



September 14, 2017

Aurora Middle School

A Great Middle School Experience!



September 2017

Principal's Message

Welcome back to a new school year!

I trust everyone has had a wonderful summer break with lots of rest and opportunities to enjoy numerous activities with friends and family. The staff and I are looking forward to an exciting, productive and successful school year. We have had a fantastic start to the year here at Aurora Middle School and we want to thank everyone that has helped us to accomplish this including staff, students and parents. We are excited about the up coming year and the new opportunities that our students will have. Our new **year round growing dome** green house is really taking shape and we are excited about the experiences that this new facility will bring.

Breakfast Program - another new service that we are proud to provide this year is our breakfast program. We will have breakfast ready in our cafeteria each morning between 8:15 am and 9:00 am for any students who are hungry. **Morning Fitness Break** - our gym will be open each morning at 8:30 am for a 15-20 min fitness activity led by our Apple School Coordinator, Ms. Axenchuk as well as Mr. Mah. We look forward to the year ahead and will work hard to ensure that it is a **great middle school experience** for each and everyone! Take care.



Our New Growing Dome

Our new Growing Dome is really coming along! Thanks to everyone that is helping to build it including the Northern Lights maintenance department and the volunteer crew from Enbridge Pipelines who have been extremely helpful. The dome will provide space for year round gardening at summertime temperatures. Our 1400 square foot dome will provide ample space for an entire class to work in the dome at the same time. We see the dome providing space for our school and our community for: learning, gathering, healthy nutrition as well as mental health support. We are grateful to:

- Metis Nation of Alberta Region 1

- LLB Natural Gas Co-Op

- Enbridge Pipelines for their generous donations that helped us make this dream a reality!



Proud to be part of Northern Lights Public Schools



Dates To Remember



- Sept. 22nd - IPP Day - No School for Students
- Sept 26th - Cyber Safety Presentation gr 5-8
Parents Cyber Safety Presentation at Bold 6-8 pm
- Sept 27th - Parent Council Meeting @ 6:30 pm
- Sept 28th - Terry Fox School Run
- Sept.. 29th - grade 6 Band Camp day
- Oct. 6th - Family Friday
- Oct. 9th - Thanksgiving Day - No School
- Oct 20 - ATA Institute day- No school for students
- Oct 27 - grade 4-6 Earth Rangers Assembly
- Nov 5th - Daylight Savings - Fall back 1 hour!

Aurora
A Great MIDDLE SCHOOL Experience!

Parent Council Corner

As we welcome another school year, I would like to thank all those parents who were part of our Parent Council last year. Our Parent Council is a very important support for our school and our students.

We encourage any parents who are interested to come out to our first meeting on Sept. 27th. We have one meeting a month and start at 6:30 pm in our school conference room in the front office area.

The Aurora Parent Fundraising Society Casino in Ft Mac is coming soon. The dates are for Nov 23 & 24th.

We have 5 key positions that must be filled as soon as possible -deadline is Sept 18th. Positions are General Manager, Alternate General Manager, Banker, Count Room Supervisor, and Cashier. Please consider joining us or pass info on to someone that may be interested. All money raised is used to provide additional services and resources for our children.

Our First Parent Council meeting is Wednesday Sept. 27th @ 6:30 pm



Fine Arts Options

Our Fine arts options have begun and we thank our staff for getting these classes organized so quickly. We offer a variety of options at each grade level and attempt to plan activities that the students are interested in, but also have a fine arts or recreation type focus. Some of the classes offered this year are: Tile Mosaic, Choir, Drama, Lego Robotics, Guitar, Ping Pong as well as a variety of art, music and tech options.



AMS Terry Fox Run

Aurora Middle School students and staff will be taking part in a Terry Fox Run on Thursday Sept. 28th. We are fortunate to have a beautiful large field on the south side of our school which includes a football field, soccer field as well as baseball diamonds and are planning to use this large area to perform the run. All classes will be participating in this fundraising event with all proceeds going to the Terry Fox Foundation.



Grade 6 Band Camp - September 28-29th!

6B & 6S - Sept 28th 6R & 6K—Sept 29th

All grade 6 students will be receiving their instruments on Sept 28 or 29th at Band Camp. Grade 8 students will be mentoring the 6th graders on how to put together, care for, and play their instrument. After this, students may take their instrument home, but they must remember to bring it back to school each day they have band. (It is difficult to teach students how to play their instrument when it is not in class with them.) Let's get ready to RUMBLE!



