



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

February 2023

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Dear Parents & Guardians:

I would like to welcome Amber Coats Worthington our new Child and Youth Worker. We are very lucky to have her at Laurelwoods. I am sure she is finding Laurelwoods families, students and staff to be very warm and welcoming!

On Thursday, February 16th you will be able to view your child's report card at <https://connect.edsembli.com/on/ugdsb/lwood/portal/viewer/login/login.aspx?logintype=P> These reports represent learning from September until the beginning of February. This report, unlike the progress report, will provide you with more detail on how your child is progressing at school. Please review the report with your child and acknowledge the suggestions that are made for improvement. Although formal interviews occurred in November, please feel free to connect with staff if you have concerns or questions about your child's progress.

To our parents of students who ride the school bus: Please know that the transportation consortium is dealing with a driver shortage which may result in the delay or cancelation of routes. Additionally, inclement weather may result in bus delays or cancelations. Parents need to be prepared for delayed routes both in the morning and after school. As a school, we have no control over this, as the busses are run by the transportation consortium. We encourage you to regularly check their website at <https://stwdsts.ca/> and to sign up for their notification service to help you in planning for these events.

In the month of February, we will be celebrating Black History Month. In 1995, Canada's government officially recognized February as Black History Month. Black History Month is a time to celebrate and remember all the ways that Black Canadians have contributed to Canada's history and culture. Please take time throughout the month to ask your child what they are learning about Canadian Black History.

National Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day is the Day of Pink on Wednesday February 22nd where we stand up against bullying and discrimination. A day to stand up for kindness. Where we work together and treat others with dignity and respect. Support Bullying Awareness, Prevention and Diversity by wearing Pink on February 22nd!

UGDSB Umbrella Project- February is Self-Advocacy.
Self-Advocacy is:

- Understanding who you are - strengths, areas for improvement, goals, interests, etc. and being able to communicate those ideas to others
- Being able to self-assess and identify areas where support would be beneficial
- Communicating with those who can offer support in ways that let them know what and how to help

National Sweater Day on Thursday, February 2nd, Laurelwoods will be participating in National Sweater Day. Since 2010, over a million Canadians have participated in National Sweater Day at their schools, workplaces and homes. It is a day to help raise awareness about climate change and modify behaviours around energy consumption. All students are encouraged to wear a sweater to keep warm as we lower the heat in our building by 2 degrees Celsius to show our support for limiting global temperature rise and raise awareness about global climate change and energy conservation. Looking forward to seeing all our students wearing their sweaters on February 2nd to support this great cause!

Family Day is on February 20th. There will be no school for staff or students on this day. Here are some ideas to do with your family [40+ Indoor and Outdoor Things to Do This Family Day – Active Parents](#) We hope that everyone enjoys this time with your family.

I am hoping that February can bring some more snow and sunshine to allow students the opportunity to enjoy the outdoors!
Have a wonderful month of February!

Lori Shilvock

Inclement Weather

Laurelwoods is a school entirely dependent on bussing. It is important for parents to check the Board's website as well as www.findmyschool.ca for any bus delays or cancellations.



Winter Walk Day

Winter Walk Day is celebrated by schools across the province on the first Wednesday of February each year. We encourage you to journey outside during the month of February! Although walking to school is not an option at Laurelwoods, we hope you celebrate by spending some extra time outdoors to explore throughout the month!

Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for the School Year - September 2023

Eligible students for the Junior Kindergarten program must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2023. Parents can complete the online registration at www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten and then call the school between the hours of 10:00 am – 3:00 pm so we can complete the registration. Please pass this information on to families in our area.

**February 20th , 2023 is Family day and there is no school for students.
March Break is March 13th – 17th, 2023**

EQAO Webinar

Parents and Guardians of Elementary School Students can register for this free live webinar and learn about EQAO assessment results and Ontario's largescale assessment program at the elementary-school level. EQAO will review highlights from the 2021–2022 assessment results. The session will also highlight how the primary-division (Grade 3) and junior-division (Grade 6)

assessments have been modernized. The presentation will be approximately 45 minutes and will be followed by a live Q & A session with EQAO staff. Registration: www.eventbrite.ca/e/451955981507

Forest of Reading

It's here!! Once again, our Laurelwoods students will be participating in the Forest of Reading Program, thanks to the help of our Parent Council! This program runs Canada-wide, both in schools and out. The goal of this program is to encourage reading for enjoyment, especially amongst younger students. Children and adults get a chance to read, celebrate, and vote for the many Canadian authors chosen each year for the book selections.

We started in January, and will be reading, or listening to, several of the books designated for their age group. Students have until the end of April to complete the reading requirements before they get to vote for their favourite book! Happy reading!

Flag Day



National Flag of Canada Day is observed on February 15, 2023. Flag Day, officially named National Flag of Canada Day, commemorates the inauguration of the Flag of Canada on that date in 1965.

Dates to Remember

February 7	Laurelwoods Winter Games day
February 10	Junior Cross-Country Skiing (Matthews/Gordanier)
February 13	International Epilepsy Awareness Day (wear purple)
February 14	Friendship Day- dance grades 6,7 & 8
February 15	Flag Day
February 16	Dufferin Waste Presentations
February 16	Report Cards are available online
February 17	Intermediate Downhill Skiing
February 17	Cross Country Skiing (Graziani/Gertzbein)
February 20	Family Day – No School for Students
February 22	Pink Shirt Day
February 22	Cross Country Skiing (Matthews/Gordanier)
February 23	Parent Council Meeting – 6:30 pm
February 24	Backwards day
February 28	Cross Country Skiing (Graziani/Gertzbein)

