



Laurelwoods Elementary School

January 2021 Newsletter

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Another new year begins welcome 2021! I hope everyone has had a chance to relax and enjoy some quality time with family over the Holiday Season. It is important that no matter how you choose to embrace the New Year, we all continue to support each other as a community should. As you are aware, we will be starting this year in remote learning using Google Classroom and Google Meets. Please reach out to your children's teachers or the school if you need any support. We will make the best of this situation until we return face-to-face on Monday, January 11th.

Upon our face-to-face return on January 11th, it's crucial that you complete the COVID-19 screening tool from Public Health (<https://covid-19.ontario.ca/self-assessment>) each morning. We will continue to wear masks, keep 2 meters apart, use proper hand hygiene, and pick up and drop off the same way we have been all year. Thanks for your cooperation in helping to keep the school safe.

It is hard to believe but planning for next September has already begun. Kindergarten registration (for students NEW to Junior or Senior Kindergarten in 2021) is between January 5th and January 22th at 4:00 p.m. Parents can register students online at www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten or click on the Kindergarten Registration button on our school website. A Google Meet will be scheduled to show proper documentation after they have registered online; the registration is only complete after this step. If you know of anyone in the neighbourhood with Junior Kindergarten aged students please let them know. If you are applying for French Immersion, you must complete the application process, including submission of all required documents, by 4pm on January 22, 2021. Our grade 8 teachers have started to work with their students and the high school to transition students into grade 9! If you are moving away from our area and will not be attending Laurelwoods in September, please let us know.

Be well!
Lori Shilvock

P. A. Day – There will be a Professional Activity Day on January 29, 2021. There will be no classes for students.

March Break – March 15th to March 19th, 2021.



Snow Safety

Forts and tunnels are fun to build. However, forts and tunnels built at the side of the road spell trouble. Passing snow plows and the debris and ice they push can be dangerous for a child who can be buried or struck indirectly or directly. These incidents often happen in early morning or evening when it's dark and children are playing. Plows are loud and the driver's visibility is minimal. Please remind your children to play safely, and tell them that tunnel building is not a safe play activity. Let's keep all our children safe this winter.

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. We have product on site for families in need; please ask at the office. After treating your child, it is important to recheck for eggs 7 days later. Thank you for your help.

School Records

Please notify the school if there are any changes in your child's information (such as your work numbers and emergency contact numbers). It is extremely important that we maintain current information in the case of an emergency.

Attendance/Pick-up

Please telephone the school at 519-940-3666 if your child will not be attending school on any given day or will be late, and include their teacher's name and bus number. It is extremely important that parents notify the school if their child(ren) will be absent. If you are picking your child up prior to 3:15 p.m., send a note with your child or call the school before 2:30 p.m. so that a bus slip can be completed. Please include the teacher's name and bus number. Thank you for your cooperation.

Parent Council Corner

Welcome Back – and best wishes to all for a healthy and happy New Year.

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 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, and maintain our playground structures.

Donations of \$20 or more are eligible for a tax receipt. If you select "Yes" for Tax Receipt Required, the school will provide the Upper Grand Learning Foundation with your name and address for the purpose of issuing a tax receipt.

Thank you for your continuing support of Laurelwoods Parent Council, it is greatly appreciated our next meeting is on January 13th via google meet.

Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for the School Year September 2021

Kindergarten online pre-registration will take place between the weeks of January 5th to 21st, 2021. Eligible students for the Junior Kindergarten program must be four years of age on or before December 31st, 2021 and students must be five years of age on or before December 31st, 2021 to register for Senior Kindergarten. Please complete the online pre-registration at www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten and then contact your child's home school to make an appointment for a virtual meeting through Google Meet. Parents will need their printed online preregistration form, child's birth certificate and proof of address (driver's license not accepted). We look forward to meeting you! Please pass this information on to families in our area. For more information visit www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten.

Carnaval D'hiver 2021

Laurelwoods is hoping on having our annual Carnaval D'hiver again this year. The tentative date is Wednesday, February 10, 2021. More information to follow regarding soap sculptures, opening and closing ceremonies etc. Please send in any clean plastic Chinese food containers to be used as rocks for our curling. Stay tuned...



From The Book Stacks:

LLC News from Your Friendly Neighbourhood Library Ninja

New Robotics and Coding Materials!

The LLC has ordered and received 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 kits. Along with our Sphero, Dot, and Dash robots, 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 back at Laurelwoods this year, with our 2021 Canadian Booklist Nominees! 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. It is important

that any students that want to participate in the program have access to the Library Google Classroom, please see your child's classroom teacher, or email Mrs. Whittington at swhittington@ugcloud.ca to find out how to join. Students can begin reading anytime, our books will 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!

Thank you so much and Happy 2021!

Mrs. S Whittington, Your Library Ninja!

Equity Corner

Like everyone else, our equity team is excited to say goodbye to 2020 and hello to 2021! Our team continues to add equity and mental health slides to the daily announcements, important dates to the LES Equity and Diversity Google Classroom, and posters and information to the front hall bulletin board! Our focus in the new year is on Gender Equity, with more information coming next month. In our Equity calendar this month, January is Tamil Heritage Month. Other notable dates we will be highlighting this month, include:

- Jan. 1 - Kwanzaa (African), Gantan-Sai New Years (Shinto), New Years Day
- Jan. 6 - Epiphany (Christian)
- Jan. 7 - Feast of the Nativity (Orthodox Christian)
- Jan. 13 - Maghi (Sikh), Lohri (Hindu)
- Jan. 14 - Makar Sankranti (Hindu), New Years Day (Orthodox Christian)
- Jan. 20 - Birth of Guru Gobind Singh (Sikh)
- Jan. 21 - World Religion Day (Bahá'í)
- Jan. 27 - International Day of Commemoration in Memory of Victims of the Holocaust (UN)
- Jan. 28 - Mahayana New Year (Buddhism), Tu BiShvat (Jewish)

Great job, Laurelwoods!

Mme. Whittington, Mlle. Legault, et Mme. Neumann

Grade 9 Information Night at Westside

Parents of grade 8 students are invited to attend a Grade 9 information night being held virtually. More information will follow.

