



**ARTHUR FORD PUBLIC SCHOOL  
HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION  
NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2022**

**ARTHUR FORD  
HOME & SCHOOL VISION  
We Build Futures  
MISSION STATEMENT**

Arthur Ford, a family school, a community where students, teachers, parents and families work together collaboratively to enhance communication and foster creative thinking in order to achieve the collective goal of laying the groundwork for students current and future successes.

**VALUES**

Communication, Collaboration, Connection, Creative Thinking

**OFHSA MANDATE**

The Best For Each Student

**HAPPY FEBRUARY...!**

We hope this month's newsletter finds families safe and healthy. We welcome the month of February which is not only the shortest month of the year but also usually one of the busiest months in the school year. We have Lunar New Year, Valentine's Day and Black History Month...to name a few!

It is hard to believe that we are already a month into the new year! We are so excited to have staff and students back in person or temporarily online. We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the amazing efforts of our students, who successfully pivoted to online learning following the holiday season. We know this is an extremely challenging time for students, not seeing their friend's every day at school. We commend them for the resilience and patience they have demonstrated during this time. We also want to thank our parent community for their efforts with respect to supporting our students, while balancing their own work at home. We also want to recognize the incredible work that our teachers have been doing online with students. Transitioning to a new learning environment in short order, while in some cases supporting their own family's at-home learning, is a monumental task. Congratulations and thank you to all.

We take this opportunity to wish all students, families and staff from an Asian heritage a Happy Luna Year! This Luna year is marked by the zodiac sign of the Tiger which symbolizes bravery, courage and strength.

Each February, Canada celebrates Black History Month by recognizing and celebrating the contributions made by Black people to Canadian society. Black History Month provides the opportunity for students, staff and families to learn more about and celebrate Black history and heritage and to honour the legacy of Black Canadians and Black communities globally.

There are always important initiatives and programs to fund at Arthur Ford and we have a couple fundraising opportunities such as the online fundraising platforms FlipGive (*please see below for details*) and the Hot Lunch Program which we are happy to say can start back in the near future. Please keep a look out for more info on this which will be coming soon.

The Home and School and School Council also have lots of volunteer opportunities which can be done virtually (*please see below for details*).

It is important that we ensure we are maintaining balance with our families. Please ensure you take some time to care for your physical and emotional health and well-being. What can you do as a family to balance these needs? Take a family walk, play with your dog in the backyard, build a snowman, or perhaps bake some special treats. Sending uplifting messages can also improve our own mood. When we share our gratitude, it helps us feel more positive, build strong friendships, and deal with challenges.

*"Wishing you a Year of the Tiger full of vitality, bravery, and generosity."*  
*Lunar New Year Wishes*



*"It's time to start another year and another set of opportunities."*  
*Happy Lunar New Year!"*  
*Lunar New Year Wishes*

**Stay Safe, Be Well and Take Care!**  
**Your Arthur Ford Home and School Association and Arthur Ford School Council**



Join us for our next Joint School Council and Home & School Meeting  
**When: 1<sup>st</sup> Monday of the every month**  
**Where: Via Microsoft Teams\*\***  
**Time: 6:30pm School Council and 7:30pm Home & School**

*If you have not attended a meeting in the past please send a request to [afhomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:afhomeandschool@gmail.com) \*\* If you have previously attended, an invite will be sent by e-mail.*

## Meeting Dates for Home and School (and School Council)...

Wed, September 22, 2021  
Mon, October 4, 2021  
Mon, November 1, 2021  
Mon, December 6, 2021  
Mon, January 10, 2022  
Mon, February 7, 2022

**Mon, March 7, 2022**

Mon, April 4, 2022  
Mon, May 2, 2022 (AGM)  
Mon, June 6, 2022

● *Next upcoming monthly meeting date*

### Times:

Home and School Meeting starts at 7:30pm  
School Council meeting starts at 6:30pm

**Virtual Platform:** Microsoft Teams  
*(one link for both meetings will be sent via School Messenger by School Administration prior to the monthly meetings)*

## Highlights from February 7th, 2022 Home and School and School Council Meetings

### 2021/2022 School Council Executive Team Members:

Co-Chairs: Deanna Perks and Mary-Anne De Couto-Gatschene  
Treasurer: Kim Seguin Secretary: Sarah Kelly

### 2021/2022 Arthur Ford Home and School Association Executive Team:

President: Lana –Lisa Coombs-Jackman  
VPs: Gail Naraine & Robyn Johnson  
Treasurer: Sarah Ruddach  
Secretary: Erin Twist  
H&S Rep: Kim Seguin

