

**November 29 - December 2, 2021**

**Sand Springs Ranch Order Forms Due!** [Sand Springs Ranch](#) has offered us an excellent opportunity for a fundraiser, offering families locally-grown vegetables just in time for the holiday season! Orders due Monday Nov 29! Order forms available [here!](#) Cheques payable to Aurora Middle School !

**Aurora Thunderbirds Soar!** Our girls fought hard at District competition and earned a third place finish, while the boys took home first place hardware!

**Congrats to our 2021 District Champion Aurora Thunderbirds!**

Thank you to all the players and coaches for a fantastic season! We are terrifically proud of all our athletes and commend them for all their learning, hard work, and love of the game!

**Important Dates!** No School on Friday Dec 3 and Monday Dec 6!  
**Spirit Month** at Aurora begins!

Thursday December 2 - **Crazy/Holiday Sock Day**

Tuesday December 7 - **Red and Green Day**

Thursday December 9 - **Grinch Day**

Tuesday December 14 - **Christmas/Holiday Sweater Day**

Friday December 17 - **PJ Day**

**Basketball starting soon!** We have more than 100 students registered for basketball for the 2021-22 season! Practices commence after our long weekend (see below!). The \$15 basketball fee helps cover costs of running the program -- referees, tournament fees, and equipment and uniform replacement costs. Please pay through School Cash Online before your child's first practice. All parents are responsible for transportation to and from practices and games; please pick up your child in a timely manner. Aurora wants to thank our coaches for volunteering their valuable time,



commitment, and dedication to provide a fun middle school learning experience for our young student athletes.

Gr 4-6 girls practice Tuesdays from 3:30-5pm, starting Dec 14.

Gr 4-6 boys practice Thursdays from 3:30-5pm, starting Dec 9.

Gr 7-8 boys practice Mondays from 3:30-5pm and Thursdays from 5-6:30pm starting on Dec 9.

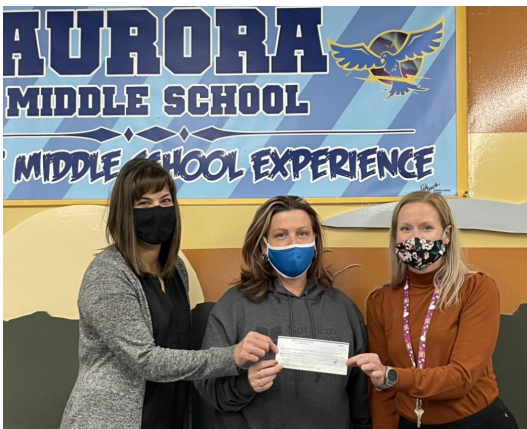
Gr 7-8 girls practice Wednesdays and Fridays, 3:30-5pm starting Dec 8.

**PAC Meetings:** For those parents who can't attend our monthly PAC meetings, we will be posting minutes and next meeting's agenda on our website. Our future dates for BINGO worker days in 2021-2 are: **Dec 19, Jan 21, Feb 18, Apr 28, May 15, June 26, & Aug 27!** At this time, there is no concession available due to provincial restrictions. The shift runs from 5pm to about 9pm and we require three people to work the shift. Please call or text our amazing and hard-working BINGO Fundraising parent volunteer coordinator Joyce Cloutier at (780) 623-8203 if you are able to volunteer. Our next PAC Meeting was rescheduled to Wednesday Dec 1 at 6:30pm via [Google Meet](#) and in-person at the school!

**An Aurora Thunderbird Story** Why are we washing bananas and oranges, when we peel them before eating anyway? This is a question that might stump even the most

COVID-wary folks among us. But let's take the answer back a few months. Grant funding for our APPLE Schools fruit bins program was drying up, as we awaited news of whether we would receive grants for this year. The Parent Advisory Committee upon hearing this stepped up, and they donated what little they had left in their fundraising account that was depleted over the course of the pandemic for obvious fundraising barriers. Charlyn Moore, a local municipal councillor and active Thunderbird parent, made a personal donation to keep our fruit bins going. The Kinettes organization immediately answered the call and donated too.

These bins provide nutritious snacks for all students, because we know a healthy nourished brain is a better one for learning. The program costs about \$2000/month to maintain. Now, we are doing Winter fundraisers to replenish our PAC funds, with teachers organizing Christmas wreath and plant sales, and Sand Springs Ranch offering a vegetable fundraiser. Doing good bred more good-doing. Most recently, while we still were awaiting news of our grant application, Britton's Independent Grocers stepped up and delivered without hesitation (and without invoice) to keep our fruit bins stocked.





But meanwhile over these few months, we had been experiencing some student behaviours we had not seen much before: fruit was being wasted -- tossed around like dodgeballs or smashed on the floors. Because why not? It was fun to do, and the fruit was 'free' -- wasn't it? And someone else would clean up the mess. Our APPLE schools coordinator might have been disheartened, but not deterred. Each homeroom takes a turn washing the fruit. They wash and sanitize the bins, they wash the apples, and even the bananas and oranges! Students, now putting the work in, started to realize that a banana or orange peel might touch an apple -- which someone WOULD put in their mouth. To keep everyone safe from the spread of germs, every piece of fruit would need to be thoroughly washed, piece by piece, dried, and placed in a sanitized bin, and delivered by the sanitized hands of a masked student.



There is work to put in to make this happen. And it takes the time and effort of many to get this work done, and they experience this firsthand. So we don't have fruit thrown around and wasted now -- because students are learning the most important thing a middle school can teach. We are a community. Everything we do can have an effect on someone else -- for better or for worse. We can do good and contribute, and when we do, we start to see more of the good and less of the other stuff. And this is exactly what the community did -- so many adults stepped up and sacrificed and offered of themselves so someone else could benefit. The students have a window into everything that goes into making good things happen and can start to see what it

means to be a part of building a community. And so the students will carry this on beyond our school. They'll go to the high school and organize students' union events, and pursue humanitarian causes with student leadership groups, and help coach U6 soccer, or volunteer at sports tournaments and at the humane society or their place of worship or the public library or the lodge --- and when they graduate, and begin a life of service and good citizenship, they too will help the next generation of youth make this place one where we want to live. Every washed orange peel makes the apple safer for another young person who can't yet see how much people really care about them.



We are pleased to announce that the President's Choice Children's Charity has approved Aurora Middle School for participation in the 2021-22 *Power Full Kids Eat Well* program, and will receive funding in the amount of \$10,000. We won't need to rely on donations for a while, but our kids will keep washing the fruit -- peels and all.

