



Laurier Elementary School

October 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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

With the arrival of October, students and staff have settled into their classrooms, are building increased comfort with routines and are enjoying their new learning communities. Our Laurier Open House that took place this past Thursday was a great success. It warmed my heart to see students proudly sharing their classrooms, their teachers and their school with their families. Thank you to our PAC for creating a welcoming space in the gym for families to enjoy a snack and mingle.

Our Terry Fox Run was a wonderful event! Students ran keeping in mind the legacy that Terry left us. Thank you to those parents who volunteered to cheer our students on and keep them safe as they ran. I also want to extend a big note of appreciation to all the students and families that donated to the Terry Fox Foundation. Your kindness and generosity make a difference.

The sea of orange that was visible at Laurier last Thursday when students and staff wore orange t-shirts in honour of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation was heart-warming. Our teachers led students in many learning activities to deepen their understanding and to appreciate the importance of recognizing this day. The Indigenous Education Department and Helen McGregor, Superintendent and CEO, gifted our school the Reconciliation Blanket designed by xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) artist, educator and master weaver Debra Sparrow. This blanket serves as a reminder of the necessary continued work ahead in advancing reconciliation and in our school's commitment to walk alongside Indigenous Nations and communities as allies. This blanket has been hung in our display case in front of the library.

As the vibrant colors of autumn paint our surroundings, we are reminded of the beauty and warmth this season brings. The crisp air and golden leaves create a perfect backdrop for reflection and gratitude. We are incredibly thankful for our wonderful students, dedicated staff, and supportive community. Your contributions and enthusiasm make our school a very special place. Let's embrace this beautiful season with open hearts and a spirit of thankfulness. May your October be filled with joy and grace!

Warmly,
Geri Gruft
Principal



Wellness

As cold and flu season arrives, we want to remind families to be mindful of health and safety. Students wash their hands throughout the day as part of daily routines. Laurier is a mask-friendly environment; it is the choice of staff and students to wear a mask or not. Thank you for **keeping your child at home if they are sick**. We will call home and ask a family member to come pick up their child if they are unwell during the day. If you would like to review the VSB Communicable Disease Prevention Plan – please visit the VSB website or click on the link here: <https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/district-communicable-disease-prevention-plan.075c9075835.pdf>

Laurier Athletics

We are excited to kick off our extra-curricular sports programs with our Laurier Cross Country Team and our Laurier Soccer Team. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff coaches and supportive parent volunteers for making this possible. Our soccer team has already played their first few games, showcasing their skills and teamwork. It's been wonderful to see so many primary and intermediate students lacing up their running shoes for early morning practices and meets. Best of luck to all our athletes as their seasons continue!



Safety Week



During the week of October 15th to 18th we are having a themed **Safety Week**. This week will include a fire, earthquake and lockdown drills, which are essential for reviewing and practicing our safety and preparedness procedures. This is also a great reminder to discuss and plan for emergencies at home. Do you have an escape route and a designated meeting spot in case of a fire? Is your earthquake kit ready?

Our first earthquake drill will be in the afternoon of **Thursday, October 17th**, as part of the *Great BC Shake Out*. Kindergarten families will be welcomed to participate in the reunification portion of our drill. More details to follow for our K families.

Student Accident Plans

The VSB is offering parents access to two voluntary student accident plans which offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical/dental expenses and critical illness. The two companies that are offering this product are the IA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) and Study Insured.

Families can register online to purchase and participate in either of these plans by using the URL's provided below;

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>
www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com

Free Health Program for Families

Please see the attached flyer for the YMCA's Generation Health Community for a free fall program for families.

Goal Setting Conferences

We look forward to seeing you at our **Goal Setting Conferences** on **Tuesday, Oct. 22 & Wednesday, Oct. 23**. To facilitate the conferences, students will be dismissed early. Students need to be picked up at **2:00 PM**. You will be receiving an email from your child's classroom teacher to schedule appointments for the conferences.

Be Prepared for the Weather

Living in Vancouver means our weather can be quite unpredictable. Students need their outdoor time for free play and exercise, so recess and lunch will be held outside regardless of the weather. Therefore, families should dress their children appropriately for the conditions.

Our teachers also enjoy the outdoors and often conduct lessons outside in various weather conditions. Please ensure your child has rain gear, a change of clothes (especially for primary students), and indoor shoes when necessary. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students prepared and safe.



Laurier Library

The Laurier Library is up and running! A warm welcome back to students, staff and families!

- The library is open after school from 3:00-3:15 most days
- Students can borrow books for 2 weeks and renew any time
- Please use the library bags provided to protect our books, especially in the rainy weather.
- Students and Families can search for books, check their borrowing record, and search digital resources at <https://library.vsb.bc.ca/>

See you soon!

Ms. Altman and the Laurier Library Monitor Team



VSB Dog Policy



We all love our four-legged friends, but they are not allowed on school grounds, especially during pick-up and drop-off times. Dogs are prohibited on the school grounds, play fields, and inside the school from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, as well as during any organized school events outside these hours, unless they are service dogs.

Please review the VSB's Dog Code, which is posted on the bright green signs on the fences. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school grounds and play fields safe and comfortable for our students and all members of the Laurier community.

Upcoming Dates

- Monday, October 14th: Thanksgiving Holiday. School is closed.
- Tuesday, October 15th – 18th: Laurier Safety Week
- Thursday, October 17th – School Immunizations; Parents will be notified by Vancouver Coast Health
- Friday, October 18th – Individual Photo Day. Retakes will follow on November 6th
- October 21st to 24th – Scholastic Book Fair
- October 22nd and 23rd – Early Dismissal Day @ 2pm for conferences
- Friday, October 25th – Professional Development Day: No School for Students
- Tuesday, October 29th – PAC Meeting in the library @ 6:30pm

Code of Conduct

Soar with us at Laurier! Our Laurier School Code of Conduct can be found at this link.

Thank you for reading it and discussing it with your child(ren):

<https://media.vsb.bc.ca/media/Default/medialib/lauriercofc.ba825073805.pdf>

PAC News

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**.

