



Laurier Elementary School

November News

2024-2025

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary School: 7350 Laurel Street, Vancouver BC V6P 3T9, 604-713-4925

Principal: Geri Gruft **OAA:** Dean Hall **Director of Instruction:** Chris Wong **PAC Chair:** Rahul Aggarwal **Trustee:** Alfred Chien

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̅əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message



Our first ever Great Pumpkin Walk was a wonderful community event with which to end the month of October! A big thank you to our SOAR Committee for making the pumpkin placards for each division. Our school spirit is definitely kicking off! The energy and enthusiasm from our students is contagious: they want to be active, involved and having fun!

I am especially appreciative of the Laurier Staff who readily encourage our children to be their personal best both as learners and as people by embracing and modeling this mindset. The creativity, courage and commitment of the Laurier Team is admirable and inspires me daily. I truly feel blessed to work among such a fine group of people, and it is apparent to me how the students benefit from their kind leadership.

Welcome November and Happy Diwali! The season of peace and light is here once again. We are grateful for the vibrant and diverse community that makes our school so special. Your support and involvement are the true lights that guide our students towards a bright future.



Musqueam Day

November 1st is Musqueam Day—a day the Musqueam celebrate the strength and determination of their ancestors who sought justice and the protection of their inherent rights. The day recognizes the landmark 1984 Supreme Court of Canada Guerin decision, led by Musqueam's then chief, Delbert Guerin. The case fundamentally changed Canadian law by affirming the legal enforceability of the Crown's obligations to First Nations, which includes a fiduciary duty, the nature of Aboriginal title, and the Crown's duty to consult.

In October, Laurier was recently gifted a copy of the Musqueam Declaration by Elder, Charlotte Meams, during a visit with our grade two's. We look forward to finding a permanent spot to honour this gift to our school.



Primary Literacy Night



Families of K-3 students will have received an invitation to attend the Primary Literacy Night on Thursday, November 7th from 4 to 5pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to learn fun and meaningful ways to engage your child in literacy games to support their reading and writing skills. Today is the last day to RSVP. Please see the email from your child (ren)'s teacher to RSVP.

Remembrance Day Assemblies: Lest We Forget



On Friday, November 8th, to safely and comfortably accommodate students and staff, we are hosting two Remembrance Day Assemblies. Even numbered divisions (2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 12, 14, 16, 18) will attend their assembly at 9:50 and the odd numbered divisions (1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 11, 13, 15, 17) will attend at 11:05. Parents are welcome to attend. Please enter the gym through the doors nearest the playground.

Everyday is an Outside Day



A friendly reminder that every day is an outside day; so please ensure your child(ren) comes to school dressed for the weather and that they have hats, umbrellas and gloves as the weather turns colder and wetter. We also recommend sending an extra change of clothes in case your child needs to change during the day. Thank you for helping to keep our students comfortable and ready for outdoor activities -- and for the learning activities that follow inside after play time!

Kindergarten 2025 Registration Time

If you have a child or know of a family with a child born in 2020, it is time to register them for Kindergarten. Please see the attached information sheet for more details.

Laurier Sports & Clubs

Thank you to the Laurier staff and our teacher candidates for stepping up to provide lunch hour clubs, extracurricular sports teams and leadership opportunities. We are now running Games Club, Dance and Drama Club, Choir, the Soar Committee, Lunch and Library Monitors and the Girls Volleyball Team along with Playground Pals is starting soon. Basketball will begin in January! We appreciate the mentorship and volunteer time given by our staff.

Visitors & Volunteers to Laurier

We are happy to meet you at any time, however, appointments are appreciated and encouraged. The office is a busy place, knowing you are coming will help us create a safe, welcoming space for all. For the safety of our students, all visitors and volunteers must sign in and out at the office. Thank you!



Concerns at School

Your child's teacher is your first point of contact. If parents have any questions or concerns regarding activities occurring in their child(ren)'s classroom, please discuss these concerns directly with the classroom teacher. Please contact the teacher via telephone, email or by putting a note in your child(ren)'s agenda requesting an appointment. Most concerns are resolved at this point of contact.

After having spoken to the classroom teacher, if the issue is unresolved, an appointment with the principal is the second step. Again, please contact the office to book an appointment or to request a phone call in order to speak about matters privately.

If you have a concern about a child other than your own, please reach out to school staff. Only VSB STAFF are allowed to speak to that child. You may only speak to your own child.

Our teachers use various programs to teach diverse strategies for conflict resolution. We ask that you allow our staff to guide and support your child in these matters.

Important Dates

- Wednesday, Nov. 6: Photo Retake Day
- Thursday, Nov. 7: Primary Literacy Night: 4:00 to 5:00pm
- Friday, Nov. 8: Remembrance Day Assemblies: Even Divisions @ 11am; Odd Divisions at 11:35am
- Monday, Nov. 11: No school for Remembrance Day Holiday
- Thursday, Nov. 14: PAC Movie Night @ 5:30 in the gym
- Tuesday, Nov. 19: PAC Meeting via Zoom @ 6:30pm
- Friday, Nov. 22: No school for Teacher's Professional Development Day
- Friday, Nov. 29: PAC Craft Fair. See below.
- Friday, Dec. 6: Primary Winter Concert in am. Details to come.
- Monday, Dec. 16: Written Learning Update #1 Goes Home
- Friday, Dec. 20: Last Day of Instruction before Winter Break



Soft Plastics Recycling

Once again, Laurier is joining Recycle BC's pilot for flexible plastics collection. Last November, our school collected 57 kilograms, and our District collectively recycled over 3,000 kilograms of plastic – as much as an orca whale weighs! This result illustrates just how much plastic is going to the landfill when it does not get diverted.

During the month of November, students, staff and families are encouraged to bring their CLEAN flexible plastics from home and to drop them in the super bag located on the ground floor close to the boys washroom.

PAC News

The Laurier PAC is hosting **Family Movie Night** - Inside Out 2 on Thursday, November 14th, in the school gymnasium. Doors will at 5:30pm, Movie starts at 6:00pm. Admission is by donation (suggested \$2). Bring blankets and/or pillows for comfort.

This is not a drop off event, you will be responsible for supervising your child(ren).

The **2024 Holiday Craft Fair** will take place on Friday, November 29th. This event really brings the Laurier community together. The students get to showcase their creativity, talents, and craftsmanship through the variety of items they make themselves, and you get a fabulous shopping opportunity for homemade gifts!

November 15th – stall registration and payment deadline
If you have any questions, please email laurier.pac@gmail.com.

Get involved with our PAC!

Laurier staff and students are lucky to have a group of dedicated parent volunteers. Please consider participating in the Parent Advisory Committee this year. You are also welcome to leave a note in the PAC box at the school office or to contact our PAC at laurier.pac@gmail.com. The ongoing support of our parent community is so greatly appreciated! Our next meeting is **Tuesday, October 29th**.