



# Laurier Elementary School

## September 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:** TBD    **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), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).*

## Principal's Message

I hope you and your children had a fun-filled and rejuvenating summer! As we gear up for another exciting school year, I want to extend a heartfelt welcome to all our new students and their families. We are thrilled to have you join our Laurier community!

We are also delighted to introduce some wonderful new staff members who will be joining us this year:

- **Ms. Adrienne Truchi**, Grade 1 Teacher
- **Ms. Patricia Eckels**, Resource Teacher
- **Ms. Kia Krause**, Resource Teacher
- **Najmeh Ilbeigidehkordi**, SSA (School & Student Support)
- **Krisna Santiago**, SSA (School & Student Support)
- **Rosanna Di Francesco**, Area Counsellor
- **TBA**, Grade 7 & Grade 3-4: *Guest Teachers will lead these classes until staff is hired.*

At the same time, we bid a fond farewell to the following staff members who have moved on from Laurier: Mr. Ryan Hong, Mr. Liam Cochrane, Ms. Kelly Moore, Ms. Karyn Lee, Ms. Jessica Yang, Ms. Leanne Riley and Ms. Maria Borello. We wish them all the best in their future endeavors!

Our monthly newsletters will be emailed to parents within the first week of each month, keeping you informed and connected with all the exciting happenings at Laurier.

A new school year brings a mix of excitement, anticipation, and sometimes a little anxiety for both children and parents. As we embark on this new school year, it's important to embrace understanding, kindness as well as a growth mindset. Your encouragement and positive outlook can make a world of difference in helping your child embrace change and new opportunities.

I am looking forward to seeing all our returning students and meeting those who are new to our school. On behalf of the entire Laurier staff, welcome to the 2024-2025 school year! Let's make it a fantastic year filled with growth, learning, and joy!

Warm regards,  
Geri Gruft (Ms. Geri)



## The Week Ahead

### **Wednesday, September 4<sup>th</sup>-Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>**

- All Grades 1 – 7 students will attend school on Wednesday, Sept. 4, 2024 onward from 8:55 am – 2:58 pm
- New Kindergarten students will follow the gradual entry schedule that was emailed in June

- Ms. Murphy's and Mr. Holdham's former classes will line up in the undercover area.
- Mr. Lam's former class will line up in front the portable that faces Laurel Street.
- Ms. Alojado's former class will line up at the South Bldg in the undercover area



- Students should arrive for the first bell at 8:55 am. The dismissal bell is at 2:58 pm each day. Thank you for being on time to pick up your child.
- Remember to pack a water bottle, a healthy recess snack and lunch for your child each day. Information about hot lunch will be coming from the PAC in the next few weeks.

· If food security is a challenge for your family and you are unable to regularly provide a lunch for your child(ren), please contact the office or your child's teacher.

### Changing Classes:

It is our intention to have students move to their new classes for the 2024-2025 school year by or before Monday, September 9th. Once students go into their new classrooms, **emails will be sent to all parents** telling them of their child's new teacher and classroom number for after school pick-up.

## 2024-2025 Supervision and Bell

Staff supervise outside at the playground areas at 8:40 am before school and until 3:18 pm after school. For safety reasons, please do not send your child to school alone before 8:40 am. Students should not be entering the school in the morning before the warning bell at 8:55, when their teachers meet them at their pickup locations (as there is no student supervision inside the school before school begins).

## New Bell Schedule

- 8:55 am - Warning Bell
- 9:00 am - School Start
- 10:30 am-10:50 am- Recess
- 12:10 pm- Lunch Starts (Students eat in class from 12:10-12:25)
- 12:55 pm - Lunch Ends
- 2:58 pm - Dismissal

## Traffic



Please go over the traffic safety rules with your child. With the excitement of school, students can often forget these pedestrian rules. Our new Safety Patrol Team will be trained and scheduled to help students cross Laurel Street safely.

We recommend that families walk their children to school, as much as possible, as it's a healthy start to the day and an excellent time to connect with your children. If you have to drive, consider parking a few blocks away, as part of you and your child's morning exercise!

## Safe Arrival (Reporting Absences) and Sign-Out

If your child will be absent or late from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on a dedicated answering service by calling **(604) 713-5159, Extension 44** prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence. Please provide the following information:

1. First & Last Name of your child (Please spell the last name)
2. Grade & Division
3. Reason for Absence
4. Date & Length of Absence

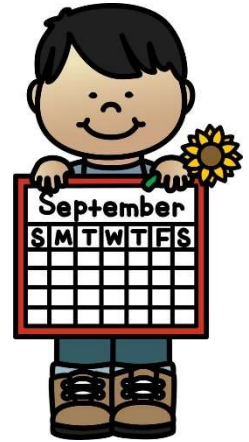
***Please do not email staff to advise of your child's absence.***

# Student Sign Out & Late Arrival Procedures

If you pick up your child during the school day, they need to be signed out by the school office staff (not the classroom teachers) so that they can be accounted for in our online system. If your child arrives late, please have them sign in at the office and pick up a “Welcome Slip” before going to class. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe!

## Upcoming Dates

- Tuesday, September 17<sup>th</sup>: PAC Meeting @ 6:30 in the library
- Tuesday, September 24<sup>th</sup>: Terry Fox Run (Details to come)
- Thursday, September 26<sup>th</sup>: Laurier Open House (Details to come)
- Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup>: Professional Development Day-No school for students.
- Monday, September 30<sup>th</sup>: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation: No School
- Monday, October 14<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Holiday



## Code of Conduct

The Laurier School Code of Conduct can be found at this link:

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

New to our code of conduct is that personal digital devices are restricted for the instructional day. This includes class time, recess and lunch during school hours of 9:00am to 3:00pm. Personal digital devices must be turned off or placed on silent mode and out of sight for the entire school day.

Teachers and school staff will continue to model digital citizenship in the classroom and avoid the use of personal digital devices for non-instructional purposes. Personal digital devices are restricted for the instructional day.

## 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](mailto:laurier.pac@gmail.com). The ongoing support of our parent community is so greatly appreciated!

## *A final note on working together...*

The Vancouver School Board is committed to fostering safe schools that promote mutual respect, cooperation and social responsibility. There is zero-tolerance for violence, harassment, or disrespectful behaviour in the school community. We strive to make our schools and sites welcoming places for everyone in our community.

As we begin a new school year, we ask that you pause and remember VSB staff are valued community members. Be considerate, and ask, will my actions or words hurt someone?

It is our shared responsibility to ensure interactions are conducted safely and respectfully. Students learn here, and together we can be models for those that are watching.