Middle School Newsletter



AURORA ACADEMIC CHARTER SCHOOL



December 2022

AURORA

The Aurora Academic Middle School Newsletter

CONTRIBUTORS:

Peter Dang Elizabeth Lund Ian Gray Lisa Weidel Jaymie Curilla Kelly Laffin Kassidy Danyleyko Vicki Leong School Council Aurora Fundraising Society



The Aurora Middle School Newsletter is published on the 1st of each month

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From the Principal

As we enter the last month on the calendar, it is usually a time for reflection of the previous few months. It has been quite the challenging time in our lives, not just the past few months but the past couple of years.

The first term showed the strengths and areas of growth for the students and I hope that lessons are learned to continually grow and improve for term two.



Peter Dang Middle School Principal

The school continues to do well and the students and staff remained generally healthy as we overcame one outbreak status. It's important that families keep monitoring the health of everyone so that students do not come to school feeling unwell and causing other students to be possibly sick.

Increased sanitation procedures and practices are maintained, hand sanitizers are available in the school if students wish to use it, and masks remain optional. We will continue to follow the guidelines set by AHS.

At this time, I wish all families a joyous and restful holiday season, wherever it may take you. Stay safe and healthy through this holiday season and we will see you in the New Year.

- Peter Dang

Middle School Principal

From the Superintendent

December 2022

Annual General Meeting

The Aurora Annual General Meeting (AGM) took place virtually during the evening of Thursday, November 24th, 2022. During the meeting, the Board of Directors shared information related to events and activities, as well as our school's financial statements that occurred over the past year.

We would like to give thanks to outgoing Board members Brandon Plaizier and Tejinder Bansal, who have served our Board faithfully and dutifully. Their hard work and expertise have been appreciated, and their shoes will be difficult to fill.



Ian Gray Superintendent

Also leaving the Board is Arlene Huhn, who served for six years, four of which were as Board Chair. Her leadership will be sorely missed. Thankfully, we have three new Board members, Sudeep Manandhar, Ajoke Omage, and Tirtha Upadhyah, who were acclaimed at the AGM.

Our current Board members are:

- Constance Amenaghawon
- Keira Hanrahan
- Zahida Hirani-Saran
- Sudeep Manandhar
- Ajoke Omage
- Fauziat Raji
- Tirtha Upadhyay

We are excited to move forward with our new Board and will work hard to listen to the voices of our parents and students.

Finally, on behalf of the central office team, I would like to extend holiday greetings to you and your family. We wish you the very best and hope you experience love and joy this season.

Happy holidays,

Ian Gray Superintendent

School Info

Bear Den Leadership

Program:



Healthy Hunger is an online fundraiser for the school's new Bear Den Leadership Program. It offers a monthly hot lunch opportunity to students who wish to participate. Parents are encouraged to go to HealthyHunger.ca to sign up and pay for the hot lunches.

Hot lunches should be placed under Aurora Charter Middle School. Orders are placed separately from the Elementary and High School so that means each school may not have a hot lunch on the same day or even from the same vendor.

Please visit the website: healthyhunger.ca to register your account.

Board Meetings are held on the third Monday of each month in the Aurora Academic Charter School Learning Commons.

Meetings begin at 7:00pm. Anyone who wishes to attend is welcome.

The next School Board Meeting is scheduled for: December 21st, 2022



NO SCHOOL

December 16- Teacher Professional Development Day

December 17th, 2022 -January 8th, 2023-Break

<u>January 27th-</u> Teacher Professional Development Day



Please note that Aurora is a peanut "AWARE" school! If at all possible please try to avoid sending anything that may contain nuts in your child's lunch.

Music Program & Music Club

We have almost 60 students wanting to take part in our music club at lunchtime, however, we are very short on instruments. We have created an Amazon Gift Registry with a list of instruments parents can donate to our program.

If you would like to donate to our music program, simply follow the link below, put an instrument in your cart, check out, and the instrument will be delivered directly to the school! We greatly appreciate any donations to this program.

Aurora Amazon Music Registry:

https://www.amazon.ca/hz/wishlist/ls/2NXWDES5EO0I/ref=nav_wishlist_lists_2



Thank you for your support! If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact Mrs. Lund or Mr.Ceilin for further clarification.

