



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

February 2024

Principal News

Dear Parents & Guardians:

We have really been experiencing a mix of weather this winter! From spring like rains to extremely cold days with mountains of snow. The winter months may continue to provide inconsistent weather conditions. Please help us to ensure students are prepared for the outdoors by having them come to school with appropriate gear for outside. We will always monitor the weather and ensure that decisions about sending students outside are made with their safety in mind. Additionally, inclement weather may result in bus delays or cancellations. Please be prepared for delayed routes both in the morning and after school. As a school, we have no control over this, as the buses are run by the transportation consortium. We encourage you to regularly check their [stwdsts](#) and to sign up for their notification service to help you in planning for these events. Please be advised that if the buses do not run in the morning they will not run in the afternoon. If you drive your child(ren) into school, you will need to make arrangements to pick them up at 3:15 PM.

Literacy Week at Laurelwoods was a huge success! Approximately 500 books were turned into the book buffet and redistributed to be enjoyed by other children! Many students enjoyed dressing as their favourite book character and the winner of the Book Bingo was Ms. Lovett's class! A wonderful time was had by all. It was lovely to witness the shared reading between younger and older students on Thursday.

ECO Update

Our Eco reps have been working hard to ensure the compost and recycling is done each week at Laurelwoods. We have also been encouraging students & staff to use their GOOS bins and recycle dried out markers.

February 1st is **National Sweater Day** in support of the World Wildlife Foundation. 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.

Winter Walk Day (WWD) is an annual celebration of winter walking that takes place on the first Wednesday of February. Schools across Ontario will recognize this day. Here at Laurelwoods we will encourage classes to take the opportunity to walk through our beautiful forest. Hopefully, students will be able to spy some birds.

Pink Shirt Day – Wednesday, February 28th

We take all incidents of bullying seriously. If your child is the victim of bullying or sees bullying behavior at school, please encourage him/her to speak with someone at school or use our board's online reporting tool. Report Bullying gives students and parents 24/7 access for reporting bullying. You do not have to identify yourself – just your school – and your message gets sent directly to the school principal for follow-up. You will find the Report Bullying button on our school's website: <https://webapps.ugdsb.on.ca/reportbullying/>



Transitions

February is always an exciting time for us and a time of transition. We have over 25 little people registered for JK in September. Eligible students for the Junior Kindergarten program must be four years of age on or before December 31, 2024. 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.

On the other end of the spectrum our Grade 8's are involved in selecting their courses for high school and having visits from the high school guidance counselors. Grade 8's have reviewed their initial post-secondary pathways to help students understand the connection to course selection before they make their choices. The courses students choose in high school have an impact on their pathway from 9-12 and beyond. This is for a few reasons, namely:

- In order to take some courses in later grades, students need to have successfully taken a 'prerequisite course'.
- While destreaming in grade 9 provides an important opportunity for students to continue to develop skills and knowledge in all the core subject areas, by grade 10 they:
 - Have choices of courses that might influence their options of initial postsecondary pathway (workplace, college, university, apprenticeship, or community)
 - Might have less 'compulsory' courses and more options to consider how they will fill their timetable- as they move through high school, their choices should reflect a developing sense of self and potential postsecondary path or career (this will depend on whether or not they take the mandatory tech credit in grade 9).

Students have been provided time in class to complete their course selection in myBlueprint. Upon submission, students were required to send you (the parents) an email requesting that you review and approve their course selection. Parents should have signed off their child's courses. Westside Guidance staff visited Laurelwoods on January 29th and will visit once more in the spring to review and confirm course selection with the students.

We appreciate that there are big emotions for parents at the beginning and the end of elementary school.

Vulnerable Police Checks

Parents if you would like the opportunity to volunteer at the school, or participate in class trips, a current Vulnerable Police Check is required. Please ask your child's teacher for the necessary letter needed to apply online. There could be a 4 to 6 week wait to receive your Vulnerable Police Check from the OPP.

Laurelwoods Hockey Team

We have a tentative game scheduled for Wednesday February 14th in Orangeville at Tony Rose Arena from 4:00pm – 5:00pm. Come out and cheer Laurelwoods on!

Human Sex Trafficking webinar

We are pleased to offer our parents and caregivers another webinar on Human Sex Trafficking. The webinar will include a presentation and a panel discussion. Please see the attached flyer for more information, a link to view the webinar from last year if desired and a link to register. Please ensure that when you circulate that the format is click-able so people can register

[AHST Poster Winter 2024.pdf](#)

Wellness Focus for February

Self-Compassion is:

- Treating yourself kindly and with patience during times of perceived failure
- Understanding that imperfections and struggle are a natural part of being human.
- Offering oneself acceptance, understanding, and care

Self-Compassion aligns with classroom goals and student success as it supports students in successful:

- Goal setting
- Monitoring and documenting growth
- Collaboration
- Perseverance
- Initiative and risk taking
- Communication
- Conflict resolution

Badminton

Mr. Johnson was pleased with the number of intermediate students who signed up for and played in our badminton intra mural tournament. We had 13 teams of mixed doubles, who all played in a round robin season, followed by a single elimination playoff tournament. In our finals, The Oreos played a strong match to narrowly edge past The Brownies, who also played extremely well. Congratulations to our final's teams and to The Oreos, and all players who had fun in our intra mural season.



