

Laurier Link

May / June 2016

School Priorities: Healthy, Safe and Respectful Learning Environment, Partnerships, Literacy
School Motto: 'On apprend et on s'épanouit ensemble'

Sir Wilfrid Laurier P.S. is a single track French Immersion School (Grades 2 to 8).

Principal and Vice Principal: Mme Laurie Finn and Mme Kathryn Gravill
Administrative Assistant, Secretary and Receptionist: Mrs. Carmen Lo, Mrs. Rama Kanagarajah and Mrs. Debbie Taylor
Telephone: 905 927-1452 Fax: 905 927-9591 Email: sir.wilfrid.laurier.ps@yrdsb.ca
Superintendent: Mr. Peter Tse Telephone: 905 940-7800
School Council Co-Chairs for 2015-2016: Ms Houri Awedikian and Ms Juliann Ng
School Council Email: sir.wilfrid.laurier.ps@sc.yrdsb.ca
School Website: <http://www.sirwilfridlaurier.ps.yrdsb.ca>
School Twitter Account: #laurieryrdsb
Trustee: Billy Pang; e-mail: billy.pang@yrdsb.ca; 647 461-9965
Board Website: www.yrdsb.ca Ministry Website: www.edu.gov.on.ca
SWL Before and After School Child Care (Upper Canada): 905 887-7927

May 2016: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/sirwilfridlaurier.ps/NewsEvents/Pages/School-Calendar.aspx>

June 2016: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/sirwilfridlaurier.ps/NewsEvents/Pages/School-Calendar.aspx>

August and September 2016: <http://www.yrdsb.ca/schools/sirwilfridlaurier.ps/NewsEvents/Pages/School-Calendar.aspx>

Congratulations to Mr. Messiha, YRDSB Elementary Teacher of the Year!

Congratulations to Mr. Messiha, SWL Intermediate Teacher of Math, Science and French, Numeracy Teacher and PC4L Co-Lead Teacher for being a recipient of one of two Teacher of the Year Nominations of the East for the YRDSB (one of eight in total)! **Further Congratulations** to Mr. Messiha for being selected by the YRDSB as **the YRDSB Elementary Teacher of the Year** and, as such, the representative of all great elementary teachers across the Board! Mr. Messiha will be recognized at an upcoming special Awards Evening in recognition of his commitment and passion, so important to and evident in the teaching profession. The secondary Teacher of the Year is Marissa Revzen-Ellis from Stephen Lewis SS. Congratulations!

Cash Net

Sir Wilfrid Laurier PS is accepting online payments through School Cash ONLINE!

School Cash Online provides the following benefits:

- A convenient fee payment option that saves time
- Reduces paper
- No more need to send cash or cheques to school
- A quick way to register. It takes less than 5 minutes to register.

Parents that opt to participate will receive notification via email of student fees owed (both required and optional), and can make secure online payments by credit card or Interac and receive a receipt. To view a presentation about the program, go to <http://www.kevsoftware.com/movies/ParentRegEnglish/>.

School Council Fun Fair June 2 2016

Please join the SWL School Community on Thurs June 2 (raindate Thurs June 9) from 4:00 – 7:00 p.m. for the 5th Annual SWL Fun Fair! The food order was sent home the week of April 25. Volunteers are needed to help the event run smoothly. If you are able to donate some time that evening or prior to the event, kindly contact funfairswlps@gmail.com.

Board Policies and Procedures

Policies and procedures govern the operation of the Board and our school. To ensure they remain current, the Board reviews policies and procedures on a regular cycle. Seeking feedback from staff and community members, including parents/guardians, is an important part of the review process.

All policies available for comment are sent to school council chairs, and are posted on the [Board website](#) along with information about how to provide feedback. The policies currently available for comment include:

- Student Accommodation Review (comments due by April 25)
- Anaphylactic Reactions (comments due by August 25)
- Respectful Workplace and Learning Environment (comments due by August 25)
- Environmental Responsibility (comments due by January 2, 2017)
- Appointment of Community Members to Board Committees (comments due by January 2, 2017)

To learn more, visit www.yrdsb.ca/aboutus/policy/.

Early Dismissal in Elementary Schools on June 29, 2016

Please note that on **Wednesday, June 29, 2016** an early release day will take place to allow elementary teachers and support staff to participate in activities in the afternoon of that day in support of student achievement and school planning.

Students will attend school during the morning of Wednesday, June 29, 2016 only. Students will be dismissed at 11:30 before lunch.

