



# Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

May 2019

Education Week - May 6<sup>th</sup> - 10<sup>th</sup>, 2019

*“Creating Our Future Together/Creons notre avenir ensemble”*

## PRINCIPAL NEWS

Rumour has it that it gets warmer in the next few months. Here's hoping that happens fairly quickly as I look out the window and see snowflakes coming down.

We have managed to open two of our play structures. The junior and kindergarten structures are open; as soon as the water drains from the primary structure, we will get that one opened up as well.

The ropes and ninja warrior course will be at our school during education week. Students will enjoy the activities during their regularly scheduled physical education classes during the week. Students may bring in their own climbing helmets if they have one. Helmets and personal hair nets will be provided to all students that need them. Our expectation is that all students will participate in this program as it replaces their regular HPE program for the week. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher or me at the school.

I want to thank all of the volunteers that offer up countless hours at our school. Field trips, lunch days, classroom support... simply would not run as effectively without our volunteers. We will be having a volunteer appreciation celebration in the LLC on May 16<sup>th</sup>, 1:30 – 2:30. While we know not everyone will be able to attend at this time, we hope to see a number of our volunteers there.

Thanks to all of you for your time,

Darren Hale  
Principal LES

## Reminder

Just a reminder that there will be no school for students on Monday, May 20<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate Victoria Day.

Our next P.A. days will be on Friday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, and Friday, June 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019.



## 2019-2020 School Organization

Another administrative task that we begin in late May and into June is determining the 2019 - 2020 school organization, and the make-up of classes. We would like to inform parents about how we approach this important task.

First, our in-school staffing committee receives a tentative school organization from the Board's District Staffing Committee. This school organization is based on the expected student enrolment and the number of teachers that are allocated to our school by the Upper Grand District School Board's Staffing Committee.

Next, our staff collects data on each student which is then used at grade level placement meetings. Teacher collaboration occurs around determining student placement for the subsequent year. Teachers spend a considerable amount of time determining the best possible placement for each student. Teachers have expert knowledge about how your child learns, their learning interests and work habits, and what kind of social groupings foster their growth.

**If you have any specific concerns or requests around class placement for next year, put your concerns/request in a letter (or email) addressed to Mr. Hale for consideration.**

We appreciate your trust in our professional judgment in the student placement process.

## Hats and Sunscreen



We remind parents that students are outdoors for recess and on occasion for physical education class. We strongly recommend that parents take appropriate precautions to protect their child(ren) from the harmful rays of the sun. Students are encouraged to wear hats, sunscreen and sunglasses when on the playground.

## EQAO Grade 3 and 6 Provincial Assessment of Reading, Writing & Math

This May, Grade 3 and 6 students across Ontario will be assessed by the "Education Quality and Accountability Office" in reading, writing and mathematics. The EQAO assessments require students to participate in the assessment over six one-hour sessions. This year, our grade 3 and 6 students will complete the assessment on May 22<sup>nd</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Our teachers and students are working hard to prepare for these assessments, and we sincerely appreciate your support in avoiding student lates and absences during these times.

School and provincial results of this assessment will be made public in the fall. Individual student results are also released to parents at that time. The data from these assessments is one source of information to assist schools in the evaluation of their School Improvement Plan.

## Help Your Child Do Well on Tests:

1. Make sure your child gets a good night sleep before every test.
2. Provide a light, healthy breakfast on test day.
3. Have your child dress comfortably and arrive at school on time.
4. Send your child off to school feeling calm and confident.
5. Remind your child to carefully read directions.
6. Tell your child to check his or her work before submitting the test for evaluation.

## Moving??

If you know you will be moving over the summer and not returning to Laurelwoods Elementary School, please inform the office. This helps us to plan classes for the fall.



## Volunteer Appreciation Day

The staff of Laurelwoods would like to thank those who have volunteered in so many ways at Laurelwoods Elementary School this year. Please let us show our thanks at our Volunteer Appreciation Day on Thursday, May 16<sup>th</sup> 2019 from 1:30 to 2:30 pm. Invitations have been sent home with the youngest and/or only children.

