



# Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

*April 2019*

## **PRINCIPAL NEWS**

As another spring season arrives, it is a good time to remember to encourage students to wear appropriate clothing for outdoor activities. An extra pair of socks is a good idea in the event that your child's feet get wet. The weather can be so very unpredictable this time of the year. It is good practice to check the weather forecast for the day, first thing in the morning. We are allowing our students to make choices around the clothing they wear outside. The only school-based rule around going outside is that the students need a change of shoes. For a full list of our dress code, please look at the code of conduct located on our website.

I have sent an email out to the LES community regarding the dates for this year's primary (grade 3) and junior (grade 6) EQAO assessments. A lot of work goes into planning for this annual event, including ordering special versions of the test, arranging for alternate locations for students to complete the test (those who will be using technology or accessing the support of a scribe), and arranging for numerous adult volunteers to support our students while writing the test. If at all possible, please do not book appointments for students during this time frame. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

A reminder that there is a PA day on April 5th. The school will be closed to students. Staff members will be completing our School Self-Assessment survey, conducting a school-wide equity walk, and participating in teacher-led workshops (physical education activities, robotics and technology, math talks, and feedback/assessment).

Have a wonderful month of April; as always, feel free to call me if you have any questions or concerns.

Darren Hale  
Principal

## **Parent Council**

Parent Council would like to thank you for your support of our popcorn days and hot lunch days. We will be continuing these days for the rest of the year. We will be serving a Waffle and Fruit hot breakfast and a grilled cheese hot lunch in the following months. We will also be selling popcorn on April 10th. All money raised goes directly back into our school for things like scientists in school, art days, and playground maintenance to name a few. The last day to order waffles online is midnight on April 24<sup>th</sup>. The next Parent Council Meeting is May 8, 2019.

## **Reminder**

There will be no classes for students on Friday, April 5, 2019 due to the P.A. Day for teachers. There will also be no classes on Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup> for Good Friday and on Monday, April 22, 2019 for Easter Monday.



## Safety on the Playground

With the warmer weather approaching, our students are anxiously waiting for our playground structure to reopen. This is a good time to remind everyone - students, parents, staff and yard supervisors of the rules on the playground and play structures that help make break times fun and safe.

**On the playground.....** Remember:

- play in the designated boundaries
- play safe, fair and appropriately
- use appropriate language
- avoid any physical contact games, rough play, or play fighting
- eating or drinking outside is not permitted during recess
- share and respect the playground equipment
- leave stones/rocks on the ground
- ask for permission to use the washroom or enter the school
- enter/exit through the appropriate door with permission
- respect the environment
- refrain from use of personal sports equipment (i.e. roller blades, skateboards, scooters)



We know how much the children enjoy our play structures and are looking forward to the spring weather so they can use them again. We hope that you will help us by reinforcing the rules at home with your child.

## Riding Bicycles to School

A reminder that permission from parents must be granted before riding bicycles to school. These forms are available in the main office at the school. Students are expected to wear mandatory head gear. Bicycles are to be parked in the bicycle racks located at the front of the school. At the end of the day, students who ride bicycles are dismissed after the last bus has departed from the school.



## Chimes Choir

Our Chimes Choirs will be performing at various Retirement Residences during the month of April. Many thanks to all the Chime Choir members who practice every Thursday under the direction of Mrs. Moritz.

## Milk Tokens

Milk tokens are available online. Please check out School Cash Online for more details. The tokens are sold in bundles of 20 tokens for \$17.00 or 40 tokens for \$34.00. Students can also pay \$1.00 cash by putting the coins directly in the milk machine.

## Graduation Preparations

Graduation night is scheduled for Tuesday, June 25, 2019. Any parents of grade 8 students who are interested in helping to decorate for graduation night please contact Mrs. Jordan.



## Moving

If you know you will be moving and will not be attending Laurelwoods Elementary School in the fall please let the office know.



## Do you know an Everyday Hero?

Please nominate someone in your school community – an individual or a group - whose actions and efforts foster the development of a positive learning and working environment. Deadline for nominations is Friday, April 12, 2019. For nomination rules and criteria, and to download the nomination form, please visit [www.ugdsb.on.ca/heroes](http://www.ugdsb.on.ca/heroes).