Dropping Off. Picking Up - A Gentle Reminder

Whenever you drop off or pick up your child from school, please park in the parking lot and cross at the crosswalk to the school. Some families are driving up to the front door of the school to drop off or pick up their children. This area should be kept clear for emergency vehicles; vehicles should not park or idle in this area. Furthermore, if you are driving through this lane, please be mindful that there are two crosswalks that connect the parking lot to the sidewalk in front of the school, one at each end of the parking lot.

Dates to Remember

During the month of **February**, we will be focusing attention on **Black Heritage, Black Brilliance, and Black Futures Month**.

February 1	National Sweater Day
February 1	Parent Council meeting – 6:30pm
February 2	Make it Sow Orders due.
February 6	LES Badminton at Parkinson Centennial School
February 7	Winter Walk Day
February 7	Live Free Pasta Lunch
February 7	LES hockey practice
February 10	Donuts with Grownups – 9:30am – 11:30am
February 14	LES Hockey practice
February 15	Flag Day
February 15	Report Cards available online – 4:00 p m
February 19	Family Day – no school
February 22	LES Winter Games – 11:10am – 1:10pm
February 28	Pink Shirt Day
March 11 – 15	March Break Holiday

Family Day is on **February 19th**. Family Day was originally created to give people time to spend with their families. Here are some ideas to do with your family. [Family Day 2024 - Things To Do With The Kids – Active Parents](#). We hope that everyone enjoys this time with your family.

Report Cards

On Thursday February 15th you will be able to view your child's report card

<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.

Parent Council

Our Make It Sow seed fundraiser is wrapping up with orders due February 2nd. Orders are expected to arrive within a week and will be sent home with students in their agendas.

Parent Council are excited to be hosting our first **Doughnuts With Grownups** event on **February 10th from 9:30-11:30am** at Laurelwoods. Students have the chance to treat the special people in their lives they love and appreciate to a doughnut breakfast. Students can invite as many people as they would like family, neighbours, coaches, friends... anyone they would like to show how much they are appreciated!

Breakfast includes: one Original Glazed doughnut from Lady Glaze, fruit, yogurt, and your choice of coffee, tea, milk, or hot chocolate. **Tickets are \$5 per person** on School CashOnline and can be purchased until February 6th.

There will also be a professional photography booth to capture memories of the students with their guests for a cash donation to the Live Free From Hunger campaign at Laurelwoods.

If you love Lady Glaze doughnuts, we are also **selling boxes of 6 Mixed Lady Glaze doughnuts** with the following flavours: Apple Fritter (V), Belmont Cream, LES Vanilla Sprinkle (V), Bleeding Heart (V), Chocolate Mess, & Nutella Coffee Brownie Crunch.

A mix box of 6 are \$22.00 and can be ordered on School CashOnline until February 6th. If you are not able to attend the Feb 10th event in the morning, doughnut orders can be picked up in Amaranth that evening. Contact Alyssa at Alyssagre@gmail.com to arrange your pickup time the evening of the 10th.

Proceeds raised through these activities will help fund various Parent Council initiatives for the entire school!

Our next Parent Council meeting is February 1st at 6:30pm in the school Learning Commons. Here is the schedule for the remaining meetings for this school year. All meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month at 6:30pm in the school learning commons. We hope to see you there!

February 1st

March 7th

April 4th

May 2nd

June 5th

As always, thank you for your support of the Laurelwoods Parent Council!

Food & Friends

The Laurelwoods Food & Friends program will be holding a pasta lunch day on February 7th to raise money for the Help Kids Live Free From Hunger campaign. Pasta lunches will include meat or vegetarian options and a side of cut fruit and served at the second lunch break on Feb 7th. Gluten free options will be available.

Every day, many children and youth in our community live without basic necessities that many of us take for granted. Often, they arrive at school without the proper nutrition they need to help them focus in class. Put simply, they are too hungry to learn.

Our “Help Kids Live Free From Hunger” campaign aims to raise funds to support our Food & Friends student nutrition programs, offering thousands of local children and youth access to nutritious food while at school. The Children’s Foundation of Guelph and Wellington invites you to be an advocate for children and youth in our community through our “Help Kids Live Free From Hunger” campaign in support of the [Food & Friends Program](#). As we continue to fight hunger, our goal is to continue to raise awareness and funds to support those in need in our community. In a time of increasing grocery costs, high inflation, and stressed family budgets, we are seeing a growing need for families to access Food & Friends programs. A healthy Food & Friends meal can cost an average of \$2.50. Many children and youth in our community live without the necessities that many of us take for granted. For some students, the food from our Food & Friends supported programs will be their only meal of the day.

By raising funds for the Food & Friends Program through the Live Free campaign, you can have a remarkable impact on the lives of children and youth in our community by helping provide a healthy start to the day for kids in our community who need it. **100% of the funds raised will help local kids Live Free From Hunger. Tickets will be available on School CashOnline until February 5th.** We are requesting a **\$5** donation with each lunch, but tickets will be sold as Pay What You Can. Every child deserves a hot lunch if they want one, and any donation helps. There will also be an option to pay it forward and donate more to the campaign if you are able! All money from this

campaign goes back to providing free, healthy food for all Laurelwoods students throughout the school year. We appreciate your support of this important program at Laurelwoods. If you would like to volunteer with the school food program, please reach out to Alyssa at Alyssagre@gmail.com.