## 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.



## Yearbook 2018/2019

Another school year is getting closer to its conclusion. What better way to commemorate the year than by purchasing a Laurelwoods Yearbook for your child(ren). Get all their favourite memories, friends and photos to remember forever in a full colour Yearbook. This year's cost to order a Yearbook is \$15.00 per book inclusive. All Yearbook orders can be made online at [schoolcashionline.com](http://schoolcashionline.com). Orders can only be made online. The May 30<sup>th</sup> deadline is a firm deadline. No late orders will be accepted and there will not be any extra yearbooks ordered. If you would like to order a yearbook for your child, please do so by **midnight, May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

Thank you to all our sponsors for your support. Each sponsorship helps to lower the student costs of the yearbook. We are trying to keep the costs down, but there are so many events to capture in the book!

If you would like to sponsor the 2018/19 Laurelwoods Yearbook and advertise for your business at the same time, it isn't too late! Business card advertisements are \$25.00 and half page advertisements are \$100.00. The sponsorship helps lower the yearbook cost and is a great way to advertise for your company or business. The deadline to place an ad is May 15<sup>th</sup>, 2019.

## Yearbook Cover Contest

The Yearbook Cover Contest is open to all students. The deadline for the Yearbook cover contest is **Monday, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** Please submit your yearbook cover to Mrs. Matthews. The rules for the cover are: it must be on a vertical 8.5 x 11-inch piece of paper, no spelling mistakes, Laurelwoods Elementary School or Laurelwoods Lightning must be on the cover, the school year 2018/2019 must also be on the cover. Please include your first and last name, teachers name and grade on the back of the cover. Don't forget to be creative! The top 11 Yearbook covers submitted and voted on by staff will then be displayed and voted on by the students for the official Yearbook cover. Voting will take place between May 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup>. The winner will receive a free copy of the Yearbook. The 10 runner ups will be displayed on the back cover of the Yearbook. Good Luck!

## Special Olympics

600 students from the Upper Grand District School Board and Wellington Catholic District School Board will be joining together to celebrate sport at the Special Olympics, May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2019. The event will be held in Guelph and includes track and field events as well as adaptive events. Athletes flock to the sports fields for the opening ceremonies at 10:00 am and compete in 3 events each throughout the day. Family and friends are welcome to join in the fun and cheer on the athletes. Laurelwoods is excited to have four of our students participating in the Olympics this year. It should be a fun and exciting day. Good luck to all our participants and their coaches, and congratulations on all of your hard work! GO LAURELWOODS!

## Boys Basketball

The boys' basketball team has been working hard during their exhibition games and practices. With a mix of wins and losses, they are eager to enter the tournament on Thursday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 at Centre Dufferin District High School. Good luck boys!

## Girls Basketball

Mr. Johnson would like to congratulate the girls' basketball team on a fine season! This year, our team is in the Intermediate Division, and played to a winning record during the exhibition season. On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, the girls will be competing in a tournament at CDDHS, with hopes of coming out on top. If they do so, they will play in the finals night at Westside the following week. Good Luck girls!

## Spirit Days

The Spirit Club is hoping to plan an outdoor picnic day in May! This will allow all grades available to eat their lunches outside with their class. Let's hope the weather plays in our favour. More information will come when plans are finalized.

## LLC News from Your Friendly Neighbourhood Library Ninja

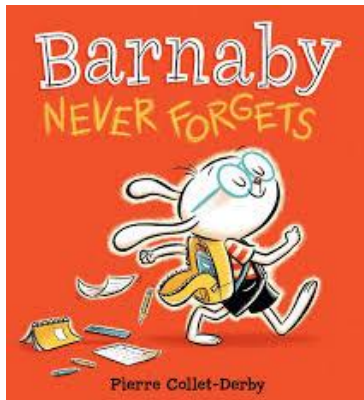
### BOOK FAIR! BOOK FAIR! BOOK FAIR!

