



FEBRUARY 2017

~Aurora Ambassador~



NO SCHOOL: There will be no school for students on Friday, February 3rd. As well, there will be no school on Thursday, February 9th and Friday, February 10th due to the ATA Teachers' Convention. There will be no school on Monday, February 20th for Family Day! Enjoy your long weekends☺

VALENTINE'S DAY AND SCHOOL SPIRIT: To celebrate school spirit and Valentine's Day, staff and students are encouraged to wear red, white, purple and/or pink (including hearts) on Tuesday, February 14th. Valentine's Day parties will be celebrated at the discretion of your child's homeroom teacher. Happy Valentine's Day!



WRSD MANDATORY SCHOOL FEES: The \$40.00 elementary school fee is now due. If you have not yet paid this, please do so soon. Please make cheques payable to Aurora Elementary School. If you have any questions regarding this, fee you may call us at 780-542-9355 or you may also call WRSD Central Office at 1-800-771-0537 to inquire.

2017/2018 KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FORMS: We are *still* accepting next year's Kindergarten registrations! If you have a child, who will be five years old before December 31, 2017, please come to the office to pick up your forms. Please bring the original birth certificate, as it is mandatory to have one to register. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this, feel free to contact us at 780-542-9355.

AURORA 'WE-DON'T-FUNDRAISE' FUNDRAISER: Thank you to the families and companies who have already donated towards our annual 'We-Don't-Fundraise' fundraiser☺ Your generosity is greatly appreciated! We are still accepting donations for this school year, if you haven't had a chance to donate yet! Any donation \$10.00 and over will be given a tax receipt. All funds go towards Aurora. Every little bit helps! Thank you for supporting our wonderful school

HOUSE KEEPING ISSUES: We care very much for our students! The safety and consideration of each is one of our main concerns. Therefore, please read the following very carefully, to help us make Aurora the best it can be:



- **Proper Clothing for Recesses:** We have noticed a large number of students coming to school without proper winter attire. Each student is expected to go outside for all recesses – weather permitting. Therefore, please ensure that your child(ren) are bringing hats, mittens, snow pants, winter boots, winter coats with working zippers. Thank you for helping us to keep your child(ren) safe and warm!
- **Attendance:** Regular attendance is critical to successful learning for school students. When a student misses a day, they miss the most important part of the learning process, the interaction of the teacher and fellow students as they discuss, explore, and practice new skills and knowledge. Yes, we can help them 'catch up' at recesses and sometimes we can send practice work home, but once the 'instruction and discussion' is missed, it is impossible to properly recreate it. Over the past several years, we have seen an increase in student absences and this negatively affects our students. If your child is sick, please keep him/her home; it is best for them and best for our 'healthy' students. However, please avoid other absences for minor ailments or for non-health related reasons. Please remember to call the school at 780 542 9355 if your child will be absent for the day.
- **Arriving Late:** Along with a growing attendance problem, we are seeing a large increase in students arriving late. Students are to be in their chair at 8:36 am. We realize that on occasion this is beyond your control; however, it is creating three large problems. 1) An important part of the school day is from 8:36 until 9:00. It is during this time that teachers establish expectations and student focus for the day and most classes start Language Arts. 2) It is during the first five minutes that they take attendance, permission forms and fees, and check agendas. 3) Children establish lifelong habits when they are young. As adults, we are always their role models. When you deliver a child late, the message they get is that it is okay to be late and they grow up accordingly. That may be okay for rock stars, but for the rest of us it is a problem when we enter the work force.
- **End-of-Day Messages:** When the office receives a phone call after 1:30 pm, it is very difficult to get your child's message to his/her relative teacher. Please call the school by 1:30 pm to ensure that your child will get your message! In addition to the above comment, each student also has a great communication tool, his or her agenda book, right in his or her classroom every day. If you need to make alternative arrangements other than what was discussed or written down previously, then please, call the school **before 1:30** and let us know what is happening. Otherwise, we encourage you to write after school messages in your child's



agenda. That way, your child has clear directions about what they need to do after school, and the teacher can provide support in making sure your child knows what to do as well if they are written down. We realize that some unforeseen circumstances come up and in this instance we will do our best to accommodate you☺