- **Student Voice Survey Results:** This survey was provided to students 6, 7 and 8 to complete in November 2021 and 106 students completed the survey.
- **Elementary School and Child Care Screener:** It is important to remember that students will need to complete the online screening each day that they are attending school.
- **Rapid test kits for students:** There were two Rapid Antigen Tests Kits delivered to each student upon their return to school. Short term remote learning students do not get the kits it happens when the return to in-person learning.
- **Short Term Virtual Learning** option has occurred if a family contacted or wanted that option. Week to week option with Asynchronous learning, Students may return to In-Person Learning at any time by contacting the school directly.
- **Balance Day:** Last 2 years we have had a “balance day” versus “traditional day” this will remain as is until further notice.
- **Volunteer Updates:** Volunteers are allowed back in the school. Please note that the same criteria's that were identified in the Fall prior to holiday Winter Break are in place.
- **Kindergarten Registration** closed as of Feb.4. 2022.
- **Tobogganing or sledding** are not allowed during school hours.
- **The Principal Report** provides other updates on topics such as Student Voice Survey, etc. that will be included in the School Council (and/or Home & School meeting minutes). *Minutes are available at the end of the month on the Arthur Ford School Website under [School Council](#)*
- **Our 2020/2021 Equity Sub-Committee** recommendations “numbers 6, 7 and 8” were approved by H&S members. *Details available at the end of the month in H&S February 2022 minutes.*
- **School Council Bylaw Sub-Committee** has started updating the School Council Bylaws and changes to Sections 1, 2 and 3 were approved by School Council members. The changes to Bylaw 4 to 9 will be presented at the next meeting for School Council member to review and approval.
- **School Council** will also be looking to create a Communications guideline *(please contact School Council for details).*
- **There are many volunteering opportunities** *(please see below “supporting school needs” section for volunteer details).*
- For more on Home and School please contact [afhomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:afhomeandschool@gmail.com)
- For more info on School Council please contact [afschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:afschoolcouncil@gmail.com)

Check out the Arthur Ford Public School Calendar as it has all the PA days, holidays, school events and special days listed!

<https://calendar-arthurford.tvdsb.ca/Default/Month>

In February 2022 a couple noted dates are Black History Month And February 23 - Pink Shirt Day *(please see below for details)*

## Arthur Ford School Calendar for February 2022

(Click on the links)

February – [Black History Month](#)  
February 1 – School Crossing Guard Appreciation Day  
February 7 – **School Council and Home and School Meetings**  
February 11 – [International Day of Women and Girls in Science](#)  
February 14 – Valentine's Day  
February 14 – School Photos *(to be determined)*  
February 17 – [Random Acts of Kindness Day](#)  
February 21 – [Family Day](#)  
February 23 – [Pink Shirt Day](#)



Here are: [Resources for Adults Wishing to Discuss Racism with Children](#)

## Black History Month

February is observed as Black History Month at Thames Valley. It is an opportunity to celebrate the many achievements of Black Canadians and a chance to educate our students about the many noteworthy individuals who, throughout history, have had significant impact inducing change in our society. In consultation with Black administrators, educators and clinical staff, the TVDSB Equity Team has prepared Black History Month resources, virtual class presentations and professional learning opportunities to support learning throughout February and beyond.

The London Black History Coordinating Committee has planned several events and initiatives for Black History Month 2022. Please review a calendar of events in English and French, as well as event information at the following link: <http://www.londonpubliclibrary.ca/black-history-month>



## Pink Shirt Day

### Lift Each Other Up

Today our diversity is becoming more visible than ever as people continue to embrace their cultures, identities, and true selves in more open and direct ways; making the need to Lift Each Other Up and have greater acceptance, respect, and inclusion for everyone so important. This year on February 23, 2022 join in celebrating diversity to support inclusive anti-bullying programs for kids in our communities.

## Advocacy Opportunity

Here is an opportunity for our School Community, School Council members, and Home and School Association members to provide input:



### Thames Valley District School Board

@TVDSB · School

You can provide public input into TVDSB draft documents for various Policies and Procedures.



### Ontario Federation of Home & School Associations - OFHSA

You can also share your opinion with Ontario Federation of Home and School Association (OFHSA) by participating in surveys



## TVDSB Board Public Input Request

There is no Public Input Requests at this time.

