



***Please note that the format of our Newsletters and our Website will be changing in the near future. More details to come soon!**

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Principal's Update

Greetings to all Aurora families,

With over 60% of the school year completed, we look towards the spring where we will be pushing for a strong Term 3 to complete the year. The spring is a busy time annually as multiple surveys and planning are done to gather information and prepare for the next year.

If you have not already, I encourage parents to complete the government's Assurance Survey that should have been mailed to you and parents can either complete it online using the Random Access Code provided in the package or by paper. There will be a school-based survey later this spring as well.

As we move closer to spring break, I remind parents about the Extended Absence policies ([AR 6130 Section G](#) and [AR 6170 Section 1](#)) if families wish to take holidays that affect school days. We are an academic school and students being present in the classroom is important for their success. That is one of the reasons you chose Aurora School, so it is crucial that students do not miss any school days when possible.

Student success is also closely linked to parental involvement by checking the student's homework to ensure completion and checking their grades in PowerSchool often. When was the last time you checked your child's grades? Please keep this in mind as we ask parents to be participating partners in the success of the students.

At the school, we strive to provide the best education programming possible along with a variety of non-academic opportunities for a more well-rounded education. After school teams have been going strong (basketball, Running Room Indoor Games, badminton), intramurals at lunch recess and clubs (chess, art, writing, gardening, music, bell choir, debate) are happening throughout the weeks. Field trips like the grade 6 to City Hall, the Edmonton Oil Kings game, the Grade 7 Drumheller Museum overnight trip, the grade 6 Telus World of Science overnight trip are just some of the off-site activities being planned. The school-wide Science Fair recently took place, an in-school science field trip with special guest presenters is being planned, and Black History Month and Random Acts of Kindness activities took place. The school is a busy place!

As always, we will continue to provide the best programming for our students at Aurora and we look forward to working with parents to make it happen!

Sincerely,

Peter Dang
Principal

SCHOOL CALENDARS

At the January *Meeting of the Board of Directors*, the school calendar for the 2023-2024 year was passed. It can be viewed on our website or by clicking on the following link:

[2023-2024 Calendar](#)

[2022-2023 Calendar](#)

Important Exam Information

Final Exam Absence policy: [AR 6170 Section 2](#)

-Should a student leave early for summer break and miss any Final Exams, the student may NOT write any exams

early before departure.

- A missed Final Exam will be given a grade of "UA" (Unable to Assess) and the final course mark will be the average of the three terms.

Grade 6 Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs):

Grade 6 students will be writing the Provincial Achievement Tests (PATs) in the four core subjects at the end of June. They are mandatory tests that we use for final exams. To help prepare grade 6 students and their parents, please look over this guide provided by Alberta Learning: [Grade 6 PAT Parent Guide](#) (there are even some practice questions). Other very useful information about the [Provincial Achievement Tests](#) can be found here: <https://www.alberta.ca/provincial-achievement-tests.aspx>.

Click [here](#) to access the 2022-2023 General Information Bulletin, or go directly to the Grade 6 and 9 Provincial Achievement Tests "[Quick Facts for Students and Parents/Guardians](#)".

Extended Absence Policy and how it affects Awards Eligibility:

An Extended Absence is a non-medical absence from school for 5 or more consecutive school days (family holiday, visits, funeral, weddings, other events, etc.). The parents are to first contact the principal well before the trip to discuss this. An Extended Absence form will be provided to the student only after the parents discuss this with the principal. Extended Absences have academic consequences for the student as indicated in policy [AR 6130 Section G](#) and [AR 6170 Section 1](#).

June Final exams schedule:

Tuesday, June 20

9:00 A.M.–10:00 A.M. Grade 5, 7, and 8 English Language Arts

9:00 A.M.–10:00 A.M. Grade 6 English Language Arts Part B Provincial Achievement Test

9:00 A.M.–10:15 A.M. Grade 9 English Language Arts Part B Provincial Achievement Test

Thursday, June 22

9:00 A.M.–9:20 A.M. Grade 6 Mathematics Part A Provincial Achievement Test

9:00 A.M.–9:30 A.M. Grade 9 Mathematics Part A Provincial Achievement Test

Friday, June 23

9:00 A.M.–10:00 A.M. Grade 5, 7, and 8 Math

9:00 A.M.–10:10 A.M. Grade 6 Mathematics Part B Provincial Achievement Test

9:00 A.M.–10:20 A.M. Grade 9 Mathematics Part B Provincial Achievement Test

Monday, June 26

9:00 A.M.–10:00 A.M. Grade 5, 7, and 8 Social Studies

9:00 A.M.–10:00 A.M. Grade 6 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test

9:00 A.M.–10:20 A.M. Grade 9 Social Studies Provincial Achievement Test

Tuesday, June 27

9:00 A.M.–10:00 A.M. Grade 5, 7, and 8 Science

9:00 A.M.–10:00 A.M. Grade 6 Science Provincial Achievement Test

9:00 A.M.–10:15 A.M. Grade 9 Science Provincial Achievement Test

SCHOOL NEWS

Trophy Case: The Aurora Fundraising Society is made of parent volunteers from the School Council who help with the fundraising for school-wide activities. The casino event that took place last spring allowed us access to funds to help with a variety of things. One of them is the trophy case in the Middle School lobby where our trophies and plaques are proudly displayed. Thank you, Aurora Fundraising Society!