If you would like a donation receipt, please send your Amazon receipt to <u>mleganchuk@auroraschool.ca</u> and this will be provided during tax season.

Risk Anyone?

The grade 7 social studies students got the opportunity to learn about Imperialism by playing Risk.

-Mrs Leong





Aurora's Student Teachers, Ms. Pyper Ryan and Ms. Sarah Neary, are organizing and running a **Homeroom Food Drive Competition** between November 28th and December 6th. The homeroom to collect the most donations will win donuts!! Please visit: <u>https://www.edmontonsfoodbank.com/ways-</u> <u>give/give-food/</u> to find the list of most needed items to give this year. Thank you for your generous support!

Space Left For Europe 2024!

Attention all students in grades 6-8! There are spaces left on the Europe 2024 trip to Scotland, England and Paris. The trip will take place in March 2024, over Spring Break. Please see Miss Wilson at the high school or email mwilson@auroraschool.ca for information.



--Miss M. Wilson



PARKING GUIDELINES & PICK-UP/DROP OFF

All students will use the new front entrance only. Please look for the colorful windows to find the new entrance on the NW side of the building. Mrs. Sanjana Bali will now be at this entrance.

Please remember if you are dropping off or picking up a student, you must use the FRONT entrance. If you are picking up students for appointments, please ring the doorbell at the front entrance and we will bring your child to the entrance.



TRANSPORTATION NEWS

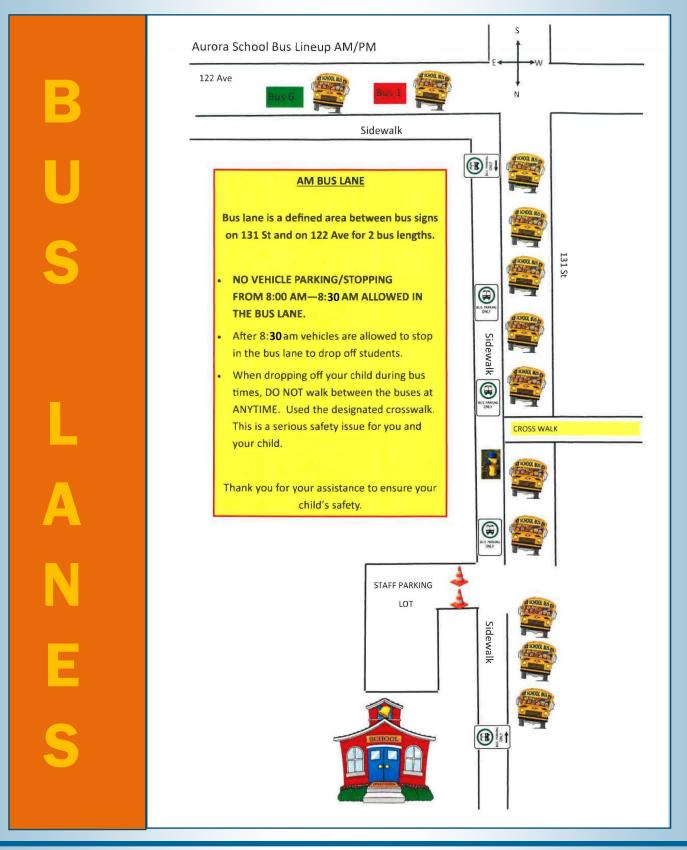
Transportation fees have been posted to your PowerSchool account. Please login to make your payments to keep your account up to date.

The <u>EZ EnRoute App</u> is available to all bussed students. If you want to use the app th track your child's bus, please download the EZ EnRoute Parent App from the app store.

Your username is your email address (as listed in your PowerSchool account) and you must reset the password the first time you use it.







Nominate A Teacher!

The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence:

These awards honour outstanding and innovative elementary and secondary school teachers in all disciplines for their remarkable educational achievements and for their commitment to preparing their students for a digital and innovation-based economy.

The Prime Minister's Awards for Teaching Excellence in STEM:

These awards recognize inspirational Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) teachers at the elementary or secondary school level who keep students engaged in STEM learning and who help develop the culture of innovation that Canada needs today, and in the future.



Nomination packages must be submitted by January 17th, 2023. For more information on this exciting initiative and to nominate the teacher of your choice go to: http://canada.ca/pmawards



2021-2022 YEARBOOK

Last year's school yearbook is usually available in late September or early October. The 2021-22 yearbook will be later this year and is expected before the winter break.