## OFHSA Advocacy

Share your opinion with [Ontario Federation of Home & School Associations - OFHSA](#) by participating in the completing this Survey  
Ministry of Education is seeking your feedback!

OFHSA is regularly invited to Ministry meetings to share our members questions and suggestions. Now the Ministry is looking for feedback in modernizing education. The government released 2021 Ontario Economic Outlook and Fiscal Review: Build Ontario (November 4, 2021) that included a commitment to modernize the education curriculum to ensure all students have the foundational and entrepreneurial skills they need in a rapidly changing world, along with a renewed focus on science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Click the link in OFHSA bio to complete the survey!

Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/rrco3GP5QTfABJpc6>

Here is the link for the Ministry Document

[https://budget.ontario.ca/2021/fallstatement/?qclid=Ci0KCQIAys2MBhDOARIsAFf1D1fZnPZY0tSRox\\_eTMxLbzqLuM4tY5Ag4\\_mSnXYDDvIa34Z\\_wGMEzeEaAIIUEALw\\_wcB](https://budget.ontario.ca/2021/fallstatement/?qclid=Ci0KCQIAys2MBhDOARIsAFf1D1fZnPZY0tSRox_eTMxLbzqLuM4tY5Ag4_mSnXYDDvIa34Z_wGMEzeEaAIIUEALw_wcB)

## Information for Grade 8 Families

[High School Here I Come](#)

- [De-streaming in Secondary Schools](#)
- [Information for Grade 8 Students](#)
- [Secondary School Registration](#)
- [MyBlueprint Career Planner](#)



### To Our Arthur Ford Firebirds!

This season, fundraising for Arthur Ford Public School is going to be so much easier with **FlipGive**, a free funding app for schools, teams etc.

Our goal is to raise up to \$2,000 to put towards Literacy. Any funds raising beyond the \$2,000 will go towards our next goal to raise at least \$1,500 to put towards Special Events/Curriculum Activities and/or Divisional/Classroom requests.

With the Free Team funding FlipGive app we earn cash back on every purchase we make all year long! All you have to do is shop anytime with the brands you already love, like Home Depot, Walmart, Sport Chek, Indigo, Old Navy, Apple, Esso, and Loblaws and much more. No more door-to-door fundraisers - it's completely virtual and contactless.

Join our team now and you'll get a \$5 bonus the first time you shop (**valid only for 14 days**):  
<https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?joincode=W725MT>

Or enter this code: **W725MT**

Feel free once you set up your account to share our Arthur Ford code above with family and friends. Our FlipGive fundraiser will end August 31, 2022.

Any questions, just ask!  
Your Arthur Ford Home & School Association Team ([afhomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:afhomeandschool@gmail.com))

Want to learn more? Check out this 2 minute video:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vTO\\_Qg4n80](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vTO_Qg4n80)

**FlipGive**  
TEAM FUNDING MADE EASY





**“Life has taught us that love does not consist in gazing at each other but in looking outward in the same direction”**

*- by Antione se Saint-Exupery*

### **Supporting Student & School Needs:**

Highlights on what your Home and School has done so far for the year to support the School and Student Needs

The following various request for funds were approved by Home and School members at the end January 2022:

**- Forest of Reading Program:**

To support the Literacy goals for the school the Forest of Reading books were purchased for the school Library.

- MunchALunch Platform Renewal: This is the platform the school utilizes to run the Hot Lunch Program

- School Music Program: Purchases of Cello/Base End Pin rests and Portable Digital Tuners and Music Play Online Platform

- Caribou Math Contest - School Wide Access: This is a math platform that teach and motivate our students with fun puzzles, games, and challenges. Certificates for every student, and prizes for achievement and participation.

### **Supporting School Needs:**

One of the ways the Home and School supports the school needs is by volunteering and fundraising. This year the school has identified Literacy as one of their needs.

#### **Fundraising and volunteering at Arthur Ford:**

One of our more successful fundraisers is the “Hot Lunch” Program which will start back up soon! Thank you to all those who have submitted their names to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering for one of the volunteer roles (co-lead role, admin role or hot lunch days role etc.) please email [afhomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:afhomeandschool@gmail.com). For details on the volunteer roles, requirements and time commitments please see our November 2021 Home and School Newsletter.

