



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

December 2023

PRINCIPAL NEWS

A winter wonderland awaits! Tens of snowmen and giant snowballs were all over the field when I left the school on Thursday evening! We can expect many more snowy days as winter approaches! This means extra mittens and socks are also needed! Outdoor learning and recess will continue at Laurelwoods unless the temperature is extreme. Students must dress for the cold conditions.

Mrs. Jordan and the grade eight students organized an amazing, heartfelt Remembrance Day Ceremony. We are proud of our students' involvement. Thank you also Mrs. Jordan for such a beautiful front hall display.

I am proud of our volleyball teams for representing our school throughout their season! Mr. Johnson & Ms. Lovett did great coaching our teams and developing our students' sportsmanship skills!

In mid-November, students were also given the opportunity to reflect on their Term 1 progress thus far. The importance of setting goals cannot be overstated. We appreciate you working closely with your child to support them in achieving their goals.

With the end of the calendar year approaching, we also have some staffing changes to announce. Ms. Simms has done a spectacular job of filling in for Mrs. Durocher, who will return on Monday, December 18th. We wish Ms. Simms all the best in her next placement and welcome Mrs. Durocher to the Educational Assistant Team!

After 30 years of teaching, Mrs. Jordan will begin her well-deserved retirement in the new year! It is with heavy hearts that we bid her farewell, as she has made such positive contributions to our school's culture and community. The next three weeks will be filled with celebrations and surprises as we launch Mrs. Jordan into retirement! If you have any pictures of Mrs. Jordan that you would like us to include in a keepsake, please email them to cjohnson@ugcloud.ca. Starting January 8th, Ms. Bell will be the new grade 7/8 teacher. Ms. Bell has been with the Upper Grand District School Board since 2018. She has worked in intermediate and primary homeroom classes in French Immersion and English. Her passion is language and geography. She has taught overseas, specifically in Botswana and Tanzania. We are very excited to welcome Ms. Bell to the Laurelwoods community. I wish our staff all the best as they transition in the coming weeks.

During the hustle and bustle 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 enjoy being together! I wish you all a safe winter break and much peace and happiness in 2024!

Sincerely,

Lori Shilvock



*Winter Holiday – December 23rd – January 7th, 2024
Students return on January 8th, 2024*

Kindergarten Registration

Is my child eligible to go to school?

2024-2025 School Year:

- Children who were born in 2020 may attend Junior Kindergarten (JK).
- Children who were born in 2019 may attend Senior Kindergarten (SK).
- If your child attended JK in the Upper Grand District School Board, you do not have to re-register for SK.

Online pre-registration for the 2023-2024 school year begins on January 9, 2024- January 26, 2024. 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 .

Thank you

It is so wonderful to see that many parents participated in parent-teacher interviews. Thank you for making time to discuss your child's progress. We want the lines of communication open between home and school as we work as a team to help support all students. Remember that you can reach out to your child's teacher any time you have a question or concern.

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

We want to thank everyone that came out to the Winter Market on November 23rd! We had some wonderful vendors come out and we are thankful for their involvement and support.

Parent Council has started a Facebook page to better communicate with Laurelwoods families while also encouraging school connections and building our Laurelwoods community!

Join us at www.facebook.com/groups/laurelwoods

We are excited to be hosting Winter Fest on December 8th from 4:30-7:00 pm in the school gymnasium. There will be free facepainting from Fun Faces by Mel, colouring stations, holiday games with a fun prize table, make your own Grinch Tree craft, parent council refreshment and snack table, Hungry Horse Food Truck, and a raffle table sponsored by small local businesses!

Raffle and game tokens can be purchased on site with cash. Grinch Tree tickets can be purchased ahead of time on School Cash Online.

Bring your whole family for a fun night supporting parent council and our school community!

