# Laurelwoods Elementary School January 2022 Newsletter

## PRINCIPAL NEWS

Happy 2022 to our Laurelwoods families! Regardless of how you celebrated we hope your holidays were lit up with love, kindness, and bright days! Prior to the holiday our hallways were transformed into a beautiful and informative gallery! Each class chose a celebration. Students researched the celebration and created informative displays that incorporated various aspects of the curriculum (reading, writing, media, art) to present the information to all of the other classes. Each class had an opportunity to complete a gallery walk and learn about; how Christmas is celebrated in other parts of the World, Chinese New Year, Diwali, Kwanzaa, New Year’s Eve, Yom Kippur, Eid al Fitr, La Bafana (Feast of Epiphany), Winter/Summer Solstice, Hanukkah, Wesak (celebrates the birth, enlightenment and death of the Buddha), and First Nations Day.

During the month of January we will be focusing on empathy. Empathy is defined as

* Seeing yourself through the lens of someone else’s eyes
* The ability to think about what someone else is going through, and imagine how you would feel in their place
* The ability to understand and share the feelings of another
* Feeling one with a person in a non-judgmental manner
* Often the first step towards compassionate action and helping others
* A skill and takes practice much like a motor skill. The more you play soccer, the better you get and empathy works the same way

Our first weeks of January will begin with remote learning. We understand that some of our students will require a chromebook to participate in the learning. We have sent out a technology survey by email and our school website so that parents can request a chromebook for the family. Pick up times are between the hours of 9:00 am and 3:30 pm daily. 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 17th.

It’s important to us that your children are in a safe environment here at school and so we count on our families to do their part as we work hard to do the same here at Laurelwoods. Upon our face-to-face return on January 17th, 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.

Be well!

Lori Shilvock

**P. A. Day – There will be a Professional Activity Day**

**on January 28, 2022. There will be no classes for**

**students.**

**March Break – March 11th to March 18th, 2022.**

## 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.

## From the Library

Don't miss out on the Library just because we're not at the school! Did you know that UGDSB students can access **OverDrive (Sora)** from **UG2GO** on their Google Cloud landing page? OverDrive has over 8000 ebooks and audiobooks that students can borrow online. Students can access UG2GO by logging in with their UGDSB network username and password. Once logged into UG2GO, select "OverDrive".

Use the search bar at the bottom to "Explore" books or search for an author or title using the search bar. You can read a sample and if you like it, click "Borrow" to check it out and start reading! Go to "Shelf" on the bottom bar to find and read the books you've borrowed. Don't forget to return ebooks if you're done reading them early, so another student can check them out. Click on the book cover to renew or return early. ENJOY!



The Forest of Reading books have arrived at the school board's Terry James Library and are on their way to Laurelwoods! I am hopeful that they will meet us there when we return. Until then, students and families can check out the Forest of Reading Blogs online on the UG2GO homepage. There, you can find a sneak peak of some of the books, author interviews and even a couple of books read aloud by the author. Check the Blue Spruce, Red Maple and Silver Birch collections.

## Parent Council

Thank you for supporting our first popcorn and pizza days before the holiday break, we are hopeful these days will resume at some point in the new year.  There will be new dates and extended deadlines for our food days so no one misses out.  Once again your support of our fundraising initiatives are greatly appreciated.

Food & Friends

In light of students moving to remote learning again, Food & Friends at Home  initiative is re-launching Monday January 10thuntil March 31st.  For more information and to register for this program please visit, [www.childrensfoundation.org/programs/food-friends/food-friends-at-home](http://www.childrensfoundation.org/programs/food-friends/food-friends-at-home)

The next Parent Council Meeting will be January 19th at 6:30 pm. A link will be sent out that afternoon to the school community via email.

## Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for the School Year September 2022

Kindergarten online pre-registration will take place between the weeks of January 4th to 21st, 2022. Eligible students for the Junior Kindergarten program must be four years of age on or before December 31st, 2022 and students must be five years of age on or before December 31st, 2022 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](http://www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten).

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