

Arthur Public School

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December 2011

Principal's Message

November has been a very busy month at APS and December looks to be just as eventful. No doubt the students will be looking forward to the arrival of snow, where parents are likely dreading the trials of snow removal and dangerous driving. Please pay special attention to the information regarding inclement weather days and how that may effect your child's school day.

As many of you have likely heard, Mrs. Soule has suffered from a stroke. She is recovering well and is in good spirits as she waits to see what the next steps are to getting better. Mrs. Soule has been a huge part of this staff for many years, leading the school in many initiatives and inspiring us to always do better. We have missed her positive presence in the school and wish her all the best as she makes a full recovery. While Mrs. Soule is recovering, Jim Bonter, a retired Principal with the Upper Grand District School Board, will be filling in and taking over her considerable responsibilities in the school. Mr. Bonter has many years experience as an educator and school Principal. He has already jumped right into things here at APS and the staff and students are happy to have him as part of the team.

Thank You from Mrs. Soule!

I am so thankful to be working in such a caring community. As I recover, I have piles of cards to read over, each one touching me deeply. Thank you for all of your kind words and best wishes. It is my hope to see you all

again soon, but for now I am concentrating on making a full recovery. Arthur Public School is filled with caring students, staff and families and I am grateful that I have been able to work so closely with such a wonderful group of people.

I think about you all often.

Mrs. Soule

Character Counts at APS!

Compassion is our character trait for the month of December. Through weekly announcements and classroom activities, we will emphasize the importance of demonstrating compassion by helping others, including the feelings, thoughts and actions of others.

We know that families will reinforce this message at home as we celebrate this time of sharing and giving. Our goal is to ensure that the spirit of compassion extends throughout the year.

School Council

The next Arthur Public School Council meeting will take place on Monday, January 30, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in our Staff Room. Please join us.

Back to School in January 2010 . . .

Just a reminder that classes will resume on Monday, January 9, 2012 at 9:00 a.m. It will be a day 2.

Great Stocking Stuffers

School supplies make great stocking stuffers. We have a list of some items that your child(ren) will need at school. It is always wonderful to start the New Year with a well-stocked pencil case and these are some items you might consider for those little gifts that mean so much to your child.

- pencils
- glue sticks
- pencil crayons
- wax crayons
- pencil sharpener
- erasers
- ruler
- pencil case

Please ensure that indoor shoes still fit and that they have non-marking soles.

Christmas Bazaar

Donations are welcome and most appreciated for our annual Christmas Bazaar on Friday, December 2, 2011. We are still in need of donations to help make this traditional annual event successful. Wrapping paper is a wonderful way to donate as well.

As we approach the big day, we are asking parents to send in reusable bags. Our students will need bags to safely transport their treasures home.

Students will need to bring change to spend at the Bazaar. Items will be priced between 25 cents and 2 dollars.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Lost and Found

We are acquiring quite a selection of items and clothing to date. Items will be displayed during the week of December 5 - 9, 2011. Please encourage your child to check and see if any of the items belong to your family. Any items not claimed will be donated to area agencies for needy families.

Electronic Newsletters

If you would like to receive an electronic copy of our Newsletter instead of a paper copy, please email davina.campbell@ugdsb.on.ca. As an **Earth School** and a school that is

participating in the **eco Schools** program, we continue to find ways to reduce our paper consumption. Thank you.

Arthur Public School Website

Check out our school's website at <http://ugdsb.on.ca/arthurps>. Our site is user friendly and is a great resource for our school community. If you have misplaced a school newsletter or monthly calendar - no problem. The website is always available for your reference.

Bus Cancellations and School Closures

Please be aware that, when buses are cancelled but schools remain open, the regular classroom program continues. Students who can safely walk, or be driven to school are encouraged to attend.

The Inclement Weather announcements for bus cancellations and school closures are posted on the home page of the Upper Grand District School Board's website.

The address is www.ugdsb.on.ca. You must click on the yellow bus on this page for the information which is updated daily by 6:30 a.m.

We have had questions about what would happen if the buses ran in the morning but were unable to deliver students home at the end of the school day. Our response to this issue is as follows .