Books will be distributed to students that purchased them last spring when they arrive. At that time, any extra books will be available for purchase. Please watch for further details. Any questions may be sent to <u>kdanyleyko@auroraschool.ca</u>.

STUDENT ABSENCES

Parents, please remember to notify the school if your child will be absent or late on any given day.

Your can leave a voice message at the school 24/7, or you can email Mrs. Bali at sbali@auroraschool.ca.

ABSENCES CANNOT BE REPORTED TO THE SCHOOL BY STUDENTS.



DRESS APPROPRIATELY

We remind parents to ensure that students are appropriately dressed for the weather as it is getting very cold.



Respiratory Illness In Schools:

We would like to remind parents of the recent uptick in respiratory illnesses in schools over the past weeks. While masking is optional, parents may wish to consider masks for their children over these volatile winter weeks.

It is important that everyone monitors their own health daily, and stay home when feeling unwell, no matter what the cause may be.



Inclement/Severe Weather Procedures

Inclement weather:

Same standards as indoor recess using the weather website Blatchford site: <u>https://weather.gc.ca/city/pages/ab-50_metric_e.html</u>

Conditions such as (but not limited to):

- below -23°C (with wind chill)
- dangerous conditions such as high winds, lightning, tornado conditions, heavy rainfall, sleet or hail
- other conditions deemed dangerous for students to be outdoors at the discretion ofhe principals.

In cases of inclement weather conditions:

- 1. The Elementary and Middle School front doors will be open for all students at 8:00 AM but everyone must stay in the lobby until 8:20 AM. The lobby will be supervised.
- 2. The rear Elementary doors and the rear Middle School doors will be opened at 8:15 AM.
- 3. School bus students stay on buses until 8:20 AM.

Severe weather:

Same as Inclement Weather conditions and procedures, but Severe Weather includes temperature at -40 degrees Celcius and lower (with wind chill).

In cases of severe weather conditions:

• ALL doors are opened at 8:00AM

Continued...

INCLEMENT/SEVERE WEATHER PROCEDURES - continued

Severe Weather/Bus Cancellation

The Transportation Manager, in consultation with School Administration may suspend or cancel school bus service to Aurora School when weather conditions constitute a hazard to the safety of students.

During inclement weather, the final decision to send a child to the bus stop or to school rests with the parents, even if the buses and school may be operational.

It shall be the responsibility of the Transportation Manager to advise the Principals regarding road and driving conditions. The Transportation Manager will solicit advice from the bus contractor and bus operators when preparing the recommendation.

The following factors in combination with each other, shall serve as guidelines for considering cancellation of bus service:

- a) Wind-chill of approximately -40°C, as determined by the <u>https://weather.gc.ca/city/</u> pages/ab-50_metric_e.html;
- b) Temperature of -35 degrees Celsius, as determined by the <u>https://weather.gc.ca/city/</u> pages/ab-50 metric e.html;
- c) Roads and driving conditions

In the event of a busing cancellation a decision will be made no later than 6:30 AM. An automated phone message and EZ enRoute notification will be sent out to parents. Information on bus cancellations will be available on our website at <u>www.auroraschool.ca/students-parents/busing</u>.

Official information released to the public will be broadcast through:

- Corus Entertainment (630 CHED, 880 CHQT, 92.5 CKNG & 103.9 CISN),
- Jim Pattison Group (99.3 CIUP & 102.3 CKNO),
- New Cap Broadcasting (96.3 CKRA & 97.3 CIRK) and,
- Rogers Communication (91.7 CHBN, 101.7 CKER & 102.0 CHDI) radio stations for busing updates.

AREA OF ASSESSMENT

-Kelly Laffin, Assessment Coordinator

Another area of focus for the Aurora Competencies is Citizenship, which is the development of character traits and actions to be a good citizen, not just in our school, but in the world.

