

# Have A Fabulous Summer!

## Congratulations & Thank You

Congratulations to all Laurelwoods students on completing another academic year. Thank you to all of the staff and the School Council for making our year so special; creating wonderful memories and delivering a solid academic program. This week, it has been mentioned many times how important our grade 8 leaders have been to the school (bus patrolling, lunch help, and library support). As they facilitated the assembly and talent show, their leadership was evident this week. I am grateful for all that has happened at the school this year and it is a pleasure to be a part of the community.

## Staffing Update

I would like to welcome Mrs. Coyle as the new planning time teacher! We would like to welcome Mrs. Dunville to our team as an early childhood educator working alongside Ms. Ludzik. We look forward to working and learning with all of you. I will be hiring for Mrs. Bell's grade 8 position during the summer.

## Read, Read, Read Please!



We are so very pleased with the literacy achievements that our students have made this school year! That being said, the summer is a long time and students who do not read during the summer are likely to see a regression of their skills. I would encourage you to read to and with your child during the summer and to encourage your child to make time for reading each day. I would encourage you to make

visiting a Public Library part of your routine. I am including links for local Public Libraries so you can pursue their websites and have hours of operation and contact information.

[The Grand Valley Public Library](#)

[The Orangeville Public Library](#)

[The Shelburne Public Library](#)

## Term 2 Report Cards

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.

## **School Council**

Communication is fundamental to fostering strong partnerships and ensuring the success of our school community. At LES, we value your input and recognize the crucial role you play in your child's education journey. Your perspectives are vital in shaping the initiatives and decisions made by our School Council.

By participating in this anonymous survey, you contribute directly to enhancing parental involvement and influence within our school. Your feedback will guide us in understanding your needs and aspirations better, ultimately helping us create a more supportive and enriching educational environment for all our students.

The survey will be available until Monday July 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 pm.

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd-AQWLVKte9N9ytsigmKHMcyY8E53tDPQOPDY7L3nAxcgJV7g/viewform>

Thank you for taking the time to share your thoughts with us. Together, we can continue to build a school community where every child thrives.

Attached you will find the Parent Officer Roles and Responsibilities for the 2024-2025 School Council as well as the election procedures for the coming year. We would encourage you to preview this attachment. The School Council Election timeline has been included for your reference.

[Laurelwoods - School council definitions and procedures.docx](#)

## **Summer Hours**

Office hours will resume Monday, August 26, 2024 from noon- 4:00 pm. Tuesday, Aug. 27, 2023 to Friday August 30th the office will be open from 8:30 am - 4:00 pm. The school email and phones will not be checked during the summer. Monday, September 2nd is Labour Day, Tuesday, September 3rd is a P.A. Day for staff. Students begin full time on Wednesday, September 4th. I have attached the school calendar for 2024-2025 here for your reference. [2024-2025](#)

## **Attendance/ Lates**

As we review trends from the 2023-2024 school year we can see that many students continue to miss a great deal of instructional time or arrive after the school day has begun. A student's attendance is considered problematic when they have persistent absenteeism. Persistent absenteeism is defined by the Ministry of Education as: "any student who has missed 10% or more of the school days for any reason, including unexcused or excused absences, over an academic year." 10% of the school year is roughly 19 days of school or 2 days a month. When students are absent or late they are missing out on instruction and opportunities to engage in school and classroom activities. As we are a fully bussed school I would encourage you to send your child on

the bus each day. By sending your child to school on the bus you would be fostering a routine as well as ensuring your child arrives prior to the instructional time. When scheduling appointments, planning vacations etc... I would encourage you to minimize the time that your child will need to be pulled from school as these days can add up quickly. We understand that illness does happen and we appreciate you taking care of your child at home when they are physically unwell. If there is anything I can do to support your child's attendance please let me know.

## **Gold Standard Healthy Schools**

Congratulations Laurelwoods on achieving the Gold Standard Healthy Schools Certification. The program 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.

By completing the 4-Step Healthy Schools Process throughout the school year, registered schools earn points and can apply to be certified as a Gold, Silver, or Bronze Healthy School. Certification is flexible and adaptable for all school communities: it's based on a school's ability to follow and complete the process.

## **Gold Standard EcoSchool!**

This year Laurelwoods received a Gold Standard from ECOSchools Canada. Our ECOcrew lead by Mrs. Rayfield should feel very proud of the learning and action achieved by the students at our school. Through each initiative, we are creating hope and resilience for our collective future. Congratulations to staff and students on several successful recycling and waste reduction initiatives.

## **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. The First Rider Program is scheduled for Tuesday, August 27th, 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. – <https://stwdsts.ca/first-rider-program/> For students in SK and up please visit the student login website at [www.findmyschool.ca](http://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.

I wish all of you a safe and happy summer filled with adventure! I look forward to seeing you again in the fall.

Mrs. Shilvock