



# Dr. George M. Weir Elementary

## School News

Oct 2022

2900 East 44th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5R 3A8

Tel: 604-713-4771

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/dr-george-m-weir>

### Important Upcoming Dates

- November 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> – Parent/Teacher Conferences (2:00pm dismissal)
- November 10<sup>th</sup> – Last day at swing sites and last day of bus service
- November 11<sup>th</sup> – Remembrance Day (School Not in Session)
- November 14<sup>th</sup> – Weir Professional Development Day (School Not in Session)
- November 15<sup>th</sup> – First day at Weir for students!!!!
- November 25<sup>th</sup> – Indigenous Focus Professional Development Day (School Not in Session)

### Self-Confidence

The character strength we focussed on for the month of October was **self-confidence** as well as how it differs from self-esteem. In her book, *Thrivers*, Dr. Michele Borba describes self-confidence as, “an outcome of doing well, facing obstacles, creating solutions, and snapping back on your own.” Self-confidence describes not how we feel about ourselves, but rather, what we know we can achieve through proven action. One might argue that achievements are outward actions, but they start with our inner thoughts. To develop that thinking, Division 4 explored the messages we say to ourselves or our ‘self-talk.’ Are those messages positive or negative? Do they support or detract from our daily efforts?



A reminder for both myself and our staff, is that our perceptions are our reality. How we look at the world around us inevitably determines how we experience it. Every situation in life can have positive and negative aspects. For example, you could earn a raise at work and be absolutely thrilled at the extra spending money, or disappointed with the extra tax you will pay. These thoughts determine our future actions but more importantly, they become the impact we have on the world around us. We tend to gravitate to those around us who have a positive outlook and try to avoid those who find the negatives.

As we move back to one physical school site from our years of separation, there will be much excitement mixed with a healthy dose of chaos. We will be teaching and learning in classrooms that have just been organized, practicing routines that have just been established, managing students that may have never met each other – the list is endless. All these moments present us with a choice: complain about the many challenges we are facing OR collaboratively consider solutions with smiles on our faces. Our perception will be our reality. I know what I intend to choose. How about you?



**Kindergarten registration for children born in 2018 begins on November 1.**

All kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (Early French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Focus School, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Nootka Fine Arts) and/or a cross boundary placement.

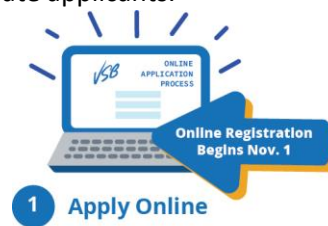
The priority registration period for Kindergarten opens on **November 1 and closes on January 31**. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

Applying for kindergarten is a **2-step process**:

Step 1: Completion of an online application form

Step 2: Verifying documentation

- Contact your English catchment school office to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation
- Bring supporting documentation to your English catchment during your scheduled appointment



appointment to school office

Supporting documents needed:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records
5. Court orders/documents (if applicable)



If you want to apply for a Choice Program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice Programs and cross boundary placements will begin to be accepted in early 2023.

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than available space\* at the school, the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

**Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1 and January 31**

1. **In-catchment** kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a **random draw** for the remaining kindergarten spaces.
3. Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name was drawn.
4. Between January 31 and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

**Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31<sup>st</sup>**

In-catchment kindergarten students who apply **after** January 31 will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist.

**Note:** There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31.

**For more information on kindergarten registration visit:** <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

\* Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the District (Administrative Procedure 300).

# Halloween Food Guidelines for Weir

Out of consideration for the many food allergies at our school, please use the following guidelines if you'd like to send your child(ren) with food items to school on Halloween:

- Individually wrapped (candy, chips etc)
- Store-purchased items only
- Nut-free items

October 2022

OUR VSB



VSB - INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

## CULTURE IS NOT A COSTUME HOW TO NOT CULTURALLY APPROPRIATE HALLOWEEN

The autumn season is upon us, and soon it will be Halloween. This time of year brings with it many costume choice decisions. While dressing up is meant to be fun and exciting, it also runs the risk of offending others if costumes are offensive to other cultures. Halloween offers the opportunity to discuss costume choices with both colleagues and students. It is important not to inadvertently mimic culture by culturally appropriating racial or ethnic groups.

### CULTURAL APPROPRIATION

1. The taking - from a culture that is not one's own - of intellectual property, cultural expressions or artifacts, history and ways of knowledge (Ziff & Rao, 1997).
2. Any instance which means commonly associated with and/or perceived as belonging to another are used to further one's own ends (Shugart, 1997).
3. To take parts (symbols, artifacts, dress, words, practices, etc.) from a culture that is not your own. This can happen in a variety of forms but often around Halloween it involves wearing 'costumes' that may have some significance to other cultures.
4. A particular power dynamic in which members of a dominant culture take elements from a culture of people who have been systematically oppressed by that dominant group.

