



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

December 2020

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Winter is upon us, and it is such a joy to watch Laurelwoods students playing in the snow! As students arrive each morning they are greeted by a host of snowmen! This also means that it's time to send in extra mittens and socks! We love our outdoor time at Laurelwoods and we will be going outside for recess and outdoor learning blocks unless the temperature is extremely cold. It is important that students dress for the cold conditions.

It was wonderful to see that many parents participated in parent-teacher interviews, albeit in a very different manner than previous years. We want the lines of communication to remain open between home and school as we work as a team to help support all students.

By the time you read this, our reorganization will be complete. As a result of the "Intent to Change" survey which allowed students to switch between in-person and remote learning there were some significant classroom, student and staff moves here at Laurelwoods.

Ms. Legault has been reassigned to the remote school. Mrs. Rayfield will become our full-time resource teacher. Ms. Salfi will become the grade three/four teacher, and Mrs. Walkinshaw and Mrs. Scheerer will become our grade one/two teaching team!

We are fortunate that we have an excellent staff who have made decisions in the best interest of the students, and will have many and various opportunities over the coming weeks to build classroom community.

As the weather changes we may experience no bus days. Please take a few minutes to make yourself aware of the changes for students on no bus days due to the pandemic https://drive.google.com/file/d/1tL_k4xcwD0imlGitxM6L5Fwy5KSHeAJg/view?usp=sharing This information can also be found on the school and Board websites.

Classes will be celebrating seasonal holidays over the next month. If your family celebrates at this time of year, then please consider sharing your traditions with your child's teacher. We are all richer when we learn about the customs and beliefs of others. It helps us to be more tolerant and more inclusive.

I hope that you and your family and loved ones enjoy a lovely holiday in whatever way is right for you.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday.

Lori Shilvock
Principal



Christmas Holidays – December 21st – January 1st, 2021
Students return on January 4th, 2021

Remembrance Day at Laurelwoods

Mrs. Jordan and the intermediate students organized an amazing, heartfelt virtual Remembrance Day Ceremony. We are proud of our students' involvement. Thank you also Mrs. Jordan for such a beautiful front hall display.

Bundle Up!

Please make sure that your child(ren) are dressed adequately for outside play. We go outside at both nutritional breaks every day except in extreme temperatures. Your help in ensuring your child (ren) have appropriate winter clothing is greatly appreciated.

Grade 9 Information Night at Westside

Information about a virtual student / parent information night to be held in January for our grade 8 students will be sent home closer to the date.

School Council

This school year has been a strange one to say the least, however Parent Council is still hard at work providing funds to our school. This year we continued to provide each classroom with a \$200 budget to assist with learning materials, specifically much needed outdoor teaching materials. We are continuing to provide each class with a Scientist in the School session which will be held virtually. We've assisted with the purchase of junior and intermediate literacy kits, as well as walkies-talkies to help with improved communication inside and outside the school. Funds were needed for playground maintenance and repairs this year as well to meet Board standards. Parent Council has always relied on our amazing parent community and the generous support of our pizza, hot lunch and popcorn days. As well as our Halloween, Christmas, and Spring Family Fun Nights. Sadly, these events cannot happen this school year, but we still need your support!

Our funds are running low, we are asking you to consider donating to Parent Council via our School Cash Online portal. All donations go directly back into our school and will help provide much needed funds to our classrooms and library. Funds are also needed to replace four projectors, purchase primary literacy kits and maintain our playground structures.

Donations of \$20 or more are eligible for a tax receipt. Receipts will be issued by the Upper Grand Learning Foundation. Thank you for your continuing support of Laurelwoods Parent Council, it is greatly appreciated!

Hats On Dufferin

A very special thank you to the non-profit organization Hats On Dufferin who donated beautifully knitted hats, scarves and mittens to Laurelwoods Elementary School. Their goal is to provide any child coming into the office or asking their teacher for a hat (either because they do not have one or they forgot theirs) with a hat. Thank you so much.

Kindergarten Registration

Online pre-registration for the 2021-2022 school year begins on January 5th, 2021 to January 22nd 2021. Our online tool allows parents to pre-register online when it's convenient for them! Online pre-registration is required for all NEW JK and SK students in the Upper Grand District School Board. For more information and to pre-register online please visit: www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten



How to register:

- Pre-register online at www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten
- Make sure you get a pre-registration confirmation email after completing the online form
- Once you have pre-registered, contact your child's home school to make an appointment for a virtual meeting through Google Meet. During the Google Meet you will be required to show your documentation to the Office Staff and verify information to complete the registration. (Required Documents – **Proof of Age** (birth certificate, birth registration, Baptismal Certificate, Canadian Citizenship, passport& custodial documents if necessary – **Proof of Address** (tax bill, purchase/lease agreement, cable bill – driver's license or cell phone bills are not accepted). – **Verification of date of arrival/ immigration documents** if child was not born in Canada.
- If registering for French Immersion, you must submit all documentation and receive a FI Application Receipt from the school office by January 22,2020 at 4:00 pm, in order for your application to be considered "on time".

If you register for the English Program, please make sure you have completed your on-line registration and made your appointment with the school to share your documentation within two weeks of submitting your online pre-registration.

