



Arthur Public School

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FEBRUARY

Safety at APS

Ensuring the safety of your child while at school, as well as traveling to and from school, is of upmost importance to us. We need your help, by following our board and school policies, to ensure the safety of each student at APS.

All visitors to the school must sign in or stop in at the office.

It is now February and we expect that all students, even our JK and SK students are able to walk to and from their classrooms. If you are coming to pick your child up after school or dropping them off before school, you are welcome to wait in the front foyer or outside the school doors. Kindergarten parents are welcome to wait in the fenced in area outside the Kindergarten doors.

If you would like to speak to your child's teacher, please call and make arrangements for a meeting or interview. Our teachers are always happy to take time to talk about your child. Duties, meetings and other commitments make it difficult for them to be available for parents on a "drop in" basis. A note in an agenda will let them know that you would like a telephone call or meeting.

No parking directly in front of the school, in the fire lane of parking lot or in the designated bus lane.

Please respect our "No Parking" signs. When it is really windy or snowy, we are not able to put out the yellow signs in front of the school as they blow into the street or are hit by snowploughs.

Character Counts At APS!

"Kindness" is our character trait for February. During the month, "Atta" and "Tude" will continue to reinforce the message of Kindness and remind students to demonstrate kindness in their actions, thoughts and words. Teachers will also reinforce this message in their classrooms.

At Arthur Public School we are committed to creating a safe, caring school environment as well as preparing our students to be citizens who think critically, care deeply and act wisely.

Check us out!

Visit our school website. You can access our school's website at

www.ugdsb.on.ca/ArthurPS/index.htm

Copies of our school newsletters (September to the present) and information about Arthur Public School are easily accessed through this site.

Rough Play on our School Yard

We have three yard supervisors and they are Mrs. O'Donnell, Mrs. McDermid and Mrs. Ellsworth. Teachers, our Child and Youth Councilor, Administrators, and Educational Assistants also monitor students' behaviour when they are eating and playing during recess. We are concerned about continued rough play by some students on our school yard. We have been reminding and teaching students about the proper way to play outside during the winter months through announcements over the P.A., along with reminders from classroom teachers. Our policy still remains "hands off" with each other.

This Winter, we will (if we ever get snow) create snow hills on both Primary/Junior and Intermediate yards to allow students a safe place to slide. We permit sliding only seated and feet first and encourage children to wear snowpants if they are going to slide. Through daily announcements, we remind students of the rules of no pushing and shoving and using these hills safely. Teachers on the yard monitor the hill carefully and students, who do not follow the rules, are asked to leave. We would like to continue to provide a fun, safe place for students to slide during the Winter.

Parents, please talk to your child(ren) about our "No body contact" rule. We want students to

have the opportunity to benefit from fresh air and exercise. Please review the safe rules of play with your child at home to help us here at school. Also, we have reinforced the "no snowball throwing", kicking or throwing of snow with students. If students choose to throw snow or use "hands - on", there are consequences. Each child has the choice as to how they conduct him/herself out on the schoolyard.

It is important that we have a safe learning environment for students and everyone else at Arthur Public School.

It's Cold Outside!

It is important that children come to school prepared for the conditions of the day. All students should wear a hat, mittens and snow coats/suits. It would be helpful if they kept an extra pair of mittens and socks in their backpacks in case of wet or snowy conditions on the playground. It is also essential that children wear boots that are suitable for weather conditions.

Meat Orders

Our meat ordering forms went home on January 20th. They are due back to the school on Friday, February 10th. The orders will be ready for pick up in the school gym on Thursday, March 1st beginning at 1:00 PM. Please remember that the grade 6 and grade 8 students can use the proceeds of this fundraiser to help offset the cost of their year end trips.

Please help! If you can help count money and organize the orders, or help organize the order when it comes in, please contact Jeannette Plat.

Family Literacy Day

To help celebrate Family Literacy Day the staff and students at Arthur Public School dropped everything on Monday, Jan. 30th to enjoy some reading. The "Drop Everything and Read" time is our way of showing the importance of reading. Relaxing and enjoying a good book is very important.

Parents, please encourage a drop everything and read time at home on a daily basis. I know, with our busy schedules, that this is not always possible, but it sends an important message. We thank you for your continued support.

Live Free Day

On March 2, 2012, we will participate in the

county wide "Live Free Day". During this day, we are asking our students and families to give up something that they take for granted (a treat, coffee, etc) and make a donation to our healthy food program.