Citizenship:

- Respect and Integrity: Values diversity and equity; advocates for themselves and others
- Empathy & Compassion: Sharing in another's feelings; showing concern for others

As well as being Aurora competencies, Diligence & Citizenship awards are also earned by students each term. For the purposes of Aurora Awards, the following single-column rubrics will be utilized by staff to help determine the Diligence & Citizenship Award winners.

| Citizenship | | Diligience | | | |
|---|---|---|---|--|--|
| Lever Competency | Extending | CORDINANO, | Extending | | |
| Respect and Integrity values diversity and equity; advocates far themselves and others | Student has purposeful consistent, and successful efforts in: Taking care of others, thermselves, their work, and school property Bespectfully interacting with all students and staff at all times Being open-minded and accepting of others and thermselves Communicating respectfully and with honesty Maintaining academic integrity Motivating others Being inclusive Being positive | Critical Thinking: volues folmess and being apen-minded; willingness to solve problems and to improve their thinking; challenges assumptions bening thoughts, beliefs or actions. | Student has purposeful consistent, and successful efforts in: Progressing throughout the year to improve thinking Leading discussion or participation in discussion Challenging assumptions, beliefs, and actions Demonstrating understanding academically: Being fair and open-minded Learning from mistakes Using common sense | | |
| | | Hard Work & Empowerment: demonstrates a positive attibude and willingness to work; looks for and acts on new ideas and | Student has purposeful consistent, and successful efforts in: Efficiently completing all their assignments on time, and to the best off their ability Looking for a nd acting upon new learning opportunities Approaching tasks and school with a positive attitude Participating in all assignments and group projects | | |
| | Student has purposeful, consistent, and successful efforts in: Behaving with compassion and respect to peers and staff consistently Exhibiting understanding and kindness towards others | learning approaches new tasks with a positive attitude, becoming stronger and more conflictent | Being organized and prepared for class Becoming stronger and more confident Working towards improvement Focusing as mediad Being productive | | |
| Empathy & Compassion sharing in another's feelings; showing concern for others | Doing the right thing, even when no one is watching Having concern for peen' wellbeing at all times Staying positive, even in the face of challenges Empathising with other people's feelings Demonstrating selfessness Listening for understanding Being supportive Helping others | Innovation: generates ideas and shows a willingness to act on them and apply them in addrenat situations; demonstrates optimism, initiative and ingenuity | Student has purposeful consistent, and successful efforts in: Finding new ways of thinking and expressing different perspectives in discussions Being a problem solver, independently and in group environments Collaborating and understanding in group environments Participating meaning/uly within groups Analysing a situation and applying logic Striving to think outside the box Demonstrating optimism | | |

December 202&

STUDENT AWARDS

The changes to the distribution of Awards in the Middle School are presented below and will supersede any previously published description and criteria for the Awards.

Term Awards will be given as follows for Grade 5 and higher:

- Outstanding Citizenship: One per class, the recipients will be selected by the teachers.
- Diligence: One per class, the recipients will be selected by the teachers.
- Honors with Distinction: Any student who achieves 90% in the 4 core subjects with no mark lower than 80% (or an "A") in any non-core subjects.
- Honor Roll: Any student who achieves 80% or higher in the 4 core subjects and no mark lower than 70% or a B in any non-core subjects.

The following award will be a year-end award only:

• Principal's Award for overall academics, leadership, citizenship, and sportsmanship will be given to one individual in grade 6 only. The recipient will be selected by the teachers of that grade.

Awards Ceremony:

- H. gmY Uffg 5k UfXg7 YfYa cbmwill take place on Tuesday, December 13th, 2022 at 12:10pm and will be virtual.
- Honor Roll, Honors with Distinction, Academic, and Character Awards recipients' names will be posted outside office wall and in the February Newsletter.



- Any student on Extended Leave during that Term is ineligible for an award and Honor Roll in that Term, but is still eligible for awards in the other Terms.
- Any student having an Extended Absence in **ANY** term is ineligible for the Principal Award if applicable
- Any student with a "UA" as a report card grade in any subject is ineligible for any awards that term, including Honor Roll, Honors With Distinction, and the Principal's Award if applicable.
- Any student who misses a Final Exam in June is ineligible for the Principal's Award if applicable.
- All awards and Honor Roll is at the discretion and approval of the Principal.



In Fond Remembrance of Mr. Duncan Charlton

12 November, 1985 - 14 November, 2022

"Your life was a blessing, your memory a treasure. You are loved beyond words and missed beyond measure."



