



# Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

## **PRINCIPAL NEWS**

**September 2019**

Welcome back, everyone! We have had many new families join us over the summer, which is really exciting. Along with our new families, we also have some new staff joining us this year. Ms. Rees., Ms. Da Costa, and Ms. Cadwallader are joining our team of educational assistants. Ms. Van Alstine will be the early childhood educator in Ms. Gaudette's class. Ms. Scheerer and Ms. Ingram are joining our teaching team. Mr. Marshall will be our new child and youth counsellor.

Students have been placed into classes based on a variety of different factors. Parental input provided to the school prior to the summer break was given serious consideration. We will not be moving students to different classes unless there are exceptional reasons for doing so. Children are resilient. They will make new friends. They will still have opportunities to mingle with friends from other classes during recess time. If you have a request you would like for me to examine, please see me, and movement will be considered in the event of a school reorganization due to changes in student numbers over the summer that could result in a structural change. We resubmit our numbers on Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup> and reorganization, if needed, would take place no later than September 16<sup>th</sup>.

If you would like to get a paper copy of our school updates (currently listed in a newsletter, but we are exploring other options), please contact our office co-ordinator, Karen Gardhouse.

I am thoroughly looking forward to the start of another school year. I'd like to thank our custodians for the exceptional job that they did over the summer. The school looks fantastic!

If you ever have any questions, do not hesitate to contact the school.

Darren Hale  
Principal LES

## **Attendance**

Just a reminder that if your child will not be attending school or will be late on any given day, please call us at 519-940-3666 on the attendance line. Ext. 100. Please include your child's name, the bus number, the teacher's name and indicate illness or absence for any other reason. **It is the parent's responsibility to notify the school if their child(ren) will be absent or late.** We also request that you send a note (include the bus number and teacher's name) or call the school before **2:30 p.m.** if you are picking your child(ren) up during the day or at the end of the day.

## **School Security**

We would like to remind all parents to enter the building using the front door and to always check in at the office. Children entering and leaving the school during the school day must do so via the office. We thank you for your cooperation as we are continuing to work toward keeping all children safe at Laurelwoods.

## **Periodic Head Lice Checks**

Please check your children under bright lights, parting and lifting strands of hair. Please also let the school know if your child has lice. Please treat your child and remove all the nits. Thank you for your help.

## Parent Volunteer Procedures

Parent volunteers are a valuable resource to the school. We appreciate the many hours that parents provide in order to work with students and assist with many fundraising events at the school. If you wish to volunteer on a regular basis we require parents and guardians to complete a recent police check for us to keep on file. We ask that all volunteers report to the office to sign in upon arrival and to sign out when leaving the building. A special "volunteer tag" must be worn which will identify you to the students. These tags can be picked up and dropped off at the office.

## Bicycles and Safety

A reminder that parents must complete a permission form for their child before their child rides their bicycle to school. These forms are available in the office. Students must wear protective head gear, use a bike lock and will not be dismissed until after the last bus has departed.

## Student Accident Insurance Forms

Student Accident Insurance forms will be sent home the first week of September. Please seriously consider this option. The Upper Grand District School Board endorses this inexpensive accident insurance coverage. The school board does not carry accident insurance benefits for children. It is highly recommended that all students participating in school sports and extended field trips purchase student accident insurance. Please complete the pink letter and return it back to your child's teacher as soon as possible.

## Student Information Sheets

For the safety and well-being of your child, it is critical that the school has your child's information on file, particularly local emergency contacts. Carefully review the student information forms that have been sent home with your child to make certain that they are accurate. **If changes are needed, cross out the old information and add the updated information to the form. As well, please make sure that you sign and date the bottom of the form and return these forms by Wednesday, September 11<sup>th</sup>.**

## Freedom of Information

Your child will be bringing home information that outlines the guidelines that Boards of Education must follow when protecting the personal information of their students. Please read this information, complete page three and return it to your child's teacher by September 13<sup>th</sup>.

## Indoor/Outdoor Shoes

We remind parents that in order to avoid accidents, students should have a pair of "indoor" shoes when they are at school. We have had students slip and fall in the gym after wearing their "indoor" shoes outside during a wet or snowy recess. Having a pair of indoor running shoes helps to reduce the risk of injury. We ask that you purchase running shoes with non-marking soles. We appreciate your support with this matter.

## Student Agendas

Students in grades 1 to 8 will utilize a school agenda this year. If your child is provided with an agenda, we appreciate a contribution of **\$7.00** to help cover the cost. Agendas are an excellent form of communication between home and school. Payment is available online @ [ugdsb.SchoolCashOnline.com](mailto:ugdsb.SchoolCashOnline.com).

