



Laurelwoods Elementary School Newsletter

June 2024

Principal News

June is a very busy month here at Laurelwoods Elementary School! Teachers are wrapping up units of study, assessments are being completed, and transition plans for next year are being put into place. We encourage regular attendance so that your child is not missing out on social or academic opportunities. If your child is going to be absent, please contact the school office to let us know.

There are many exciting things happening within the school. Please read the newsletter carefully so that you are aware of important dates and keep up to date with classroom communications.

As we approach the end of another academic year, I would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for your support and collaboration. Please continue to check both the [Board](#) and the [School](#) website for updates and important dates through the summer months.

Thank you for a wonderful school year! I wish all of you a safe and adventure filled summer and look forward to working with you again in September!

Lori Shilvock
Principal

Staffing Updates

As the Upper Grand District School Board District Staffing Committee continues to work through the staffing process I would like to update you on some staffing changes for September. We will be saying good-bye to Ms. Graziani the end of June. We wish her well as she pursues the next step in her professional journey. Mrs. Bell will be beginning her maternity leave in September! We will be waiting to hear of the arrival of her new little baby and wish her so much happiness as a new Mom. We will work with the Board to have these positions filled before the fall.

Healthy Schools

I wanted to share some great news. Ms. Ludzik worked really hard to put an application in for our School to get OPHEA's Healthy School Certification. We are pleased to inform you that our school received a **Gold Healthy Schools Certification** this year! This is a huge step to creating a healthier school. We will be receiving a school recognition banner that should arrive at our school in mid-June. Healthy Schools Certification is guided by the following goals:

- To support schools who want to enhance the health and well-being of their students and staff.
- To increase student engagement and leadership opportunities to support health and well-being at school.
- To increase adult engagement in prioritizing health and well-being at school.
- To strengthen community engagement and partnerships.

Final Report Cards

Parents will be able to access their child's report card from a secure webpage, using a board issued account. To ensure we have the most accurate data and parent information, please contact the school at 519-940-3666 if your email information has recently changed. To access your child's report card, parents/guardians access the parent portal on ConnectEd

<https://www.ugdsb.ca/parents/connected/>. Parents will use their email address to authenticate their account. This email must match the email address we have on file. Parents/guardians can create their account provided they have an email on record with the school. Once your account is activated, you will see each of your children listed. Elementary report cards will be available for downloading beginning June 26th at 4:30 pm.

Grade 8 Graduation

Our grade 8 students will be celebrating their graduation on Monday June 24, 2024. The ceremony will begin at 6:00 pm in the gym. There will be a photo opportunity at 5:30 pm.

Moving??



Just a reminder that if you know you are moving over the summer, please call the office and let us know. It helps when we begin to make up our draft class lists to know who is attending or not. Any changes to your child's information can be updated by speaking to our Office Coordinator, Karen Gardhouse.

Medication

If you have medication for your child at school including epi pens and puffers, please stop in at the school the week of **June 24th between 9:00 am to 3:00 pm**. to pick it up for the summer. In September, forms will once again need to be completed to have medication administered at school. Thank you for your assistance.

September 2024 – 2025 School Day Schedule

8:45 am – Entry

8:45 am – 10:25 am Instructional Time (100 minutes)

10:25 am – 11:10 am BREAK/Snack (students have snack 15 min. / outside 30 min.)

11:10 am – 1:10 pm Instructional Time (120 minutes)

1:10 pm – 1:55 pm BREAK/Snack (students eat Lunch 20 min. / outside 25 min.)

1:55 pm – 3:15 pm Instructional Time (80 minutes)

3:15 pm - Dismissal

PA Day

There is a PA Day on Friday, June 7th. The last day of school for the 2023-2024 school year will be on Thursday, June 27th, 2024. The first day of school for the new 2024-2025 school year will be Wednesday, September 4th, 2024.

STWDSTS Annual First Rider Program:

Laurelwoods is an all-bus school. In order to ensure your child is assigned to a bus for the fall, please click the link to register and get more information [First Rider Flyer](#).



