

Weir Back to School Newsletter – 2023



Dr. George M. Weir Elementary School News

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

Welcome back to all of our returning families and a warm welcome to the families joining us this year. We hope you have had a rejuvenating summer break. The start of school always brings the excitement of 'something new' both for our staff and our students. After summer break, hopefully everyone is energized and looking forward to new opportunities and adventures. For the adults in the building, no other career allows for an opportunity to have a new beginning each year. For our students, new classrooms and new classmates also provide opportunities for new beginnings. New friendships are possible, new learning opportunities ... even something simple as new school supplies.

For us at Weir, this will be the first start of school in our new building. This is such an exciting opportunity to start fresh but with the knowledge of what life is like in our new space. With this knowledge, I can't help but think about what new challenges are possible. I encourage you task your kids the same things:

- **What are you excited about for this school year?**
- **What is one new thing that you want to challenge yourself to do this year?**

Looking forward to an exciting year of possibilities with all of you.

Core Competency Tree

This year, our focus as a school will be on the Core Competencies. These are 7 sets of skills that support students academically as well as other areas of life. Many employers and companies often refer to these as the 'soft skills' that they are looking for in people they hire.



1 - Thank you to Weir parent, *Emma Kedar*, for creating this wonderful tree for us!

The seven core competency areas are:

Communication

Collaboration

Personal Awareness and Responsibility

Positive Personal and Cultural Identity

Social Awareness and Responsibility

Creative Thinking

Critical Thinking

We will focus on the **green** competencies in term 1, **orange** in term 2, and **blue** in term 3. At the beginning of each term, all staff and students will select a goal and write it on a leaf. We will hang all of our goals on our Core Competency tree in our lobby. At the end of the term, we will reflect on our goal on the back of our leaf. Our hope is that this tree will unite our work as a school.

For more information on the BC Curriculum and Core Competencies please click [here](#) to visit the Ministry of Education website or watch a brief video [here](#).

First Week Schedule

A repeat from the recent back to school email on August 28th:

Please note: As per instructions from district management, we are not yet permitted to enter into our new classes for this school year. This is due to a large number of students that need to be placed into schools across the district. The plan below is developed with these instructions in mind and are

consistent with other VSB elementary schools. Our curricular plan for the week will involve character building lessons related to self-confidence, integrity, perseverance, curiosity, and community-building.

Tuesday, September 5th – 9:00am – 10:00am

Students attend for one hour to check-in and verify attendance.

- **Returning Students** – *please meet your previous year’s teacher at the same pick-up location as last year on the asphalt.*
 - **New Students** - *(except Kindergarten)– please meet Ms. Burma, Ms. Nguyen, Ms. Wan, and Ms. McClenahan at the undercover area. They will have lists.*
-

**New Kindergarten students – please refer to a separate email from our Kindergarten team with the gradual entry schedule and instructions.*

Wednesday, September 6th – 9:00am – 3:03pm

Students return to last year’s teacher except students in Gr. 1 who will be with Ms. Lee, Ms. Hsu, and Mr. Dodds. New students will be given a class to join (typically one with same age peers). We will have many staff members circulating with lists to ensure this goes smoothly.

Thursday, September 7th – 9:00am – 3:03pm

Same routine as Wednesday.

Friday, September 8th – 9:00am – 3:03pm

TBD – we will be waiting for permission from district management to move into this year’s classes. If we are asked to hold off, we will follow the same routine as Wednesday and Thursday.

Pick Up and Drop Off



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.



We are thrilled to welcome (and welcome back) the following staff members this year:

Ms. Amber Burma – classroom teacher

Ms. Kristine Faunt – classroom teacher

Ms. Laura McClenahan – resource teacher

Ms. Janice Korf – resource teacher

Ms. Wendy Tang – Student Support Worker

Discord and Online Safety – Help us Break the Cycle



Every year, students sign a digital responsibility contract. This agreement is the guideline for how our students use technology and devices both during and outside of school hours. Staff who work with our intermediate students often spend many hours dealing with issues that arise from online interactions between students that take place outside of school hours. These issues often affect the climate of classrooms and can strain relationships amongst students. **The vast majority of issues come from Weir student groups on the Discord app.** While we do our best to address these issues as they arise, please help us by:

