

Aurora Heights PS School Council Principal Report – October 2, 2023

Board Mission Statement:

To advance student achievement and well-being through public education, which motivates learners, fosters inclusion, inspires innovation and builds community.

Happening at Aurora Heights:

- Successful start to the school year – settled into routines and enjoying the return of many extracurricular clubs and activities for students
- Reorganization of almost 100 primary students due to increase in enrolment and need to meet Ministry compliance for class sizes
- Have hired additional school assistants and will continue to hire to support supervision during recess/lunch
- Caring & Safe Schools presentations for each division; talk about racism and discrimination, bullying, progressive discipline and school/Board expectations (first week back)
- Terry Fox Run (September 21)
- Thank you Ms. Silvestri and the Grade 8 class for their leadership which helped us to achieve well over our fundraising goal of \$2000 – we actually raised close to \$6000
- National Day of Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day (YRDSB recognized on September 29) – we remain committed to listening and learning about Truth & Reconciliation; all YRDSB locations have raised the Every Child Matters flag
- Fire Drills (held two of three fall drills)
- Lockdown & Hold and Secure and a Bomb Threat Drill all held during Safety Week (September 25-29)
- Cross Country Running under way with Ms. Silvestri, Ms. Lozzi and Ms. Simonetta for Grades 4-8 (Area Cross Country Meet is October 11 at George Richardson Park in Newmarket)
- Breakfast Program running every morning – big thank you to Mrs. Ferri and Ms. Rain (approximately 30-40 students every day). Breakfast Program is open to all students from Kindergarten to Grade 8
- Learning Commons is open for students and classes – every class has a designated time for book exchange – much appreciation to Ms. Bossin for her efforts in re-opening the Learning Commons and creating some new spaces for STEM learning
- Several Music programs up and running – Primary Choir with Mrs. Townsend and Mrs. Slessor, Marching Band and Rock Band with Mr. Cipollone
- Students are working with Ms. Strom, Ms. Weisdorf and Mr. Cipollone on *Matilda* which will be performed later this year
- Spirit Wear on sale until October 16
 - Parents are encouraged to return any spirit wear that no longer fits to the school and we will upcycle it by providing it to other students
- Scholastic Book Fair was a resounding success – thank you Ms. Bossin for her efforts – this is a very big task to organize and implement

- Thank you families for attending the Meet the Staff Open House on September 28 – excellent turnout

Looking Ahead at Aurora Heights:

- Students with Individual Education Plans (IEPs) will receive IEPs no later than October 18
- PA Day Friday, October 20 (agenda will be shared with all families by October 6)
- Picture Day coming up on October 24 (individual and class pictures)
- Grade 7 & 8 Immunizations with York Region Public Health (October 25)
- Elementary Progress Reports distributed electronically week of November 9
- Parent Teacher Interviews for Year 2 Kindergarten to Grade 8 evening of November 16 and morning of November 17 – sign up through Edsby (information forthcoming)
- Classroom Observation visits for Year 1 Kindergarten will be scheduled between November 20 – December 8 through FDK Teams
- Secondary School Information Sessions for Grade 8 students and families coming up – check www.yrdsb.ca
- Communi-TEA open to all parents/guardians Thursday, October 12, from 9:30-10:30 am (informal time to converse with administration, staff and other parents/guardians)

Information Sharing:

- Working on ensuring families dropping off/picking up are not parking in the lot in order to accommodate all employees
- Technology (waiting to hear about new version of Cost Sharing for 2023-24)
- Will be working with Leadership Team to create Fundraising Plan
- Will share School Fundraising Plan at next meeting – allocation of funds and plan to raise funds

Considerations/Requests:

- Forest of Reading Program (Ontario Library Association – all Canadian authors) K-8
 - Request \$854.05 for a set of all five sub-programs (Blue Spruce, Silver Birch Express, Silver Birch, Yellow Cedar and Red Maple)