



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

March 2023

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are into the start of our second term at Laurelwoods! As you are aware the first report cards were made available to families digitally on February 16th. As always report cards cannot capture everything students have learned or everything that teachers have taught, however I would encourage you to read the comments over with your child. Celebrate the growth in learning and discuss strategies and goal setting to help your child achieve their next steps at school. We value the importance of a home-school connection and appreciate the support that you provide at home to ensure your child is meeting with success in all subject areas. The second Report Card will go home at the end of June to reflect achievement from February through to June. Please feel free to contact your child's teacher to discuss questions you may have around their progress and achievement in Term 1.

With March upon us, we are looking forward to the spring and realize that Daylight Savings Time is approaching! Please remember to spring forward your clocks by 1 hour on March 13th which will bring longer daylight to look forward to! We also have March Break approaching the week of March 13th- 17th. We wish our families and students a wonderful March Break week to rest & recharge for the remainder of the school year.

Wishing you an enjoyable break & month ahead!

Sincerely,

Lori Shilvock

Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for September 2023

If you have not already registered your child for full day every day Junior Kindergarten in September 2023, please complete the registration online (www.ugdsb.ca/kindergaten) and call into the office so a meeting can be scheduled to complete the registration. Eligible students for the JK program must be four years of age on or before December 31st, 2023.

March Break & Easter

This is a reminder that March Break holiday begins on - Monday, March 13, 2023 and goes to Friday, March 17, 2023.

Good Friday is on April 7th and Easter Monday is on April 10th. There will be no school for students on either day.

Earth Hour

Started by WWF and partners as a symbolic lights-out event in Sydney in 2007, Earth Hour is now one of the world's largest grassroots movements for the environment, engaging millions of people in more than 180 countries and territories. Earth Hour is held every year on the last Saturday of March. Join the millions of people around the world and switch off your lights in support of nature and our planet on Saturday, March 25th, 2023 at 8:30 pm. - <https://www.earthhour.org/>
Spend 60 minutes doing something positive for our planet.

Ideas for your family to do for Earth Hour!

Earth Hour belongs to you. Celebrate your commitment to the planet with your friends, family, community or at work - in your own way.

A simple event can be just turning off all non-essential lights on March 25th from 8:30-9:30 pm. For one hour, focus on your commitment to our planet. To celebrate, you can:

- *prepare a candle lit dinner,*
- *talk to your neighbours, or invite people over*
- *stargaze, or go camping in your backyard*
- *play board games, or charades*
- *host a concert, or a sing-a-long*
- *create or join your own community event*
- *have an Earth Hour every month*



The possibilities are endless!

Parent Council

Thank you for supporting our pizza , hot lunch, yogurt bars and popcorn days, we are excited to be back in the school and raising funds for our school community.

The Laurelwoods Parent Council generously purchased books for parent sign out. If you are interested in borrowing one of these books please contact the school office, at 519-940-3666, to arrange for pick up. The resources available for parent sign out can be viewed at <https://www.ugdsb.ca/laurel/resources/parent-lending-library/>

We are excited to offer some new food days this spring, all items are posted now on cash online for the rest of the year. Be sure to place your orders by March 8th. Thank you for supporting parent council initiatives, all proceeds go directly back into the school to support our school community. Our next Parent Council meeting is March 30th at 6:30pm.

Student Nutrition Program

Thank you for supporting our Live Free campaign with our Muffin Mondays, all proceeds go back into our student nutrition program to ensure we continue to offer healthy foods in every classroom, available to all students.

EQAO Webinar for Caregivers of Elementary Students

There is a FREE live webinar to learn about EQAO assessment results and Ontario's large-scale assessment program at the elementary-school level.

- March 28th @ 6:30pm
- April 4th @ 12:00pm.

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

Dates to Remember

March 3	P.A. day – no school for students
March 7	Laurelwoods Ice Hockey Tournament
March 8	Last day to order/pay for Frozen Yogurt Bars / Grilled Cheese/ Pancakes / Milk and Popcorn on School Cash online
March 9	The Great Big Crunch!
March 9	Last day to pay /order Pizza online
March 10	Kindergarten Graduation Pictures
March 10	Grade 8 Graduation Retakes
March 17	Last day to pay/order Cookies online
March 26	Pancake Day

Dufferin Parent Support Network

For upcoming Online Workshops visit our website for details - www.dpsn.ca

Taming the Dragon: Anger and Stress Management Thursday, March 9 - Registration:

<https://bit.ly/DPSNangW23>

Cooperative Co-Parenting Through Separation and Divorce Thursday, March 23 - Registration:

<https://bit.ly/DPSNco-pW2>

Workshops are free, but require registration.

For more information, please contact DPSN at 519-940-8678 or info@dpsn.ca

Wellness Works! UGDSB March theme is Kindness

This month we collectively focus on reminding ourselves to be kind.

