. With a consistent message from the home and school, our hope is that all of our students can get outside and enjoy our wonderful Canadian winters!

Staff members are busy completing report cards (and the Communication of Learning for kindergarten students). Report cards will be sent home with students, February 19<sup>th</sup>. Please contact your child’s teacher if you have any questions or concerns. The names of rotary teachers will appear on the report card in the event that you have questions regarding a particular subject area.

As always, please feel free to contact me at the school. Our next Parent Council meeting is at 6:00 pm on March 27<sup>th</sup>; all are welcome! If there is anything in particular that you would like for me to talk about at a PC meeting, please call me in advance.

Please check our school website from time-to-time for additional updates.

Darren Hale  
Principal

## **Live Free Campaign**

The Live Free campaign is coming up for the Food and Friends program that supports our Breakfast Club. Laurelwoods ES is participating in the Live Free Campaign and we need your support! On Live Free Day; the students at our school are being challenged to Live Free of something they take for granted, for one day. Every day many children in our community live without the basic necessities that many of us take for granted. This can change and you can make a difference. By raising funds for the Children’s Foundation Food & Friends Program through the Live Free Campaign.

Again this year our Student Nutrition Program would like to offer a hot meal, on Thursday February 14<sup>th</sup> and on Wednesday, February 27, 2019 for our Live Free Campaign Fundraiser. For only \$5.00 your child can receive a Pancake Breakfast at the first Nutrition Break, this will include: Pancakes with real maple syrup, fresh fruit and a juice box. 100% of the money raised through our campaign comes back to our Laurelwoods Student Nutrition Program which has provided over 2500 meals so far this year!

Laurelwoods is asking you to help our 12<sup>th</sup> annual Live Free Campaign by supporting this hot meal day. For more information, or simply to make a donation, visit [www.livefreewdg.ca](http://www.livefreewdg.ca). Let’s ensure children and youth

hunger for knowledge and not for food. This hot meal will be available for purchase on our Cash Online system. **The order deadline is midnight, February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** If you require assistance with ordering online, please contact our office coordinator, Karen Gardhouse at 519-940-3666 x 0.

## **Inclement Weather**

Laurelwoods is a school entirely dependent on bussing. It is important for parents to check the Board's website as well as [www.findmyschool.ca](http://www.findmyschool.ca) for any bus delays or cancellations. Schools dependent entirely on bussing are closed to students on No Bus days.



## **Pink Shirt Day**

Wednesday, February 27<sup>th</sup> is Pink Shirt Day. Wear something pink to symbolize that you are taking a stand against bullying.



## **Winter Walk Day**

Winter Walk Day is celebrated by schools across the province on the first Wednesday of February each year. We encourage you to journey outside during the month of February! Although walking to school is not an option at Laurelwoods, we hope to celebrate by spending some extra time outdoors to explore throughout the month!

## **Spirit Club Days for February**

### **Twin Day - Thursday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**

Do you and someone else in the school often wear the same clothing? How perfect! Twin Day is the day for you and a friend to wear the same clothing. Match up, make it funny, make it classy, or make it comfy. Whatever you like. Hopefully your teacher will still recognize you!

### **Slippers and Blanket Day - Tuesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>**

Wear your favourite slippers and bundle up with a nice blanket or poncho to warm up this winter season! Please remember to bring your outdoor boots for recess.

## **National Sweater Day – February 7<sup>th</sup>, 2019**

Students and staff at Laurelwoods are preparing to turn down the heat and put on their warmest sweater as they participate in National Sweater Day on February 7. For several years, millions of Canadians have participated in the World Wildlife Foundation's (WWF) National Sweater Day. National Sweater Day was designed with the intention of bringing awareness to the importance of saving energy. According to the WWF, heating accounts for 80% of residential energy use in Canada, suggesting that if all Canadians put on a warm sweater and lowered their thermostat by two degrees, greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced by four megatons. Some ideas to help families celebrate National Sweater Day include: Turning down your thermostat and putting on a sweater. Including your children in a brainstorming activity about ways to save energy at home. Making a pledge to implement as many power-saving initiatives as you can. Researching the differences between climate and weather and asking your child to characterize some different climate types. Reading a children's book about conservation and encouraging discussion and questions.

