



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

April 2023

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Dear Laurelwoods Families,

We have had a great few weeks after March Break! We welcome the milder spring temperatures, as the ground thaws and becomes muddy, please consider packing an extra pair of pants and socks in your child's school bag. We also encourage boots to be worn at recess.

Wellness Works! UGDSB April theme is Gratitude. **Gratitude is:**

- The quality of being thankful
- An acknowledgement of goodness
- Readiness to show appreciation and return gratitude
- Recognizing sources of goodness outside of ourselves and how they contribute to our lives

We want to wish all our students and families who celebrate Ramadan a month full of joy and happiness. Laurelwoods has a multi-faith meditation and prayer space in our school which is available to both staff and students. It is located in the south wing in the Learning Commons seminar room. The location is indicated with signage on our front door. The space is equipped with mats to aid in comfort. We will accommodate student participation in learning and school events that may vary during Ramadan, assessments and cumulative tasks will be scheduled with Ramadan in mind. As a reminder **students and families who require religious or creed-based accommodations as supported by the Ontario Human Rights Code can make those requests by contacting school at any time.** If you would like accommodations made for your child who is fasting, please contact Mrs. Shilvock or your child's classroom teacher directly.

The last few months of school are going to be very busy. Please carefully note of all school events and return permission slips promptly.

Enjoy the longer days and sunshine!

Lori Shilvock

Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Grade 7 Presentation

On Wednesday April 5th from 9:00-10:25 Barbara Mason from Family Transition Place will be in grade 7 delivering the Anti-Human Sex Trafficking Presentation. All grade 7 students are to attend. The Anti-Human Sex Trafficking training is approximately one hour and 15 minutes in length. It is a PowerPoint presentation that includes a video and the use of "The Trap", an interactive tool that allows youth to experience what it feels like to be targeted and recruited by a sex trafficker through an immersive chat experience. It features scenarios based on real-life experience which helps students learn the skills they need to stay safe.

Child Abuse Prevention Program

Yearly, teachers are to deliver the Child Abuse Prevention Programs. This program is delivered to Grades 1, 3, 5, 7 students. Your child's teacher will be delivering this program during the month of May. The grade 7 program will be delivered by the CYC and supported by Mr. Johnson. The following personal safety programs that will be taught are: Be Safe (Grades 1,3). Kids in the Know (Grade 5) and

It Is Not Your Fault (Grade 7). A letter will go home this week explaining the program. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to your child's, classroom teacher.

Reminder

There will be Board Holidays on Friday, April 7th (Good Friday) and Monday, April 10th (Easter Monday). The school will be closed to staff and students.

Moving

If you know you will be moving and will not be attending Laurelwoods Elementary School in the Fall, please let the office know as soon as possible.



2023 – 2024 School Organization

We will soon be determining the 2023 – 2024 school organization. If you have any specific concerns or requests around class placement for next year, please put your concerns / requests in an email and send them to the school email address at: laurelwoods.es@ugdsb.on.ca.

Graduation Preparations

Graduation preparations are underway. We are moving ahead with our plan to celebrate our Graduates! This year the theme will be “Springtime in Paris” event and will be held on Monday, June 26th, 2023. More information will follow.



Grade 7/8 Vaccinations

Nurses from the Public Health Unit will be in the school on Monday, April 17TH, 2023 to administer the second round of vaccinations (Hepatitis B and Human Papillomavirus).

Eco Awareness

Celebrate Earth Day on April 22nd!

This year marks the 53rd anniversary of the very first Earth Day celebrated in 1970.

<https://earthday.ca/about/>

Earth Day 2023 Theme: “Invest in our planet.”

This is the moment to change it all – the business climate, the political climate, and how we take action on climate. Now is the time for the unstoppable courage to preserve and protect our health, our families, our livelihoods... together, we must Invest in Our Planet.

Ideas for your family to celebrate Earth Day:

- **Review previous Earth Day Themes. For example, there is an ongoing focus on ending plastic pollution.** Make a pledge to always carry a reusable shopping bag, use alternatives to Ziploc bags, buy in bulk, refuse to buy over-packaged products and make litter-less lunches. Download your Plastic Pollution Primer to learn more about this problem. Help **End Plastic Pollution!**
- **Spend a day outside.** In the garden with your family, plant vegetables, trees or native flowers and attract native animals and pollinators. Or join a local community event to help clean your neighbourhood by picking up discarded plastic, cans, and bottles. Or restore local plant life. Choose a good location for a compost pile – start recycling coffee grounds, eggshells etc. to decompose and to ultimately enrich your garden for the upcoming growing season.

