



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

December 2021

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Progress reports have been made available and parent-teacher conferences took place last week! Please know that it is always good to talk with you and we appreciate you taking the time to meet with your child's teacher. If you didn't get a chance to meet with your child's teacher, please feel free to call or email your child's teacher to arrange an interview.

During the month of December our Wellness Works focus is on gratitude! Gratitude can be expressed by a simple "please" and "thank you," but there are many other ways to nurture and identify gratitude. Taking just a bit of time to identify gratitude can have an impact. We are very grateful to all of the parents, guardians, elders, and caregivers who support our communities' children and youth.

Finally, our staff and students have been doing a fantastic job following our health and safety protocols. Please continue to encourage and support your child to: self-screen, social distance, wear a mask properly, and wash hands. Please do not send your child to school if they do not pass the COVID screening and follow the advice that is given when you receive your child's self-screening results.

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

Lori Shilvock
Principal



Christmas Holidays – December 20th – January 2nd, 2022
Students return on January 3rd, 2022

Remembrance Day at Laurelwoods

Mrs. Jordan and the grade eight 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 as well as extra clothing if they get wet.

School Council

Thank you for supporting our fundraising efforts this past month, it is greatly appreciated. You are able to place orders for the Recipe in a Jar fundraiser until December 10th, visit <https://Laurelwoods2021.recipesinajar.ca/> to place your order. Bradford Greenhouse holiday plants will be available for pick up Thursday, December 2nd, 3:00-6:00pm. We hope you enjoyed the delicious Krispy Kreme Donuts. We are very excited to announce the return of popcorn and pizza days, please keep an eye on our school cash online for more information on placing orders for these items. Our next Parent Council Meeting will be held virtually on Jan. 19th at 6:30 PM. The link will be posted on the afternoon of the 19th on the school website.

Food & Friends Student Nutrition Program

We continue to provide grab and go snacks in each classroom, we will be adding more options and variety to the binds in the coming weeks. The last at home food delivery from food & friends will be December 16th. If you wish to support our student nutrition program, monetary donations can be made via our school cash online portal and select "Food & Friends Program". All donations go directly back to our program.

Kindergarten Registration

Online pre-registration for the 2022-2023 school year begins on January 4, 2022 to January 22, 2022. 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 21, 2022 a 4:00 pm, in order for your application to be considered "on time".
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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

Save the Date: Grade 8's

We have already been discussing and preparing courses for grade 9 with our grade 7/8/9 guidance counselor, Mrs. Burton. So far, she has made two visits to our classroom and we've done some activities together. She has them posted in her own google classroom called Grade 8 Guidance, where all grade 8's are included.

Westside Secondary School's guidance counselor, Mrs. Kirkland, will be sending some paper info to share with Grade 8s and their families prior to the winter break. The Grade 8 Parent Info Night is scheduled for Wednesday, January 12, and will be virtual. As many of you may know, grade 9 will be de-streamed in Ontario next fall. This means that students will not choose between Applied and Academic courses until grade 10. Your child will only need to choose his/her 2 optional credits, unless they have modifications on an IEP (Individual Education Plan). Mrs. Kirkland will be meeting with our students in person in the new year to answer questions about grade 9.

Community Outreach

Family Transition Place has been running a series of virtual workshops with junior and intermediate students in November and December. Topics include the following:

Mrs. Matthew's class- Stereotype Busters Program

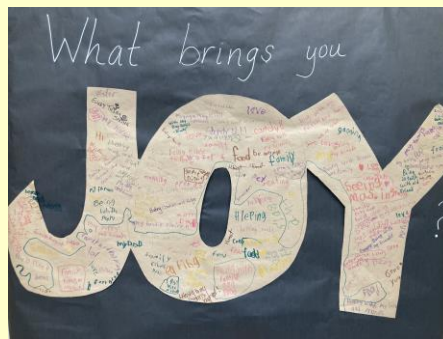
Mr. Gordanier and Mr. Gertzbein's Classes- Empathy Program