All money raised by our school community goes directly to our school healthy snack program to provide a nutritious snack for all students five days per week as well as breakfast and lunch for students in need each day . We also benefit by receiving a share of all the monies raised in our community and county.

We are asking parents and students, who are able to, to contribute so that we can be assured that we will have the funds necessary to continue this program for the entire school year.

Volunteers Needed!

We are looking for volunteers to fill in occasionally as lunch and recess supervisors. This is a paid position and would require a recent Criminal Records Check (within 6 months). Please contact Mrs. Mundle at ext. 224 if you are interested. Thank you.

Grade 8 Quebec Reminder

The second installment of \$200.00 is due to the office by February 27th. Just a reminder that there is currently an opportunity to fundraise to help support the trip with an Elmira chicken and Harriston Meat fundraiser.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of this worthwhile trip.

Head Lice is Not Nice!

Please remember to check your child's hair regularly for these pesky critters. No one is immune to lice and if we all do our part to keep on top of it, they won't have a chance to get out of hand.

Thanks for your continued support.

Electronic Communication

We have approximately 100 families who receive their newsletter through email.

If you would like to receive your newsletter through email, and help save paper and printing costs, please either send your email address to school with your child or, you can use the email address on the Arthur P.S. website to contact us. Our school website address is listed at the top of this newsletter. Thank you for your support!

Intermediate Ski Trip

Our Grade 7 and 8 students will be going down hill skiing at Hockley Valley Resort on Wednesday, February 22, 2012. Students will leave the school at 7:45 am and return approximately 4:45 pm.

The information sheets have gone home with each student. They should be returned to the school by Friday, February 10th.

There will be a parent volunteer information night on Thursday, February 16th at 6:00 for anyone interested in going as a chaperone.

If you have any questions please call Mr. McCabe at the school.

Environmental News

This month Arthur P.S. has concentrated on improving our recycling and composting practices. Since our blue bins and compost is picked up weekly by the community, we felt it wise to make sure our practices were at their best.

Did you know that on average, Canadians actually throw out 40% of all food they buy? An astonishing fact but true! Our message is to "stop and think" before you toss!

Fantastic February

The Student Government is planning some special events for February. Once again, we will be selling "Candygrams". Students purchase Candygrams (special cards with a chocolate or sucker attached) that they sign and send to a friend. Candygrams will be on sale the week of February 6-10th and delivered on February 14th. Candygrams cost 50 cents or you can get 3 for \$1.00. This is a friendly fundraiser for student events.

We will be continuing the theme of friendship by organizing a school-wide Kindness Counts postcard writing program. Postcards can be made and mailed in a special mailbox from February 15th to February 24th. Student

Government members will deliver these postcards

to classroom mailboxes.

The Grade 6, 7 and 8 students will be having a Carnival themed dance on February 14th from 2:00-3:20.

Forest of Reading 2012

The Forest of Reading program for 2012 has begun. There are SO MANY keen readers that I have had to order more books. This is a problem I am most happy to solve!!!! All students in the school have the opportunity to participate in a variety of ways. JK – Gr. 2 students enjoy class read-alouds in the Blue Spruce group. Students in Gr. 3 & 4 hear class read-alouds in Silver Birch Express. Students in Gr. 5 & 6 may read individually in the Silver Birch group. Our Gr. 7 & 8 students may read individually in Red Maple. Students complete reading responses to their books. This province-wide program is organized by the Ontario Library Association. Happy Reading! Mrs. Craig

Overdue Books

Families are reminded to return library books on a regular basis. Thanks!

SNACK Program Help

A big thank you to our snack program volunteers, Patsy and Brenda. Our program has had incredible success and is helping to provide healthy and nutritious snacks to all of our students. A big thank you goes out to Mr. Wild, Mrs. Emery and Mrs. Beesley for their help in continuing where Mrs. Soule left off.

We are looking for one or two parents who could help in getting the snack item ready on Thursday and Friday mornings. If you are interested, please contact Mr. Wild or the Office to let them know.

We appreciate the energy and hours of time that many of our parents give to the school every week!

Late Students

We have noticed an increase in students coming late to school. Please note that when a child comes in late the class activity, and instruction has begun. The students showing up late will have missed that direction or information and it does disrupt the flow of the class. Please do your best to have your children on time each day. Thanks for your continued support.