- If the buses run in the morning, the assumption is that they will run at the end of the school day. If the weather is such that it is not feasible to transport students home at the end of the day, the students will remain here at the school with our school staff until a parent is able to pick up his/her child/ren.
- In cases where a road is closed and a bus is unable to transport students to their home, a phone call will be made to inform parents and the students will remain at the school until a parent comes to pick up their child/ren.

- When a bus run is modified due to road closures, our school informs parents in a timely manner. Students will remain at the school until they can be safely picked up.

Just a reminder that when buses are canceled, pizza days are also canceled.

Book Fair

Wow! The Scholastic Book Fair was a huge success. Thanks for supporting this fundraiser for the library. I am sure that everyone will enjoy the books that they purchased.

Happy Reading!

Mrs. Craig

November at APS

Junior and Intermediate Volleyball tournaments, Remembrance Day at Cenotaph, Picture Day, Caressant Care Intergenerational Program, Progress Reports sent home, Parent Interviews, Pizza Days, Snack Program, Grade 8 Fundraising - Poinsettias and Wreaths, We Day, Month End Character Assembly, Time2Read and Read4Success evening reading programs , Book Fair, Dental Screening, PJ Day, Bobby Boogaloo concert, Waste Audit, Big Kid Irene Presentation - Rapunzel

Cell Phones and Cameras

Cell phones can be a wonderful tool when used appropriately, however we have recently had a number issues in the school where students have been using them inappropriately. If your child uses a cell phone for before and after school please talk to them about what is and isn't a good use of the phone.

We understand that a phone can be a valuable thing when students are going to and from school, but during the day they are not to be used and should not be on. If at any time you need to contact your child at school, or they need to contact home, the office can make that connection possible with minimal disruption to the class. When the phones are being used in school they can be a distraction

and potential safety concern for other students.

Students are reminded that if they do bring a phone to school it should be powered off and we should not see them. If a student is using their phone during school hours the phone will be taken by the teacher and sent down to the office where they can retrieve it at the end of the day. If there is a second problem with the phone Mr. Ellery or Mrs Soule will communicate directly with the parents.

We appreciate your support.

Pizza

The form for **January to June** Pizza orders has been sent home. This is a new process, as we are trying to manage pizza orders more efficiently. Please note that all orders are due by December 9th and we cannot accept late orders. Also note the January payment is actually due on December 16th. We do this to make sure all orders are processed on time for the New Year.

Respect and Remembrance Day

November was "Respect" month at Arthur Public School.

On November 11th, students from JK to Grade 8 made the walk from the school to the Cenotaph to participate in the community Remembrance Day ceremony held there. They were joined by many parent volunteers.

We are very proud of the respectful attitude and exemplary behaviour demonstrated by our students at the Cenotaph.

A special congratulations goes out to our Arthur Legion poster/writing contest winners:

Grade 4 Nicole Arbour, Taylor Erickson, Jessica Beever

Grade 6 Abby Ball, Dannika Bauman, Brittney Ellsworth

Grade 7 Rachel Smyth, Eva Thiessen

Grade 8 Nicole Draper, Megan Hill, Mitchell Draper, Tina Thiessen, Anne Cheyne, Jaime McDonald

Environmental News

This month, we have conducted our Waste & Energy Walkabouts throughout the school as mandated by ECO SCHOOLS. This is a survey of all classes, library, office and staffroom to make sure we are following energy and waste efficient practices.

Our Intermediate Green Team discovered we have continued excellent results in maintaining our Recycling Program for paper, cans and plastics. All classes participate in the Blue Bin program with 90% of all classes reusing paper for artwork or as scrap paper within their classes as well. Staff makes every effort to double side photocopies and our newsletters are available online.

We continue to turn off computer monitors and lights when not in use and all classes have student monitors to make sure these things are looked after at the end of the day.

With our continued support from All Treat Farms, our compost material is picked up twice weekly. At an early age, all students are learning the importance of being mindful of reducing the amount of waste we send to landfill sites.

Way to stay energy and waste efficient.