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a great teacher and colleague of Aurora Charter School on Monday, November 14, 2022. We say farewell with deep love and gratitude for having had his presence in all of our lives. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to the Edmonton Food Bank, an organization that Duncan always supported.

Born in Thunder Bay, Ontario on November 12, 1985 to Bill and Joanna Charlton. As a child, Duncan was active in many sports, going as far as to follow his passion of paintball all the way to Edmonton, Alberta, where he achieved tournament level status, winning many medals. Through this he gained life long friendships that he carried into his adult life which was filled with camping, fishing, canoeing, and his boundless love of board games.

Duncan grew to follow in his Mother's footsteps and pursued teaching. He graduated with a Bachelors of Education Degree in 2011 from the University of Alberta. Starting his career in Northern Alberta and following it back to his permanent position at Aurora Academic Charter School, where he was loved by many students and teachers alike, for his professionalism, quick humor, and willingness to mentor all who asked.

In 2015, Duncan met his wife Erin in Edmonton at a gathering of friends. Duncan and Erin went on to have several wonderful years of happiness and adventures together. Spending weekends away at off grids cabins, road trips across the country and seeing all the sites along the way, eloping in the mountains, and hiking whenever they had the chance.

Although no one can truly replace Duncan Charlton, plans are made to honor him and his memory. Classes will continue on and students will continue to grow from having his influence in their lives. These are some of the best ways to honor such a devoted and kind teacher.

Information From The Aurora SLS Team

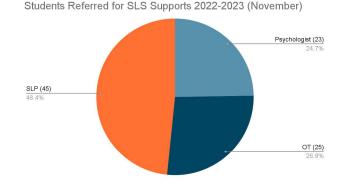
The Student Learning Services (SLS) Team has been hard at work during the first term of the school year working to serve and support the students of AACS. This team of professionals helps support students in a variety of ways including:

Speech Language Pathologist (SLP): Helping students with speech and language difficulties including missing speech sounds, stuttering, lisps, and communication challenges

Occupational Therapist (OT): Helping students with motor skills (ie. printing), organization, time management, planning, and transitioning between tasks

Registered Psychologist: Providing students with in-school counseling and educational testing when indicated

The following chart displays the number of students referred to the SLS Team for support so far this school year across the district.



The SLS professionals process referrals based on student need and wait times for services will vary accordingly. Please do not hesitate to reach out to the SLS Coordinator, Jaymie Curilla (jcurilla@auroraschool.ca), if you would like further information about the SLS team and how they may be able to support your child.

Alternative Dress Days (ADD)

Friday, December 2nd- Plaid Shirt Day-Shirt only-No Pajamas Thursday, December 15th- Casual or Winter Holiday Colors (White, Red, Green)

Thursday, January 26th- Casual or your favourite color

Tuesday, February 14th- Casual or White, Red, Pink)

Wednesday, February 22nd- Pink Shirt Day

Friday, March 17th- Casual or Spring colors

Wednesday, May 3rd- Hats on for Mental Health (casual)

Friday, June 2nd- Casual or Pride Awareness (Any colors on the

Progressive Rainbow Flag)

Wednesday, June 28th- Casual or Summer colors

Students not participating must be in uniform.

The theme (color) must be visible on the top, be apparent on the piece of clothing, and cannot be covered.

Theme apparent accessories do **NOT** qualify.

Pants/bottoms must match the solid theme color or be solid black bottoms, blue jeans or uniform pants.



Temporary Middle School Secretary:

Please welcome Ms. Amber Roesler, who will be filling in for Mrs. Susan Mallory as temporary middle school secretary until her return.

Ms. Roesler and her family have recently moved to Edmonton from Kelowna, BC. She likes to read and spend time with her family.

She has two children, ages 15 and 7.



School Council Updates

Please join us for an online School Council Meet on January 18, 2023, @ 6:00 pm

The link to the meeting can be found on the <u>auroraschool.ca</u> site under the PARENTS tab and click on SCHOOL COUNCIL.

*Agendas are updated online before the meeting.



UNIFORMS

If you are in need of some uniform pieces, please email <u>schoolcouncil@auroraschool.ca</u>

and we will look to see what is available from our lost and found.

