



NEWSLETTER

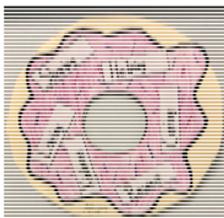
Winter Break!

We hope you will join us for our Winter Craft Night on December 20 from 6-8 p.m. (crafts finish at 7:30 p.m.; be sure to come before then so you have time to enjoy!) Remember—all children need to come with an adult. It's our most fun-filled night of the whole year, so be sure to RSVP!

Students will have time to relax during Winter Break from December 21 to January 13.

We won't have time to put together a newsletter for January 1, because we return to school on the 14th! The next full newsletter will be February.

Be sure to read this issue as we have some important information about our waiting list and registration for the next school year (2019-2020).



Have a wonderful holiday break!

"Sweet Thoughts" from Anti-Bullying Week

Important Dates

December	5	School Council Meeting 6:00 p.m.
	12	Top Marks Uniform Return 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. by the Board Offices
	20	Mufti Day Red, Green or White Pizza 73 Hot Lunch for those who ordered
	20	Winter Craft Night 6:00-8:00 p.m. (Crafting ends at 7:30 p.m.)
	21	Professional Development Day: No Students
	21 - Jan. 13	Winter Break (No School)
January	14	School Resumes
	18	Deadline to order Hot Lunch www.healthyhunger.ca
	23	Top Marks Uniform Return 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. by the Board Offices
	25	\$2 Hoodie Day (Funds raised will support Elementary Sports Jerseys) Mr. Sub Hot Lunch for those who ordered

Follow us on Twitter!

@AACSElementary

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Life-Long Learning

Winter Craft Night

Thursday, December 20th

6:00pm– 8:00pm

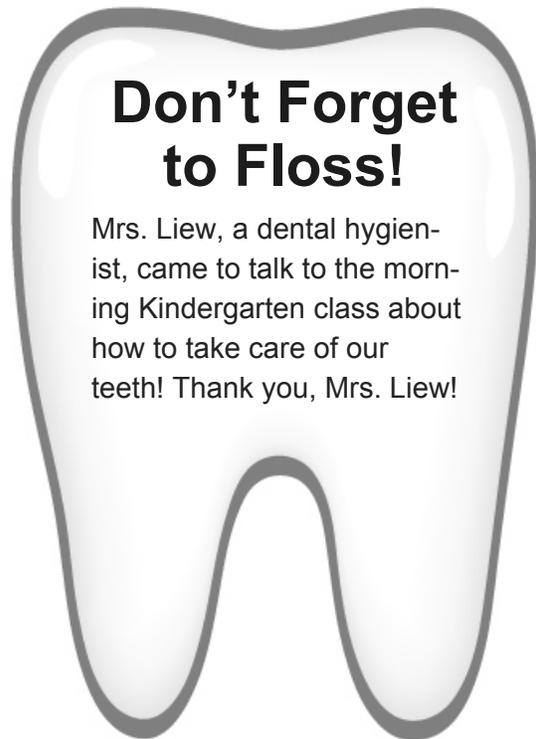
Winter Craft Night will be on Thursday, December 20th from 6pm to 8pm. There will be hot beverages, choir performances, cheery crafts in each classroom, and sleigh rides around Aurora's field. Please note that there will be only one craft per family in each classroom. Parents need to be in the classroom with their child while they make the craft. Students who have paid the small fee to make their craft are welcome in the classroom anytime between 6pm and 7:30 pm to enjoy a tasty snack, make their craft and take it home.