## Bus Routines

**If your child will not be taking the bus after school, please follow the procedure below:**

1. If you know the night before that you will be picking up your child(ren) the next day, write a note to the teacher indicating that you do not wish your child(ren) to take the bus. Be sure to include the bus number. Once the teacher receives your note, the note is sent to the office. The office will produce a "bus slip" which is a 3-part form. One copy informs the bus driver, one copy reminds the child(ren) and teacher(s) at 3:15 p.m., and the final copy is kept for reference at the office.
2. Should something arise during the day creating the need for you to pick up your child, please telephone the school prior to 2:30 p.m. This will allow office staff to complete the necessary paperwork required so that the

bus driver, student(s) and teacher(s) are informed of the change in transportation arrangements using a “bus slip”. Students being picked up by parents will report to the front foyer at 3:15 p.m. Parents are asked to check in at the office with identification and remain in the front foyer to meet their child(ren). **Do not proceed to the classrooms.**

3. Students will not be permitted to travel on a different bus for the purpose of birthday parties, for “one-time babysitting”, or just to visit with classmates after school. Most of the buses servicing Laurelwoods are at capacity and cannot accommodate additional students.

We appreciate your support with regards to the above bus policy

## School Bus Code of Conduct

Our school bus drivers are trained professionals who are committed to providing a safe environment for your child while they are traveling to and from school. Share the following information with your child(ren) and encourage them to respect safety first when traveling on the bus. The Upper Grand District School Board endorses the following bus protocol:

- follow the direction of the bus driver
- be at your stop at least 5-10 min. before your pick-up time
- stay seated when the bus is in motion
- no eating, drinking or using inappropriate language
- keep books, lunch bag and school bag on your lap

## Medication at School

It is the policy of the Upper Grand District School Board for an “Administration of Medication” form to be completed for students requiring medication at school. The Board’s interpretation of medication includes: Tylenol, allergy medication, and any prescribed medications. The storing of medication in lunch kits or book bags is not permitted with the exception of asthma inhalers and epi-pens. This is due to safety concerns for other children coming in contact with the prescribed medication. Should you require a medication form, please inform your child’s teacher or the school office.

## Milk Program

Students will once again be able to purchase milk from the vending machine this year. The milk tokens for the machine will be sold online at a cost of **\$17.00 for twenty or \$34.00 for forty**. Students will deposit the tokens into the vending machine and receive their choice of a 250ml. carton of chocolate or white milk. Parents wishing to include their children in this milk program are asked to purchase tokens online. If you have any questions about the program, please contact the school office.

## Breakfast Club – Start the day right

The “Breakfast Club” at Laurelwoods has been in operation since the school opened. The program is one that is offered nationwide to various schools. Our Food and Friends student nutrition program is a supplemental program that does not replace a healthy breakfast, but enhances a student’s ability to acquire enough nutrition to help them learn throughout the school day. The program is universally accessible for all to enjoy. The Breakfast Club continues to be a wonderful place for children who may need a little “extra” something first thing in the morning. Over the years, the program has been helped through our school volunteer program. If you have any questions, or would like more information about how to contribute, please feel free to call the office. **Volunteers are needed to continue the program** and new people are always welcome, so if you are looking at doing some volunteering, please call!

## Lightning Wear

We are excited to be offering spirit wear at LES again this year. We have many different options for families to purchase. Please [log into ugdsb.schoolcashonline.com](http://ugdsb.schoolcashonline.com) to place an order. All proceeds from our Spirit Wear sales will be going back into our school community as we look forward to purchasing team jerseys for our students.

## School Organizations

Schools have built class lists based on their tentative organization. Changes may be necessary at your child(ren)'s school in order that our Board remain compliant with Ministry parameters (see below). Any changes would be implemented by Monday, September 16<sup>th</sup>. **Principals do not have the option of changing the school organization that is set by the District Staffing Committee of the Board.** If changes affect your child(ren), you will be informed by the school.

### Ministry of Education Parameters:

- \* Full Day Kindergarten Class Size Average for the Board is 26 students
- \* 90% of Full Day Kindergarten classes with 29 or fewer students
- \* 10% of Full Day Kindergarten classes up to a maximum of 32 students under certain circumstances.
- \* 90% of the Board's primary classes with 20 or fewer students
- \* 10% of the Board's primary classes up to a maximum of 23 students
- \* Grade 3 / 4 classes have a cap of 23 students
- \* Junior/Intermediate Class Size Average for the Board is 24.5 students to 1 teacher