Looking at them, there is a sense of historical achievements by students who have come and gone through our school. One of them is a former Aurora School student who received the Grade 3 Principal's Award (outstanding achievements in academics, sportsmanship, athletics, and citizenship all year) and is now an Aurora teacher. Mrs. Rosalina Gieni was then known as Rosalina Hicks. Come check out the trophy case when you are in the school!



Grade 7 Social Studies: How do you re-enact the strength of the British Military in Grade 7 Social Studies? You play Battleship, of course! (-Mrs. Leong)



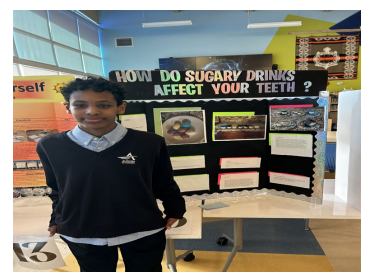
Random Acts of Kindness: Aurora Middle School Students created special cards with messages of kindness for Random Acts of Kindness Day on February 16. This activity was part of the Middle School Bear Den initiative that facilitates the development of a school-wide community across all grades from five to eight. Our students worked very hard making these cards with limited time and resources, and they turned out fantastic! Mr. Hwang will deliver these fabulous cards to a local Edmonton non-profit charity called, "Meals on Wheels" to be delivered to people who are experiencing mobility and disability issues. Our students' kind messages are much appreciated! Thank you for creating more kindness in the world!



Middle School Science Fair: The Middle School Science Fair was held on Feb 3rd, 2023. There were 128 project displays, 16 amazing volunteer judges and countless hours of hard work and enthusiasm poured into this year's fair.

Thank you to all those involved who make a day like this possible, and congratulations to all students who participated this year!

Click [here](#) to see the full slideshow of the 2023 Aurora Academic Charter School Science Fair!



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. **All information about dates, costs and itinerary can be found by clicking [here](#).** Please see Miss Wilson at the high school or email mwilson@auroraschool.ca for additional booking information.

2021-2022 YEARBOOK: The 2021-22 yearbooks have arrived! Please come by the office to pick up your copy if you ordered one. Please note that all yearbooks will need to be picked up in person. You may have a friend or relative pick it up for you if you are unavailable to come into the office. No yearbooks will be mailed, outside of extraordinary circumstances.

Also, there are a limited number of extra yearbooks available. If you did not order one last year and you would like to have one, please email Ms. Danyleyko at kdanyleyko@auroraschool.ca for details and payment information.

AURORA 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 [this link](#), put an instrument in your cart, check out, and the instrument will be delivered directly to the school! We greatly appreciate all donations to this program.

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 mleganchuk@auroraschool.ca and this will be provided during tax season.

HEALTHY HUNGER-HOT LUNCH: [Healthy Hunger](http://HealthyHunger.ca) is an online fundraiser for the school's 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.

The next hot lunch date is March 17th. Hot lunch orders 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 [Healthy Hunger](http://HealthyHunger.ca) website to register your account.

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.
- Honor Roll: Any student who achieves an average of 80% or higher in the 4 core subjects. Students must not have anything lower than 75% (or a "B") in any subject.
- Honors with Distinction: Any student who achieves an average of 90% or higher in the 4 core subjects. Students must not have anything lower than 75% (or a "B") in any subject.

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:

- The Term 2 Awards Ceremony will take place in April. Further details to come soon.
- Honor Roll, Honors with Distinction, Academic, and Character Awards recipients' names will be posted in the May Newsletter, and on the wall outside the office.
- Congratulations to all students who earned an award in Term 1!

Conditions:

- 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.
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ALTERNATIVE DRESS DAYS (ADD)

Friday, March 17 – **Casual or Spring colors**

Wednesday, May 3 – **Hats on for Mental Health (casual)**

Friday, June 2 – Casual or Pride Awareness (**any colors on the Progressive Rainbow Flag**)

Wednesday, June 28 – **Casual or Summer colors**

- **No inappropriate wording, imagery, or symbols for a school setting.**
 - **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.**
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PARENT INFORMATION

PLEASE BE MINDFUL WHEN PACKING YOUR CHILD'S LUNCH:

If possible, **avoid any glass containers**, as a number of them are getting broken. This presents a danger of cuts/injury during the clean-up, as well as leaves your child without a lunch to eat should the contents become contaminated with glass. Also, please remember to **pack reusable or disposable utensils** if they are bringing food which requires utensils.

STUDENT ABSENCES:

Parents, please remember to notify the school if your child will be absent or late on any given day. You 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. Weather patterns at this time of year remain volatile and can change very quickly. Please ensure students are prepared for a mixture of wet and/or cold conditions.

RESPIRATORY ILLNESSES 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 monitor their own health daily, and stay home when feeling unwell, no matter what the cause may be.

AURORA IS A PEANUT "AWARE" SCHOOL: Please note that Aurora is a peanut "aware" school. If possible, **avoid sending anything that may contain nuts in your child's lunch.** We appreciate your cooperation.

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 2-3.....Teacher's Convention (No School)
March 12.....Daylight Saving Time Begins (Spring Forward 1 Hour)
March 14.....Grade 6 PAT Info Night (6:00pm-7:00pm)
March 15.....Board of Directors Meeting (7:00pm--Virtual)
March 17.....Alternative Dress Day (ADD) Casual or Spring Colours
March 17.....Term 2 Report Cards
March 20-31.....Spring Break (No School)
March 22-23.....Grade 7 Drumheller field trip (Over Spring Break)

April 3.....School Resumes
April 7.....Good Friday (No School)
April 10.....Easter Monday (No School)
April 17.....Board of Directors Meeting (7:00pm--Virtual)

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