Introducing Drug Topics into the Conversation

1. Introducing the topic of drugs

If you hear something you don't like it is important not to react in any way that cuts off further discussion. Discuss whether the risks are worth what people may get out of using them and whether they think it would be worth it to take the risks. Even without addictions, experimentation is too great a gamble. One bad experience, such as being high and misjudging how long it takes to cross a busy street, can change or end a life forever. If something interrupts your conversations, pick it up the next chance you get.

2. Conversations for Critical Times

What happens if you suspect that your child is already using alcohol or drugs? What do you say to them? The conversation is the same: parents need to tell their kids that drug and alcohol use by teens is not allowed in your family. The issue won't go away until you do something. You will simply acknowledge that your teen has a problem - your teen is

using drugs and won't get any better until you take action on your teen's behalf. It is OK to ask for help. In fact, getting help may make it easier for you to have the conversation.

3. Make Agreements with Yourself

Tell yourself that you won't "lose it" with your teen. Anger and hostility won't get you anywhere in this conversation. Stay as calm as possible. Remember, you are the parent and you are in charge. Be kind, simple, and direct in your statements to your teen. Above all, remember to tell your teen that you love him or her! The conversation will not be perfect - no conversation ever is. Know that you are doing the right thing for your teen. That's what matters most!

Source: The National Youth Anti-Drug Media Campaign at www.theantidrug.com

Picture Re-Take Day

December 6th, 9:00 AM

Next Chicken Order

The School Council will be sending home information about our next Elmira Chicken order in January, 2012. However, since the grade 6 and Grade 8 students can use this as a fundraiser for their camping and Quebec trips, we thought they may want to do some selling over the Christmas break.

If you would like to take some orders over the Christmas break please visit www.elmirapoultry.com and download some order forms. Then, you can add this to the orders that come out in January.

**Wellington Heights Secondary
School**

**Grade 8 Parent Information
Night**

December 7, 2011

7- 9:00pm

Bullying: It's Up to Everyone to Stop It

Bullying is;

- being mean to others, on purpose, to hurt them or their feelings
- about power and control
- occurring every seven minutes on elementary school playgrounds and most often happens while others watch
- does not stop when children are left to deal with it themselves

What to Do If a Child Is Being Bullied;

- Believe what they say, listen and try to understand their feelings
- Involve children in community activities to help them make friends
- Contact the school to talk about the problem and get support

Communication is important, talk to your child about bullying.

UG2GO

Our board has a wonderful resource for all of our students that can be accessed 24/7 from school or from home. It's called UG2GO and includes Learn360 (educational video streaming), Student Link (a site children use at school that gives them access to web sites that are kid friendly and relate directly to their current units of study), Tumblebooks (a site that has hundreds of books children can click on and have read to them), Noodletools (gives children help making bibliographies), Knowledge Ontario (a variety of approved encyclopedias, magazine articles suitable for elementary students), and much more. When students are at home they can go to the main address: <https://www.ugdsb.on.ca/ug2go> which will prompt them to enter the same Windows username and password that they use at school to get onto the school network. Once they enter their Windows username/password they will enter the site and they can then click on any of the resources and be taken directly to the individual resource without the need to login.

Please take a few minutes to explore the site with your child. It is an important tool that will aid them in their education, and may make

your life easier when it comes to homework and projects. We are excited that students will be able to access information from anywhere and at anytime in this information age!

Save The Date For Skating

Arthur Public School Parent Council is sponsoring a public skate on January 15th, 2012 from 12:00 PM to 1:30PM. Please mark it on your calendars and join us for a skate.

*You are invited to attend
Arthur Public School's*

*Family Fun & Festivities
Night 6:00 - 8:00
December 20th, 2011*



6:00 - 6:40 p.m.

Please join Mr. Peeters and the Choir Band ,
Carol Sing and Soloists

6:55 - 8:00 p.m.

Join Mr. McCabe in the gym for Daily Physical
Activity (DPA)

Join in a variety of activities to get you into the
holiday spirit -
read a story in our 'Comfy Cozy Reading Area',
participate in a number of seasonal crafts,
Smart Board activities/games,
enjoy milk and cookies with family,
Me to We Raffle

*Donations for the Arthur Lions Club Christmas
Food Hampers are appreciated on the night of this
event.*