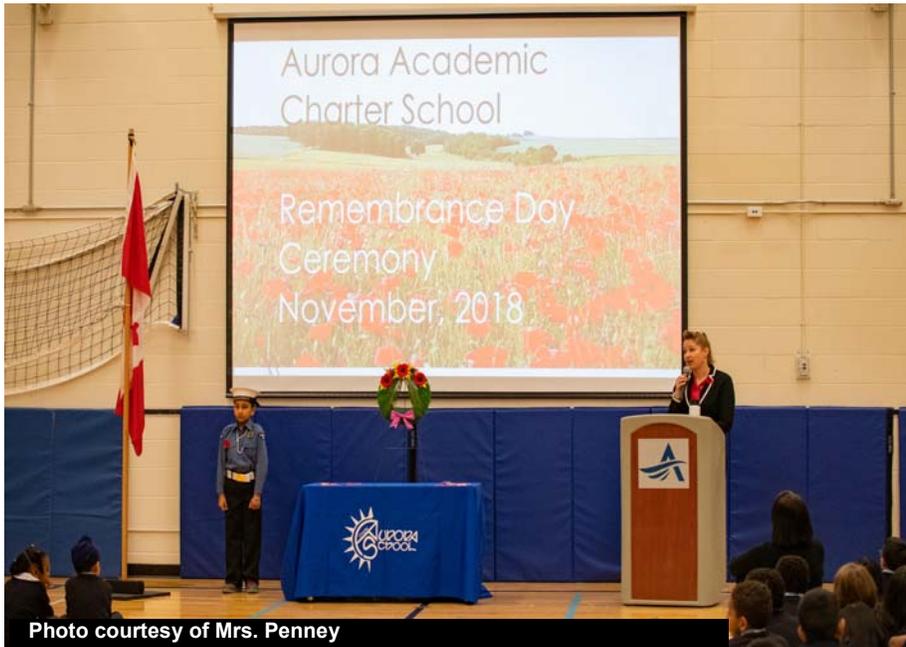
We are looking forward to this evening with Aurora families, and we hope you will be able to join us! Don't forget to RSVP so we can save you a spot!



Don't Forget to Floss!

Mrs. Liew, a dental hygienist, came to talk to the morning Kindergarten class about how to take care of our teeth! Thank you, Mrs. Liew!





Lest We Forget

On Friday, November 9, we observed Remembrance Day. We had our ceremony in the Middle School gymnasium, and would like to thank Mr. Dang, Ms. Tran, and the Middle School teachers for hosting us.

We talked about remembering the sacrifice of our soldiers who fought for others, and about the responsibility that each of us has today to ensure that Canada remains a peaceful, loving, multi-cultural country that values and respects all people. This was a good opportunity to talk about the responsibility that students have to care for one another to create bully-free spaces.

It was truly inspirational to witness our Aurora students coming together with presentations about love, peace, and sacrifice.

We would like to thank Ms. Ambeault for playing *The Last Post* and *Reveille* on the trumpet for us during our assembly, and Mrs. Powell for playing the piano. We also would like to thank Mrs. Steinke and Mrs. Powell for leading the grade 3/4 choir for “O Canada” and “What a Wonderful World”. The Grade One teachers also did a beautiful job preparing their students to sing “Just One Candle”. We also have to say a special thank you to Jiten Thapar from grade four, who was our honour guard for the day in his role as a Navy League Cadet.

What’s Your Balance?

Alberta Health Services (AHS) knows that wellness matters, and this year we’ve been asking our people and Albertans, “What’s your balance?”

Throughout the year of finding balance, AHS has been highlighting four areas of wellness, including healthy eating, mental wellness, physical activity as well as sleep and fatigue. During each area of focus new resources and activities were created to challenge and help Albertans prioritize their wellness – but we’re not done yet.

This December we’re wrapping up our year with 12 Days of Balance. Follow along as we revisit some of our most popular activities - from fueling up for your work day, paws-itive mental health, getting active in your community, or simply improving your sleep habits.

We covered a lot of ground, so join us in finding your balance or sharing what you’ve learned over the last year using the hashtag **#ahswhatsyourbalance**. Challenge yourself, or invite families and friends to join for extra fun.

Content provided by: Alberta Health Services

Support for Students and Families



Mary Healy

Assistant Principal
Elementary School
mhealy@auroraschool.ca

Aurora Academic Health Services Team

We at Aurora Academic Elementary are proud to work hand in hand with our Health Service Team and parents to coordinate health support services for our students.

Aurora Academic has a fantastic health support service team who have been working with our students for a number of years. Mosh Choudhury our Speech and Language Pathologist works diligently with students who require additional supports with speech and language. Brandi Turner, currently works as our speech assistant. Linda Chan is our Occupational Therapist and she works closely with teaching staff to provide strategies to improve functional performance skills required in the learning environment. Students also have access to psychological services and assessment through Alberta Mental Health and Carla Soto is our school contact. In addition, we have Linda Boschman who provides school counselling to the referred students on a scheduled basis.

