

Arthur Public School

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January 2012

Best Wishes Mrs. Soule

We wish **Mrs. Soule** all the best as she continues to recover from her recent stroke. Mrs. Soule has been an important part of the Arthur Public School community for more than three years. Her contributions have been numerous and her impact was one that will have a lasting positive influence on staff and students for years to come.

Mrs. Soule will be the new Vice Principal at Westminster Woods in Guelph. That school is very fortunate to be getting such a caring professional as their new Vice Principal. We wish her all the best as she begins a new chapter in her life.

A special thank you to **Mr. Bonter**, who came out of retirement to fill in for Mrs. Soule. In a very short time, Mr. Bonter became an integral part of the APS community. We wish him well in his next adventure. _____

Dear students, staff and parents of APS,

It has been a privilege and a pleasure to have been your Vice Principal for the past 3 years! I have learned a great deal from this experience, in particular the importance of listening to each other with an open heart and mind and showing concern and compassion.

As you know, I have been transferred to a new school effective January. I will miss APS but please know that I take with me wonderful memories and will hold this school community in my heart.

I was fortunate to have had the opportunity to come in last week and say "goodbye" as well as to let everyone know that I am recovering very well. I shared with the students the message that a positive attitude makes all the difference. We

all face challenges in our life and it is important to remain positive and never give up.

Thank you for welcoming me into your school community!

Have a wonderful holiday.

Kathy Soule

Welcome Mrs. Mundle

Mrs. Mundle will be joining the Arthur Public School team beginning January 9th, 2012. Mrs. Mundle is an experienced administrator and she is excited about joining the APS community.

We were lucky to have Mrs. Mundle visit in December to meet with the students and staff. We welcome her to the staff and look forward to Mrs. Mundle becoming immersed in the community beginning in the New Year.

Staff Changes

The Arthur Public School staff and students are saddened to say goodbye to **Mrs. VanAsten**. Mrs. VanAsten has been an excellent addition to the intermediate staff and school as a whole. She will be joining the Taylor Evans Staff as their new gr. 8 teacher. We wish her all the best.

Mrs. Derma will be joining the Intermediate Team beginning January 9th, 2012. Mrs. Derma is an experienced teacher and she is excited about meeting her students and sharing new ideas in the New Year.

All the best to Mrs. Scott! Although the school will miss Mrs. Scott while she is away, we are very excited for her as she becomes a mother for the first time. We are not saying goodbye to Mrs. Scott, as she will be joining us after she has had some time with her baby. We wish you all the best Mrs. Scott - you will make a wonderful

mother!

Coming in for Mrs. Scott will be **Ms. Cass**. Ms. Cass has had some interesting teaching experiences including two years of teaching in Kuwait. She is excited about learning more about the APS community and brings with her many great ideas and lots of enthusiasm.

Check us out!

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

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

Copies of our school newsletters and information about Arthur Public School are easily accessed through this site.

School Council

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

Playground Update

Due to the freezing temperatures, frozen ground, ice and winter clothing, please note that our creative play structures will be closed until further notice. We recommend that you do not use them on the weekends or during the holidays due to heightened risk of injury.

Our Annual Christmas Food/Clothing Drive

Thank you to all the people in our community who donated; food, hats, mitts and toys. Together we collected a total of 373 items. Your generosity will be greatly appreciated by the many people that will receive gifts this Christmas. May you have a wonderful holiday

School Safety Check

- ✓ Please continue to call the office if your child is ill and will be absent
- ✓ Thank you for using Walton Street and the opposite side of Conestoga Street (across from the school) as pick up and drop off locations for your children.
- ✓ Parents who are dropping off students at school are asked to drop off their children on Walton Street at the sidewalk that runs alongside the bus lane. Students can walk straight onto the school

playground from this access point. Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.

- ✓ As slippery driving and snow banks begin to appear, please review safe walking rules with your children. Cross only at the crosswalks and obey all crossing guards.

Thank you for supporting our efforts to ensure student safety. We appreciate you helping our students arrive at school safe and ready to learn.

A Breath of Fresh Air

We wish to remind you that your child is outside during all recess times. It is necessary for students to dress warmly in layers. It is important to have snow pants, boots and a couple of pairs of mitts and socks in case something gets wet.