#### **Other Volunteer Opportunities At Arthur Ford:**

School Council Communications Sub-Committee is on it's way For details and if you are interested to volunteer please email [afschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:afschoolcouncil@gmail.com)

School Council Bylaw Sub-Committee work has already started For details and if you are interested to volunteer please email [afschoolcouncil@gmail.com](mailto:afschoolcouncil@gmail.com)

Home and School 2022/2023 Budget Sub-Committee meeting dates and times are as follows:

**February 24<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup> and March 24<sup>th</sup> 2022 at 6:30pm (1 hour meetings) via Google Meet**

Meeting invites will be forwarded upon request.

For details and if you are interested in attending please email [afhomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:afhomeandschool@gmail.com)

In partnership with the school the Strong Start Reading Program happens when adults spend quality time with children on specially selected games and activities to develop literacy skills that position children for success. For further info please contact the school office at [arthurford@tvdsb.ca](mailto:arthurford@tvdsb.ca)

#### **Volunteering Requirements at Arthur Ford:**

To volunteer please see the [VolunteerLetter.docx](#) and [Offence&Declarartion&Volunteers\(1\).docx](#) for information. *Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to the school office at [arthurford@tvdsb.ca](mailto:arthurford@tvdsb.ca)*

### **Supporting students, staff, volunteers, parents and Community Needs:**



#### **The Wooden Leaves Project**

Congratulations to Mr. Waud as he is stepping into the Interim Chair position for the Arthur Ford Nature Park Foundation until their next AGM.

The Wooden Leaves Project is on its way. We have received the leaves with the hopes that in the Spring the kids can work on them and then have them up in the Fall.

Thank you to the Arthur Ford Nature Park Foundation for putting up the money for wooden leaves project, the Comms/Tech team & students at Saunders Secondary School who made the wooden leaves and our Arthur Ford School Admin and APPLE Penny Lane Chair, Tammy Robertson who helped coordinate this project.

Home and School will support the Foundation, school admin and our volunteers in getting a whole School Nature Park Committee up and running!

#WeBuildFutures #ArthurFordFirebirds #ArthurFordPS

*The four C's of Possible Dreams: Communication, Collaboration, Connection, and Creative Thinking*

#### **Website:**

<http://arthurford.tvdsb.ca>

#### **AF School Twitter:**

[@ArthurFordPS](https://twitter.com/ArthurFordPS)

#### **Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/arthurfordfirebirds](https://www.facebook.com/arthurfordfirebirds)

#### **Email:**

[afhomeandschool@gmail.com](mailto:afhomeandschool@gmail.com)

# Valentine Crafts for Kids

## Video on how to do the Magic Milk and Skittle Heart Experiment

Or

### Steps on How to do the Magic Milk Experiment

1. First pour some milk into your heart-shaped cake pan. You don't need that much milk, just a small layer.
2. Add some drops of food coloring into your milk.
3. Now dip a cotton swab into some dish soap. You can also soak a cotton ball. Gently tap the cotton swab onto your food coloring or drop your cotton ball in. Now watch the magic! You can add different colors too like purple.

**The science behind it:** Milk has tiny amounts of fat. The secret to the explosion is the soap. When the soap is added to the milk, we are seeing the soap molecules moving around trying to join up with the fat molecules. The food coloring molecules get moved around in the process, showing us what is happening between the milk fat and the soap. Once the soap and milk gets evenly mixed the movement of the food coloring stops.

### Steps on How to do the Skittle Heart Experiment

1. Line up your skittles into the shape of a heart on a dish that is slightly curved in. It needs to be curved so that the candy dye will run into the center. You can use red and pink or make a rainbow of colors. We loved the way the rainbow experiment turned out!

2. Slowly add in warm water into the center of your heart. Try not to get the water beyond the skittles.

Now watch the magic! The candy dye will slowly dissolve and the dye color will move from the candy to the center of the dish.

**The science behind it:** the food dye from the skittles doesn't initially mix with the water. The skittles dissolve, but the colors do not initially mix with each other. The reason the food colours meet in the middle of the plate and do not initially mix is because each skittle has the same amount of sugar dissolving. fat and the soap.

Once the soap and milk gets evenly mixed the movement of the food coloring stops..

## Magic Milk Experiment



### Supplies to make Magic Milk Experiment

- Milk – high fat milk works better (we used 3.25%)
  - Dish soap
  - Food Coloring – red and pink
- Heart-shaped cake pan or regular pan – you can also use small heart cookie cutters
  - Cotton swabs or cotton balls

## Skittles Heart Experiment



### Supplies to make Skittle Heart Experiment

- Package of skittles
  - Warm water
- Plate that is slightly curved ins