



THE LAUREL SCHOOL

# Welcome Package 2023–2024

## (JK – Gr. 3)

August 31, 2023

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to another school year. As we head into the new school year, we would like to provide you with some useful information and provide a few updates:

**School Supplies & Policies** - Additional information regarding school policies can be found in the Class Welcome Letter, and so we ask that parents fully review it. Parents are asked to ensure that students come to school with the needed uniform pieces and school supplies.

**School Clubs & Trips** – More information regarding this will be provided throughout the school year. Typically, around 3 – 4 field trips are scheduled throughout the year. School club information will be released each term for parents to optionally sign their child up for after-school time. The first set of clubs will begin in October.

**Swimming Classes** – Swimming lessons are scheduled within the winter, January-February, and students will be transported to Shendy's Swim School each week for a set number of weeks during a school day. This is an exciting program for students as part of our Physical Education program. More details will be sent out closer to the time.

**Uniform Requirements** – Students in Preschool – Gr. 3 are required to wear the appropriate uniform pieces at school on the designated days. Uniform requirements are posted on our website under "Current Students & Parents."

**Physical Education & French Classes** – These specialty classes will begin in the 3<sup>rd</sup> week of school.

**School Year Updates & Live Calendar** - The "Current Students & Parents" section of our website is a helpful resource for parents. On this page all forms and flyers will be posted from throughout the school year as well as a live calendar of important events and days off. You can also reference events and updates on ClassDojo.

**Classroom Schedules** - Your child's class schedule will be sent home within the first two weeks of school. Please remember that the first schedule will likely be tentative, and changes will probably be made over the first couple of weeks.



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# Message from the Principal

On behalf of the staff at The Laurel School, I am happy to welcome you to the 2023-2024 school year! I am excited to have all new and returning students in school.

As our Laurel community continues to grow, we continue to make enhancements and additions to our programs and school to ensure the best learning environment for your child.

I look forward to a wonderful year and to continuing our collaboration of providing your children with an effective and engaging educational experience. As always, we will look to our families to be positive partners in their children's educational journey.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Miss. Nikki, or me directly.

Sincerely,

Mary Kindos

Principal/Director



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# Calendar Guide

The following list is a more detailed companion to the Academic Calendar; however, it is not complete, and therefore regular reference to the Academic Calendar is essential. Both should be used to ensure you don't miss anything!

**First Day of School (September 5, 2023)** – The first day of school, we welcome back all new and returning students!

**Curriculum Night (October 18, 2023)** – Curriculum Night will be done in person! It is imperative that at least one parent from each family attends the Curriculum Night. This is your opportunity to learn about classroom policies and procedures, the year's program, the role of the home and the parents in our program, and to receive curriculum outlines. Attendance at Curriculum Night may prevent later questions and concerns. Please mark it in your calendar!

**Dress-Down Days** - Children may wear weather-appropriate, casual clothes to school - no uniforms, please! Children are asked to participate in the different dress-down day themes such as crazy hair day, jersey day, pajama day and more.

**P.A. Days** - Professional activity days are the days where staff training and staff meetings take place, so no school those days for Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 students!

**Halloween Party (October 31, 2023)** - Children may wear costumes to school. The party will take place from 1:00 to 3:30 p.m. Please do not send toy weapons.

**School Photos (November 27, 2023)** – All students are welcome to participate in School Photo day! Full dress uniform for the students in Preschool to Grade 3 (gym classes, if any, will be cancelled). Please make sure your child arrives at school promptly and that your child is properly dressed and groomed. Those preschoolers who would normally not attend on this day are asked to come to school, so they can participate in the photographs.

**Parent-Teacher Report Calls** - All parents are asked to schedule parent-teacher meetings once you have received your child's report card in Term 1. A registration link will be sent to parents a few days before the meeting date for registration of interview slots. This year calls will be held on a P.A. Day.

**Pink Shirt Day for Anti-Bullying (February 28, 2024)** - Pink Shirt Day by CKNW Orphans' Fund is a day inspired by the story of students in Nova Scotia who decided to take action after witnessing another student being bullied for wearing a pink shirt to school. We ask each student to wear a pink shirt to school on this day so we can stand together as a school against bullying!



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**TLS Marketplace (April 24, 2024)** - This is a day for our grades 1-3 students to develop their entrepreneurial & financial skills and thinking. Students will have worked up to this day by planning and developing their own pretend business. On this day, a marketplace will take place where students will sell their service or product to our younger students and to our staff with money to practice their skills.

**Career Fair (May 6 – 10, 2024)** – During our Career Fair week, a variety of speakers from diverse careers will come into the school to inform the children about different occupations. Speakers range from a fire fighter to police offer and even our very own parents come in to speak!

**Parent-Teacher Check-In Calls** – During this day, on the P.A. Day, while no reports are distributed in Term 2, teachers will reach out to parents to schedule optional calls for those who would like an update on their child's progress.

**Academic Testing - CAT4 (SK-Gr. 3 from May 21 – 24, 2024)** - The Canadian Achievement Test Fourth Edition (CAT4) is a testing platform that assesses the essential learning outcomes of students in Canada in the following basic skill areas: reading, language, spelling, and mathematics. This test will be administered over the course of a few days. Students who are not in attendance will not be able to make up the test. Results will help staff of The Laurel School assess each child's achievements and progress.

**Spring Barbecue & Fun Fair (June 8, 2024)** - All families and friends may attend and take part in the fun! The barbecue will be held at The Laurel School and will include face painting, bounce castle, games and more. In the case of inclement weather, there is a rain date scheduled; and parents will be contacted regarding this.

**Play Day (June 14, 2024)** - Uniforms are not required. Children should wear comfortable, weather-appropriate clothing. Weather permitting; the morning will be spent outside filled with fun games and activities.

**Awards Ceremony/Graduation (June 15, 2024)** - All students and their parents are invited to attend the ceremony. Children are encouraged to dress up for the occasion. The ceremony is made up of a combination of performances and handing out of awards. Each child receives an award in recognition of personal, academic, and/or athletic strengths.