



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

Education Week – May 3 to May 7, 2021

“Celebrating Learning, Wellness, and Community/Célébrant l’apprentissage, le bien-être et la communauté”

PRINCIPAL NEWS

As we turn the calendar I am certain we are all looking forward to some sunny days and those May flowers. Generally speaking, it has been a very smooth pivot to remote learning. I am so impressed by the Laurelwoods teaching staff as they continue to reflect on their virtual program and are constantly incorporating new and innovative ways to deliver the curriculum to your children virtually. I am also very pleased to witness the growing confidence with which the students navigate the Google Meets and the virtual Classroom. We know and appreciate the help and support you are giving your children behind the scenes to make this happen.

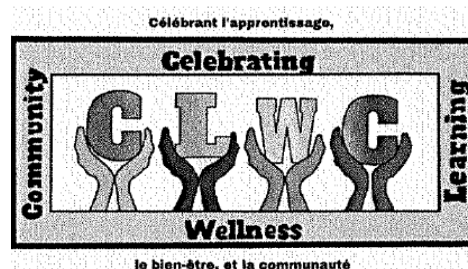
I really enjoy popping into our Kindergarten to grade 8 classrooms and witnessing all of the fantastic things that are happening! The students are generally so attentive and demonstrate excellent digital citizenship by muting their mics when others were speaking and raising their hands when they have something to say.

Just a note that during May and June teachers will be doing the “Human Development and Sexual Health” component of our Health Curriculum. Your child’s teacher has shared a letter on the Google Classroom which outlines the curriculum expectations that will be covered for your child’s grade. May’s Umbrella theme is AUTONOMY. Autonomy helps with the development of independence and trust and is an important part of individual growth and development. As educators nurturing autonomy, we aim to create a cooperative bond between ourselves and students while also paying attention to secure and reasonable boundaries and expectations. Autonomy goes beyond teaching independence and is about supporting children in a way that allows them a sense of comfort in themselves.

Lori Shilvock

Mental Health & Education Week

The theme this year for Education week will be “Celebrating Learning, Wellness, and Community”. More than ever, we recognize the necessary partnership between education and mental health. The logo was designed by a grade 8 student from Kortright Hills Public School. Her logo represents and incorporates this year’s theme, and our celebrations of the interconnectedness of community and the learning we have done over the past year, together with our wellness work. Teachers will be sharing activities with their class during this Education week.



Reminder

Just a reminder that there will be no school for students on Monday, May 24th as we celebrate Victoria Day. Our next P.A. day will be on Friday, June 4th, 2021.



2021-2022 School Organization

Another administrative task that we begin in late May and into June is determining the 2021 - 2022 school organization, and the make-up of classes. We would like to inform parents about how we approach this important task.

First, our in-school staffing committee receives a tentative school organization from the Board's District Staffing Committee. This school organization is based on the expected student enrolment and the number of teachers that are allocated to our school by the Upper Grand District School Board's Staffing Committee.

Next, our staff collects data on each student which is then used at grade level placement meetings. Teacher collaboration occurs around determining student placement for the subsequent year.

Teachers spend a considerable amount of time determining the best possible placement for each student. Teachers have expert knowledge about how your child learns, their learning interests and work habits, and what kind of social groupings foster their growth.

If you have any specific concerns or requests around class placement for next year, put your concerns/request in a letter (or email) addressed to Ms. Shilvock for consideration.

We appreciate your trust in our professional judgment in the student placement process.

Moving??

If you know you will be moving over the summer and not returning to Laurelwoods Elementary School, please inform the office. This helps us to plan classes for the fall.



LLC News from Your Friendly Neighbourhood Library Ninja

BOOKS AND LIBRARY BAGS DUE BACK

This year has been a strange one! With the upheaval we've had due to remote learning, extended breaks, and quarantining over the last year, library book inventory has been very difficult. Some students or families may still have books or library bags at home from the previous year as well as this year. This year we will aim for all Library books and yellow primary book bags being due back to the school by the end of May, subject to access to the building. Any books or bags that are deemed LOST, please send a note in your child's agenda, an email to Mrs. Whittington, or call the school.

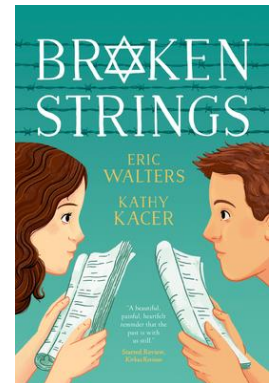
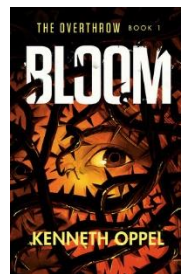
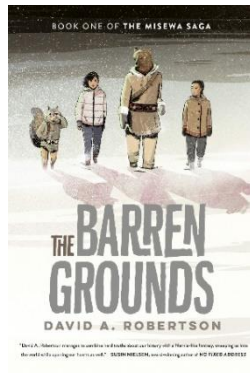
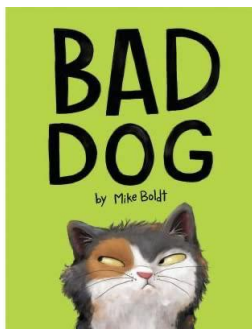
This year, again, we ask that students going off to Grade 9 make sure to return materials to LES to avoid having those books on their account in Highschool.

