



ARTHUR FORD PUBLIC SCHOOL
HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER

MARCH 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



MARCH "...days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold..."

Welcome back everyone. We hope you had a wonderful March Break and you were able to spend time with family and friends!

Firstly we wish to acknowledge the Ukraine Crisis. Our thoughts are with the people of Ukraine, to the families, students, and staff with family or cultural ties to Ukraine, Russia and surrounding countries. This is indeed an emotional and difficult time that threatens democracy, global peace and security. We wish for a peaceful resolution and recognize that we are all affected by these developments in different ways.

In the face of the tragic events and the pandemic, time keeps moving forward and it is hard to believe that we're already a couple months into 2022. Despite the hiccups to the start of the year it has been a relief for many to return to our learning routines in February!

With gradual changes occurring we are not only allowed to have volunteers back in the school, but our Hot Lunch Program is back and will start after March Break. Our first Hot Lunch day is Wednesday March 23, 2022. Please look out for updates via school messenger, email blast, the schools weekly update and the Home and School and School Council Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ArthurFordFirebirds>).

Also, as a reminder we have our FlipGive online fundraiser, so please consider supporting your Arthur Ford Firebirds and join our Arthur Ford P.S. team at <https://flipgive.app.link/teams/join?joincode=W725MT> (Code W725MT)

Even with a world of distractions our Arthur Ford teachers, admin and staff have been shifting, pivoting, and flexing – all to make sure our students continue to achieve and to support our Arthur Ford Community. We know we have a long road ahead of us as we navigate the "waves" of the pandemic and ever changing times. We will continue "paddling together" this school year, like Dr. Bonnie Henry says, "this is not forever, this is just for now".

Please be reminded that our next Home and School Association and School Council meeting is on Monday, April 4, 2022 starting at 6:30pm.

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: 1st 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

athomeandschool@gmail.com ** If you have previously attended, an invite will be sent by e-mail.

"The challenge is not to be perfect... it's to be whole." by Jane Fonda



"Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away."

By Maya Angelou

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)



#TVDSB students who borrowed a loaned device during remote learning are asked to please return them to their school. The collection of these devices is important so that schools can continue to support technology-embedded learning for in-person learners. The technology is useful and essential in the classrooms when students are learning new concepts or doing research and work while in school.

Families are asked to ensure that both the device and power cords are returned when technology is collected at the school. Without those the technology can't be charged and students will not be able to use the devices.

Students who are enrolled in the full year elementary TVDSB virtual learning program may keep any TVDSB loaned devices until the end of the school year.

Highlights from March 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

- **EQAO:** This will be happening this year for our Grade 3 and Grade 6 students and will be done via the new e-assessment platform. Live webinars and learning modules will be available in March 2022 to help prepare students, school administrators and educators to use the new e-assessment platform. TVDSB will be conducting the EQAO Grade 3 and Grade 6 e-assessments in the last 2 weeks of May – May 19-31, 2022.
- **PD ON March 4:** In recognition of TVDS commitment to equitable learning, all TVDSB staff will take part in professional development on March 4 related to anti-racism and culturally relevant and responsive pedagogy.
- **Ukraine Crisis: Mental Health and Well-Being Supports:** The TVDSB school mental health professionals have prepared some considerations at home for families. Please go to the [TVDSB website](#) for more info.
- **Ontario Launches Largest Tutoring Support Program:** Following two years of global learning disruption, caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ontario government announced record funding for the 2022-23 school year. The funding will support learning recovery and mental health supports for students to enable them to return to a more normal school year next year. TVDSB will be receiving money for tutoring to be used before school, after school or during the summer months. Money has to be used this year. School Admin will forward more information to families via School Messenger/email blast when they know more.
- **Right to Read Inquiry:** This is regards to students with reading disabilities, calling for critical changes to Ontario's approach to early reading, in areas such as curriculum and instruction, screening, reading interventions, accommodations and professional assessments. There will be changes in language curriculum and removing certain language in the curriculum.
- **Photo Day:** School Photo day will be in June 2022. For Grade 8 Grad photo retakes parents will have to be arrangements directly with Lifetouch.
- **Scholastic Book Fair:** This will occur this year in April 2022. Look out for more information in the School Newsletter and weekly updates. Look out for details.
- **Balance Day Info:** Arthur Ford has a committee of parents, staff and administration that will be meeting to discuss the idea of changing permanently to the Balanced Day schedule that we have been following during the last two school years. An info session for the school community will be held virtually on March 23 at 5:30 (Teams link will be shared later) and voting on the change will take place between the period of March 24-April 6, 2022.
- **Rapid test kits for students:** TVDSB schools will have a supply of these kits. If you would like a package of tests please contact the school either by email or phone.
- **The Principal Report** provides other updates on other topics and 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](#)*
- **School event Survey and Planning:** Thank you to the families who completed the survey. We heard that the majority of families will prefer a student/family type event. If you have ideas or want to be part of planning a school event (i.e. Trivia Night etc.) please email us at afhomeandschool@gmail.com and look our for more info on this in the near future.
- **Our 2020/2021 Equity Sub-Committee** recommendations "numbers 9 and 10" were approved by H&S members. *Details below on what the completed Equity Recommendations List entails and further info is also available at the end of the month in H&S March 2022 minutes.*
- **School Council Bylaw Sub-Committee** has started updating the School Council Bylaws and changes to Sections 4 to 9 were approved by School Council members. The changes to Bylaw 10 to 13 (and possibly 14-16) 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
- For more info on School Council please contact 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>