Classroom Organization for September 2016

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School's projected enrolment for the 2016 – 17 school year is approximately 770 students. The staff allotment is close over 50, which includes all teaching staff and two full time administrators, three school secretaries and four caretakers. No Grade One classes will be housed at Sir Wilfrid Laurier PS. Grade One students attending Sir John A Macdonald PS will attend Sir Wilfrid Laurier PS for Grade Two in September 2017.

While the staffing process is not complete, Sir Wilfrid Laurier P.S. is projecting the following tentative school organization of 32 home room classes:

Primary Division (Grade 2 to Grade 3):

6 classes of Grade 2 2 classes of Grade 2/ 3 5 classes of Grade 3

Junior (Grades 4 to 6)

6 classes of Grade 4 4 classes of Grade 5 1 class of Grade 5/6 3 classes of Grade 6

Intermediate (Grades 6 to 8) Divisions:

4 classes of Grade 7 3 classes of Grade 8

Non Homeroom Assignments: Prep Coverage; Teacher Librarian; Technology Lead Teacher; Literacy Teacher; Numeracy Teacher; Special Education and Resource Teacher (SERT); English Language Arts; Instrumental Music. Please note that the class sizes for Grades 2 and 3 classes are 20:1, the Junior Division classes 25:1 and the Intermediate Division classes 27:1 on average across the system. As new students continue to register or move out of the area, a new school organization may need to be considered for September. We will continue to keep you informed.

Grade 8 Graduation

This year's Grade 8 graduation celebrations are scheduled on Monday, June 27. Plans currently being finalized include a ceremony, dinner and dance at Le Parc in Richmond Hill. More details will follow in early June.

School Improvement Plan: Literacy and Numeracy**2016 Summer Learning Opportunities Program information****Elementary Summer School (Literacy & Numeracy)**

Eligible Students: Grade 7 & 8 students offered at selected sites (6)

Program Dates: July 4 - July 22, 9:00am - 3:10pm.

Registration Dates: Register online through Career Cruising starting February 16 to June 3.

Summer Institute

Eligible Students: SK to Grade 8 students offered at selected sites (12)

Program Dates: July 4 - August 12 (6 weeks), 9:00am - 3:30pm

Registration Dates: Application forms online March 3 on YRDSB website. Registration begins March 4 until August 8 (space is limited) at Dr. Bette Stephenson.

School Improvement Plan: Modern Learning**Modern Learning in the Library**

Should you have lego that you are no longer using and are able to donate to the school, please forward it to Mr. Hamelin in the Library or Mme Gravill in the Office.

Re: Student Busing Eligibility

Did you know that students' busing eligibility changes throughout their school career? Your son/daughter's eligibility to ride the school bus may change according to their grade and distance from home to school. Below are the provisions for eligibility identified in the Board's Transportation Policy #680:

- All YRDSB students in Grades JK-3 who live within 1.2 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 4-8 who live within 1.6 km of their school are not eligible for transportation
- All YRDSB students in Grades 9-12 who live within a transit served area are not eligible for transportation.

To view Board Policy #680 Student Transportation, please visit www.yrdsb.edu.on.ca. For more information about bus transportation and to determine your son/daughter's eligibility please visit www.schoolbuscity.com.

Bussing Information

Busing information will be posted during the last two weeks of August on www.schoolbuscity.com. Parents are advised to check the route number, stops, pick up and drop off time as adjustments may have been made to existing routes by the Transportation Department. Students who attend Sir Wilfrid Laurier PS as a transfer student are not eligible for busing transportation.

Are You Moving?

If you are moving or plan to be moving to a different residence over the coming months, please be sure to inform the office staff, as plans are already underway for the 2016– 2017 school year.

Class Placements 2016-2017: Parent Input by May 5

Procedures for parental input into class placements were previously outlined in the March/April 2015 Laurier Link newsletter. During the months of May and June, class organization for the following year will begin. Our main objective is to create classes which will provide the optimum learning environment for everyone. Student placement is based on considerations such as a child's capabilities, gender, work habits, social skills, and behaviour.

Our teachers have the benefit of knowing the children with whom they are currently working, and recognize their students' learning styles. The teachers' professional decisions are both respected and relied upon. We appreciate that parents have valuable information to share with us too. If you have suggestions or input which will be shared with and help staff make an appropriate grade placement, please write a note to Mme Finn **before Thursday, May 5**. Rather than requesting a particular teacher, please indicate the learning style or classroom structure which would be most appropriate for your child. When teachers meet to create new class lists, this information will be considered. Requests will only be accommodated where placement will enhance student learning. The decision regarding class placements remains with the School Principal.