Forest of Reading Program

Each year, thousands of children participate in the Ontario Library Association's annual reading programs through their schools and community libraries. This year, Laurelwoods students from K-8 participated both remotely and in person in programs for their grade: Blue Spruce K-3, Silver Birch 4-6, Red Maple 7-8. These programs bring an excellent selection of current Canadian children's books to the attention of our young readers. Each student who participated by reading at least 5 of 10 fiction novels on the reading list qualified to vote for their favourite book in the month of May. Their choices will be counted in the province-wide vote for this year's award-winning Canadian fiction. Our programs this year looked a bit different with the move back and forth from remote learning to in-person, but students persevered! Our Blue Spruce program saw votes and participation from EVERY class from K-3, while our Silver Birch Program had 23 students participating, and our Red Maple program had 5 participants this year. Congratulations to the following students and classes who qualified to vote in this year's program:

Ms. Gaudette and Mrs. Brailsford's class, Mrs. Bryan's class, Mrs. Walkinshaw's class, Mrs. Ingram's class, Ms. Salfi's class, Briar, Alli, Lilly, Mara, Brooke, Hope, Claire, Sarah and Jaspreet.

BLUE SPRUCE WINNER AT LES 2021: SILVER BIRCH WINNER AT LES 2021: RED MAPLE WINNERS AT LES 2021: (We had a tie!)



Thank you so much and Happy May!

Equity Corner

We continue to enjoy our announcement deck slides on Equity and Mental Health each week! Last month, the students enjoyed wearing green for Earth Day, and blue for World Autism Awareness Day. We also celebrated International Day of Pink to support our LGBTQ+ community! The month of May is Asian, Jewish, and Dutch Heritage Month, and we continue to celebrate Ramadan!

Special Days this month:

- May 1st - 11th: Ramadan (Islam)
- May 1st - Beltane/Samhain (Pagan/Wicca), Twelfth Day of Ridván (Bahá'í)
- May 2nd - Pascha:Easter (Orthodox Christian)
- May 3rd - Dress Loud Day for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children (Wear Bright colours and patterns)
- May 3rd - 9th - Education Week
- May 4th - 9th Children's Mental Health Week (Wear Green)
- May 4th - May the Fourth be With You Day (Jedi: Wear Star Wars items)
- May 5th - Cinco de Mayo
- May 8th - Laylat al Qadr (Islam)
- May 12th - 14th - Eid-ul-Fitr (Islam)
- May 13th - Ascension of Jesus Day (Christian/Mennonite)
- May 15th - International Day of Families
- May 17th - International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia
- May 17th - 18th - Shavuot (Jewish)
- May 19th - Buddha's Birthday (Buddhist)
- May 21st - World Day for Cultural Diversity
- May 23rd - Declaration of the Báb (Bahá'í)
- May 24th - Victoria Day
- May 26th - Visakha Puja Buddha Day (Buddhist)
- May 26th - June 1st National Accessibility Week
- May 28th - World Hunger Day, Ascension of Bahá'u'lláh (Bahá'í)
- May 31st - World No Tobacco Day (WHO)

Speech & Hearing Month

May is Speech & Hearing Month! In Celebration, Communication, Language and Speech services and Deaf/Hard of Hearing services of the UGDSB are hosting an event called "Connect Hear" on Wednesday, May 5th, 2021 from 7:00p.m. – 9:00p.m. This event will raise awareness and promote wellness for students with hearing loss. There is a keynote speaker and then the choice to breakout and attend an "A" session and a "B" session. It is open to parents and you can register for the Keynote speaker and/or the breakout session through the link:

<https://ugdsb.eventbuilder.com/ConnectHear>.

Of particular interest to parents, may be the breakout session entitled "Why your child/student may need a hearing assessment". This session will review the reasons why this is so important. Dr. Elizabeth Fitzpatrick from the University of Ottawa will share these reasons. See link below:

<https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/1cqBQRH5OP6ds1crnqz97yxCmEnwCfo8SFuwiquunpsk8/edit?usp=sharing>.

Parent 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 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 (<https://ugdsb.schoolcashionline.com>). 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! For more information about the UGDSB Learning Foundation – please click on the following link.

<https://www.uppergrandlearningfoundation.com/>