## September 2019-2020 School Day Schedule

8:45 am	Entry
8:45 am – 10:25 am	Instructional Time
10:25 am – 11:10 am	BREAK/Snack (students have snack 15 min./outside 30 min.)
11:10 am – 1:10 pm	Instructional Time
1:10 pm – 1:55 pm	BREAK/Snack (students eat lunch 20 min./outside 25 min.)
1:55 pm – 3:15 pm	Instructional Time
3:15 pm	Dismissal

## 147<sup>th</sup> Grand Valley Fall Fair- September 20, 21, & 22, 2019

The Grand Valley Agricultural Society invites all families to come out and enjoy all that the Fair has to offer – something for everyone! Join in the fun. There are too many events to list. Fair books will be available from local businesses, or visit the website at: [www.grandvalleyfallfair.ca](http://www.grandvalleyfallfair.ca) to view the entire fairbook and read about more information.

See you at the Fair!

## Tentative School Organization: 2019 – 2020 Voicemail Extensions

KA	Ms. S. Panter	408	French	Ms. L. Neumann	484
KB	Ms. L. Gaudette	466	Resource	Ms. M. Legault	470
Gr. 1a	Mrs. A. Rayfield	406	Planning	Ms. S. Scheerer	485
Gr. 1/2b	Mrs. K. Bryan	478			
Gr. 2a	Ms. L. Ingram	412			
Gr. 3a	Ms. M. Salfi	405	Librarian	Mrs. S. Whittington	407
Gr. 4a	Mrs. S. Walkinshaw	456	CYC	Mr. R. Marshall	227
Gr. 4/5b	Mrs. C. Matthews	482	EA	Ms. C. Marshall	420
Gr. 5/6a	Mr. D. Gordanier	487	EA	Ms. J. Tupling	419
Gr. 6/7b	Mr. A. Gertzbein	459	EA	Ms. A. Cadwallader	480
Gr. 7/8a	Mrs. S. Jordan	481	EA	Ms. A. Da Costa	409
Gr. 7/8c	Mr. C. Johnson	458	EA	Ms. A. Hilts	486
			EA	Ms. R. Rees	471
			DECE	Ms. C. Van Alstine	482

Head Custodian	Mr. C. Parr	230
Office Coordinator	Ms. K. Gardhouse	221
Principal	Mr. D. Hale	223

## Online Payments

For safety and efficiency reasons, we want to reduce the amount of cash and cheques coming into our school. School related expenses such as pizza days, field trips, spirit wear, and yearbooks etc. will be available for online purchase. Please take a few minutes to register so you can enjoy the convenience of online shopping. Go to: [ugdsb.schoolcashonline.com](http://ugdsb.schoolcashonline.com) to sign up.

## Nutrition Break Supervisors Wanted

We are always in need of Lunch Supervisors (paid position). If you can spare a couple of hours for a day and would like your name added to our list, please drop in to the office to see Karen Gardhouse.

## Child Custody Orders

Unless otherwise directed by a court of law, both natural parents usually have full access to students and their records. If for some reason these rights are restricted, legal documentation must be on file at the school. Please ensure that copies of any custody or access orders affecting your child are on file at the school office.

## School Council

School Council members are wishing all students and families a successful start to another great year at Laurelwoods. School Council meetings are open to all parents and guardians of children registered at the school. The first Meeting is on Wednesday, September 25th, 2019, and it starts at 6:00 in the library.

## Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions

UGDSB Policy 518: Students with Life-Threatening Medical Conditions, outlines the roles and responsibilities for all in the educational community to support students with possible life-threatening medical conditions. The prevalent medical conditions covered under this policy are Asthma, Anaphylaxis, Diabetes and Epilepsy/Seizure Disorders. If your child has one of these, or any other life-threatening medical condition, please visit: [www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy](http://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy) (and look for Policy 18) or contact the school as soon as possible. We will work with you to develop a Plan of Care to support your child.

## Life-Threatening Allergies

We have children in our school with potential life-threatening allergies (called anaphylaxis) to various foods and other materials. Anaphylaxis is a medical condition that can cause death within minutes. In recent years, anaphylaxis has increased dramatically among students. Although this may not affect your child's class directly, we are letting you know so that you are aware that we aim to create an allergy safe environment at our school. If your child is in a classroom with an anaphylactic child, or your child has anaphylaxis, you will be informed by the classroom teacher.

Our school has procedures in place for the prevention and management of anaphylactic reactions. If your child has health concerns of any kind, please tell your child's teacher or the office and we will take the necessary health protection steps. Thank you for your understanding in attempts at an allergy-safe environment for all of our students.

## Reminder: PA Day

There is a PA Day on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> 2019. There will be no school for students.