Other dates in March 2022:
March 13 – Day Light Savings Time
March 17 - St. Patrick's Day
(Please see the fun St. Patrick's day crafts below)

Arthur Ford School Calendar for March 2022

(Please click on the links for more information)

- March – [National Social Worker Month](#)
- March 3 – [World Wildlife Day](#)
- March 3 – **Elementary & Secondary PA Day**
- March 7 – **School Council and Home and School Meetings**
- March 8 – [International Women's Day](#)
- March 14-18 – **March Break**
- March 21 – [World Down Syndrome Day](#)
- March 21 – [International Day Against Racism](#)
- March 22 – [World Water Day](#)
- March 26 – [Epilepsy Awareness Day](#)
- March 31 – [Transgender Day of Visibility](#)
- March 31 – [National Indigenous Languages Day](#)

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.

TVDSB Board Public Input Request

Public input is requested for the following document(s)

- NEW- Student Admission First Nation Students Policy – Deadline: April 19
- NEW- Student Admission First Nation Students Procedure – Deadline: April 19
- REVISED- Student Admission - International Out of Province Student Exchange Policy (1003) – Deadline: April 19
- REVISED- Student Admission - International Out of Province Student Exchange Procedure (1003a) – Deadline: April 19
- REVISED - Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Student Achievement Policy (5015) – Deadline: April 19
- REVISED - Reporting Student Achievement Procedure (5015a) – Deadline: April 19
- NEW - Assessment and Evaluation of Student Achievement Procedure (5015b) - - Deadline: April 19

For details, public input deadlines and contact information, please visit:

https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/our-board/public-input.aspx?_mid_=811

TVDSB Budget Survey

Thames Valley is looking for community input for the 2022-23 budget. Please click on the Budget Survey link to provide your feedback: https://tvdsb.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_ey3LKZ2VaDLssmy

OFHSA Advocacy

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

Help OFHSA plan for the “New Normal”

The Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations, a province-wide network of dedicated members, is committed to informed and proactive involvement in our homes, our schools and our communities, to obtain “The Best for Each Student”.

Please help us understand how OFHSA can better support families.

We are looking for your feedback on Conference, Workshops, Webinars and Advocacy!

[OFHSA Survey- Supporting the “New Normal”](#)



Ontario Federation of Home & School Associations - OFHSA

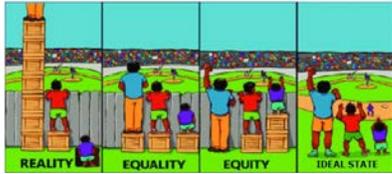
You can also share your opinion with Ontario Federation of Home and School Association (OFHSA) by participating in surveys



Information for Grade 8 Families

[High School Here I Come](#)

- [Learn about Grade 9 Math de-streaming and more at Parents Information Night](#)
- [Information for Grade 8 Students](#)
- [Summer Programs](#)
- [Course Selection and Pathway Planning Guidance](#) or [MyBlueprint](#)



ARTHUR FORD HOME AND SCHOOL ASSOCIATION APPROVED EQUITY RECOMMENDATIONS EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



This Equity “Executive Summary” is an overview of “Recommendations” presented by the 2020/2021 Equity Subcommittee. Below is the updated and revised final ten (10) recommendations that was presented at the May 3rd, 2021 AGM and voted on at June 7, 2021 Home and School (H&S) Monthly Meeting, utilizing the input and feedback from all H&S members and non-members. At the June 7th meeting the Equity Subcommittee motioned to approve the Equity Report with the 10 Recommendations. The motion was passed “to accept the report as presented by the Equity Subcommittee with the understanding that accepting the report does not mean that the members agree with the individual recommendations contained within”.

In 2021/2022 school year the Arthur Ford Home and School Association Equity Subcommittee and Executive Team were committed to further review all the individual Equity Recommendations 1 through 10, as mentioned below. The ten (10) Equity Recommendations were reviewed in detail, updated, motioned and approved by Home and School members at the monthly Home and School meetings as per the below mentioned dates.