If you are interested in volunteering at Winter Fest, please email Alyssa at Alyssagre@gmail.com

Our next parent Council meeting will be held on Thursday, December 7th in the school Learning Commons at 6:30pm with a virtual attendance as well.

January's parent council meeting will be held on the SECOND Thursday, January 11th, at 6:30pm. We hope to see you there!

Illness Prevention Measures

As we continue to head into the fall season it is a good time for reminders about some of the supports in place to keep students and staff healthy throughout the cold and flu season:

Key Protective Measures

- Continue to follow key strategies such as frequent hand washing, respiratory etiquette and making the most of our outdoor spaces for learning continue to contribute to the health and well-being of students and staff.
- Classes in the UGDSB will continue to have a standalone HEPA filter unit with more than 2500 of these units deployed across the system.
- Hand Sanitizer - Continue to make hand sanitizer available for students, staff, and visitors.
- In addition to these measures, the UGDSB will continue to support students, staff and visitors to our schools and respect their individual choices about masking.

The UGDSB will continue to follow the direction of WDGPH for appropriate responses to illnesses in our community. Please visit their website for the most current information about respiratory illnesses including COVID-19 on their updated dashboard: <https://bi.wdgpulichealth.ca/respiratory-dashboard/>.

In addition, families may be directed to the UGDSB's website for illness prevention strategies: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/blog/management-of-illness-in-schools-key-protective-measures/> and to follow our Daily School Absence Reporting Dashboard to see trends in schools across our district: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/board/daily-school-absence-reporting/>

Thanks for all your efforts to reduce illness in our communities and keep students and staff healthy!

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.

The Student Nutrition program is happy to be holding a Free Pancake Day for all students on December 20th during the first lunch break of the day.

Pancakes and fresh fruit will be provided to every student who would like them!

If you are interested in helping with pancake day or volunteering for the school Food and Friends program, please email Alyssa at Alyssagre@gmail.com

Laurelwoods Book Fair

On behalf of our entire school, I would like to thank our Laurelwoods community for supporting our Scholastic Book Fair! We have earned \$1800.00 in 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!

I would also like to thank the families that donated some amazing books to our "Free Books Table" that was made available during the fair. Most of the books have already gone to new homes! If ever

you have any books you're wanting to donate, and are in good condition, please feel free to drop them off at the school anytime during school hours. We will make sure they get into the hands of students who will love them!

Wishing your families, a wonderful and restful holiday, and thank you once again!

Laurelwoods Spirit wear 2023 – 2024

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.

Westside Secondary School Grade 8 Family Night

On Wednesday, December 6th between 6:00 pm to 7:00pm there is an optional Open House at Westside Secondary School open to all grade 8 students. The open house will have program areas set up to share about what they do. There will also be volunteers floating around the building to guide families to different areas of the school. The Program starts at 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm. There will be four different groups between four locations and topics. Gymnasium – Co-Curricular, Theatre – Grad Requirements, Cafeteria – Optional Course and the Library – Admin, Special Education and Grade 9 sharing experiences.

Dates to Remember

December 4 th	Clothing Drive ends
December 4 th	CCAT test results to go home this week
December 4 th	Grade 6's & 7's trip to Terra Cotta
December 7 th	Parent Council Meeting
December 6 th	Westside Secondary School Family Night – Grade 8's
December 8 th	Winterfest 4:30 – 7:00pm
December 15 th	Blue & White day to celebrate Hanukkah
December 18 th – 19 th	Candy Cane Sales begin
December 18 th	Comfy Cozy Day
December 18 th	Student Celebration Assembly
December 19 th	Red/Black/Green Day to celebrate Kwanzaa
December 19 th	Grade 6's to Island Lake
December 20 th	Westside Secondary School Band performance
December 20 th	Free Pancake lunch – 1 st break
December 22 nd	Red/Green/Gold & White day to celebrate Christmas / Winter Solstice
December 23 rd	First day of Winter Holiday
January 8 th	First day back to school

Door Decorating Contest

Holiday excitement is building!!! For the month of December, classes have selected a holiday to learn about and will be showcasing what they have learned by decorating their classroom door, based on this tradition/celebration, for all to see. We have a wide range of celebrations and traditions being recognized including Christmas, Kwanzaa, Diwali, Hanukkah, Chinese New Year, Yom Kippur, and others. During the week of December 18th, classes will take a tour of the school to learn about different celebrations and holidays and enjoy the work of their peers. Happy Holiday!

