



# A.R. Kaufman Public School

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Phone: 519-745-7312 Fax: 519-745-6434

Safe Arrival Attendance Line : 519-570-8050 ext 3006#

Principal: Pam Kaur Vice-Principal: Sean Finn

## *April-May 2016 Newsletter* *Creating Opportunities, Maximizing Potential*

Dear ARK Families,

Welcome back! We hope that you all had a wonderful Easter Break with your families. Students and staff are busy with a variety of learning activities in and out of the classrooms. In the classroom, students are continuing to work on various aspects of the curriculum. Many other exciting activities such as class trips, intramural sports and clubs, primary and Junior EQAO Assessments, track and field meets and assemblies are scheduled to take place this term. Should you have any questions or need to discuss your child's progress, please do not hesitate to connect with your child's teacher.

We continue to post messages on our school website. Please do take the time check it out from time to time for our community newsletters, calendar of events, important announcements and links to other websites.

In case of inclement weather, please check the board's website to check for bus delays/cancellations and school closures. These decisions will also be announced on local media outlets.

Please join us for our **Math Evening on Wednesday, April 6, 2016 at 6:00 PM**. There will be lot of fun family activities, prizes and cookies too! We look forward to seeing you all.

We are continuing to register students for **Full Day Kindergarten for the 2016-2017 school year**. If you have a child born in 2012, please call the school at 519 745 7312 to get Kindergarten registration information.

In staffing news, we congratulate Mrs. Herner on the birth of her son and welcome Mrs. Todd who is replacing Mrs. Herner till the end of the year.

We welcome your questions, comments and concerns, and thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely,

Mrs. P. Kaur, Principal

## **Safe Welcome Initiative**

With the intention of enhancing security measures in our elementary schools, the Safe Welcome Initiative has been introduced and involves the locking of all school doors, including the main entrance. During the school day, anyone arriving at ARK, including visitors, parents, students and community members will gain entry to the school at the main doors using an intercom system that connects to the office. They will then be directed to check in at the main office. Thank you for co-operation as we continue to maintain a safe and welcoming environment for our staff, students and community.

## **Safe Arrival Program**

We have provided each Kaufman family with one of our information magnets. Please post this magnet near a phone in your home, so you have it handy for easy reference when contacting the school about your child's absence due to illness or appointments. Please call the school any time your child will be absent from school.

**Attendance Line** is accessible 24 hours a day.

**Please Call 519-570-8050 Ext: 3006#**

## **Dressing for Spring**

With the temperature slowly starting to rise, our school yard can become very wet and muddy in some areas. Students are asked to do their best to stay clean and dry while playing outside, but accidents do sometimes happen, and clothes get wet. Students should continue to wear boots to school, even when the snow has melted away, so that indoor shoes remain dry.



Please consider sending an extra pair of pants and socks for your child to keep at school or in his/her backpack in case a change of clothes is needed.



## **Student Pick Up**

Just a reminder that walking your child to and from school will help to alleviate traffic issues at the front of the school and will also give them some fresh air and exercise on the way. Please remember not to park in the ring road at any time during the school day as it is an emergency access area, and vehicles will be fined by the city if left unattended. If on occasion, you do need to drive your child to school, and choose to park at the Community Centre, please use the designated cross-walk area. Thank you for your cooperation!

## **ARK Website**

We post our school Newsletters, Parent Advisory Council meeting minutes, calendar items and other important school and WRDSB information on our School Website. Please check the website – [ark.wrdsb.ca](http://ark.wrdsb.ca) often for updated information and news.

## **Allergies in our School**

We have several staff and students who have life-threatening allergies primarily to peanuts and other nut products. Please avoid sending snacks or lunches that contain peanuts, peanut products or WOW Peanut Butter substitute with your child. Of course, the most obvious are peanut butter and packages of peanuts, but also try to avoid products that contain nuts (e.g. chocolate bars, granola bars, and trail mix) as an ingredient. Thank you.

## **Tuck Shop, Pizza and Snack Program**

Tuck Shop is open for students in grades 1 to 8 every day during 1st Nutrition Break. Students are able to purchase snacks and chocolate milk. Pizza is available to all students to purchase every Friday. Each slice costs \$2.00.

Parents are encouraged to continue sending a water bottle and enough healthy food for their children each day. Our Snack Program is open during both Nutrition Breaks for students who have forgotten their food at home or who need to supplement what they have brought.

## Cell Phones at School

We encourage students to keep cell phones and other electronic equipment (iPods, DS games, etc.) at home for safe keeping. However, we do recognize both the safety and educational benefits of bringing cell phones to school. In promoting responsible use of cell phone technology, we are insisting that phones are turned off and stored in students' lockers during school hours. Students requesting to contact family members during school hours are welcome to do so at the office. Similarly, we are asking that parents and guardians use the school office in order to contact students

## Dates to Remember

April 4	Ian Hopkins presentation
April 14	Eric Walters Visit
April 29	Dress-Up Day
April 26	Jump Rope for Heart Kick-off
May 17	Class Picture Day
May 20	Jump Rope for Heart Day
May 23	Victoria Day Holiday
May 26	Intermediate Vaccinations
May 27	Tie Dye Day
June 3	PD Day

## JK Students Needed – No Experience Required!

Kindergarten registration is on-going for the 2016-2017 school year. Parents are encouraged to visit [wrdsb.ca](http://wrdsb.ca) and follow the link to the online registration page or come to AR Kaufman to pick up a paper copy of the registration form. Children born in 2012 can be registered to attend Jr. Kindergarten. Children born in 2011, who are currently in the Jr. Kindergarten program, will be promoted to Sr. Kindergarten for September 2016. Please contact the school office at 519-745-7312 or visit our school website at [ark.wrdsb.ca](http://ark.wrdsb.ca) for more information regarding Kindergarten Registration. Families living within the A.R. Kaufman boundary are encouraged to register as soon as possible.