First Day Entry Procedures: Class Lists 2016

Class lists for Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School will **not** be posted outside the main office during the last week of August again this year as is the case with all York Region DSB schools. On the first day of school, students in Grade 2 are to go to the gym; students from Grades 3 to 8 are to proceed to the back of the school where they will be met by the teachers by grade who will have class lists and a large sign identifying the grade level. Should it rain on the first day of school, this will occur inside the school with directions posted on the doors.

First Day Dismissal Procedures

Any parents who know of a change in their child's before and/or after school child care arrangements for next September are asked to please send a note to the School Office and c.c. their child's teacher before September 2. It is important that the office know to whom children are to be released on the first day of school. A form has been provided to parents of Grade 1 students currently at SJAM for this purpose for the 2016-2017 school year. Parents are asked to check www.schoolbuscity.com for busing arrangements mid to late August for the 2016-2017 as changes will be made to existing routes.

School Improvement Plan: Mental Health

March 30 Parent Symposium

On Wed., March 30, 2016, representatives from School Councils and administrators attended the annual Spring Symposium the purpose of which is to engage parents in the work of the York Region District School Board, to communicate current initiatives and to seek input from parents on these initiatives.

Spring Concert: L'Espoir Fleurit!

On April 26 in the afternoon and evening the SWL Songbirds, Junior Band, Senior Band, soloists, Intermediate Glee Club presented our spring concert "L'Espoir Fleurit!" showcasing the talents of these participating students. It was a wonderful concert and celebration of hope.

Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart

On Thursday, April 28, our students enjoyed a delightful afternoon of skipping stations and basketball games. Jump Rope and Hoops for Heart gets our kids physically active and raises vital funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation to reduce the devastating effects of heart disease and stroke. With your generosity and support, our school community will raise much needed funds. Many thanks for supporting this endeavour and for your assistance in raising over \$80,000 over the past eight years.

SWL Track and Field

Our SWL Track and Field Day for Grades 4 to 8 takes place on Tuesday, May 17th (raindate May 20). On this day, our students will participate in numerous activities, such as races, high, running, long and standing jump. It is a fun-filled day in preparation for our Area and Regional Track and Field Tournaments.

Text and Library Books

In June, teachers will be collecting text books and library books loaned to students. All students are responsible for the good care of school materials and are expected to return, replace, or reimburse the school for their value should they be lost or defaced. Please check your home for any materials that belong to the school and return them promptly. **Library books are due by Friday, June 10, 2016.** Our preference is to have all books returned in good shape rather than collect money for their replacement. Thank you for your support in this matter.

Hot Weather Action Plan (from YRDSB Guidelines for Heat Stress & Hot Weather)

With the anticipation of warmer, even hot weather, the following steps have been reviewed with staff to help staff recognize signs of heat related illness, to avoid heat related illness for students, –

- Outdoor physical activities will be rescheduled to cooler times of the day or on another day. Shady areas in the school yard will be used, where available.
- Blinds, curtains will be kept closed in classrooms; lights will be dimmed in the classrooms and hallways
- Board approved fans will be used to create air movement in the room; some classes may need to be relocated to cooler areas such as the gym or library to provide relief
- Students are advised to wear loose light clothing, which will help to reduce body heat through moisture evaporation
- Students are encouraged to drink water for re-hydration after excessive fluid loss during physical activities or on hot, humid days; avoid using carbonated drinks with caffeine (most soft drinks) as they promote fluid loss
- Teachers will look for opportunities to use classrooms on the first level – available for use due to field trips or through the library or gym schedule.

Celebrating Multiculturalism

The following events may be celebrated by students at Sir Wilfrid Laurier in May and June:

BAHA'I FAITH:

May 23: Declaration of the Bab. On May 23, 1844 C.E., a man known as the Bab (which means 'the Gate') announced his mission as a manifestation of God and whose purpose was to prepare the world for the coming of the promised manifestation of all religions, Bahu'u'llah. The Baha'i calendar is dated from this day. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

May 29: Ascension of the Baha'i. This date marks the passing in 1892 C.E. of Bahu'u'llah, the prophet-founder of the Baha'i Faith, near Haifa. Work and academic studies are suspended on this day.

BUDDHISM:

May 15: Wesak is the most auspicious day of the year, celebrating Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment, and Final Demise. In Canada, Buddhist groups join together to celebrate these festivals as one. This is done on the day of the fourth full moon after the lunar new year, or the Sunday closest to that day, usually mid-May.

