



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

April 2021

PRINCIPAL NEWS

As I am writing this Principal's Message to you, I have Premier Ford's latest announcement playing in the background and we have spent the day preparing for synchronous learning starting tomorrow. I recognize that these are uncertain times for everyone and that uncertainty brings with it many challenging emotions for students, staff, and families. It is important to remember that we are all experiencing this Global Pandemic together. Together we will continue to follow the direction of Public Health. As a school community our goal is to continue to support your child's learning albeit remotely at this time. Synchronous learning will begin on Thursday April 8th. Teachers will share a class schedule in their Google Classroom. Attendance will be taken as usual during remote learning. A reminder that, at this time Spring Break is scheduled for April 12-16. Please check your child's Google Classroom this week for the weekly schedule and reach out to your child's teacher if you have questions. As most teachers are working remotely the best way to reach your child's teacher is via email. The school email and main answering machine are being checked daily. I hope that you are able to take some time in the coming days to appreciate the longer days, warmer temperatures and the long awaited sunshine!

Warmest Regards,

Lori Shilvock

UGDSB Learning Foundation

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 making a donation 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!
UGDSB Learning Foundation - <https://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com/>

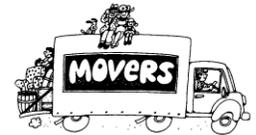
Graduation Preparations

Due to Covid 19 restrictions, a traditional graduation ceremony is not possible this year. We are moving ahead with our plan to celebrate our Graduates in a Covid friendly fashion! This year there will be a virtual ceremony which will be prerecorded and posted in the google classroom on Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 7:00 pm. On Thursday, June 24th, graduating students will be invited back to the school between 4:00 – 7:00 pm to receive their diploma an exciting loot bag and a photo opportunity with their teacher and family. Families will be able to select a timeslot for this visit. More details will follow.



Moving

If you know you will be moving and will not be attending Laurelwoods Elementary School in the fall please let the office know as soon as possible.



From The Book Stacks

LLC News from Your Friendly Neighbourhood Library Ninja

Forest of Reading Program

The Forest of Reading Program is coming to a close at Laurelwoods this year! Our primary students in K-3 enjoyed having books read to them in their Google classroom or in person by their teacher or Mrs. Whittington! The books have been fantastic, and the students will be voting for their favourites this month! Our Junior and Intermediate students have been reading their books, and submitting their conferencing forms on the LLC Google Classroom Page in order to be eligible to vote for the Silver Birch and Red Maple Awards on April 23rd. It is important that any students participating 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 read anytime, our books are 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 for reading. Students have until 3:15 on Thursday, April 22nd to read and conference for 5 books in order to vote. If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. W at the school!

Mrs. S Whittington, Your Library Ninja!

Equity Corner

We continue to enjoy our announcement deck slides on Equity and Mental Health each week! In honour of International Women's Day, the front hall bulletin board was covered with strong, female role models! The students enjoyed Rock Your Socks, wearing crazy, comfy, or cool socks supporting World Down Syndrome Day. We also celebrated World Water Day, and wore purple for World Epilepsy Day. In April, we will be celebrating World Autism Awareness Day (wearing blue) and International Day of Pink to support our LGBTQ+ community, just to name a few! April is also Sikh Heritage Month! 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:

Mar. 28th - Apr. 4th Passover (Jewish)

Apr. 2nd - Good Friday (Christian/Catholic)

Apr. 2nd - World Autism Day (Wear Blue)

Apr. 4th - Easter Sunday (Christian/Catholic)

Apr. 5th - Easter Monday (Christian/Catholic)

Apr. 7th - World Health Day

Apr. 8th - Yom HaShoah (Jewish)

Apr. 12th - International Day of Silence (2SLGBTQIA+)

Apr. 12th - May 11th Ramadan: Month of Fasting (Islam)

Apr. 13th - 21st Chaitra Navratri (Hindu)

Apr. 13th - Hindu New Year (Hindu)

Apr.13th - 14th Baisakhi (Vaisakhi)/New Year (Sikh, Hindu)

Apr. 14th - International Day of Pink (Wear Pink)

Apr. 16th - Wolf-Hirschhorn Syndrome Day (wear blue jeans)

Apr. 20th - First Day of Ridván (Bahá'í)

Apr. 22nd - Earth Day

Apr. 25th - Mahavir Jayanti (Jain)

Apr. 27th - Theravada New Year (Buddhist)

Apr. 28th - Ninth Day of Ridván (Bahá'í), National Day of Mourning for Persons Killed or Injured in the Workplace

Apr. 30th - Good Friday (Orthodox Christian)

Great job so far, Laurelwoods!

Mme. Whittington et Mme. Neumann

Eco Awareness

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd!

Founded in 1990, Earth Day Canada inspires people of all ages across the country to connect with nature and build resilient communities as well as foster an intrinsically motivated, enduring commitment to stewardship and conservation. <https://earthday.ca/about/>

Earth Day 2021 Theme: Restore Our Earth

The theme is based on the emerging concept that rejects the idea that our waystogogreenblog.com have the planet are to mitigate or adapt to the impacts of climate change and other environmental damage. Go to <https://earthday.org> for some quick facts and additional information about this problem.

Ideas for your family to celebrate Earth Day:

- **Review previous Earth Day Themes. For example, there is an ongoing focus on ending plastic pollution.** Make a pledge to always carry a reusable shopping bag, use alternates to Ziploc bags, buy in bulk, refuse to buy over packaged products and make litter-less lunches. Download your Plastic Pollution Primer to learn more about this problem help **End Plastic Pollution!**

- **Spend a day outside.** In the garden with your family, plant vegetables, trees or native flowers and attract native animals and pollinators. Or join a local community event to help clean your neighbourhood or restore local plant life.
- **Make commitments to cut down on your energy usage as well as waste.** Turn lights off, power down electrical devices, turn down your thermostat and only do full loads of laundry and dishes.
- **Learn more about the environment and the effects of global warming.** Encourage awareness and promote the **Reduce** (buy less), **Reuse** (repurpose it) and **Recycle** (sort it right!) way of life.

Remember that every day is Earth Day! Don't restrict yourself to just one day a year. Make environmental actions and caring about the planet a habit - on Earth Day and every day.

