



# Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

**December 2022**

## PRINCIPAL NEWS

There will be many snowy days ahead as winter approaches! As the first snowfall fell, children played in the snow, built, and slid. This means extra mittens and socks are also needed! Outdoor learning and recess will continue at Laurelwoods unless the temperature is extreme. It is important that students dress for the cold conditions.

We will inevitably have some nasty weather in the coming months. School Bus Cancellations: This year we will be returning to the model where families and school communities are encouraged to follow STWTDS and subscribe for notifications to determine if busses are canceled. There will be one message from the Guelph Board Office or individual schools.

Website: [www.stwdsts.ca](http://www.stwdsts.ca)

Twitter: @stwdsts

**System Closures:** On these days, website and social media messaging will come directly from our Central Communications Team. All automated call-outs to all families, All-Staff emails and UGConnect push notifications directly from IT staff. As a school principal, I will not make a separate phone call to families, as this will be done centrally for all families.

It is so wonderful to see that many parents participated in parent-teacher interviews. We want the lines of communication open between home and school as we work as a team to help support all students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the teachers or myself.

With the festive season upon us, there will be much excitement in the air! Although our focus will be to work hard towards accomplishing our personal goals and next steps. As a school community, we will take time to learn about international festivals and holidays.

During the week leading up to Winter Break, we are highlighting a few celebrations. Wear the colours of the day on spirit days to honor Winter Holidays around the world that our students celebrate!

### **Monday, December 19th**

#### **Blue and White Day Celebrating Hanukkah**

Hanukkah, the Jewish festival of lights, takes place from December 18th - December 26th this year. On each night of the celebration, a new candle is lit in the menorah. Hanukkah is traditionally celebrated with blue and white colors.

### **Tuesday, December 20th**

#### **Red, Black, and Green Day Honouring Kwanzaa**

December 26th through January 1st marks Kwanzaa, an ancient harvest festival. There are seven principles to live by during Kwanzaa, and each day focuses on one of these principles. Kwanzaa's principles include Umoja (unity), Kujichagulia (self-determination), Ujima (collective work and responsibility), Ujamaa (cooperative economics), Nia (purpose), Kuumba (creativity), and Imani (faith).

**Wednesday, December 21st**

**Red, Green, and Gold Day- Christmas/ Winter Solstice**

During Christmas, Christians celebrate the birth of Jesus on the 25th of December. In many cultures around the world, the Winter Solstice, also known as Yule, is celebrated on Wednesday, December 21st. We celebrate the return of light (our sun) and the beginning of longer daylight hours on this day.

During the busyness of the coming month try to remember time is one of the best gifts we are given. Enjoy family time over the winter break. Take time to snuggle up and read together, play board games, drink hot chocolate, get outside and just enjoy being together!

I wish you all a very safe winter break and much peace and happiness in 2023!

Sincerely,

Lori Shilvock  
Principal



*Winter Holiday – December 23<sup>rd</sup> – January 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
Students return on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023*

## **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.

## **Kindergarten Registration**

Online pre-registration for the 2023-2024 school year begins on January 10, 2023. 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](http://www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten) Stay tuned for more information to come in December.

## **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.

## **School Council**

Thank you to everyone who attended our Winterfest Market as well as the book fair. It was a lovely evening and a great success. As well, thank you to all those who ordered poinsettias and tabletop centerpieces. They will be available for pick up at the school **Wednesday December 7th from 3-6pm**. These two fundraisers have provided funds for our forest of reading program, French workshops and classroom supplies. The support of our school community is greatly appreciated.

## Student Nutrition Program Update

We are continuing with our student nutrition program with each classroom having a bin available full of a variety of nutrition and delicious foods. Every student is welcome to utilize these bins. Please keep an eye on our cash online for Muffin Monday ordering, this will be live free fundraiser in the new year with all funds coming back to our program.

## Laurelwoods Book Fair

On behalf of our entire school, I'd like to thank our Laurelwoods community for supporting our Scholastic Book Fair! We have earned rewards with Scholastic which allows us to purchase new books and learning materials for our library. We could not have done that without your help! Wishing your families, a wonderful and restful holiday, and thank you once again!

Megan Salfi - Librarian

## Laurelwoods Spirit wear 2022 – 2023

We have partnered with a locally run business, Town Tees in Shelburne. They have set up an online ordering system that families can use all year round to buy clothing with the Laurelwoods Logo on them. You can personalize your clothing with respect to size, colour, and logo. Once you place and pay for your order, Town Tees will deliver your order to the school for pickup within 7 days. Please click on the link to access the online order form.

<http://laurelwoods.deco-apparel.com/>

The money raised by the sale of our Spirit wear will go towards purchasing new school team uniforms. Thank you for supporting Laurelwoods Elementary School.



## Terra Cotta 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 if you have not preordered online.

### Dates to Remember

December 5 <sup>th</sup>	Girls Volleyball Tournament – Westside Secondary School
December 6 <sup>th</sup>	Popcorn Day
December 7 <sup>th</sup>	School Council Poinsettia pick up
December 21 <sup>st</sup>	Westside Band will come to play at Laurelwoods
December 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Board Holiday – No school for students
January 9 <sup>th</sup>	First day of classes for 2023