The First Rider Program is scheduled for Tuesday, August 27, 2024. They recommend that all First Riders participate in this valuable program, which usually includes a short video, question-answer period, and Family bus ride. Registration will be required – www.stwdsts.ca/first-rider-program

For students in SK and up please visit the student login website at www.findmyschool.ca after August 20th, 2024, for all bussing information. Sign up for email notifications for all delays/cancellations during the school year. If your child **will not** be riding the bus for the 2024 – 2025 school year, please call 519-824-4119 to let STWDSTS know.

Library News

Starting this week (June 3rd-6th), all students are asked to return all library books (and book bags for students in Kindergarten-Grade 3) for end-of-year organization. The first class in each division to bring in all their borrowed LLC items will receive a prize! After next week, students with outstanding items will be receiving an overdue items list. Please do your best to help your child find the items on the list and return them to the school as soon as possible. Thanks!

Pride Month

The month of June is Pride month. Flying the Pride flag not only signals that our schools are safe spaces for everyone, it also aligns with our guiding principles of inclusion and student and staff well-being, and our Equity Plan. Laurelwoods will be flying the PRIDE flag during the month of June. Should you have more questions about the flag and how it supports our vision, please visit our UGDSB Website at: <https://www.ugdsb.ca/>

June is National Indigenous History Month

The UGDSB celebrates June as National Indigenous History Month and recognizes this month as an opportunity to learn about and celebrate the rich and vibrant knowledges, contributions, histories, cultures and futures of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples, respectively.

WELLNESS WORKS! UGDSB June theme is Reflection and Celebration

This month students will be learning about reflection- the benefit of reflecting and looking back at goals and successes. How students can become more aware of how they learn, take more responsibility of their learning, and see growth in their learning.

Reflection is:

- A consideration of events - including the emotional responses to them and the causal factors (*why* things might have happened the way they did)
- Connections between events and what they mean - for the learner - in terms of curriculum/world/self-understanding.
- Personal
- An illumination of the learning that occurred and what the learner aims to do with that learning (you are different now)

YMCA Before & After School Program

Laurelwoods Elementary School is now accepting registrations for a YMCA Before and After School Program for children 4 – 12 years of age. Programs will run from 7:00 am until school bell, and after

school until 6:00 pm. There will be P.A. Day, Winter Break, and March Break programs available. For program details contact: Kirsten Almand at 519-215-0936 or Kirsten.Almand@ymcagta.org.

Calendar 2024 - 2025

The Ministry of Education has approved the Upper Grand District School Board school year calendars for the 2024-2025 school year. Students will start the year on September 4th. Winter Break will be from December 23rd, 2024, to January 3rd, 2025. March Break will be from Monday March 10th to Friday March 14th, 2025. The last day of school will fall on June 26th for elementary students. The approved calendars will be posted on the board website under [School Year Calendars](#).

Upcoming Events

National Indigenous History Month & Pride Month

June 3 - 11	Grade 3 EQAO testing
June 4	OPP presentations
June 5	OPP presentations
June 5	800 m & 1500 m track & field race at ODSS – 6:00 pm
June 6	Spring Fling – 4:00 pm
June 7	PA Day – no school for students
June 12	Lacrosse presentation – Grade 5-8
June 13	Junior Golf Trip to Lynbrook
June 14	Volunteer Tea
June 18	Grade 7/8 trip to Toronto
June 20	Track & Field (ODSS)
June 21	Track & Field rain date
June 21	National Indigenous Peoples Day
June 24	Grade 8 Graduation – arrive 5:30pm - Ceremony 6:00 pm
June 26	Reports available online
June 26	Talent Show 11:10 am – 12:30 pm
June 27	End of Year & Student Recognition Assembly – 9:00 am
June 27	Last Day of school
June 28	P.A. Day

School Council

We hope you are as excited for Spring Fling as we are! The festival will be **June 6th from 4:00pm-7:00pm** at Laurelwoods. Game tokens and raffle tickets will be available to purchase at Spring Fling, but you can also purchase them ahead of time through School Cash Online. There will be carnival games with prizes, food trucks, face painting, tennis lessons, line dancing lessons, relay games with prizes, raffle table, and touch a truck with the OPP, Dufferin Paramedics, and Grand Valley Fire in attendance.

The relays will include an egg balancing race and a three-legged race! Kids can participate with their friends or with an adult/family member! Each race will be divided into groups by grades (K, 1-2, 3-4, 5-6, & 7-8) with prizes for each group.