Kindness can be defined as:

the quality or state of being kind (loving, affectionate, gentle) (*Merriam-Webster*)

Acts of kindness - help students engage in more compassionate ways with each other and appreciate the value of helping others. Through acts of kindness, students can build more positive relationships with their classmates.

Being a Good Friend - Peer acceptance and friendship can help students to feel good about their school experience and perform better in the classroom. Students can learn to appreciate what makes them a good friend and what attributes they value in others.

Being Respectful - Learning to recognize and celebrate how people are both the same and different helps students appreciate diversity and to respect and care for each other.

Conflict resolution - skills are best modelled and practiced in a safe and supportive environment. Students benefit from learning how to solve conflicts appropriately, using words.

Empathy - skills help with conflict resolution and maintaining positive relationships. When students learn to put themselves in another's shoes, they can develop new and more compassionate perspectives.

Active listening - enhances empathy and acceptance of differences. Students who listen well are more attuned to the needs and perspectives of others, which can help with social relationships.

Healthy Schools Protective Strategies Updates

As reported cases of respiratory illness continue to stabilize and we start to head out of winter, we would like to provide some reminders on continuing to stress key protective strategies in schools

while also supporting individual choices about masking in schools. We would like to take this opportunity to also underscore the importance of the following key messages to keep staff and students safe and healthy:

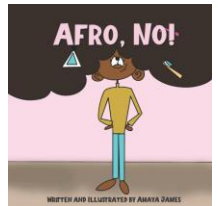
- Recommended daily screening before coming to school / work
- If you are feeling unwell or have symptoms, please stay home
- Continue frequent hand washing/sanitizing and respiratory etiquette
- Distance from others where possible, especially indoors
- A reminder that rapid antigen tests are available to staff and students at all schools and work locations
- Non-fit N95 masks, medical grade masks, and eye protection are available for staff
- Cloth masks available for students
- Every class, learning space and staff eating area in the UGDSB has a standalone HEPA filter unit, with more than 2,500 units across the board. Standalone HEPA units ***must be running in all occupied spaces where they are located***
- Open windows where possible and maximize the use of outdoor learning spaces

Following these measures will continue to help with pressures in schools, including student and staff absences and staff shortages. In addition to these measures, the UGDSB will continue to make approved masks available at each location and will support students, staff and visitors to our schools and respect their individual choices about masking.

Afro No!

We were thrilled to welcome guest author Amaya James to Laurelwoods. Amaya is the author of Afro No! and is just 9 years old! Students really enjoyed meeting her and were inspired by her work.

Amaya is nine years old and lives with her mom, dad and two sisters in Ontario. Amaya has the most vivid imagination and started drawing when she was just four years old. She often sees characters in everyday items and nature. She now works with Procreate to create digital art, after sketching her initial drawings on paper.



Staffing Update

Melissa Legault's time as a Special Education Consultant with the Upper Grand District School Board is ending as of March Break. She will return to Laurelwoods as of Monday, March 20th. As a result, Megan Graziani's last day with students will be Friday, March 10th. We hope to work with Ms. Graziani again in the future as she was a great addition to our staff! We have appreciated all of the contributions she has made as a strong classroom teacher, member of your Teacher Learning Community and to extracurriculars at Laurelwoods. She will be missed by staff, students and families.

Ms. Legault and Ms. Graziani will work together to make the transition as smooth as possible. I appreciate the support that I know will also come from the larger Laurelwoods School community as we warmly welcome Ms. Legault back!

Mrs. Marshall is currently off. We look forward to welcoming her back to Laurelwoods on Monday March 20th following March Break.

We also wish to extend a warm welcome to Ms. Crystal McKenzie who will be joining us until the end of the year filling various vacancies throughout the school.

The Coalition for Healthy School Food - Great Big Crunch

Laurelwoods will be participating in the Great Big Crunch on March 9th, 2023. The Great Big Crunch is a Canada-wide movement and annual moment in which students, teachers, parents and others passionate about food join the food movement and crunch into apples (or other crunchy fruit or vegetable) to make noise for healthy school food! On March 9th at 1:00 pm, all of the students and staff at our school can choose a healthy fruit or vegetable from 'Crunchy Trays' made by Parents' Council members. All at once, we will 'crunch' together to remind us of the value of good health and farm fresh food!

The School Board Staffing Process

I have submitted my projected numbers to the Board for next year and am waiting to hear back from the central staffing committee regarding the school organization for next year. In June I will work with staff to create the class organizations for next year. When doing this, teachers work collaboratively with administration and resource. We consider academic needs, social groupings, and peer dynamics to try to create best fit placements. If you have a recommendation that you would like us to consider, please forward your request via email to Karen Gardhouse at Karen.gardhouse@ugdsb.on.ca. As always, your request is not guaranteed but will be taken into consideration.

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.