For purposes of the Equity report that was presented the definition of Equity that was utilized is:

The term “equity” refers to fairness and justice and is distinguished from equality. Whereas equality means providing the same to all, equity means recognizing that we do not all start from the same place and must acknowledge and make adjustments to imbalances.

<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 1 <i>(Approved June 7, 2021)</i></p> <p>Adopt the Arthur Ford Home and School Association and School Council Equity Statement <i>(Please see below under the “Supporting students, staff, volunteers, parents and community needs” section for the approved Equity Statement)</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 6: <i>(Approved February 7, 2022)</i></p> <p>Arthur Ford Home and School Association and School Council ensure that all events offered are accessible to all family members within our community and their guests.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 2 <i>(Approved December 6, 2021)</i></p> <p>Arthur Ford Home and School Association and School Council adopt a diverse, comprehensive and consistent strategy for communication with its families ensuring equitable access to information for all.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 7: <i>(Approved February 7, 2022)</i></p> <p>Arthur Ford Home and School Association and School Council use their positions within the school to ensure that all cultural, language, or religious differences are celebrated and do not affect a family’s ability to engage in school events or opportunities at Arthur Ford Public School.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 3 <i>(Approved December 6, 2021)</i></p> <p>Arthur Ford Home and School Association and School Council recognizes the value of family and community volunteers, and promotes and encourages involvement and engagement across all of its parent groups and programs.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 8: <i>(Approved February 7, 2022)</i></p> <p>Arthur Ford Home and School Association and School Council take an active role in recognizing the diverse definition of family within our school community.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 4: <i>(Approved January 10, 2022)</i></p> <p>Arthur Ford Home and School Association and School Council use a thoughtful, transparent, and strategic process in establishing budget process and fundraising plans for the year. This process should be considerate of the unique socioeconomic, cultural, and programmatic diversity of Arthur Ford Public School and its community. We recognize that financial differences between programs can foster inequity at the school. The budget is an opportunity to address issues of inequity in the school when possible and inequality when necessary.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 9: <i>(Approved March 7, 2022)</i></p> <p>Arthur Ford Home and School Association and School Council places consistent effort each year into the consideration of technology needs and technology access as a tool for parent engagement as well as recognizing that inequitable access to technology provides a barrier to a full educational experience for students preparing for the future.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 5: <i>(Approved January 10, 2022)</i></p> <p>Arthur Ford Home and School Association and School Council use their positions within the school to ensure that family socioeconomic status does not affect a family’s educational and social experience at Arthur Ford Public School, or ability to fully engage in school events or opportunities at Arthur Ford Public School.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">RECOMMENDATION 10: <i>(Approved March 7, 2022)</i></p> <p>Arthur Ford Home and School Association and School Council look for opportunities to advocate for an appropriately funded, safe, and equitable public education system.</p>

***** Please note:** Not all of the above recommendations are actionable. Some are suggestions and/or acknowledgments that can be used as guidelines to keep in mind when working to address equity (i.e. when making decisions etc.). ***



FlipGive

To Our Arthur Ford Firebirds!

This season, fundraising for Arthur Ford Public School is going to be so much easier with **FlipGive!**

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!

<h3>Shop Online</h3> <p>Teams earn cash back on things they already need. Get paid whenever you shop online with hundreds of popular brands.</p> <p>FULL LIST OF BRANDS</p> <p>NEVER MISS CASH BACK ONLINE WITH FLIPGIVE MAX</p> 	<h3>Shop In-Store</h3> <p>Discover places nearby that earn cash back. Earn by using a linked payment card or on gift cards to be redeemed in-store.</p> <p>LINK YOUR PAYMENT CARD (US ONLY)</p> <p>VISIT GIFT CARD STORE</p> <p>DOWNLOAD APP TO DISCOVER PLACES NEAR YOU</p> 
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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)

Want to learn more? Check out this 2 minute video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vTO_Qg4n80

FlipGive
TEAM FUNDING MADE EASY





**"I raise up my voice—not so that I can shout,
but so that those without a voice can be heard.
... We cannot all succeed when half of us are held back."**

- by Malala Yousafzai

Supporting Arthur Ford Students, School and Community Needs

Supporting Student & School Needs:

Volunteer Opportunities At Arthur Ford:

School Council

Bylaw Sub-Committee and Communications Sub-Committee is on it's way

For details and if you are interested to volunteer please email afschoollcouncil@gmail.com

Home and School 2022/2023

Budget Sub-Committee meeting dates and times are as follows:
February 24th, March 10th and March 24th 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@gamil.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.