Spring Fling Schedule:

Tennis Lesson	4:00-6:00pm
Relay Races	5:00-6:00pm
Egg Balance Race	5:00-5:30pm
Three-Legged Race	5:30-6:00pm
Line Dance Lessons	6:00-7:00pm
Touch a Truck	4:00-7:00pm

Face Painting

4:00-7:00pm

We are also looking for volunteers to help us make Spring Fling wonderful. If you are interested in volunteering, please visit our Sign-up site at <https://signup.com/go/bYzJmZV>

All proceeds that go to Laurelwoods School Council will be put towards new school playground equipment.

School Council also has a smoothie day that is available on School Cash online as well!

Our final School Council meeting will be held on **Thursday, June 13th at 6:30pm** in the school library. We will be discussing the allocation of remaining School Council funds and preparing for the start of the 2024/2025 school year. We hope to see you there!

As always, we thank you for your ongoing support of Laurelwoods School Council. We are so honoured to be part of such a supportive school community. Thank you for making this another wonderful school year!

Student Nutrition Program

Thank you to our parent community for supporting our Live Free Campaign earlier this year. Over \$1900 was raised due to generous donations from the Grand Valley Lions Club and Grand River Agricultural Society, as well through the pasta lunch and the doughnuts with grownups event. 100% of funds raised went directly to our student nutrition program. This program is more important than ever before as 1 in 4 children in Ontario experience food insecurity. These funds allow our school to keep the food bins full in each classroom. If you have an interest in bringing healthy food to hungry minds or have any questions regarding our student nutrition program, feel free to email Cassy Reid our program coordinator, cassyreidx@gmail.com. Have a great summer, see you in September!

Professional Activity Day Description – June 7, 2024

Information for Elementary Parents/Guardians

Date: June 7, 2024

Length: Full Day

Elementary Topic: Curriculum and Report Card Writing

Entity Hosting: Upper Grand DSB

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): School Administrators and Online Modules

Description: Elementary Staff will spend half the day focused on various math and literacy topics and strategies. The second half of the day will be dedicated to report card writing, as per the employee group collective agreements.

Entity Hosting: Upper Grand DSB

Presenter(s)/Facilitator(s): Independent / Individual

OPP Presentations

The O.P.P. will be coming into Laurelwoods to do vetted presentations with each class on June 4th and June 5th. Some of the presentations will be delivered by grade (i.e. all the grade 7's will have one presentation and the grade 8's another). Some of the content is the same across the grades for example the content for grade 1 and 2 is the same so those classes will receive one presentation.

Talent Show

The talent show is going to be on Wednesday June 26th beginning at 11:15 am when the classes are all in the gym. All families welcome.

Dress rehearsal for the talent show will be on Tuesday June 25th beginning at 1:10 pm. This is for the students to practice being on stage and to have a run through.

Tick Information from Public Health

The Public Health Agency of Canada is pleased to offer a suite of free learning resources and interactive games called [Ticks - Little bugs, big problems!](#) These new resources are designed to help kids learn about, explore and experience the science of ticks while also learning how to help prevent tick bites.

Ticks are spreading in Canada due to climate change. They can be infected with bacteria, viruses, or parasites that can make people sick. Tick bites can go unnoticed because ticks are tiny, and their bites are usually painless. Learning about ticks can help prevent tick bites.

Whether you're a teacher, camp counsellor, group leader, parent, guardian, or caregiver, you will find tools to encourage kids to learn about ticks on Canada.ca/ticks. These include:

- [Interactive games](#)
- [Learning resources for individuals and groups](#)
- [Children's travelling tick exhibit](#)
- Videos:
 - [Top ten tick hiding spots](#)
 - [How to properly remove a tick](#)
 - [How to reduce ticks around your home](#)

We hope you find the resources helpful and enjoyable.

Subscribe to the [Zoonoses Subscription List](#) to receive regular updates from the Public Health Agency of Canada regarding zoonotic diseases such as tick-borne diseases.

If you have any questions, please reach out to zoonoseskmt-emczoonoses@phac-aspc.gc.ca.

Enjoy the outdoors, without a tick!

ECO Update

A huge thank you to all of those who have worked hard to contribute to our Eco initiatives this year - your efforts are VERY appreciated!



Have a Safe Summer