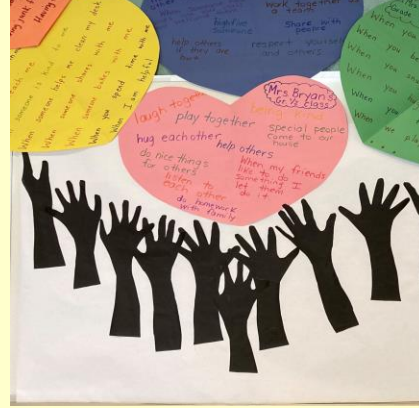
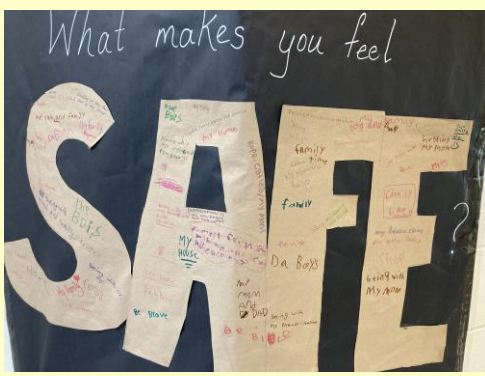
Mrs. Kerrigan's Class- Healthy Relationships Program

Mrs. Jordan's Class- Self-Esteem Program

JEDI (Justice, Equity, Diversity, Inclusion) Team News

Students participated in a variety of activities and interactive bulletin boards for Anti-bullying Week. It was great to draw attention to treating one another with respect and kindness.





Spirit Days

Every Friday in December is Comfy Clothing Day!

What makes you comfy? Jammies? Onesies? Flannel? Trackpants? Stuffies?

Cookies

The Grade 8's are continuing to sell Cookies every Wednesday at Second Break (1:10 pm – 1:55 pm)
Don't forget to bring in your Loonie.

Inclement Weather

BUS CANCELLATION DAYS – ELEMENTARY

Parents are strongly encouraged to sign up for STWDSTS notifications of bus route delays and cancellations through the STWDSTS website: <https://stwdsts.ca/bus-subscription/>

Laurelwoods Elementary School will remain open for all students who can get here safely when buses are cancelled due to inclement weather. On the rare occasions when schools and board sites are closed to staff and students known as a "System Shutdown", all students will pivot to remote learning for the day and will be supported by their teacher. This may include teachers posting activities to Google Classroom, which can be accessed by students, or engaging in some synchronous learning activities.

Hello from the LLC

My first month at Laurelwoods has been a busy one, and I'm very grateful for the warm welcome from staff and students. I'm happy to say that Laurelwoods will be participating in the 2022 Forest of Reading, and thanks to fundraising from the Parent Council, we were able to purchase this year's book nominations in the Blue Spruce, Silver Birch and Red Maple categories. We are excitedly awaiting their arrival! Check out the Forest of Reading website for more information.

<https://forestofreading.com/>

In other news, we were able to purchase over 100 books for this year's Equity order! We'll soon see a great mix of new-to-us non-fiction, young adult fiction, graphic novels, early chapter books, and picture books in the Laurelwoods Library!

As COVID restrictions are lessening ever so slightly, the LLC is opening back up to be used as a collaborative space for science, technology and discovery - stay tuned!

Ms. Allie Artuso

COVID-19 Vaccinations for children aged 5-11

WDGPH has shared that vaccinations for 5 -11-year olds will occur in primary care locations

or doctors' offices. Vaccine clinics within schools are planned to occur during the evening or weekends (not during the school day), with the exception of CDDHS on Nov 26th 9-4pm, during a PA day. School hosted clinics would most likely be held during evenings or on weekends if needed.

- There will be a Vaccination Information Session hosted by WDGPH on Thursday, December 2nd, @ 7:00 - 8 :00pm. Interested attendees can sign up via email and will receive a zoom link to attend. Questions are encouraged and can be submitted ahead of time. Public Health information: COVID-19 vaccines for children 5-11 years old, Parent/Caregiver Information Night <https://wdgpublichealth.ca/content/register-wdg-public-health-virtual-covid-19-vaccine-parent-and-caregiver-information-night>