



Laurelwoods Elementary School

January 2024 Newsletter

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Happy New Year and welcome back to school! I hope you had a safe and healthy Winter Break, and that your holidays were filled with happy and memorable moments with your family. Thank you for all your holiday wishes before the Winter Break. Your kindness is truly appreciated.

A reminder that we do spend time outside for learning and recess each day, regardless of the cold. We keep an eye on temperature, sunshine, and wind, and if we can get out, we go out. Please remember to send your child(ren) with warm layers, winter boots, extra gloves, and extra socks (these can get quite wet).

January is always an exciting time for us and a time of transition. Kindergarten Registration for the 2024-2025 school year will be held from January 9th -26th , 2024.

On the other end of the spectrum our Grade 8s are involved in selecting their courses for high school and having visits from the high school guidance counselors. There are big emotions at the beginning and the end of elementary school for parents!

INCLEMENT WEATHER

A reminder that, as with every winter, inclement weather conditions may result in bus cancellations and/or school closures. Decisions on buses and school operations due to inclement weather are made as soon as key information is available and no later than 6:30am the morning of. To check the status of school buses each morning visit www.stwdsts.ca, and to check the status of school closures visit www.ugdsb.ca. The BusPlanner Delays App is also available on IOS and Android phones. Get delay and cancellation notices on your phone.

P. A. Day – There will be a Professional Activity Day on January 26, 2024. There will be no classes for students.

March Break – March 11th to March 15th, 2024.

Snow Safety

Forts and tunnels are fun to build. However, forts and tunnels built at the side of the road spell trouble. Passing snowplows and the debris and ice they push can be dangerous for a child who can be buried or struck indirectly or directly. These incidents often happen in early morning or evening when it is dark, and children are playing. Plows are loud and the driver's visibility is minimal. Please remind your children to play safely and tell them that tunnel building is not a safe play activity. Let's keep all our children safe this winter.



Head Lice Checks

Winter is 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. We have product on site for families in need; please ask at the office. After treating your child, it is important to recheck for eggs 7 days later. Thank you for your help.

School Records

Please notify the school if there are any changes in your child's information (such as your work numbers and emergency contact numbers). It is extremely important that we maintain current information in the case of an emergency.

Attendance/Pick-up

Please telephone the school at 519-940-3666 if your child will not be attending school on any given day or will be late and include their teacher's name and bus number. It is extremely important that parents notify the school if their child(ren) will be absent. If you are picking your child up prior to 3:15 p.m., send a note with your child or call the school before 2:30 p.m. so that a bus slip can be completed. Please include the teacher's name and bus number. Thank you for your cooperation.

Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for the School Year September 2024

Kindergarten online pre-registration will open for parents / guardians on Tuesday, January 9th, 2024, and closes on Friday, January 26th, 2024. Eligible students for the Junior Kindergarten program must be four years of age on or before December 31st, 2024, and students must be five years of age on or before December 31st, 2024, to register for Senior Kindergarten.

Please complete the online pre-registration at www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten and then contact your child's home school to make an appointment to meet in person at the school. Parents will need their printed online preregistration form, child's birth certificate and proof of address (driver's license not accepted). We look forward to meeting you! Please pass this information on to families in our area. For more information visit www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten.

Grade 9 Course Selection Happens in January

In January, we will begin working with students to select their courses for Grade 9. Please know that the process will be guided thoughtfully by the intermediate team at L.E.S., with support from the guidance and student success teams at Westside Secondary School. Please mark the following date on your calendar:

January 29th, 2024, at 1:55 pm – Grade 9 course selections in my Blueprint. The courses will be picked within My Blueprint.

Interested in getting ahead of the game?

Check out these helpful resources!

[The UGDSB Parent/Caregiver Guide to support Student Transition from 8-9](#)

Destreaming Grade 9

Questions, queries, ideas, or concerns? Please contact your Grade 8's homeroom teacher. January will be an important month in planning for the Grade 8s successful transition to the next stage of their academic journey and we look forward to working with both them and their most important supporters, their family!

Laurelwoods Hockey Team

The Laurelwoods Hockey team will be starting up in the month of January with Mrs. Bryan. The team includes both Grade 7 and 8 students. Practices will be held at the Grand Valley Community Centre on Wednesdays beginning January 10th from 4:00-5:00 pm.

Parent Council Update

Happy New Year, parent council is excited for 2024. We are hoping to return with more hot lunch options, keep an eye on cash online for more information. Thank you for your continued support of our initiatives. All money raised goes back into our school community for our playgrounds, classroom supplies, scientists in the school, library resources and much more! There will be a Parent Council Meeting in the LLC on Thursday, January 11th at 6:30 PM. For those who would like to attend but are unable to attend in person, may join virtually by using the following link [Jan. 11th Parent Council Meeting Link](#)
[Jan. 11th Meeting Agenda](#)

Primary Skating

Permission forms have gone home to our grades 1 to 3 for skating. Our Primary students will be skating at the Grand Valley Arena on Wednesday, January 17th, 24th, and 31st. Payment is due online.

Grade 8 Graduation 2024

Mark your calendars, the 2023 – 2024 Grade 8 Graduation Ceremony will be held on Monday, June 24th, 2024.

Dates to Remember:

January 8 – Return to School
January 11- Parent Council Meeting 6:30 PM
January 9-26 – Kindergarten Registration Begins
January 12- Spirit Day! Wear your Colour House colour
January 19- Spirit Day! Wear your favourite hat
January 26 – P.A. Day – No School

Learning Commons

Starting next week, Laurelwoods students will be participating in the Forest of Reading Program, thanks to the help from 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.

For the next 4 months students 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! The winning books for each age category will be announced to students at the end of the program.

CODE OF CONDUCT

Please click on the link that goes to our Code of Conduct. We ask that you review this with your child.

[Laurelwoods Elementary School Code of Conduct](#)