Students need time outside to get some fresh air and a bit of exercise so their brains will function at full capacity. Students who are not well enough to go outside for a few minutes are probably not well enough to be at school.

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

Winter Has Arrived

As the weather gets colder, please consider the following "Stay Warm" tips:

- send an extra pair of socks and mitts to school
- indoor shoes are required for gym and to keep feet dry and safe
- snowpants, scarves, boots, warm coats help keep students warm and dry.

Annual Christmas Bazaar

Thanks to everyone for their donations to the Bazaar. The students enjoyed doing some of their Christmas shopping here at school. Thanks to the volunteers who helped with this event and a special thanks to Sheila Bauman for taking the lead.

Kindergarten 2012-2013

Kindergarten registration will be held during the week of February 6-10th 2012. If you have a child, or know of someone who has a child who does not receive this newsletter, who was born in 2007 for Senior Kindergarten or 2008 for Junior Kindergarten, please have them call the school.

Skating

Some of our classes have had or will have the opportunity to go skating at the Arthur Arena. Students must wear gloves or mitts while on the ice and it is strongly recommended that students wear a helmet.

Please note that skates must come to school in a bag covering the skate blades.

Public Skating

Arthur P.S. is sponsoring a public skate on January 15, 2012 from 12:00 to 1:30. We hope that everyone can come out and enjoy this community event.

Snowballs and Building with Snow

It is that time of year again when the snow covers most of our school yard and our students get the opportunity to play in the snow. Please remind your child that our school has a "No Snowball" rule. Students who throw snow may be asked to stand up against the wall for the remainder of the recess or spend time in the office during a recess.

It is important that we ensure the safety of all of our students. By respecting and appreciating the work of others who build with snow, students will be able to enjoy all the benefits that snow brings to our playground.

Character Trait for January: Responsibility

We will ring in the New Year with our focus on the character trait of Responsibility. Through daily announcements, classroom activities and discussions and a month end assembly, we will focus on responsibility as: being accountable for your actions, thoughts, and feelings and following through on your personal and community commitments.

Students will be reminded of the following demonstrations of responsibility:

- Standing up for social justice
- Being on time
- Doing your best
- Taking notice, taking action
- Being a good citizen
- Standing up for the rights of others
- Taking ownership of behaviours
- Looking after our natural environment.

We thank you for your support at home to encourage and acknowledge the importance of this character trait to help increase your child's

success at school as well as in their life.

What do we do at school on "No Bus" days"?

While there's a general perception that nothing educational happens, we do have strategies in place designed to ensure that student learning continues. But we don't do new curriculum work so that the students who can't get here fall behind.

At our school you will find us doing a number of things including reviewing and finishing up work, providing students with opportunities to consolidate their skills and knowledge in small group situations, DPA (Daily Physical Activity), and using technology.

While it is your decision to determine if it is safe for your children to go to school, please don't make that decision based on the idea that nothing worthwhile occurs. Students are engaged and learning even though some of their friends can't make it to school.

If you are at home with your children on a no bus day, you can consider turning on the computer and checking out the Upper Grand District School Board website and ug2go. As well, the following web sites are focused on learning, and fun at the same time.

1.Nrich Maths:

<http://nrich.maths.org/public/index.php>

2.National Library of Virtual Manipulatives - free download

<http://www.mattimath.com/download.asp>

3.Eduscapes:

<http://eduscapes.com/>

4.Discover Kids:

<http://kids.discovery.com/>

5.National Geographic for Kids:

<http://kids.nationalgeographic.com/>

A Big Thanks from Me To We

The Me To We Committee would like to thank everyone who donated to our theme baskets. With everyone's support we were able to create wonderful baskets and raise money for a great cause! We would like to thank all of the students who donated items to our baskets. A special thanks goes out to businesses in our community who generously donated to our cause:

- Dyce Powerline Corp.
- Copernicus Educational Products
- Pinups

- Eclectica
- Arthur Chrysler Dodge Jeep
- Walsh's Pharmacy
- Longs Home Hardware
- Tang's Restaurant
- The Plumbers Wife
- GSW (Fergus) Credit Union Limited
- All About Me
- Fleming Fast Freight Inc
- Ivan Armstrong Trucking
- John F. Smith Insurance
- Boggs Financial
- Labelle Flowers
- Core Central Computers