Inclement Weather

BUS DELAYS/CANCELLATIONS:

In the event of bus cancellations, all schools will remain open for students and staff who can get there safely.

If parents/guardians do not feel it is safe to bring their child/ren to school, the decision to keep their child/ren home is theirs to make. Just be sure to let your child's school know that they will not be attending that day.

Bus cancellation days have the potential to significantly impact student learning for students who are unable to attend in-person. Students affected by bus cancellations will be supported in their learning through activities provided by their teacher in their Google Classroom.

Please note that school bus delays and cancellations are NOT posted to Upper Grand District School Board websites or social media. This information is shared by Service de transport de Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation Services (STWDSTS).

The [STWDSTS website](#) will always contain the most up-to-date information on school bus delays and cancellations.

Parents/guardians can sign up for cancellation/delay alerts through the STWDSTS website by clicking [HERE](#).

SCHOOL CLOSURES:

On the rare occasions when schools and board sites are closed to staff and students (e.g., power outages, weather closures), students are to shift to remote learning, where possible. Staff should not report to work in person and should shift to remote working where possible.

Remote activities for the day may include teachers posting activities to Google Classrooms, which can be accessed by students. Teachers will plan for the possibility of emergency school closures and will be prepared to pivot to remote learning.

Consideration will also be given to providing or assigning work and/or devices ahead of time that supports students who do not have internet access from home, where possible.

If the decision is made to close schools, an alert will be posted on the board and school websites, information will be posted on the [UGDSB Twitter page](#) and [UGDSB Facebook page](#), [Instagram \(stories only\)](#), and local media will be alerted.

Make sure you check in the early morning for closure information.

Lost & Found

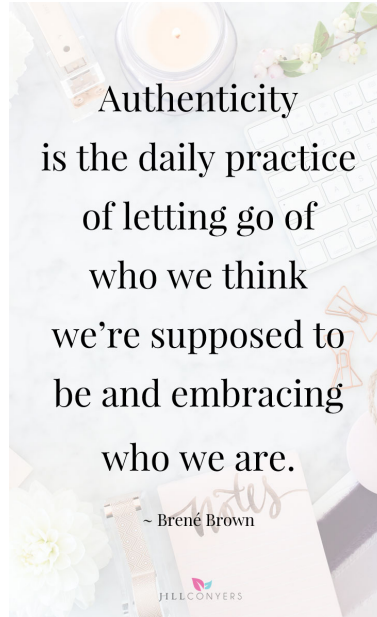
We have quite a collection of lost and found items. Items will be displayed in the front hall during the month of December. We are noticing few of the items have labels or names. This may be an opportune time to invite you to visit <https://mabelslabels.ca/en-CA> click on support a fundraiser in the top right corner, search for your school, and select Laurelwoods. It's that easy. Happy shopping, happy organizing!

Candy Cane O'Grams

On December 18th and 19th, the Principal Advisory Committee will be selling Candy Cane O'Grams, each little candy cane will be 25 cents. Students will pay cash for the candy canes (sales will not be online) and they can personalize a holiday message. Candy Canes will be distributed on December 20th, 2023.

Wellness

The wellness trait for the month of December is authenticity. Authenticity is speaking and behaving as our true selves. When we are authentic, we reveal our true beliefs and core selves to others with confidence and conviction, without fear of recourse or shame.”



Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test

This fall grade three students wrote the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test. The results of this test will be distributed early next week.