Our spring Scholastic Book Fair is coming up on June 3<sup>rd</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>! Mrs. Whittington will be looking for any volunteers to help with purchases during the school day, or during our evening sales. If you are interested, please let the Library Ninja know. Students will be coming to view the fair on June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup>, and will be able to purchase from the 5<sup>th</sup> to 11<sup>th</sup>. The Book Fair will be running on the 6<sup>th</sup>, during our Family BBQ, from 5:30pm - 7:30pm.

### 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!



### BLUE SPRUCE VOTES ARE IN!

The primary students have spoken, and their Blue Spruce Winner is... Barnaby Never Forgets by Pierre Collet-Derby!

## **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 6 Maker Space bins in use for students: Origami, Binary Coding Bracelets, Magnetic poetry, Lego Marble Mazes, K'Nex, and Colouring Pages, with more coming soon!

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

## **Parent Council**

Spring is here, and before we know it, school will be out for the summer. Parent council is excited to announce our June family event will be all about BBQs, baking and books. More info coming home soon! Parent Council will also be holding a popcorn day and hot lunch day in May to help with the purchase of a new BBQ for the school. The next meeting will be on May 8<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 6:00 pm.

## **Dufferin Parent Support Network**

All families have strengths and all families have challenges. All Dufferin Parent Support Network Workshops are free of charge and open to men, women and couples. Registration is required.

For more information, or to register for a workshop, contact [info@dpsn.ca](mailto:info@dpsn.ca) or 519-940-8678. Please note these 3 stand-alone workshops.

**Secrets of Communication** – Princess Margaret Public School – May 1<sup>st</sup> and May 9<sup>th</sup> from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. (Getting Kids to Listen – Part 1, Getting Kids to Talk – Part 2).

**Manage Mealtime Madness** – Parkinson Centennial Public School – May 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm

**Unplug and Connect: Ending Screen Time Battles** – Parkinson Centennial Public School – May 27<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm.

These workshops are Free! Registration is required.

## **Grand Valley Lions Duck Race**

Mark your calendars for the annual Grand Valley Duck Race on Saturday, May 25, 2019. The ducks will be dropped at 2:00 pm. Come join in the many different free activities and events (bouncy castles, face painting, free milk & cookies, Orangeville Hydro bucket rides, Chase, Skye, Rocky and Marshall from Paw Patrol will be there and so much more.....) There will also be food and entertainment.



## Primary Story Telling

During the month of April, some of the students in the primary division focused on presentation skills and oral communication. They presented retells of stories that they chose and worked for several weeks to practise these presentations to present to their classes. From each class, 3 students were chosen to present their story again to the whole primary division. Congratulations to all of the participants for a job well done! After all of the stories were presented, Danica placed first, Lexi placed second, and Logan placed third.



## Grand Valley Lions Soap Box Derby

The Grand Valley Lions Soap Box Derby will be taking place on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup>, 2019. Bring your registration along with a photo of your car on Wednesday, June 19<sup>th</sup> to Ace Hardware in Grand Valley. The Soap Box Inspection Day will take place on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup>, 2019 from 6:00 – 8:00 pm at The Door Youth Centre, 23 Mill Street West. All drivers are to meet on Saturday, June 29<sup>th</sup> at 23 Mill Street West at 8:00 am. Races to begin at 9:00 am.

### Divisions

Little Rascals	ages 6 to 8
Derby Dodgers	ages 9 to 13
Mighty Raptors	ages 14 to 16
Powder Puffs	Moms

## Equity Corner

We continue to enjoy our We Read Together classroom time every month. In honour of Earth Day, teachers shared books about helping the environment with the students in each class! The students enjoyed International Day of Pink and wore blue for World Autism Awareness Day. We also celebrated Earth Day and our We Walk for Water initiative during the last week of April, by turning down the thermostat and wearing a sweater, bringing a litter less lunch, and bringing in donations for clean water for our Water Walk! We managed to raise over \$300! We raised enough to provide clean water for life for a family of 12!