This service team works with students and staff right on site. This service is targeted and enables students to receive individual care and support. Over the years, we have seen students benefit greatly while working with our dedicated team of school staff and health service providers.

Currently, we have accessed Program Unit Funding from the Alberta Government which provides additional support for children in the Early Childhood Education programs that need assistance with speech and language. You may have already seen our Educational Assistants Lucy Levine and Jamie Bobrich working in the kindergarten classrooms.

If your child is experiencing sudden, unexpected changes in behaviour or mood that may be putting the child/youth or other person's at risk, please contact the Children's Mental Health Crisis Line. Professionals are available, Monday to Friday 8AM to 11PM and Weekends and Stats 10AM to 11PM at 780-427-4491. Also, please note that specialized mental health emergency services for children has been moved to the Stollery Emergency Department at the U of A Hospital.

If you would like more information about our support services accessed through our school please contact me by phoning the school or sending an email. We are here to help!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Healy, Assistant Principal

Academic Success

Grade Four Honour Roll

For Term 1 of this school year we had 58 of 88 students achieve the distinction of being on the honour roll for grade four, which is 65% of the students! We wish to congratulate the students who received an average mark of 80% or above in the four core subjects with no mark under 70% or a B for all subjects. Keep up the hard work!

As we said at our assembly, even if you did not achieve honour roll this term, continue to work hard to improve your marks for term two. Aurora is about trying your best and working as a team.

4A	4B	4C	4D
Manu Achuthan	Keziah Anil	Jacob Abraham	Meklit Beide
Sharshaad Bariana	Petros Argaw	Nolawi Berhane	Abigail Day
Sabby Bisal	Jonathan Bekele	Iris Boreyko	Gurbaaz Dhaliwal
Allyna Collis	Essey Berhe	Ariana Harrison	Gurjot Gill
Nebiyu Ermias	Tiffany Diep	Everett Harrison	Zoey Kresowaty
Ashleen Jhaj	Ibrahim Elmahdi	Lamees Jaber	Bernice Kwan
Calvin Kong	Jolie Lam	Evan Le	Alyssa Mawani
Aknoor Mann	Reet Nirman	Kennedy Leong	Eesha Mistry
Liam Mitakaro	Zenia Pereira	Jeet Mistry	Isra Nazarali
Keeratbir Sandhu	Aleena Plavara	Jyoti Mistry	Garv Nijhawan
Omera Seid	Ashley Wang	Agampreet Narwan	Pearl Pastakiya
Harnimrit Sidhu	Kaylie Wong	Angel Pannu	Yug Raval
Lidia Tekie	Lexi Wong	Vyom Parikh	Dyllan Sithole
Ishaan Upadhyay		Ella Phan	Japhet Teclay
		Kylee Pon	Jiten Thapar
		Nandika Senthilkumar	

Field Trips

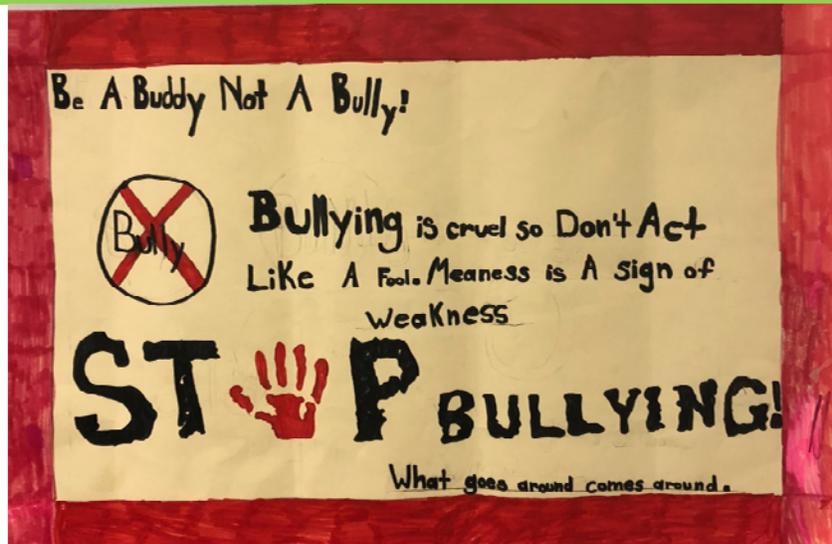
The children have enjoyed some very special field trips lately.

