



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

March 2019

PRINCIPAL NEWS

What a wild winter it has been this year. The bus cancellations and school closures have certainly interfered with school programming, and I'm sure have inconvenienced many families. Hopefully we will be getting some warmer weather soon as we slide into spring.

Our EQAO dates have been selected for this year. Our grade 3 and 6 students will be writing May 22nd to May 24th. If you have a child in one of these grades, please try to avoid any trips or appointments, as there are a lot of alternative arrangements that are made to support our students during the writing of this test. More information will be sent home with students in grade 3 or 6 in the near future.

Have a wonderful March Break!

Darren Hale
Principal LES

Hot Lunch Days – Chicken Fingers

Our Parent Council is offering a Chicken Finger and veggie lunch on Wednesday, March 27, 2019 to help raise funds to support the many initiatives that Parent Council provide for our students here at Laurelwoods (Scientists in the School, Arts Day, Classroom Supplies etc.) The cost for the lunch is \$5.00 which includes 3 chicken fingers and assorted veggies. Unfortunately, there will not be a gluten free option for this lunch. The last day to place an order online is Thursday, March 21, 2019. No late orders will be accepted.



Important dates to Remember

March Break
Parent Council
P.A. Day
Good Friday
Easter Monday

March 11th – March 15th
March 27th @ 6:00pm
April 5th
April 19th
April 22nd

LiveFree Campaign

Kids are always growing and it's hard to keep up! Maybe they just had a basketball practice and burned away all the breakfast they ate before coming? Perhaps they slept late and it was a mad dash to get them out and on to the bus and they didn't grab any food? Maybe you need to go grocery shopping tonight because you didn't have time yesterday? Maybe they are just extra hungry today? Who knows? Kids eat more some days than others!

The Laurelwoods Breakfast Club doesn't just provide breakfast 4 times a week. It also provides snacks every day in the office for kids who need them.

All of this is funded by the Guelph Wellington Children's Foundation, along with donations and fundraising efforts throughout the year.

We are challenging our students to give up something for one day (Friday, March 1st, 2019) that they may take for granted. Thank you to all who contributed to the Help Kids Live Free from Hunger campaign by purchasing a pancake breakfast. Our school raised \$1,154.00! to help purchase food and supplies for our Food and Friends student nutrition program.

Thank you to all the volunteers who have helped to make our Food & Friends student nutrition program such a success this school year. The donation of time that you have given and your ongoing support says so much about your capacity for compassion and generosity.

Kate Bryan

Breakfast Club Program Co-ordinator.

Please also visit the www.livefreecampaign.ca website for further information.

Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for September 2019

If you have not already registered your child for full day every day Junior Kindergarten in September 2019, please complete the registration online (www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten) and drop into the office with the necessary documentation to complete the registration. Eligible students for the JK program must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2019.

Earth Hour



Our connection to Earth and nature is undeniable: *our planet's gain is everyone's gain*. Healthy nature makes our life better by providing us good food, clean air, and fresh water - but it is all under the threat of climate change. This Earth Hour, join millions around the world to turn off the lights and speak up why nature matters. Don't forget to turn off your lights on March 30, 2019 between 8:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Join the celebration!

Spirit Club

During the week of March 25th to 29th, each class will choose a theme for their room! During this week, each class can decorate their room or classroom door to represent their theme. On Friday, March 29th, everyone should come dressed according to their theme to support their class and celebrate school spirit! For example, if a class' theme is Spring, then that class will decorate with Spring related colours and themes, then come dressed in Spring colours and attire. The winner of the contest will earn a free activity period in the gym with Ms. Legault and the Spirit Club!

From The Book Stacks:

LLC News from Your Friendly Neighbourhood Library Ninja

Lost and Overdue Books and Bags

March Break is coming up, and that's a great time to have a look for overdue or lost books and primary library bags at home! Check all those easy to miss places like: under beds, in closets and bookshelves, toy boxes, and down the backs or sides of dressers! Books are deemed overdue once the student has had them out past the two-week mark, and lost when they have been overdue past the one month mark. If your child has a lost book, please contact Mrs. Whittington and she can let you know the replacement price of the book. Lost library bags for primary can be replaced for \$5. Please contact the Library Ninja for details or questions!

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, 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 March!

Equity Corner

We continue to enjoy our We Read Together classroom time every month. In honour of February being Black History Month, teachers shared books that had a Diversity theme with the students in each class! The students enjoyed Random Act of Kindness Week, focusing on doing something kind for the students and staff in the building, as well as the community. We also celebrated Pink Shirt Day, wearing our anti-bullying shirts and taking part in a selfie station and pledge board to help end bullying.

In March, we will be celebrating International Women's Day and World Water Day just to name a few!

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:

- Mar. 8th - International Women's Day
- Mar. 17th - St. Patrick's Day (Christian)
- Mar. 20th - 21st Holi (Hindu)
- Mar. 21st - Purim (Jewish)
- Mar. 21st - World Down Syndrome Day
- Mar. 21st - Norooz New Year (Zoroastrian/Persian)
- Mar. 21st - Hola Mohalla (Sikh)
- Mar. 21st - International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- Mar. 22nd - World Water Day
- Mar. 26th - Wear Purple for Epilepsy Day

Great job so far, Laurelwoods!

Public Speaking

Laurelwoods recently held an in-school Public Speaking Event. Students from Mr. Gertzbein's, Mrs. Jordan's and Mr. Johnson's classes presented wonderfully engaging speeches on interesting and timely topics. Our finalists were Alivia, Noah, Laura, Lola, Grace, and Kaitlyn. Congratulations to all of the students on their hard work and public speaking abilities.

Grade 7/8 Fundraising

The Grade 7 and 8 students will be selling North Country Meats and Seafood to help raise funds to offset the cost of their yearend trip to Ottawa in June. Order forms have been sent home with the Grade 7 and 8 students. Payment will be available online until midnight on March 27th. Please contact Mr. Gertzbein if you have any questions.

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 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 Friday, March 29, 2019.

Our family has read the newsletter corresponding to this draw.

Family Name: _____

Child's Name: _____

Parent's Signature: _____

Congratulations to the 2019 Laurelwoods Hockey Team!

The Laurelwoods hockey team travelled to Erin and Hillsburgh to play in a tournament on March 5th against other schools in Dufferin County. All the players played their best games and demonstrated good sportsmanship and team spirit. Thank you to all the parents who helped throughout the season with driving to and from the practices and games. Way to go LES!



Have a safe and fun March Break Holiday!