Periodic Head Lice Checks

Winter seems to be a bad time for head lice. Please check your children weekly under bright lights, parting and lifting strands of hair. This weekly check will save you a great deal of time and work in the long run. While head lice are a nuisance, they are not a health hazard. Head lice cannot fly or jump. They are spread from direct head-to-head contact or indirectly on hats, combs, headphones etc. Please remind your child not to share these items with other children. Please contact the school if your child has lice, and treat your child and remove all nits. Thank you for your help.

From The Book Stacks

LLC News from Your Friendly Neighbourhood Library Ninja

New Robotics and Coding Materials Coming Soon!

The LLC has just ordered some new Coding and Robotics materials for students to work with this year! Mrs. Shilvock and Mrs. Whittington have purchased new Botley Robots with accessories, Makey Makey computer kits, Lego Mindstorm Expansion Kits, and OSMO Literacy/Math and Coding kits. These new materials align with the new Math Curriculum Coding expectations, and will be available for teachers and classes to check out and use in their classrooms. We can't wait to get coding here at LES!

Forest of Reading Program

The Forest of Reading Program is coming back to Laurelwoods this year, with our 2021 Canadian Booklist Nominees! Check out the list of nominees here: <https://accessola.com/forest/award-nominated-lists/>

Our primary students in K-3 will have 10 Canadian picture books read to them in class, with a vote for their favourite to win the Blue Spruce Award happening in May! Our Junior Students can sign up to

read 5 of the 10 choices of Canadian Novels/Graphic Novels, and will be able to conference/write a review on the LLC Google Classroom Page in order to be eligible to vote for the Silver Birch Award in May. Our Intermediate students will have the same opportunity to read and vote for the Red Maple award in May.

Students can begin reading anytime, our books will arrive in January and be available for signing out in 2-week blocks (with a 72-hour quarantine between checkouts). Digital and audio copies are also available online on our SORA app, located on UG2GO. They have a curated list of Forest books available right now at the link below:

<https://soraapp.com/library/uppergrandca/curated-1126263/page-1>

Students may also check books out physically or digitally from their local Public Library and begin reading.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. W at the school!

Have a great December!

Mrs. S Whittington, Your Library Ninja!

Equity Corner

Our equity team has been working hard on providing students with information and updates from our equity calendar! Students have been involved in creating slides for our daily Announcement Deck, and many wonderful discussions have been had around our Equity slides and information! We will be receiving our third Unlearn Equity Poster Pack from the School Board, a wonderful resource that encourages and challenges students to approach images and issues from an equity lens. We will be incorporating these packs into our daily announcements, and in class learning! Our CYC, Mrs. Worth created discussion slides and activities highlighting Bullying Prevention Week, last month, and we have also been decorating our front bulletin board with a lot of information and special dates that are coming up in December, please feel free to check it out!

Some notable dates we will be highlighting this month, include:

Dec. 1 - World Aids Day

Dec. 1 - 24 - Advent

Dec. 2 - International Day of the Abolition of Slavery

Dec. 3 - International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Dec. 6 - National Day of Remembrance of Action on Violence Against Women

Dec. 10 - International Human Rights Day

Dec. 11 - 18 - Hanukkah

Dec. 25 - Christmas

Dec. 26 - Jan. 1 - Kwanzaa

Great job so far, Laurelwoods!

Mme. Whittington, Mlle Legault, et Mme. Neumann

Public Health

The grade 7 students usually get a series of Immunizations (Human papillomavirus HPV, Hepatitis B and Meningococcal disease) given at school. Due to Covid restrictions this cannot happen at the school this year. Immunizations will happen at our Public Health Offices. Please see the link below to find out more about the immunizations and what you need to do.

<https://www.wdgpulichealth.ca/clinics-classes/high-school-vaccination-clinics>

Inclement Weather

BUS CANCELLATION DAYS - ELEMENTARY

When buses are cancelled in Division 1 (Yellow - South Wellington/Guelph/Puslinch) or Division 2 (Blue - Centre Wellington/Erin/Rockwood), elementary schools in those divisions will remain open to students as usual. When buses are cancelled in Division 3 (Pink - North Wellington) or **Division 4 (Green - Dufferin County)**, **elementary schools in the affected division(s) will be closed to students**. All students in those schools will pivot to remote learning for the day and will be supported by their teacher. Before and/or After School Programs will be cancelled at Division 3 and 4 elementary schools on bus cancellation days. Students in the Elementary Remote School will continue with instruction as usual.

Why Changes are Required in 2020 - 2021

Elementary - Bus Cancellation Days:

The reason for the above changes on no-bus days in Division 3 and Division 4 elementary schools is because, historically, there have been numerous days where staff at those schools are unable to safely report to work due to road conditions, despite their best efforts. With COVID-19 restrictions around limiting contacts and gatherings, we are unable to combine classes or groups to provide for adequate and safe supervision of students on no-bus days.

Policy Feedback

The board has released Policy 503 - Safe Schools for public consultation. The recently revised policy is being released for public consultation in order to comply with legislation. The deadline to provide feedback is January 19, 2021. To provide your input visit: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/board/policy/policy-503-safe-schools/>