Thanks to all the departing board members and a welcome to the new board members from the School Council and the AFS Team

Members of the Executive School Council Team:

Chair – Jacqueline Kossick, Co-Chair – Adedayo Ojeleye, Secretary – Debbie Miller

Members of the Executive AFS Team:

President – Jacqueline Kossick, Vice President – Rishma Karmali Treasurer – Angelina Lishingman, Secretary – Debbie Miller

E-Transfer donations will always be accepted. Thank you to all the parents for their continued support.

Contact us at: schoolcouncil@auroraschool.ca please join us on Facebook at "Aurora School Council"



Fundraising Society Updates

Please join us for our online AFS Meeting on January 18, 2023, at 1900 HRS

You can find the link to the meeting <u>HERE</u> or find it on the <u>auroraschool.ca</u> site under the **PARENTS** tab and click on **SCHOOL COUNCIL**.

Thank you to those who supported the Harvest Bundle Fundraiser we were able to raise **\$1677.00** to support our children!

We were the top-selling School in all of Alberta for this fundraiser. We also sent 120 bundles of veggies to the FOOD BANK!!

Thank you to the parents who volunteered their time to ensure the safe delivery of the vegetables.



Volunteers – Please HELP us!!

We are always looking for volunteers to support our initiatives: Special Events Aides – helps with fundraisers, special events, and activities. AFS Associate Funding Coordinator – Helps organize and run fundraisers. Chartered Professional Accountant -To review final financial reports once a year. Associate Secretary – help Secretary with recording minutes. Please contact the fundraising society if you are interested in any positions!

Grateful to the previous AACS Board of Directors, deep gratitude for the dedicated work you have done this past year, and Welcome New Members:

Previous Board Members: Arlene Huhn, Brandon Plaizier, Tejinder Bansal **New Board Members:** Sudeep Manandhar, Tierra Upadhyay, Ajoke Omage

E-Transfer donations will be accepted in lieu of payments for any fundraising!

Contact us at: fundraising@auroraschool.ca









February

SMTWRFS 1234

5 6 7 8 9 10 11

12 13 14 15 16 18

19 20 21 22 23 24 25

May

MTWRFS

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

14 15 16 17 18 20

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

28 29 30 31

1 2 3 4 5 6

26 27 28

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October

SMTWRFS

4 5

1 6 7 8

8

15

13 14 15

20 22

27 28 29





LEGEND Public Holiday (12) Professional Development Day (9) Day in Lieu (no classes) First/Last Day of Classes Operational Day (2) Teachers' Convention (2) Summer/Winter/Spring Break Instructional Days (176)

APPROVED HOLIDAYS

| Labour Day | SEP 5 |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Thanksgiving | OCT 10 |
| Remembrance Day | NOV 11 |
| Winter Break | DEC 19 - JAN 6 |
| Christmas Day | DEC 25 |
| Boxing Day | DEC 26 |
| New Year's Day | JAN 1 |
| Family Day | FEB 20 |
| Teachers' Convention | MAR 2 - 3 |
| Spring Break | MAR 20 - 31 |
| Good Friday | APR7 |
| Easter Monday | APR 10 |
| Victoria Day | MAY 22 |
| First Operational Day | AUG 22 |
| First Day of Classes | AUG 24 |
| Last Day of Classes | JUN 28 |
| Last Operational Day | JUN 29 |



December 2022

| 02 | Term 1 Report Cards Released | .4:00pm |
|-----|---|----------|
| 02 | Special Alternative Dress Day (Plaid Shirt) - Shirt only. No pajamas (All Day) and Assembly | 10:40am |
| 05 | Policy Committee Meeting (Virtual) | .4:00pm |
| 13 | Term 1 Awards Ceremony (Virtual) | 12:10pm |
| 15 | Alternative Dress Day (Casual or Winter Holiday Colors) | .All Day |
| 16 | Teacher Professional Development Day - No School | |
| 21 | Board Meeting - (Virtual) | 7:00pm |
| Dec | ember 17th, 2022 - January 8th, 2023Wint | er Break |
| Ja | nuary 2023 | |
| 09 | School Resumes - Welcome Back! | |
| 16 | Board Meeting - (Virtual) | 7:00pm |





Have a wonderful winter holiday break!

AURORA ACADEMIC CHARTER SCHOOL

12245-131 Street NW, Edmonton, AB T5L 1M8 Phone: (780) 454-1855 Fax: (780) 454-8104 E-mail: aurorasc@auroraschool.ca