## Bus Information:

### Important Information Regarding your 2019-2020 School Year Bus Delay and Cancellation

**Notifications.** Due to the large number of route changes that occur over the summer, STWDSTS deletes all previous year (18-19 School Year) subscription accounts and emails. We ask parents/students to re-subscribe so that the information you are receiving during the 2019-2020 school year is accurate and up to date. To subscribe go to [www.stwdsts.ca](http://www.stwdsts.ca) and click on "Subscribe"

GPS and video cameras will be equipped on every school bus beginning September 2019.

The school bus is an extension of the classroom and camera footage may be accessed by the school to monitor student behavior. GPS will be used to track bus locations, stop arrival/departure times,

speed, and much more. For more information please see our Camera Policy here:  
<http://stwdsts.ca/home/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/037.pdf>.

If you choose to opt out of bussing, please contact the STWDSTS office at 519-824-4119 and STWDSTS will mark your child as not riding. If you require bussing in the future, please call your technician and they will re-assign your child to the bus.

Students in JK, SK, and Grade 1 who ride a school bus will receive a tag from the school showing the student's afternoon bus route and number and bus stop location. The tag should be worn (preferably on the student's backpack) by your child everyday throughout the year.

For more information please visit the STWDSTS website: <http://stwdsts.ca/home>.

## Picture Day

Friday, September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019 is picture day. Remember to bring your smiles! More information will be sent home closer to picture day.

## Laurelwoods Stainless Steel Sport Bottles

Laurelwoods is selling 16oz Stainless Steel Sport Bottles with the Laurelwoods Logo on them for \$12.00. Stay cool and fashionable with this Sport Bottle. The Stainless-Steel Sport Bottle has an easy drink spout and is blue in colour. Order your bottle online at [schoolcashionline.com](http://schoolcashionline.com)!

## Smoke and Vape Free Environment

The Upper Grand DSB provides a smoke and vape-free environment for its students, staff and others while on Board property, in accordance with the Smoke-Free Ontario Act and Board Policy 208. This policy refers to all forms of tobacco, and any processed form of tobacco that may be smoked, inhaled or chewed, including e-cigarettes.

Smudging is the tradition of using sacred smoke from sacred medicines (e.g. tobacco and sage) that forms part of the indigenous culture and spirituality. Smudging is allowed in schools under the Smoke-Free Ontario Act. Parents will be informed using the school's usual forms of communication when smudging is going to occur in our school. Participation by staff and students is optional in a smudging ceremony. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Hale.

## Equity Corner

The Equity team here at Laurelwoods is looking forward to a busy year!

Students in grades 6-8 who are interested in social justice, fairness, and inclusion can sign up to join the Social Justice Squad, formerly the Me to We club, this year. Our club is responsible for promoting awareness and events about social justice in our local and global communities, such as organizing pink shirt days, kindness weeks, Rafiki sales, water walks, and other important topics. We currently have 8 spots available on the team, listen to announcements to find out how and when to apply. The Club members will be attending We Day in Toronto on September 19th!!

## Terry Fox

Laurelwoods Elementary School will be participating in this year's Terry Fox School Run on September 26th for cancer research. We are proud to continue the legacy of one of our country's greatest heroes. We hope you will join us and support this wonderful cause by donating to our Terry Fox School Fund fundraising page at: <http://www.terryfox.ca/LaurelwoodsESOrangeville>. Thank you! The future of cancer research has never looked brighter! Keep an eye out for our new Terry Fox flag that will be raised September 16<sup>th</sup>!



## From The Book Stacks

### LLC News from Your Friendly Neighbourhood Library Ninja

WELCOME BACK!

I hope you had a wonderful summer, we missed you in the LLC! The Library Learning Commons will be up and running some time in the second week of September, with book exchange, open recess, and clubs and games happening soon! This year we will be starting a robotics recess, and Maker Mondays in the LLC so look for more information coming up about those special days!

We ended our previous school year with a total of 2 books and 2 yellow bags not returned/missing from our collection. If you find a missing library book or bag please make sure to bring it back to the LLC so it can find it's home!

Please take a minute to check out (pun intended!) our brand new Book Return unit, made for us by the wonderful students at Westside Secondary School! Now we have a beautiful, hand crafted box to return our books when we are done reading them!

BOOK FAIR!

Our first Scholastic Book Fair is coming up in October! 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.

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.

Materials and Old Board Games Wanted!

Thank you to the families and students who have generously donated LEGO and other materials 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 and complete board games for the LLC. Please feel free to drop them off at the office or LLC during the school day!

Thank you so much!

Mrs. S Whittington, Your Library Ninja!



## September Newsletter Draw Winner

### Win A Dairy Queen Gift Certificate:

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. This month's draw will be held on Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019

**Our family has read the newsletter corresponding to this draw.**

**Family Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

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

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