



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

March 2024

PRINCIPAL NEWS

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are into the start of our second term at Laurelwoods! As you are aware the first term report cards were made available to families digitally on February 15th. 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 term 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. I have had a conference with intermediate students who had a regression in language and/ or math from the progress reports to term one reports.

Some general strategies that could support all students in improving their performance by the end of term two would include;

Regular attendance at school. There simply is no substitute for in person attendance at school. Each day your child's teacher has prepared differentiated and dynamic lessons to target your child's learning needs. If you child is absent, they are missing out.

READ! Have your child read to themselves, read to your child, read with your child! Just read each day! I challenge all families to make time for 15 minutes of reading as part of your daily routine regardless of grade level.

For many skills such as number sense (which heavily impacts student performance in all areas of math) practice makes perfect. Help your child build strong number sense skills through games that require your child to recall number facts.

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 one hour on March 10th which will bring longer daylight to look forward to! We also have March Break approaching the week of March 12th - 16th. We wish our families and students a wonderful March Break week to rest & recharge for the remainder of the school year. This year Easter seems very early- the school will be closed on Friday March 29th (Good Friday) and Monday April 1st (Easter Monday). We wish a joyous Easter Celebration to those who recognize these dates of significance.

Wishing you an enjoyable break & month ahead!

Lori Shilvock

Laurelwoods Black History Month

During the month of February, we have been focusing on Black History Month at Laurelwoods. We have had daily announcements with an educational focus on this topic. Each classroom has been engaged in learning about Black History and Influence. Take a look at the many amazing ways we chose to learn and celebrate Black Heritage, Black Brilliance and Black Future Month in our classrooms. [Black History Month](#)

Vaccinations Public Health

1. Clinics at Public Health

Appointments exclusive to students on suspension list open now until March 22

- All three offices (Guelph, Fergus, Orangeville)
- WALK-INS on suspension days and the 3 days following
- Call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006 to book.

2. Speak to a Public Health Nurse: Call 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006.

- Parents, guardians, students, teachers, school leaders
- Health Care Providers

Key Vaccination Dates:

February 21st	Robocall to elementary students in Wellington and Dufferin that remain overdue.
March 5th	Suspension orders delivered to elementary schools.
March 5 th /6th	Robocall to all elementary schools on the suspension list
March 15th	Deadline for elementary students to update their vaccination record to avoid Being on the suspension list
March 20th	Elementary suspension day

Parents can report immunizations:

Online: www.immunizewdg.ca using Ontario Health Card #

You can also view current, overdue, and upcoming immunizations.

Email: Send a copy of your record to school.vaccines@wdgpublichealth.ca

Call: 1-800-265-7293 ext. 7006

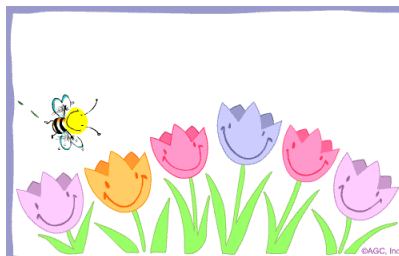
Junior & Senior Kindergarten Registration for September 2024

If you have not already registered your child for full day everyday Junior Kindergarten in September 2024, please complete the registration online (www.ugdsb.ca/kindergarten) 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, 2024.

March Break & Easter

This is a reminder that March Break holiday begins on - Monday, March 11, 2024, and goes to Friday, March 15, 2024.

Good Friday is on March 29th and Easter Monday is on April 1st. 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 23rd 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 23rd 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!

School Council

Parent Council would like to thank everyone who came out and supported our Doughnuts with Grownups event on February 10th. We had a wonderful turn out and raised over \$800 for our various school initiatives!

Our Make It Sow seed fundraiser was also a success, raising over \$1000 for Parent Council! Due to its success, and some parents reaching out letting us know they wanted to order but missed the deadline, we will be offering a second chance to order seed packages this March. The second round of seed ordering will go home with students the first week after March break.