The Grade 4 students went to the Bennett Centre for Wheels and Levers. The Kindergarten and Grade 1 students had fun with their Clay for Kids in-school activity. The 2A & B students had an Exploring Liquids In-Class activity as well.

In December, the Grade 2C and 2D students will be going to Magnet Magic at the Telus World of Science and the Grade 3 students will be enjoying an in-class presentation on Hearing and Sound. The grade three/four Choir will be singing at a Senior's Centre for the holidays.

All of these field trips enhance our already broad program of studies. Many thanks to our teachers and volunteers for organizing these trips and special activities!

Active Citizenship



Bullying Awareness Week: November 11-17

Once again, we had a number of special events during Bullying Awareness Week. Bullying awareness week takes place across the province to help children identify the kinds of behaviours that we want to discourage and the right way to stand up for one another.

Grade one to four students had special presentations by the grade four CUBS leadership group. We know that the best way to discourage bullying behaviours is to give kids the knowledge and skills that they need to take active leadership roles in their schools and communities. Hearing from our own students not only instills the lesson in the other students, it creates authentic learning experiences for the presenters as well. Not to mention it was a fun-filled week!

The CUBS, under the leadership of Mrs. Powell, wrote and performed skits as well as read stories to the other students. They also organized fun games for every recess that all students could participate in. It was a very busy week!

Ms. Oh and Ms. Poitras put special books that dealt with bullying on display and chose anti-bullying stories for read-aloud time in the Learning Commons.

Teachers organized special activities in their classrooms to infuse the message of Safe and Caring Schools into the classroom. This is not just about building an activity for a week, but about infusing this into our culture. I hope you to take a look around our hallways at the special crafts and bulletin boards that we always have up to celebrate our Safe and Caring School.

I encourage you to read our Safe and Caring Schools Report posted on our website for more information about how we are continuing to make Aurora a wonderful place to learn!

We are all aware of the tragedies that have come about in other schools because of bullying. By talking about it openly and teaching students coping skills, we are keeping Aurora a safe and caring place to be.

Citizenship in the Community

Choir Performs for Seniors in Community

The Grade 3/4 Choir will be performing for the Vanguard Shepherd's Care Home, which is a highlight of the club's activities for the year.

The Seniors love to see our little ones and to sing along. Students will share a snack and some stories as they spread cheer to people who otherwise receive very few visitors.

We think it is important for Aurora students to be involved with the community and take the time to give back. We are so proud to see them as our school ambassadors!

Our thanks to Mrs. Steinke and Mrs. Powell for organizing this excursion.

Aurora Students' Community Work To Date

- Terry Fox Run for Cancer Research
- Sock-tober: 714 pairs of socks for the homeless
- 168 Food Bank Bundles from Healthy Harvest
- Choir performance for Care Home
- Santa's Anonymous Toy Drive

CUBS collect for Santa's Anonymous

The Grade 4 Leadership CUBS Club has decided to do a toy drive for the holiday season in December. The students decided on the charity themselves as they wanted to help Aurora students to give to those in need in our local community.

The CUBS are asking Aurora students to bring a new, unwrapped toy or a donation to the charity. Here is a link for some of the "Most Needed Items". I was surprised that they need more toys for infants and children 9-12 years old: <https://www.santasanonymous.ca/donate/most-needed-toy-donations>

We know that many families are feeling the pinch this holiday season, so please do not feel obliged to buy expensive gifts. We want all students to be able to participate, so students can bring a loonie or two instead of a toy.

We are very proud of the CUBS for thinking of others and hope you will join us in encouraging all Aurora students to think of others less fortunate than ourselves. Our thanks to Mrs. Powell for helping the CUBS to organize this event. Stay tuned for more information!