ISLAM: May 5: **Miraj-un-Nabi** commemorates Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) famous night journey (al-Isra) from Mecca to Jerusalem and his subsequent ascension (al-Miraj) to paradise.

May 23: **Nisfu-Shaban** is known as the Night of Forgiveness or repentance. Many Muslims spend the preceding night in prayer seeking God's guidance.

June 6: **Ramadhan** is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar. All Muslims who are physically able, fast during this month abstaining from food and drink each day from dawn to sunset.

The beginning of Ramadhan depends on the sighting of the moon on the previous evening.

JUDAISM: June 12-13: **Shavuot** celebrates the Israelites receiving the Torah.

WICCA: May 1: **Beltane** meaning "May", the greening of the Earth, blossom time, when Goddess and God are reunited. Beltane has long been celebrated with feasts and rituals.

CHRISTIANITY:

May 1: **Easter Sunday** in the Orthodox churches. The church calendar year begins with Pascha (Eastern calendar).

May 5: **Ascension Day** (Western) marks Jesus' ascension into heaven and is observed through prayers and music. It occurs forty days after Easter.

May 15: **Pentecost** celebrates the renewal of faith that Jesus' followers felt after his death. It commemorates the coming of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples of Jesus. It comes 50 days after Easter.

ISLAM: May 5: **Miraj-un-Nabi** commemorates Prophet Muhammad's (pbuh) famous night journey (al-Isra) from Mecca to Jerusalem and his subsequent ascension (al-mi'raj) to paradise.

JUDAISM: June 12-13: Shavuot celebrates the Israelites receiving the Torah.

NATIONAL ABORIGINAL DAY: June 21. A day declared by the Assembly of First Nations. First Nations' organizations cease work during this day where all Canadians can celebrate the contributions Aboriginal people have made to Canada. This day was chosen because it also is the summer solstice. For generations, many Aboriginal people have celebrated their culture and heritage on or near this day. For more information about the day's activities, visit the Indian & Northern Affairs Canada website at www.inac.gc.ca and look in the "Culture and History" section.

SIKHISM: June 16: **Martyrdom of Guru Arjan Dev Ji.** The fifth Guru (1563 -1600 C.E.), who built the Temple of God in Amritsar, was martyred on this day.

ZOROASTRIANISM: **June 29 – July 3.** **Ghambar Maidyoshem** celebrates the creation of water, the sowing of the summer crop and the harvesting of grain.

Merci, Student Volunteers!

In order to say thank you to all of our students who volunteered this year as Lunch Monitors, Morning Announcers, Office Helpers, Student Council reps and executive, an Appreciation Lunch will be provided on June 1. Thank you student volunteers for their responsible and active contribution to our school and for modeling leadership to others!

Thank You, Volunteers!

Thank you to all our volunteers who provide their time, skills, and expertise to the students and staff Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School. We value the contribution parents make to improve student achievement.

This year we thank our many volunteers who supported our teachers, students and school. We are grateful to these volunteers who helped out in many different ways. Some provided assistance in the class, by reading to students, listening to students read, and helping with classroom activities (art, crafts, computers, reading, cooking, science).

Other volunteers supported out of class activities such as Pizza, Sub, Extreme Pita, Lunch Lady Lunches, School Council, library assistance, Safe Arrival programme, driving their child and others to sporting events and helping teachers with such tasks as Scholastic Book orders and chaperoning field trips.

Character Matters

The Character Matters attributes of **Respect, Responsibility, Courage, Empathy, Fairness Honesty, Optimism** and **Initiative** have been addressed at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Public School this year. The attribute for May is **Integrity** and for June is **Perseverance**.

Staff will be encouraging students to be:

- Truthful
- Sincere
- Consistent between what they say and what they do, and
- Consistent between what they believe and how they behave.

The attribute for June is Perseverance.

During June, staff will be encouraging students to:

- Stick to a goal
- Work hard at your goal even when faced with obstacles and challenges
- Keep trying
- Ask for direction

And finally...

Thanks to our parents who continuously support their children, their teachers, school staff, and administration. We greatly appreciate your positive comments and continue to look forward to working with you and your children these last months of the 2015 – 2016 school year. You help make Sir Wilfrid Laurier P.S. a great school!

Watch for the 'September Edition' issue of the Laurier Link being posted on the school website in early September.

Hard copies will be available in the wall stand in the front foyer of the school.

Enjoy the spring weather!

Mme Finn and Mme Gravill