



# Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

**PRINCIPAL NEWS**

**September 2020**

Dear Families,

I want to thank you for all of your efforts preparing your child(ren) for a safe return to school. I have been thoroughly impressed with the positivity I have seen from staff as they work hard to put into place the health and safety recommendations from Public Health. Last week they completed training on COVID, Mental Health, Anti-Racism and the New Math Curriculum. They have been collaboratively working on how they are going to adjust what they do to suit the new world order. Their unwavering dedication to the safety and education of Laurelwoods students is apparent in all they do.

I can't stress enough how important it is for us to be kind and patient with one another as we grow together through this COVID experience. To ensure continued success I believe that it is imperative that we continue to communicate as things are constantly ever changing. To this end, I will be doing a weekly Principal's Message and posting it on the Laurelwoods website.

I look forward to getting to know your children and you as the year progresses.

Be Well.

Lori Shilvock  
Principal

## **Nutritional Breaks**

I wanted to point out a change in the school day schedule. During our first break the K-3 classes will eat first while the 4-8 classes play on the yard. At 10:40am the K-3 students will enjoy outdoor activities while the 4-8 students eat. This flip flopping of lunch and recess will continue in the afternoon with the grades 4-8 classes eating first at 1:10pm while the K-3 classes play outside at 1:30pm the K-3 students will eat and the 4-8 students will go outside. There are two reasons for this scheduling change. Firstly, it allows for fewer students on the yard at one time, giving each child more space to play while remaining socially distanced. Additionally, this allows our custodian greater access to clean the desks more frequently.

## **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. **If your child does not pass the Covid 19 Daily Screening Tool (found at: [covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening](https://covid-19.ontario.ca/school-screening)) you will need to get tested at a Covid-19 Assessment Centre. Your child can come back to school if you have received a negative Covid-19 test. If our child does not get tested, they must isolate for 14 days unless all of the following apply. 1. A doctor diagnosed them with**

another illness. 2. They do not have a fever (without using medication). 3. It has been 24 hours since their symptoms started improving. Other household members such as siblings may attend school as long as they have no symptoms and are able to pass the Covid-19 School Screening Tool. 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 that at this time, you are not allowed to enter the building unless of an emergency. If you need to pick up your child early, please call the school when you arrive and we will call your child down to be picked up. 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. Unfortunately, at this time, we are not allowed to have volunteers in the school.

## 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.

## 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 Friday, September 18<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 18<sup>th</sup>.

## 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](http://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 line up outside of the school with identification to meet their child(ren). **Parents are not allowed in the school.**
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

The Milk Program is not running at this time.

## 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.

**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.

## September 2020-2021 School Day Schedule

8:45 am	Entry
8:45 am – 10:25 am	Instructional Time
10:25 am – 11:10 am	BREAK/Snack
11:10 am – 1:10 pm	Instructional Time
1:10 pm – 1:55 pm	BREAK/Snack
1:55 pm – 3:15 pm	Instructional Time
3:15 pm	Dismissal

## Tentative School Organization: 2020 – 2021 Voicemail Extensions

JK/SK	Ms. L. Gaudette	466	French	M. L. Neumann	484
Gr. 1a	Mrs. A. Rayfield	406	Resource	Ms. M. Legault	470
Gr. 1/2b	Mrs. K. Bryan	478	Planning	Ms. S. Scheerer	485
Gr. 2/3a	Ms. L. Ingram	412			
Gr. 3b	Ms. M. Salfi	405	Librarian	Mrs. S. Whittington	407
Gr. 3/4c	Mrs. S. Walkinshaw	456	CYC	Ms. J. Worth	227
Gr. 4/5a	Mrs. C. Matthews	482	EA	Ms. C. Marshall	420
Gr. 5/6b	Mr. D. Gordanier	487	EA	Ms. J. Tupling	419
Gr. 6/a	Mr. A. Gertzbein	459	EA	Ms. S. Lindsey	480
Gr. 7/8a	Mrs. S. Jordan	481			
Gr. 7/8b	Mr. C. Johnson	458	DECE	Mrs. S. Brailsford	460

Head Custodian	Mr. C. Parr	230
Office Coordinator	Ms. K. Gardhouse	221
Principal	Ms. L. Shilvock	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.

## 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 Virtual Meeting is on Wednesday, September 23, 2020 and it starts at 6:30pm.

