



**ARTHUR FORD PUBLIC SCHOOL
HOME & SCHOOL ASSOCIATION
NEWSLETTER
JANUARY 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 NEW YEAR!

Happy New Year!!! On behalf of the Arthur Ford Home and School Association and School Council members, we wish to extend best wishes for a healthy and prosperous New Year to all of our Arthur Ford Community. We hope that the holiday season was truly a restful and peaceful one spent with family. Best wishes to our staff, students and families as we embark on a new year filled with renewed promises and hope.

We would start by saying a huge thank everyone for the donation and/or contributions to the Holiday Food Drive and making it such a great success with collecting a little over 1200 items for the Food Bank. Way to go Firebirds!

With the back and forth from remote to in-person learning we understand that the transition may not be easy for everyone. The School Council and Home and School are committed to supporting student education and activities during these challenging times. Our budget is significantly lower this year, and there are always important initiatives and programs to fund. With most traditional fundraising initiatives on hold we are looking at innovative ways to fundraise such as using online fundraising platforms like FlipGive (*please see below for details*). One traditional way of fundraising is with our Hot Lunch Program and we are hoping that we can start back up this year, once we know more on what the return to school would look like.

Your Home and School and School Council dollars support initiatives that enhance Arthur Ford student experiences. Here are a few things that we have funded or will be funding this year: School and/or Class enhancements such as literacy improvements, music program, division or classroom requests, curriculum activities/special events, graduation etc.

There will also be lots of volunteer opportunities which can be done virtually. The Home and School is looking for volunteers for 2022/2023 Budget Subcommittee and the Fundraising Sub-Committee. The School Council is looking for volunteers to work on updating their bylaws and building a process to create best practices to ensure communication and information available to all families at Arthur Ford.

Despite the challenges, our students and staff continue to work extremely hard to remain engaged and connected in all of their classes whether it be in person or remotely. Our Home and School and School Council will continue to support them and our families through these challenging times. Let's hope that there will be a positive shift with the pandemic, so that we can start to bring some sort of normalcy back into our lives.

Needless to say we are excited to see what this second half of the school year holds in store for our school community. All the best as we look forward to a better and healthier 2022!

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

"Cheers to a new year and another chance for us to get it right."

By Oprah Winfrey



"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."

By Aristotle



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

*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 January 10th, 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

- **On Line Learning:** Do No Harm Approach - As we move forward, TVDSB will continue to embrace the “do no harm” philosophy and focus on protecting student well-being and work to ensure that no single student is disadvantaged unnecessarily as a result of this pandemic. No student should be disadvantaged at this time. No marks can be reduced but only increased, if evidence of learning. This will be the case for our students in both panels but particularly for secondary students.
- **Masks:** Unfitted N95 Masks were ordered by the board and arrived late last week at the school. Each staff member will get one per day for use. For students, two cloth 3-ply masks have been ordered for each student in the board. The school is still waiting on delivery.
- **Rapid test kits for students:** These were delivered to students prior to the holiday break in December. At this time, the Rapid Antigen Test kits for students was a one-time program for the Winter Break. There has been no confirmation that further rapid test kits
- **Elementary School and Child Care Screener:** When students come back to in-person learning, it is important to remember that students will need to complete the online screening each day that they are attending school.
- **Kindergarten Registration** will take place beginning January 17th until Feb.4. 2022.
- **Online e-books for students and staff** are available TVDSB has purchased hundreds of titles of eBooks and eAudiobooks which are available for free to TVDSB students and staff through Sora by Overdrive, an easy-to-use reading app.
- **The Principal Report** provides other updates on topics such as Synchronous / Asynchronous learning, technology deployment, Heritage Fair, staffing updates 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 4 and 5” were approved by H&S members. *Details available at the end of the month in H&S January 2022 minutes.*
- **School Council Bylaw Sub-Committee** will be starting their updates of the School Council Bylaws in upcoming meetings for School Council members 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>

In January 2022 a couple noted dates are
January 27 – Family Literacy Day
And January 28 – Spirit Day
(please see below for details)

Arthur Ford School Calendar for January 2022

January 5 – First Day Back from Winter Break (Remote Learning)
January 10 – School Council and Home and School Meetings
January 14 – **Elementary PD Day**
January 16 – [World Religion Day](#)
January 17 – [Martin Luther King Jr. Day](#)
January 24 – School Photos *(to be determined)*
January 26 – [Bell Let's Talk Day](#)
January 27 – [Family Literacy Day](#)
January 27 – [Holocaust Remembrance Day](#)
January 28 – **Spirit Day – Hat Day**



Arthur Ford
Public School

Arthur Ford Spirit Day – Hat Day



Spirit Day – Hat Day

Get out your favorite hat (we know, sometimes it can be really hard to decide) and participate in Hat Day on January 28th!

