



Laurelwoods Elementary School

October 2021 Newsletter

Principal's News

It is hard to believe that the month of September has come and gone! The temperatures remain very pleasant and our students are experiencing amazing learning opportunities both in the classroom and in the community. Students have been doing a good job practicing our emergency drills. We are proud of them for their behavior during these drills. This month our grade three and four classes will be completing the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT-7). The practice tests will be given October 4-8 with the actual test being administered October 12-15. The testing will be administered over a three-day period and must be completed by the Friday- please make every effort to ensure your child is at school that week. If your child has an Individual Education Plan those will be sent home on Tuesday October 19th. I would like to remind all families to complete the COVID screening tool on the school website <https://www.ugdsb.ca/laurel/>. We want to extend a sincere thank you to families for your patience as we have worked with transportation and Attridge to sort out some of the difficulties with bussing earlier in the month. Things seem to be running much smoother now. We want to welcome Mr. Webb to Laurelwoods. Mr. Webb is our grade 4-8 core French teacher and is replacing Madame Neuman on a permanent basis. We wish to thank Madame Sawatsky for getting our French program off to such a smooth start this year. Mrs. Whittington will be leaving our Laurelwoods community on October 15th. Mrs. Whittington has made such a positive contribution to the Laurelwoods community she has been a true champion of Equity and Inclusion, passionate about her role as the teacher librarian and an active member of Parent Council- she will be truly missed by staff and students alike.

Lori Shilvock
Principal LES

Terry Fox Run 2021



Students from K-8 participated and joined in the Marathon of Hope by walking and/or running on September 29, 2021. Fun was had by all! More importantly, we surpassed our goal of \$500.00! Thank you for your online donations.

Thanksgiving and P.A. Day

Laurelwoods Elementary School will be closed to students on Monday, October 11th for the Thanksgiving Holiday. The school will also be closed to students on Friday, October 29th for a Professional Activity Day.



From The Book Stacks

LLC News from Your Friendly Neighbourhood Library Ninja

Virtual Book Fair!

The School will be hosting a Virtual Scholastic Book Fair from October 25th - November 8th! Students and their families will be able to purchase books using the special LES link that will be provided on the 25th. Information will be coming out closer to the date. A percentage of proceeds go back into the LES Library collection! If you have questions, please contact the school.

Good Bye, LES!

Mrs. Whittington would like to say a fond farewell to Laurelwoods staff, students and families. She has had a wonderful 5 years here at the school and enjoyed being your Laurelwoods Library Ninja! Have a wonderful year!

Mrs. S Whittington, Your Library Ninja!

International Walk to School Day on October 6th 2021!

In October we celebrate “active travel” by encouraging students to walk or bike between home and school, or to actively travel as much as they can in their local environments. As we are a fully bused school at Laurelwoods we will have designated times on the 6th when each class will have the opportunity to get moving!

“In the ParticipACTION Active Healthy Kids Canada Report Card, the overall grade for children remains at a D- for the third year in a row. Overall, only 9% of 5-17-year olds are getting the 60 minutes of heart-pumping activity they need each day. And sadly, only 24% of 5-17-year olds are walking/wheeling/rolling to school. Our tendency to constantly watch over them or keep them indoors to ensure they are safe from risk limits their opportunities for physical activity, endangering their long-term health.” <http://www.saferoutestoschool.ca/>

4 ways that walking, biking or rolling can benefit kids

by Katherine Martinko

- **Outside activity is known to improve academic performance.** Children that have had some outside time in the morning arrive brighter and more alert for their first morning class.
- **Walking gives children good life experience.** It’s an opportunity for them to be independent, think responsibly, and make decisions for themselves. Some children feel less anxiety about being at school when they know how to get home.
- **Walking gets children outdoors**– and, according to Richard Louv, who wrote about Nature Deficit Disorder, kids certainly aren’t spending enough time outside these days. Find opportunities for your child to get outside and get moving by walking, biking, skipping, or rolling too!
- **Walking/biking/rolling provides daily exercise for children.** Obesity rates have skyrocketed in North America, so incorporating physical activity into a child’s daily routine is a good place to start fighting it.

Encourage your children to get outside and get active!



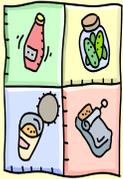
Grade 7 & 8 Vaccinations:

Just a reminder that the Wellington Dufferin Guelph Unit will be in the school on Wednesday, October 13th, 2021 to administer the following vaccinations – Meningococcal, Hepatitis B and the Human Papillomavirus.

1st Annual Amaranth Bale Trail

You might have noticed the bales of hay outside the entrance to the school. The Township of Amaranth is having a hay bale trail. Residents can take a road trip around Amaranth where you will see the creative side of our local farmers, residents and other hay bale artists. Bales will be displayed all over the Township for the month of October. A downloadable map of all locations will be available on the Township's website by October 1st. The bale competition will take place on October 29th!

Food Drive



FCC Drive Away Hunger Food Drive:

Unfortunately, due to Covid restrictions, Laurelwoods will not be participating in the FCC Drive Away Hunger Food drive this year. Our local food banks provide food to the Grand Valley and Orangeville areas. Please feel free to donate at the Orangeville Food bank located at 3 Commerce Road or at your local grocery store. Please remember to check expiry dates on all food donations. Thank you.

Report a Bully – On-Line Reporting Tool

As part of our Safe Schools policy, the Upper Grand District School Board has launched an on-line tool that can be used to report incidents of bullying. Reports that are made through the web-site are forwarded to the Principal of the school for follow-up. The web address is: www.ugdsb.on.ca/stop-a-bully Please also take a moment to review our updated Bully Prevention Plan that is located on our school website under the **Resource** tab.



Photo Retake Day

The photographer from Edge Imaging will be back at Laurelwoods the morning of Friday, October 22, 2021 to take photos of any students who were absent from school on photo day or for those wanting Retakes.

Equity Corner

On September 30th, students in every classroom donned orange to show our support for the Indigenous children taken from their homes and forced to go to Residential Schools.



JEDI Club For Equity

This month brings our first meeting of the JEDI Club, which stands for Justice, Equity, Diversity and Inclusion. As an educational community we have a responsibility to identify and describe racism, bullying and other forms of exclusion and then work to dismantle them. Students should watch for an announcement to join the club, where we will discuss and plan ways to lead our school to be an even more accepting place for everyone!

School Council

Parent Council Co-Chairs for the 2021/2022 School Year are Kate Bryan and Kate Dimitrakopoulos. The Secretary position will be shared by Marrie and Ferguson and Andrea Nicholls. We are excited to get back to our fundraising efforts this school year, please stay tuned for more information and we hope you are able to support our initiatives that directly support our school community.

Our next meeting will be October 27th at 6:30pm via Google Meet.

Dufferin Parent Support Network Workshops

The Dufferin Parent Support Network's October workshop topics include anger and stress management, effective discipline, challenging behaviour, and co-regulation. Please check out their website at www.dpsn.ca or call 519-940-8678 for more information or to register. Registration is Free!

CYC

Desiree Frenette our CYC is beginning to get into classrooms to inform students about the Zones of Regulation and Kelso's Choice. Both helping to understand emotional awareness and regulation as well as making good choices. We have also started our GSA club which will focus on equity and inclusion in our school. Towards the end of November and into December. Family Transition Place will be doing virtual presentations for Grades 4-8 on topics such as stereotypes, empathy, healthy relationships, and self-esteem.

Happy Thanksgiving