Valentine's Day is just around the corner; try using recycled materials to create cards this year.

## **From The Book Stacks**

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

#### **Forest of Reading Programs**

Each year, thousands of children participate in the Ontario Library Association's annual reading programs through their schools and community libraries. This year, Laurelwoods students from K-8 will participate in programs for their grade: Blue Spruce K-3, Silver Birch 4-6, and Red Maple 7-8. These programs bring an excellent selection of current Canadian children's books to the attention of our young readers. Each student who participates by reading at least 5 of 10 fiction novels on the reading list qualifies to vote for their favourite

book in the month of May. Their choices will be counted in the province-wide vote for this year's award-winning Canadian fiction.

Our programs this year are filling up fast! Our Blue Spruce program includes EVERY class from K-3, while our Silver Birch Program currently has 41 students signed up, and our Red Maple program has 17 students signed up! Students can check out books through the LLC, or the public Library. Let's get reading, Laurelwoods!

### **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 February!

## **Equity Corner**

We continue to enjoy our *We Read Together* classroom time every month; January saw teachers sharing some fun and interesting books with our students to get us back into the reading groove! Last month, students had a chance to share their thoughts on our *Unlearn* social justice posters, on the student discussion board in the front hall. We saw some fantastic discussion around accessibility and privilege! If you're in the front hall, take a look at our current poster and student responses. Congratulations to Cynthia for winning a school hat with her contribution!

We will be celebrating Random Acts of Kindness Week, this month, as well as Pink Shirt Day on February 27th! February is also Black History Month; look for our bulletin board to feature some great info on important Black figures from the past and present.

Our Equity bulletin board is up in the front hall, with a lot of information, inspirational quotes, 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:**

Feb. 1st - 28th Black History Month  
Feb. 4th - World Cancer Day  
Feb. 5th - Chinese New Year  
Feb. 8th - Nirvana Day (Buddhism)  
Feb. 9th - 15th Random Acts of Kindness Week  
Feb. 10th - Vasant Panchami (Hindu)  
Feb. 14th - Valentine's Day  
Feb. 15th - National Flag of Canada Day  
Feb. 17th - Random Acts of Kindness Day  
Feb. 18th - Family Day (No school!)  
Feb. 21st - International Mother Language Day  
Feb. 27th - Wear Pink for Anti Bullying Day

Great job so far, Laurelwoods!

## Carnaval 2019

Carnaval de Laurelwoods is rapidly approaching. Students at Laurelwoods are looking forward to our Carnaval outdoor celebration on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Carnaval is a traditional French-Canadian celebration of winter that has been held in Quebec City since 1955. For two weeks there are winter contests, games, music, dancing and food. Of course, who could forget the host of Carnaval, "Bonhomme Carnaval" himself! We could use some of the round, black food containers to use for our famous curling stones. We need 80 in total! We also need wire coat hangers for the curling rock handles (40). If you have either of these items, please send them in with your child as soon as possible.

Soap Carvings: Students are encouraged to enter a soap carving in our contest. Sculptures are to be carved from a bar of soap and completed at home where the activity can be supervised by an adult. Carvings may start to come in on Monday, February 11<sup>th</sup>. They must be in for Wednesday, February 13<sup>th</sup>. Please ensure that your child's name and teacher's name are on the sculpture. Prizes will be awarded to the winners during the closing ceremonies on Thursday, February 14<sup>th</sup>.

We need parent volunteers to assist with our outdoor Carnaval activities. If you are interested and available on February 14<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am to 1:00 pm, please send a note to your child's teacher.

Merci beaucoup!



## Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for the School Year September 2019

Eligible students for the Junior Kindergarten program must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2019. Parents can complete the online registration at [www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten](http://www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten) and then come into the school between the hours of 10:00 am – 3:00 pm to complete the registration. We look forward to meeting you! Please pass this information on to families in our area.

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### Win a Prize!

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 coupon must be placed in the yellow mailbox in the front hall of the school. A ballot will be drawn from the mailbox each month. This month's draw will be held on Thursday, February 28, 2019.

Our Family has read the newsletter corresponding to this draw.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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