Intake, Re-registration, and Transportation Registration for 2019-2020

NEW STUDENT INTAKE:

In January we will begin contacting parents, starting with Kindergarten scheduled assessments. Please be aware you have **2 business days** to respond to your assessment invitation. If you have a child on the waitlist, ensure your child is on the waitlist for the correct grade and correct year. The child's Birth Certificate must also be uploaded to your Family Zone account. We will contact students for grades 1-4 after re-registration is complete.

CURRENT STUDENT RE-REGISTRATION:

Confirmation of **re-registration** for **CURRENT** Aurora students will be from **February 1 to February 28**. **The time period will not be extended or altered.**

Re-registration will not be available prior to February 1st or after February 28th. Please make sure you take note of this important time period. Re-registration will be completed entirely on Family Zone.

TRANSPORTATION:

Transportation registration will also take place from February 1 to February 28. For those interested in utilizing the Yellow Bus, a \$50/per student non-refundable deposit will be required. All fees and deposits will be posted on Family Zone.

If you require assistance with FAMILY ZONE, please contact Susan Mallory at smallory@auroraschool.ca. E-mails will be replied to in a timely manner. We cannot accommodate walk-in appointments or phone calls due to the volume of enquires we receive.

Message from the Aurora Board of Directors

We thank Aurora parents/guardians for their attendance and input at our Aurora School Ltd. Annual General Meeting (AGM) that was held on Thursday, November 22nd, 2018, in our Aurora Learning Commons. An important aspect of this AGM included the election of Directors to serve on our Aurora Board. Our Aurora Board of Directors (including 4 elected Directors at our AGM on November 22nd, 2018) include:

Arlene Huhn – Board Chair
Robert Kossick – Director
Marcy D'Agostini – Director
Shazin Mohamed-Standing – Director

Nokuthula Sithole – Director
Felix Amenaghawon – Director
Zahida Hirani-Saran – Director

We wish all students, parents, staff and community stakeholders all the very best for 2019 New Year and a restful holiday with family and friends!

Dr. Dale Bischoff – Superintendent & Dr. Paul Wozny – Deputy Superintendent

Parental Involvement

Community Advisory Board

WANT TO GIVE YOUR OPINION ABOUT PARENT-TEACHER INTERVIEWS?

WHAT ARE WE DOING:

Researching how we can better connect with teachers, parents, and the community

WHY ARE WE DOING IT:

We want to increase our communication and connectedness!

WHEN IS IT HAPPENING:

Now until June 2019

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Join our Community Advisory Board to help us plan the process

MORE INFORMATION

On behalf of our Research Team, I would like to invite you to participate in a Community Advisory Board (CAB) for a study about connecting our community, especially at Parent-Teacher Interviews. We received funding for this study from the Alberta Ministry of Education. This study is being done by Aurora Academic Charter School and Edmonton Public Schools in partnership with researchers from Simon Fraser University and University of Alberta.

This study proposes to use a community participatory approach. The goal of the CAB is to support researchers and stakeholders (including students, parents, teachers, elders and community stakeholders) working together to ensure high quality, culturally safe and ethical approaches for the research. The CAB will guide the research project and support the process from now until it is done.

We hope that participation in the CAB may be of interest to you. For more information, please contact Dr. Paul Wozny at pwozny@auroraschool.ca or call 780-454-1855.

Regards,

Dr. Paul Wozny, Deputy Superintendent

School Council Message

Our **MONTHLY** meetings are on the **FIRST WEDNESDAY** of every month. These are a great way to stay in the loop, share feedback, and meet other parents!

Our **next meeting:**

Wednesday, December 5, 2018 at 6 pm
in the **Learning Commons.**

Join us for a potluck dinner! We will be reviewing PAT results, the Annual Education Results Report (AERR) and the Combined 3 Year Education Plan.

Please check the school **website** under "**School Council**" tab for the most updated information and our meeting minutes, including a link to join the meeting:

ONLINE MEETING LINK: (<https://meet.google.com/agj-dfvh-mpw>).

Agendas for the upcoming meetings will be emailed a couple of days before. If you are unable to attend but would like to send us feedback, information or if you have questions, please email us at schoolcouncil@auroraschool.ca.