Music Clubs at Aurora Middle School!

Grades 6, 7 and 8 students have begun taking part in Hand Bell Choir at lunch time. Students in grades 4 and 5 can learn to play Hand Bells in their options block.

Choirs (singing) for all students at Aurora will begin shortly, and will be offered as lunch time clubs for students in all grade levels.

Listen for announcements coming soon for choirs to begin!

Grade 4 and 5 students are learning not just singing and reading music, but how to play various percussion instruments, recorders, ukuleles and xylophones in music classes. Band classes are offered to all students in grade 6, 7 & 8. Our grade 6 students have band built into their schedule while our grade 7 & 8 students apply to be part of the band class at the end of each year.



Lifetouch Photo Retakes:

Date: Nov. 3 (9:00am—10:30 am)

If you have any questions/concerns regarding your photo, please call the toll free number on the back of the photo package.



Special Guests & Presentations

Earth Rangers Presentation - On October 27th

our grade 4-6 students will have the opportunity to attend an earth Rangers assembly in our gymnasium. A team of environmental educators will use the power of **live animals** in an assembly setting to teach children about the devastating effects of habitat degradation and loss of wild animals. They will also provide knowledge and tools to take action to help protect animals at risk right here in Canada. This annual event has been a highlight for our students over the past several years.



Aurora Middle School is a closed campus, meaning students will not be permitted to leave the school grounds during lunch hour.



All students are expected to eat in the assigned, supervised areas. Grades 7 and 8 students will eat in the lunchroom from 12:00 to 12:25 daily. Grades 5 and 6 will eat in the cafeteria from 12:25-12:50 daily. The grade 4 students will continue to eat in their classrooms. We have various items on the menu for purchase in our cafeteria. Any grade 4 students ordering lunch will have to pre-order in the morning and will have the food delivered to them. Pre-orders will also be available for grades 5 and 6 if they are interested, to ensure availability.

Check out Mirasol's cafeteria menu on our website at <http://auroramiddleschool.ca/>. The menu can be found under the Parents tab -click on Lunch Orders for more info.



Aurora Sports



The Athletic department is very excited to begin the 2017-18 school year! On behalf of all of our young students, their parents and Aurora Middle School **thank you very much to all of our volunteer coaches for volunteering their valuable time away from their family, their dedication and their commitment.** Aurora Middle School is very pleased to offer the following after sport program for this 2017 fall season:

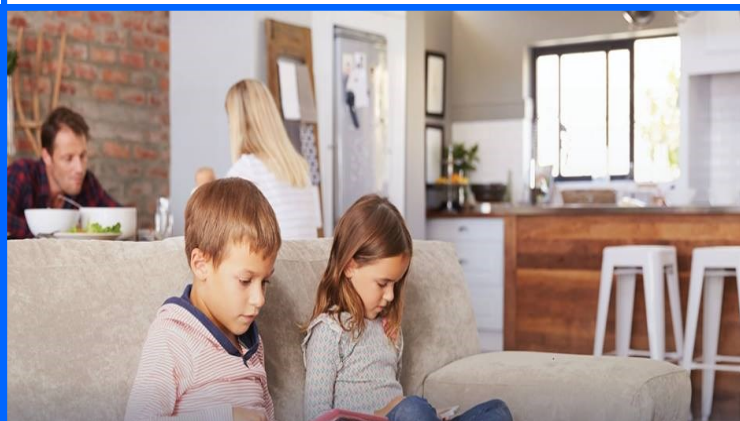
1. **Mountain Biking** with coach Mrs. Finnistead and Ms. Wipfli as her assistant. Please see Mrs. Finnistead for her practice schedule. Cost is \$10. Districts are on Sept. 28 in Cold Lake.
2. **Gr 7-8 Golf** with coach Mr. Zahra. Tournament date (in Cold Lake) and cost yet to be determined.
3. **Gr 5-8 x country running** with coach Mrs. Cox. Practices are every Tuesday and Thursday @ noon. Cost \$10. District date is Oct 5 in Cold Lake.
4. **Gr 5-6 girls volleyball** with coach Mr. Webster. Cost \$15. Practices are every Wednesday, 3:30 - 5:15 pm. District date @ Cold Lake TBA
5. **Gr. 4- 6 boys volleyball** with coach Mr. Biollo (Parent). Practices are every Tuesday, 3:30 - 5:15 pm. Cost \$10. District date @ Cold Lake TBA.
6. **Gr. 7 girls volleyball** with coach Ms. Delorme. Practices are every Monday and Wednesday 3:30-5:15pm. The grade 7 girls will be playing some exhibition matches and in a tournament, but not in districts. Cost \$15.
7. **Gr. 8 girls volleyball** with coach Ms. Keough and Mr. Nashim (parent volunteer). Practices are every Tuesday 3:30-5:15 pm (with Nashim only) , and Thursday, 3:30-5:15 pm. Cost is \$15. District is on Nov 18 @ Cold Lake.
8. **Gr. 7/8 boys volleyball** with coach Mrs. Shulko and Mr. Cadieux (parent volunteer). Practices are every Monday and Thursday @ 3:30-5:15pm. Cost is \$15. Districts are on Nov18 @ Cold Lake.