- **Help build a bird feeder.** Build a bird feeder using a plastic bottle and filling it with bird seed.
- **Make commitments to cut down on your energy usage as well as waste.** Turn lights off, power down electrical devices, turn down your thermostat and only do full loads of laundry and dishes.
- **Learn more about the environment and the effects of global warming.** Encourage awareness and promote the **Reduce** (buy less), **Reuse** (repurpose it) and **Recycle** (sort it right!) way of life.

Remember that every day is Earth Day! Don't restrict yourself to just one day a year. Make environmental actions and caring about the planet a habit - on Earth Day and every day.



PIC HOSTING FREE SCHOOL COUNCIL ENGAGEMENT EVENT – APRIL 26TH

The UGDSB's Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is hosting a free event for parents and guardians on April 26th at Centre Wellington District High School in Fergus beginning at 5:30 pm. PIC presents **“Building Engaging School Councils.”** Whether currently part of a School Council or if they are looking to become involved, this event is an opportunity open to all parents and guardians to discuss, learn, and share with each other. Administrators and staff school council representatives are also invited to attend with their Council representatives. Here is a link to more information about this event and instructions for registering:

[School Council Engagement Event - April 26th](#)

Dufferin Parent Support

The Dufferin Parent Support Network's April schedule of free parenting workshops is available. Please see this link for more information. [April 2023 PIC.pdf](#)

Parent Council Update

Our food days are in full swing, thank you for supporting our parent council initiatives. We are starting to prepare for our Spring Event happening in May stay tuned for more information. All money raised goes directly back into our school. Next Parent Council Meeting is April 27th.

Student Nutrition Program Update:

Our Student Nutrition Program will be offering an Egg McMuffin Day to all students on April 13th. This will be served on a whole wheat english muffin with cheddar cheese. If you do not wish for your child to receive an egg McMuffin, please contact the office at 519-940-3666.



The Laurelwoods Hockey Team completed their season on March 7th with a hockey tournament in Erin. Many thanks go out to Mrs. Bryan, parents and all the volunteers who helped throughout the season.

Dates to Remember

- April 4th Skills Canada Competition – University of Guelph
Grade 4 Fire Prevention Presentation
- April 5th Grade 5 & 5/6 Fire Prevention Presentation
Anti Sex Trafficking Presentation for Grade 7's
Drumming presentation Grades k – 8
- April 7th Good Friday (no school)
- April 10th Easter (no school)
- April 12th International Day of Pink
- April 13th Swim to Survive Grades 3 & 7
Egg McMuffin Day for All students – no purchase required
- April 14th Scientists in the School – Grades 4/5
Spirit Day – Ramadan – wear purple and gold
- April 17th Grade 7 vaccinations
Scientists in the School – grade 3
- April 18th Popcorn Day
Scientists in the School – Grade 2
- April 20th Swim to Survive – Grades 3 & 7
- April 21st Wear blue and green for Earth Day
- April 24th Scientists in the School – Grade 1
- April 25th Grilled Cheese Lunch Day
- April 27th Swim to Survive - Grades 3 & 7
Scientist in the School – Grade Kindergarten
Parent Council Meeting – 6:30 p,
- May 1 – 5 Education & Mental Health Week
- May 3rd Parent Council Funded Presentation for Laurelwoods Families.
(Dr. Stephen Lewis will speak about issues related to youth mental health and well-being. Please save the date and plan to attend – 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm)

Sideline Basketball



The Junior Sideline Basketball Team had a great time playing in a one day, evening tournament hosted by Laurelwoods on March 7th, 2023. We invited junior students from Primrose Elementary School, Hyland Heights Elementary School, and Glenbrook Elementary School to join us for an evening of fun and games. The LES Team faced each school team with a smile, dedication, determination, positive energy and demonstrated great sportsmanship. The team of 14 was selected from a large intramural group run twice a week from December - March by Ms. Graziani and Mrs. Matthews and a few amazing Grade 8 Helpers. Thank you to all the parents, family members, friends, and volunteers for joining us for a night of fun. A huge thank you to the kids that came out to intramurals and the tournament. We can't wait for next year!

Pickleball

For the last month or two, we have had pickleball intramurals, where students from grade 6-8 played with a partner in our pickleball tournament. Recently, we had our finals played between Rainbow Legacy and The Pickleheads. The Pickleheads came out victorious, and Mr. Johnson and Mr. Gertzbein would like to congratulate them, and all the teams on some fine playing skills! Hopefully, students next year, will want to carry on the tradition of this fun intramural!

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.