Family Literacy Day 2022



Family Literacy Day takes place every January 27th to raise awareness about the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

Since 1999, thousands of schools, libraries, literacy organizations and other community groups have taken part in the initiative.

ABC Life Literacy Canada creates free learning and promotional resources for anyone that wants to get involved. Taking time every day to read or do a learning activity with children is crucial to a child's development, improving a child's literacy skills dramatically, and can help a parent improve their skills as well.

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

School Administration has asked us to share this information seeking public input for the following document(s):

- REVISED - [Home Instruction Policy](#) – Deadline: February 13
- REVISED - [Home Instruction Procedure](#) – Deadline: February 13

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

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

Also please note that the following Administrative procedures/Board policies have been updated:

- [Student Trustees on the Board Policy \(2010\)](#)
- [Student Trustees on the Board Procedure \(2010a\)](#)

OFHSA Advocacy

Share your opinion with [Ontario Federation of Home & School Associations - OFHSA](#)

by participating in the Supporting the "New Normal" Survey

Here is the link: <https://forms.gle/HA7Cs52qrcwTqcwU9>

Here is the link for the Ministry Announcement

<https://news.ontario.ca/.../ontario-launching-school...>

Information for Grade 8 Families

[High School Here I Come](#)

- [For the Grade 8 Virtual Parent Information Nights](#) - Please keep checking often as more schools are being added to the TVDSB website!
- [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:

<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





**“What the new year brings to you will depend
a great deal on what you bring to the new year”**

- by Vern McLellan

Happy New Year!

LET'S TOAST TO YESTERDAY'S
ACHIEVEMENTS AND TOMORROW'S
BRIGHT FUTURE

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 of December 2021:

- **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 and in the New Year once the restrictions are lifted we will start back up the “Hot Lunch” program. 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. 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 is looking for volunteers to join:
Communications Sub-Committee
For details and if you are interested to volunteer please email afschoollcouncil@gmail.com

Home and School is looking for volunteers to join:
2022/2023 Budget Sub-Committee and/or
2021/2022 Fundraising Sub-Committee
For details and if you are interested to volunteer 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. 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&Declarartion&Volunteers\(1\).docx](#) for information. *Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to reach out to Mr. Bonello at t.bonello@tvdsb.ca*

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



2022 Award of Distinction

The Award of Distinction is an annual recognition given by the Thames Valley District School Board Trustees to students, staff, volunteers, parents, and all individuals who have made significant contributions at a system or school level. Nominations for the 2022 Annual Award of Distinction are now being accepted.

The deadline for submissions is Friday, 2022 February 18, at 4:00 p.m. A copy of the supporting memo and advertising poster were sent to the schools last.

Copies of the nomination forms and criteria can be found on the website at the following <https://www.tvdsb.ca/en/our-board/award-of-distinction.aspx>

#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

Email:

afhomeandschool@gmail.com

Winter Crafts for Kids

Video on How to Winter Handprint Animal Cards

Or

Steps on How to Make Winter Handprint Animal Cards

1. To make your cards, first fold over a piece of cardstock and then trace the handprint so that the pinky is on the folded part of the paper.

2. Cut out your cards – one in white for the fox, black for the penguin and brown for the owl.

3. Now you can decorate your cards and turn them into each animal.

4. Owl Handprint Card: 1. Fold over brown cardstock and trace the handprint so it opens at the pinky, 2. Glue on the googly eyes and the beak. Make the beak by folding over a small piece of orange cardstock and then cutting out a triangle. 3. To make the ears: glue two triangles to the back of the top of the head. 4. Glue two feathers to the side.

5. Penguin Handprint Card: 1. Fold over black cardstock and trace the handprint so it opens at the pinky. 2. Glue on the googly eyes and beak. Make the beak by folding over a small piece of orange cardstock and then cutting out a triangle. 3. Cut out a large circle from white felt and glue down

6. Fox Handprint Card: 1. Fold over white cardstock and trace the handprint so it opens at the pinky. 2. Draw out your fox head and cut it out. 3. Cut out two small felt triangles for the ears and glue to the inside of the ears. 4. Add two pieces of white felt to the bottom side of the fox. Then you can trim with scissors to fit the head size Draw a carrot nose onto a piece of orange cardstock and cut it out. Glue this to the top egg carton 5. Glue on two small googly eyes. 6. Add a black pom pom nose. 7. Glue the head to the handprint. 8. Add white felt for the belly. Round the top and then trim around the other side of the handprint with scissors to fit it to size.

Winter Handprint Animal Cards



Supplies to make Winter Handprint Animal Cards

Here are the simple supplies you'll need to make your Winter Handprint Animal Cards:

- Brown, White, Orange and Black cardstock
 - White Felt
- Large, medium and small googly eyes
 - White Feathers
 - Small black pom poms
 - Scissors
- Wither Hot Glue/Hot Glue Gun or Craft Glue