### Engage in dialogue

Bring up subjects like cultural appropriation with your colleagues and students. Listen to their views and share your own knowledge and experiences. Dialogue is collaborative and about people working together to find a common understanding. It is about exploring, listening, and re-examining your positions, values and assumptions.

### Examine your own practices

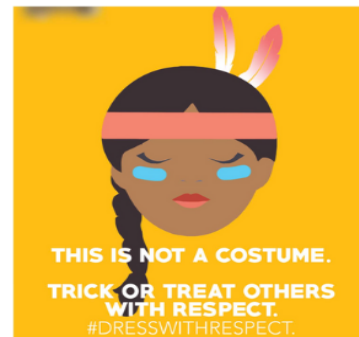
Are you wearing a costume during Halloween? Ask yourself some critical questions about your costume. "Is my costume based on someone's race, ethnicity, or culture? Am I reinforcing stereotypes with the image I am portraying? Is my costume exploiting another culture?"

### Be an advocate

If you see a costume that doesn't sit right with you, start a conversation. Begin a respectful dialogue with that person at an appropriate time and place. Ask them about their costume choice. Your conversation should be about having the person think through their choice, not about right and wrong.

### Links

[CBC: Teacher finds teachable moment about cultural stereotypes](#)  
[Huffington Post: Student group takes a stand against racist costumes](#)  
[My Culture is NOT a Costume](#)



## Student Arrival and Dismissal

Over the past two years, our students have lined up outside our school each morning. Their teachers come outside to meet them and greet them individually as they enter the school. This allows our teachers to have a short moment with each student at the beginning of the day. This small moment provides our teachers with valuable information about each student and how they are doing.



We will continue this practice at Weir. At 8:55am, a 'get ready for class' bell will ring. Students will line up behind cones placed at the blue 'x's in the photo. The cones will have their teacher's name and division number on them. The teachers will come out to greet their class and bring them inside. At the end of the day, teachers will walk them back outside to the same place. This will help students practice entering the building calmly and start the day in a peaceful way.

## Open House Date

We are thrilled to announce that we have scheduled an open house date for our community! Please join us to experience our new school and reconnect as a community on the evening of **Wednesday, December 7<sup>th</sup>**. More specific times and details will be announced at a later date. **We are looking for parents to join our committee. Meetings will be at lunch time. If you are interested, please let Mr. McMitchell know.**

[rmcmitchell@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:rmcmitchell@vsb.bc.ca)

## Parent Teacher Conferences

As our parent/teacher conferences will take place on **Wednesday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>** and **Thursday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>** during the last week at our three swing sites, we will continue to hold them virtually over Microsoft Teams. The virtual format also makes scheduling easier for our translators who do not have to travel from site to site. However, should the virtual option pose a significant barrier to you, please contact your child's teacher to arrange an in-person option.

### **DRESS APPROPRIATELY FOR THE WEATHER**



Did you know that Vancouver is located in a temperate rainforest? Well, even if you didn't, you are mostly likely aware of our high levels of yearly rainfall. While we will keep our students inside on days of exceptionally heavy rainfall, please ensure that your children arrive at school dressed for the weather. Students should wear a rain jacket, rain boots, and an umbrella if they don't want to use their hoods. We also ask that families of younger children include a change of clothing.

## Monitor Your Children's Screen Time



We are noticing that our intermediate students are spending a lot of time online. This is evident on their classroom Teams sites. Sometimes, students are posting memes, images, comments, and references that are inappropriate in nature (they may or may not realize this) while other times, they are simply engaging in a lot of posting and messaging with each other. While the content of these messages isn't concerning, it is evident that our kids are bored and in need of more productive things to do. Our students are also staying up later than appropriate and arriving to school the next morning feeling groggy and lethargic. We have made it clear that if we notice students spending time online with each other, our expectation is that any homework they have has already been completed. Here are some suggestions of things to do to monitor and manage your child(ren)'s screen time:

- Ask them what online games they play and what social media platforms they are using
- Find out which of those online platforms have direct messaging (DMs) as part of their platform and regularly check the nature of your children's messages
- Check your children's browser history on Safari, Google Chrome, and other browsers
- Check your child(ren)'s planner for homework before allowing screen time each night
- Ensure that all internet devices stay outside of your child(ren)'s bedrooms prior to bedtime

Most importantly, have regular and open dialogue with your child(ren) about internet safety, the permanency of what they post online, and the potential for dangerous people to misrepresent themselves as new, online friends.

## Reporting Absences

Should your child need to be absent from school, please call the number below:

Safe Arrival: 604-713-4771 ext 1