We are working on planning more fun events in the coming months, including this year's Spring Fling which will be held on Thursday June 6th. We have subcommittees that are involved in event planning, playground replacement planning, and farm to school initiatives. If you are interested in volunteering or being involved in any of the subcommittees, email Alyssa at Alyssagre@gmail.com.

We would also like to announce that a new Treasurer position has been created for Parent Council. Details on what this position entails will be emailed out to everyone before March Break. We welcome anyone to nominate themselves or another parent who may be interested in holding this position and working with Parent Council to help our Laurelwoods school community.

As always, we invite you to attend our upcoming Parent Council meeting. Our next meeting is March 7th at 6:30pm in the school library. Parent Council meets on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30pm. There is also a virtual option to attend if you aren't able to make it in person. The link to attend virtually will be emailed out and posted on the Parent Council Facebook Page.

Be sure to join our Facebook group to connect with other parents and get/share information about the school! <https://www.facebook.com/groups/laurelwoods>

Student Nutrition Program

Thank you to everyone who supported this year's Live Free From Hunger campaign by ordering a pasta lunch for their student(s) and donating to the campaign! Your support is invaluable and helps provide free healthy food for all Laurelwoods students.

For more information on the Live Free From Hunger campaign visit

<https://www.childrensfoundation.org/>

The Food & Friends program is currently planning free hot lunch options for the remainder of the school year. In order for these free lunch days to be possible we need volunteers to help prepare and serve food to students. Remember, to volunteer in the school you will need an up-to-date Vulnerable Sector Check through the OPP. Obtaining this is free and easy. Email Mrs. Gardhouse to get your volunteer letter then submit your application online. Turn around for VSC checks has been approximately two weeks. Volunteering for the Laurelwoods Food & Friends program is easy, doesn't require a large time commitment, and is a great way to help the school community. If you are interested in lending a hand, email Alyssa at Alyssagre@gmail.com.

Dates to Remember

March 4	Last day to order online for Pizza – March - June
March 5	Popcorn Day
March 10	Ramadan begins
March 11	March Break Begins
March 17	Last day to order online for Cookies - March – May
March 18	St. Patrick's Day
March 19	School Council Event for Parents - Family Transition Place – Social Media Presentation – 6:30 pm
March 19	Last day to order online for Milk – March - June
March 21	LES Hockey Tournament in Erin
March 22	World Water Day – The Big Gulp
March 23	World Earth Hour – 8:30 – 9:30
March 26	Primary Students trip to Theatre Orangeville
March 29	Good Friday – no school for students

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 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.



Laurelwoods Hockey Team

Our Laurelwoods Hockey Team will be travelling to Erin on Thursday, March 21st to participate in a Hockey Tournament. The team has been practicing weekly in Grand Valley. We wish them good luck and know that they will represent Laurelwoods well.



DRESS & SUIT DRIVE

Donations are **now** being accepted!

INFO
Donations can be dropped off in the front office at **ODSS**

Donations are welcome from **8am-4pm**



DRESS & SUIT DRIVE

April 25th
4-7pm

PRICING
Dress - \$10
Suit - \$10
Shirts - \$5
Jewelry - \$2

Cash Only

School Council Sponsored Event - Family Transition Place Presentations – Open to all parents of the Laurelwoods Community

There are two upcoming workshops presented by Family Transition Place.

- Tuesday, March 19, 2024 – 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm at Laurelwoods Elementary School**
Social Median Generation – this workshop will help parents understand the impact communication technology can have on youth. It will examine the risks associated with prolonged and / or unsupervised social median use. You will learn ways to help children protect themselves online and also to explore strategies that can aid youth in building a healthy online brand / image.
- Monday, May 6, 2024 – 6:00 pm – 7:30 pm at Grand Valley & District Public School**
Bullying: Changing the Lens – this workshop is designed for parents with a focus on examining bullying as a relationship issue. Workshop activities and discussions will address the following topics:
 - to explore the definition and the different types of bullying
 - understand how bullying and unhealthy relationships are linked
 - how to promote healthy school relationships

-look at avenues students and parents can take to deal with unhealthy relationships.