## April 29 and May 27 – Spirit Days



April 29<sup>th</sup> – Dress-Up Day:  
Staff and students will have fun dressing up in their “fancy clothes” on Dress-Up Day.



May 27<sup>th</sup> – Tie Dye Day:  
This is a groovy Man! Wear some crazy Tie Dye clothes – t-shirts, scarves, shorts, skirts, etc.

## School Assemblies

We have several school assemblies throughout the year in which students participate in a number of ways. Parents are always welcome to attend our school assemblies. Please check the calendar on our school website for information on when our school assemblies are happening.

### April/May School Assemblies:

April 15<sup>th</sup> – Period 5 – 11:20 am

April 26<sup>th</sup> – Period 5 – 11:20 am

## EQAO Assessments

Students in grades 3 and 6 will be participating in the EQAO Assessment on various days between May 25 and June 8. More information will be sent home closer to the assessment dates for those families involved.



## Class Picture Day

Smile for the camera. Lifetouch Photographers will be here on **Tuesday, May 17<sup>th</sup>** for Class Picture Day. Each class will have their picture taken, and students will each receive a complimentary copy.

## **From the Library**

The Library continues to be a busy place! Our students are enjoying the many resources that we have in our collection. Most students are doing a great job returning their books on time. If you receive a notice that your child is missing a Library book, please help him/her search for it and return it as quickly as possible.

We have a collection of new Parent Help books that might be of interest. Please come and browse our Parent Collection.

Parents and pre-registered Kindergarten students are invited to come during Library hours and pick out books to borrow.

### **More Exciting Library News!**

Eric Walters is visiting our school on Thursday, April 14<sup>th</sup>. Eric Walters is a very popular author at ARK – we have 7 bins of his books in our collection! Mr. Walters will be talking to students in grades 4 to 8 about the writing process, how he plans his books, and how he studies his topics before writing. More information about this opportunity will be sent home with students in grade 4 to 8 next week.

Mrs. Wallace

## **Book Review**

Title: The Fire Within by Chris D'Lacey

I loved this book! The genre of this book is Fantasy and Mystery. I recommend this book because it was suspenseful. The author did a good job of building suspense by switching events around to show lots of mysteries. He made the reactions and personalities of the characters very strong and realistic. It had lots of dragons and legends in it and I like dragons. Now I am reading the second book in the series called Ice Fire. I want to read the whole series.

Yusuf – Grade 5 student



## **An Exciting Performance**

The AR Kaufman Junior/Intermediate choir performed “O Canada” on Tuesday, March 8<sup>th</sup> at the Kitchener Rangers hockey game. These talented students, led by our Music teacher, Mrs. Mushani, worked hard during all rehearsals to prepare for this experience. They can be very proud of their efforts, and represented our school well!

### **Student Highlights:**

“When I walked onto the red carpet, I felt the chill of the ice hitting my legs. We sang with a smile and walked off. It was one of the best experiences of my life.” Julia M.

“The best part was getting an autograph from Jacob Cascagnette.” (Kitchener Rangers player and Mr. Cascagnette’s son). Mitchell S.



## **Planning for September 2016**

During April and May, ARK staff will begin organizing classes for September, based on our best estimate of the student enrolment for the coming year. It is important for us to know the most accurate number of students going into each grade. If you will be moving out of our school area between now and the beginning of September, please call the school office to let us know. *Thank you!*

## Kaufman Cares!



### F101 Potato Blitz!

Mrs. McPhee and Mrs. Coopers grade 5 class organized a Potato Blitz for the House of Friendship in March. Thanks to the staff, students, and ARK community, we helped raise over 1000 lbs of potatoes which were then distributed by House of Friendship to families at their Emergency Food Hamper Program. This program provides food to people in the Kitchener-Waterloo area who are in need of assistance. The grade 5 students worked hard to spread the word about the need for donations to the House of Friendship, and we are so impressed with the generous response from our families. Thank you very much!



### Jump Rope for Heart

Once again, we are partnering with the Canadian Heart and Stroke Foundation to raise awareness and money for this important organization.

On Tuesday, April 26<sup>th</sup> some special guests will be joining us for our Jump Rope for Heart Kick-Off Assembly. At the assembly, each student will receive a fundraising envelope to bring home. We ask that students collect donations from family and friends, without going door-to-door.

Our Jump Rope for Heart Day will be Friday, May 20, 2016

### ARK Snack Program



Thank you to Mrs. Moore, Ms. Scott and their student helpers for taking time to organize some wonderful spaghetti lunches for staff and students and also for hosting a baked potato lunch for staff. For

a small price, staff and students were able to enjoy a hot spaghetti lunch, complete with parmesan cheese and garlic bread. The baked potato lunch included delicious "toppers" such as bacon bits, cheese, green peppers and sour cream.

All proceeds from these hot lunches help support our Nutrition for Learning Snack program that provides students with healthy food.

Thank you to all of the ARK and community volunteers who donate their time and talents to our students through their work with our Nutrition for Learning Snack Program!