In May, we will be celebrating Children's Mental Health Week, International Day of Families, and Education Week 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:**

- May 1st - 31st Asian/Jewish Heritage Month
- May 3rd - Dress Loud Day for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children (Wear Bright colours and patterns)
- May 4th - 10th Children's Mental Health Week
- May 4th - May the Fourth be With You Day (Jedi- Wear Star Wars items)
- May 5th - Cinco de Mayo
- May 5th - 10th Education Week
- May 6th - Ramadan Begins (Islam)
- May 15th - International Day of Families
- May 17th - International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
- May 20th - Victoria Day
- May 21st - World Day for Cultural Diversity
- May 26th - June 1st National Accessibility Week

Great job so far, Laurelwoods!

Mme. Neumann et Mme. Whittington

## **Talking about Mental Health - May 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> is Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-being Week!**

Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-being Week is about promoting mental wellness, increasing awareness of child and youth mental health, decreasing stigma and understanding that support is available. Let's improve everyone's mental health and well-being! The theme for Child and Youth Mental Health and Well-being at UGDSB is: Have a **SUPER** Week!

**Social Connections**  
**Understanding Emotions**  
**Personal Health**  
**Empathy**  
**Resilience**

Each day of the week will focus on a different aspect of Mental Health and Well Being. The schools will be provided with resources and activities related to each day's theme. As a parent, you can increase the Mental Health and Well-being of your children, youth and family too! Here are some suggestions:

**Monday May 6<sup>th</sup> Social Connection** - "Don't be shy. Just say hi!"  
Say hi to 3 people that you do not know. Perform a random act of kindness.

**Tuesday May 7<sup>th</sup> Understanding Emotions** - "Sad, glad, happy, mad – just be you."  
Right now, stop and reflect on how you are feeling. Take a couple of moments as a family to do some deep breathing. <http://youth.anxietybc.com/how-do-it> Now, how are you feeling?

On Wednesday, wear GREEN to support Mental Health Awareness.

**Wednesday May 8<sup>th</sup> – Personal Health** - "Healthy Self. Heal-thy self." Wear green today to support Mental Health Awareness.

Did you know that how our bodies feel affects how good we are feeling? Three of the best things you can do to improve your mood is to exercise, sleep well and eat well. Go for a walk or play

a game, get outside, turn off the devices an hour before bed and eat fresh food! The more you do to help your body feel good, the better you will feel!

**Thursday May 9<sup>th</sup> Empathy** - “Be somebody who makes everybody feel like a somebody.”  
When in doubt, be kind. Try seeing something from another person`s perspective today.

**Friday May 10<sup>th</sup> Resilience** - “If Plan A doesn`t work, the alphabet has 25 more letters!”

Mental Health and Well-being means coping with the ups and downs of day-to-day life. Building more resilient thoughts and skills can really help. Children and youth can also find support by seeking help from caring adults. Take time now to talk with your child or youth about who those caring adults are in their lives. For more information about Mental Health and Well-being and interactive activities with your children and youth:

**CMHA Get Loud!** A comprehensive resource and tool kits. <https://mentalhealthweek.ca/>

**Mind your Mind** (online) [www.mindyourmind.ca/Interactives](http://www.mindyourmind.ca/Interactives)

Fun, interactive options for de-stressing for youth.

**Smiling Mind** (Free App) [smilingmind.com.au/](http://smilingmind.com.au/)

An app that guides you through simple, calming meditations.

**GoNoodle** (Free App) <https://www.gonoodle.com/>

Fun interactive body and mind breaks for kids.

At the end of the week, talk with your child/youth about the things that made them feel more connected, emotionally aware, healthy, empowered and resilient and continue to do those things every day! Most of all... have a **SUPER** week!

*Jenny Marino is the Mental Health and Addiction Lead for Upper Grand District School Board*

## Win a Laurelwoods Water Bottle

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 Friday, May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

Our Family has read the newsletter corresponding to this draw.

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