School Board AGM

A warm welcome to the new School Board members:

Felix Amenaghawon **Zahida Hirani-Saran**
Nokuthula Sithole Welcome back **Arlene Huhn!**
Looking forward to working with you all!



Tartan headbands:

These headbands go great with the uniforms! They are \$11 each. Please send us an email if you would like one.



Do you have a **Facebook** account? Put in a request to join our group "**Aurora School Council**"



Please continue to follow the flow of traffic, **West to East**, in front of the school, during drop off and pick up times so we may keep our students safe!



Volunteer Opportunities:

Booster Juice: www.volunteersignup.org/BX93J
Winter Craft Night: www.volunteersignup.org/J4TK4

Do you have a **twitter** account? Follow us [@aacsSchCouncil](https://twitter.com/aacsSchCouncil).

Fundraisers:

Our goal for our third fundraiser, **Booster Juice**, will be to sell 5,600 vouchers to fund our student's activities. If you need another form, it is located on our website in the School Council tab ([Current Fundraisers](#)). After our first week's collection of forms and money, we sold 394 vouchers! Our next collection will be November 29th and then again December 6th. Vouchers will go back to the students on the following Tuesday/Wednesday after collection of money and forms. Depending on demand and how close we are to reaching our goal, we may extend it. Thanks for your patience and continued support!

For our last fundraiser, we will be selling **Waterpark tickets for \$20 per ticket**. There are a limited number of tickets available. The event day is on **Sunday, April 14, 2019** from 9 am – 11 am, with the option to stay for the rest of the day at no extra cost. Please *mark your calendars* and you can start sharing the information with your friends and family. We will send out order forms in February/March 2019.

**Save the Date: Sunday, April 14
West Edmonton Waterpark**



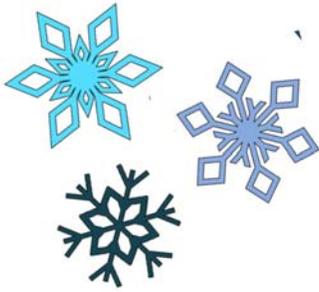
Cerebral Palsy clothes bin (green):

The next time you have clothes you no longer need, please bring to the school and drop them off in the bin that is **located in the new parking lot where the old and new lots join.**

Mabel's Labels:

Go to the website: campaign.mabelslabels.com and select our school **Aurora Academic Charter School (Edmonton)**

mabel's labels



Ms. Harman's Musings

Diligence, Respect, Cooperation,
Attendance, and Accountability



Jacquie Harman

Principal
Elementary School
jharman@auroraschool.ca

You might have noticed that this newsletter is much longer than normal. As we head closer to a well-deserved winter break, we thought parents might appreciate some resources to help with everything from pencil grip to mental health to wellness.

In our government survey last year, 17% of parents said they “don’t know” that students can get help at school with problems that are not related to school and 8% said they “disagree” or “strongly disagree”. We want to change that. Last year was the beginning of our pilot project to bring in a school counsellor to talk to students who need a little extra guidance. Linda Boschman has decades of experience helping students with everything from social anxiety to test-taking strategies to help with coping with parent divorce and other personal issues. She is here if parents want their children to get some strategies with how to cope with “Big Feelings”.

We also have access to Alberta Health Services Educational Psychologists who come to the school to help with assessments if parents have questions about learning difficulties. We also have Speech-Language Pathologists and Occupational Therapists who come to help students with a wide range of supports.

Mrs. Healy handles our referrals and permission forms for accessing extra services—which are provided at no cost to families. If you have any questions, please speak to her to get more information. If the school ever has questions or we think that extra supports might be appropriate, we will always speak to you first to ensure you are in agreement and have signed the appropriate permission forms. Our thanks to Mrs. Healy for the fantastic work she does. I encourage you to read her report on page 4 in this newsletter.

If you would like to provide more support yourself, we’ve attached pages from Alberta Health Services with information for parents. There is also the Children’s Mental Health Hotline with access to trained professionals at **780-427-4491**.

While these services are expensive to the school, we think access to these kinds of supports help our students to succeed—not only at school, but in their life-long learning.

Contact Us

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780-454-1855
Email us at: elementary@auroraschool.ca
Visit us on the web at www.auroraschool.ca