## Sideline Basketball

Laurelwoods hosted a Sideline Basketball tournament for students in Grades 4-6 on March 5th. Students from the Maples Private School, Grand Valley Public School, Primrose Elementary School and Laurelwoods attended to participate in the tournament. Laurelwoods was able to have 2 teams play in the tournament. Both teams played well, showed great teamwork and sportsmanship. Thank you to Philip, Austin, Ian and Kayla for volunteering their time to ref and for time keeping. Thank you to all of the Sideline Basketball players for dedicating your time and energy to the game.



## Equity Corner

We continue to enjoy our We Read Together classroom time every month. In honour of International Women's Day, teachers shared books about a strong, female role models with the students in each class! The students enjoyed Rock Your Socks, wearing crazy, comfy, or cool socks supporting World Down Syndrome Day. We also celebrated International Women's Day, showcasing our super hero female staff and volunteers on the bulletin board in the front hall. Our bulletin board at LES was featured on the Upper Grand website and twitter feed!

In April, we will be celebrating World Autism Awareness Day (wearing blue) and International Day of Pink to support our LGBTQ+ community, 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:

- April 1st - 30th Sikh Heritage Month
- Apr. 2nd - World Autism Day (Wear Blue)
- Apr. 6th - 14th Chaitra Navratri (Hindu)
- Apr. 7th - World Health Day
- Apr. 10th - International Day of Pink (Wear Pink)
- Apr. 19th - 21st Theravadin New Year (Buddhist)
- Apr. 20th - 27th Passover (Jewish)
- Apr. 21st - Easter Sunday (Christian)
- Apr. 22nd - Earth Day

Great job so far, Laurelwoods!

## 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, 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 April!

## Eco Crew

The Eco Crew has been working hard this year. With Earth Day approaching on April 22nd, here are a few simple things all of us and our families can do on a daily basis, which takes little effort to complete.

- turn your lights off when they are not in use
- do not leave the tap running
- walk or carpool
- turn electronics off when not in use
- use cloth bags at stores (not just the grocery store)
- use a reusable water bottle and containers for food items
- compost and recycle appropriately

We are lucky to live in Canada with clean, safe, drinking water.

Please remember to keep sending in your used batteries for recycling!



## Earth Week Celebration

Earth Day falls on Easter Monday this year, and Laurelwoods will be hosting a week of Eco activities from April 23rd to 26<sup>th</sup>. Tuesday will be our Earth Day/We Walk for Water Assembly to kick off the week; Wednesday will be Wear a Sweater Day as we will turn down the thermostat by two degrees to conserve energy; Thursday will be Litterless Lunch; and Friday will be We Walk for Water!

## We Walk for Water

Clean water is the fastest way to change a life, and currently in Canada 100 First Nations Communities are living under boil water or do not consume water advisories, and have been in some cases for more than a decade. By donating to our We Walk for Water campaign, our Me to We club can effect change in communities in Canada and around the world to bring clean water to those that need and deserve it. Clean water should be a basic human right, and is often something we take for granted. Please donate a toonie during our Eco Week to help others have the gift of clean, drinkable water. Every \$25 raised can provide a person with clean water for life.

## Dufferin Parent Support Network

All families have strengths and all families have challenges. Dufferin Parent Support Network workshops are free of charge and open to all adults. Registration is required. For more information, or to register for a workshop, contact us at [info@dpsn.ca](mailto:info@dpsn.ca), [www.dpsn.ca](http://www.dpsn.ca) or 519-940-8678. Some of the upcoming topics are General Parenting, Special Needs, Challenging Behaviour and Mental Health.

## Free Dental Care for Children and Youth (17 and younger)

If you can't afford dental care, we have FREE services for your children at Public Health. We provide free basic dental care, including cleanings, x-rays, check-ups and treatment to children and youth. Our dental hygienists provide preventive services (e.g. cleanings) out of all Public Health locations. Our dentist also provides dental care to children and youth enrolled in the Healthy Smiles Ontario program, and is located in Guelph at our 160 Chancellors Way office.

Have this card? Call Public Health to book an appointment.



For more information about our dental services or to book an appointment, call our Dental Line at 1-800-265-7293 ext. 2661. Visit our website for more information: <https://www.wdgpulichealth.ca/your-kids/dental-oral-health>.

## Win a Soccer Ball

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 is placed in the yellow mailbox in the front hall of the school. A ballot will be drawn on Monday, April 30, 2019.



Our Family has read the newsletter corresponding to this draw.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Parent's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_