Here is a **Strong Start** link to the schedule for the two part training sessions (2 hrs per session) you can sign up for to allow you to volunteer via the program which allows you to participate in our school to support our students,

For further info please contact the school office at arthurford@tvdsb.ca

Volunteering Requirements at Arthur Ford:

To volunteer please see the [VolunteerLetter.docx](#) and [Offence&Declaration&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*

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

We are excited to say it is Back!

Order online via [MunchALunch](#) or you can ask the school for a Hot Lunch paper copy order form.

Details provided on our [FB Facebook Page](#) & [School Messenger](#)

Our 2021/2022 Hot Lunch days and menu are as follows:

03/23 (Wed) - Marshalls Pasta
03/30 (Wed) - Pizza
04/06 (Wed) - Subway
04/13 (Wed) - Pizza
04/20 (Wed) - Marshalls Pasta
04/27 (Wed) - Pizza
05/04 (Wed) - Subway
05/11 (Wed) - Pizza
05/18 (Wed) - Marshalls Pasta
05/25 (Wed) - Pizza
06/01 (Wed) - Subway
06/08 (Wed) - Pizza
06/15 (Wed) - Marshalls Pasta
06/22 (Wed) - Pizza
06/29 (Wed) - Hot Lunch

Thank you to all those who have submitted their names to volunteer. If you are interested in volunteering please email hotluncha.f@gmail.com or afhomeandschool@gmail.com.

For details on the volunteer roles, requirements and time commitments please see our November 2021 Home and School Newsletter.

Supporting Students, Staff, Volunteers, Parents and Community Needs:

Arthur Ford Home and School and School Council Equity Statement

At Arthur Ford Public School, we support the TVDSB definition of equity as the fair, inclusive and respectful treatment of all people, acknowledging that equity does not mean treating people the same without regard for differences (equality). We understand that there are times that students and families may require different resources and supports to achieve equal access to and success in education. Therefore, School Council and Home and School will endeavor to do its part to reduce systemic barriers within the school to improve student learning, close achievement gaps, and to ensure equitable opportunities for students and families within the Arthur Ford School Community.

As a school with a diverse community and two valued programs (inclusive of a standard TVDSB and the Alternative Parent Participation Learning Experience (APPLE) programs), we will attempt to not contribute to inequity within the school, but rather look for opportunities to promote a school community in which all of our students are supported by our parent groups to succeed in achieving their learning goals.

#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)

Home and School and School Council Facebook:

www.facebook.com/arthurfordfirebirds

Email:

afhomeandschool@gmail.com

St Patrick's Day Crafts for Kids

Steps on How to make the Mini Sound Shakers

1. For each sound shaker you'll need two caps. Place your material in one of the caps. Carefully place the other cap on top and tape them together with some decorative tape. That's it!

2. You can create all kinds of sound shakers by using different materials and different decorative tapes! The kids love exploring the different sounds made by various materials. Some materials you might want to try: beans, sand, table salt, small coins, small jingle bells, beads and much more.

Playing with the Mini Sound Shakers:

1. Explore the sound shakers: Let your children or students explore the sound shakers. They love trying to guess what material is inside each one! Encourage them to describe the sounds they hear to one another. This is a great way to fine tune those listening skills! p.

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

2. Create a guessing game: Leave a small sample of each material used out on the table near the sound shakers. Invite the children to guess which material is inside each sound shaker.

3. Gross Motor Listening Catch: Sit across from a partner. Close your eyes as your partner rolls a mini sound shaker to you. Try to catch it by listening to where it is without looking!

4. Rolling Sound Makers: Roll your sound shakers on the ground. Compare the sounds.

5. Shake More than One at a Time: Try shaking two sound shakers at the same time. How do they sound? Try different combinations and compare the different sounds created.

6. Creative Play: These mini sound shakers would be perfect for including in a St. Patrick's Day themed sensory box or leaving out near your leprechaun traps on St. Patrick's Day. You never know- you might hear some little leprechauns making some music with your homemade sound shakers!

Mini Sound Shakers



Supplies to make Mini Sound Shakers

- Some old plastic caps (little ones from white caps from water bottles)
- Various tapes in greens and golds (green chevron, green polkadots, gold dots, gold chevron etc.)
- A variety of materials to put in your sound shakers (rice, beans, coins, sand etc.)

Fizzing Shamrocks Science Experiment!



Supplies to make Fizzing Shamrocks

- School glue (white glue), paper or cardboard, baking soda, vinegar, green food coloring and disposable pipettes (I prefer plastic 1 ml pipettes). Spoons also work if pipettes are unavailable.

To prepare your fizzing shamrocks, pour school glue into the shape of shamrocks on several pieces of paper. Then pour the baking soda on your glue shamrocks. Tip the paper up to pour the extra baking soda off. (picture #1) Save this baking soda for more fizzing fun when your shamrocks are done! The next part works best while the shamrocks are still wet!