## 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 518) 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.

## Bus Information:

**Important Information Regarding your 2020-2021 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 (19-20 School Year) subscription accounts and emails. We ask parents/students to re-subscribe so that the information you are receiving during the 2020-2021 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 are equipped on every school bus. 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 busing 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>.

## 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.

## Terry Fox

Laurelwoods Elementary School will be participating in this year's Terry Fox School Run 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 Twoonie for Terry Fox Fundraiser through our School CashOnline. 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>!



## LLC News from Your Friendly Neighbourhood Library Ninja

### Lost and Overdue Books and Bags

Welcome Back, Laurelwoods! What an interesting year this will be! As you may have seen on the Laurelwoods website, the LLC space will be closed at the beginning of the year while we get a new system set up for circulation. **Please send back all library books and yellow book bags** with your child(ren) so Mrs. Whittington can do an inventory of materials as we begin the new year. Once our new system is up and running, students will have access to library books within their classrooms, only, books will NOT be going home. Students will also have access to the LLC Google Classroom for resources and literacy materials. New information will be shared with you as it comes out. If you have any questions please contact Mrs. W at the school. Let's have a safe and successful year!

Mrs. S Whittington, Your Library Ninja!

### Equity Corner

Welcome Back! The Equity team here at Laurelwoods is looking forward to an interesting year! As we are unable to have clubs running right now, our Social Justice Squad will not be meeting to start the year off, but that doesn't mean we can't continue with equity work! In the Spring, we were

able to create an Equity Google Classroom, which hosts some wonderful information, activities, and materials for students to check out! Our bulletin board in the front hall is up, showcasing celebrations and important dates for the month of September, including Powley Day (Sept. 19th-Métis), Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur (Sept. 19th/20th and 28th- Jewish) and Orange Shirt Day (Sept. 30th-Indigenous).

Orange Shirt Day began in Williams Lake in 2013 and has since spread to schools across B.C. and Canada. Orange Shirt Day (September 30th) is a day when we honour the Indigenous children who were sent away to residential schools in Canada and learn more about the history of those schools.

Remember to wear orange on September 30th!



## **Breakfast Club**

### **Food & Friends Student Nutrition Program evolves to meet the needs of school-aged kids during COVID 19 precautions.**

Like many in Dufferin, Wellington and Guelph, the Children's Foundation is working towards continuing our support of the most vulnerable in our community despite the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic. Now that the school year has begun, we are especially concerned about the children and youth who rely on our Food & Friends student nutrition programs.

With the closing of schools in March, the Children's Foundation, in partnership with local organizations, responded with a temporary emergency support initiative called Fresh Food for Kids that provided almost 100,000 nutritious meals to local children and youth in need in Dufferin, Wellington and Guelph.

This initiative will transition to [Food & Friends at Home](#) to start the new school year. Families with children and youth supported by the Children's Foundation through the Food & Friends Program will be eligible to submit a request for a Food & Friends at Home kit. This kit will provide one snack for each day of a two-week period similar to what would be provided through a Food & Friends student nutrition program.

### **How It Works**

- Parent(s) or Guardian(s) with children and youth supported by the Children's Foundation through our Food & Friends Program are eligible to submit a request for a Food & Friends at Home kit.
- Families in need of food support can request a Food & Friends at Home kit using this [online form](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10vf0sMTnGBJhFb3Kv_6doA_aShuSzs0_TNEuUfxHU1A/viewform?edit_requested=true) [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10vf0sMTnGBJhFb3Kv\\_6doA\\_aShuSzs0\\_TNEuUfxHU1A/viewform?edit\\_requested=true](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/10vf0sMTnGBJhFb3Kv_6doA_aShuSzs0_TNEuUfxHU1A/viewform?edit_requested=true)
- Only one request is required per family.
- To receive delivery, applicants must give consent to share the information on the application form with staff and volunteers who will be packing and delivering the kits.
- Deliveries will be made every two weeks starting the last week of September.
- Applicants will receive email notification of delivery details for the kits.

The Food & Friends at Home kits will follow nutritional guidelines. Deliveries will be made to the doorsteps of families in Dufferin, Wellington and Guelph.

For the safety of families and the community, volunteers delivering the kits will not enter homes. Our goal is to provide up to 3,000 Food & Friends at Home kits every two weeks for school-aged children and youth so that we can continue bringing healthy food to hungry minds.

### **Grab and Go Bags!**

In addition, each classroom will have a grab and go bag of prepacked non-perishable snacks that can be given out as needed. I would like to thank Kate Bryan for coordinating the purchasing of the food for these bags.