Attend this **FREE workshop** for parents/caregivers/loved ones of youth of all ages. The workshop is presented by Saffron Centre and will cover these topics: -safe practices, parental controls, privacy settings, removing pictures from the internet, cyber bullying, **RED FLAGS** and much more.....

Internet Safety Presentations

Thank you to our partners at FCSS, The Saffron Centre is pleased to be giving Internet Safety Presentations to students and parents in our community. Here at Aurora Middle School our Grade 5's to 8's will receive the information session on Tuesday September 26th. There will also be a **free parent info session** that evening from 6pm- 8pm at the Bold Center.

The Internet Safety presentations for junior high students are designed to encourage personal integrity and reputation protection with every click. Safety tips are delivered with stories and online examples to emphasize the importance of respect for self and one's future. Students will be shown how to use privacy settings, turn off location settings, and manage friends and followers to protect their personal information. We'll talk about healthy boundaries in all online interactions and to respect self and others. Whether gaming, managing social media profiles, or researching — teens will be encouraged to involve parents and guardians in their online activities to have accountability and help when situations are inappropriate or difficult. Cyber-bullying will be defined and students will learn what to do when they encounter instances of bullying online.



CYBERWORLD

Raising a Child in the Digital Age

PRESENTED BY SAFFRON CENTRE

SEPTEMBER 26, 6 - 8 PM, THE BOLD CENTER

Free childcare and supper will be provided. Register by calling 780-623-6754 or email christine.martin@laclabichcounty.com.





Northern Lights Public Schools is pleased to announce that it now has a communication tool for parents that are consistent from classroom to classroom and school to school. School Messenger will allow all NLPS schools to send messages to parents and/or students by using the contact information they provided to the school when they registered.

This will include **automated attendance messages** when students aren't at school and their absence hasn't already been reported by a parent or guardian. It will also include general messages from the school and division such as newsletters and invitations to upcoming events. School Messenger allows the division, schools or individual teachers to send messages to parents in a variety of ways, including voice messages to phones, text messages, and emails.

There is also a **School Messenger app** that will allow teachers to communicate directly with parents/guardians and/or students, individually or in groups. The app will also allow parents or students to indicate which ways they would like to be contacted (email, voice, text), in which circumstances (general messages, attendance, and emergencies). Through the app, parents will also be able to see all of the messages that have been shared for each of their children. So parents with multiple children, who may be attending different schools, can see all of the messages they have received by simply checking the School Messenger app.

The app also allows users to turn on push notifications in the settings, so they will know immediately when they have received a message.

NLPS has already started training staff on how to use School Messenger for attendance and sending school messages. We hope to complete that training and have School Messenger in use at every school **by the end of September.**

Once School Messenger is in place at the school level, our focus will shift to providing teachers with the training and resources they need to effectively use the classroom communication tools that are available to them through School Messenger. This may take some time and we thank everyone in advance for their patience and cooperation while we work through this process.

What do parents need to do?

There are three things parents can do to help us implement School Messenger more efficiently and effectively: Ensure your contact information is up-to-date at your child's school. You will need to have an email address on file to receive messages via email or through the app, and a cell phone number on file for text messages.

In order to receive text messages, School Messenger requires you to opt in. If you have provided your school with a cell phone number, you will receive a message from School Messenger (it will appear as a short code - a five digit number - on your phone). The message will ask you to text "Y" if you wish to receive text messages from your child's school. We will be enabling text messaging soon, so if your number is on file, you should receive a message within the next couple of weeks.

Download the School Messenger app and create an account. Make sure you use the same email address as the one that you provided to your child's school. The app will allow you to set your contact preferences.