- having frequent discussions with your children about online safety (e.g. stranger danger, online bullying etc)
- understanding what social media sites they use (particularly the ones with direct messaging)
- letting your kids know that you can do regular device checks
- agreeing on a time each night to shut down devices and store them outside of their bedrooms.
- remind your kids that they should not write things to anyone that they would not say in person

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(604) 713-4771

SCHOOL FEES for (2023-2024)

Important Information – Please Translate

这是一份重要信息 – 请找人为您翻译

اطلاعات مهم - لطفا ترجمه کنید

Mahalagang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

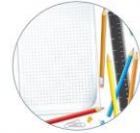
중요한 정보 - 번역 부탁드립니다

ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ-ਮਿਰਰਥਾਨੀ ਕਰਕੇ ਅਨੁਵਾਦ

ਕਰੋ/ਕਰਵਾਓ

Важная информация!Переведите,пожалуйста

GENERAL \$35.00 SUPPLY FEE



The Vancouver School Board offers the service of purchasing basic school supplies in bulk at wholesale prices and passing the cost savings on to families. The School Supply Fee for 2022 – 2023 is \$35.00 per student.

This fee covers basic consumable school supplies used for students' personal use such as paper, writing tools, glue sticks, erasers, exercise books and art supplies. Supplies are provided for the full year.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEES

Student Agenda/Planner – \$8.00

Students at Weir Elementary will be using an Agenda/Planner in grades 1-7. School agendas/planners are a valuable tool for teaching children how to organize and plan for school. While students are not required to have an agenda/planner it is designed to assist students with the skills of organization and time management and is a very useful communication tool often used between teachers and families.

Performance/Activity/Program Fee – \$30.00

During the school year, and as permissible under Provincial and District Health and Safety protocols and direction, non-curricular activities may be offered to students with nominal fees. Program fees will be published at that time. We are pleased to enrich your child's learning through a wide variety of performances this year. This supplementary fee supports the school in bringing in talented and professional theatrical and musical performers that align with a particular educational theme. Parent support has made these opportunities possible and we appreciate your continued contribution.

Online Programs – \$22.00

All classrooms at Weir will offer online programs. The specific program will depend on the age of the students in the classroom and will focus on key curricular areas of either literacy or numeracy. The programs may be used both in-class and as supplemental practice for reinforcement of skills at home. The programs have been vetted and approved by our district technology department and follow all data and information privacy laws.


Field Studies – To be determined throughout the school year at the classroom level

Throughout the school year, and as permissible under Provincial and District Health and Safety protocols and direction, your child's teacher may plan supplementary learning opportunities at locations outside of the school and request monies towards entrance fees, transportation or equipment rental. Your child's teacher will communicate this information to you directly.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP

As a reminder, the Vancouver School Board will not deny a child access to the school supplies required for his or her educational program because of financial hardship. Nor will any child be excluded from activities where a fee is charged. If at any time there is a financial challenge, please contact the school Principal, Mr. Riley McMitchell. All requests will be treated confidentially.



 CALENDAR 2023 – 2024 Dr George M Weir Elementary School	
School Operation Overview	
Number of Days in Session	188
Number of Days of Instruction	181
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	6 Non-Instructional Days 1 Administrative Day (June 28)
Important Dates	
First Day of School for Students	Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Day in lieu of National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	Monday, October 2, 2023 (SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION)
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9, 2023
In lieu of Remembrance Day	Monday, November 13, 2023 (SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION)
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 22, 2023
Winter Vacation Period	Wednesday, December 27, 2023 - Friday January 5, 2024
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 8, 2024
Family Day	Monday, February 19, 2024
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 15, 2024
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 18 – Thursday, March 28, 2024
Good Friday	Friday, March 29, 2024
Easter Monday	Monday, April 1, 2024
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Tuesday, April 2, 2024
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20, 2024
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 27, 2024
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 28, 2024
Professional Development and Non-Instructional Days (school not in session)	
Friday, September 22, 2023	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, October 20, 2023	Professional Development Day (Province wide)
Friday, November 24, 2023	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Wednesday, January 17, 2024	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, February 16, 2024	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Monday, April 22, 2024	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Parent Conference Dates	Early Dismissal Times
Wednesday, November 1, 2023	2:00 pm
Thursday, November 2, 2023	2:00 pm
Wednesday, February 7, 2024	2:00 pm
Thursday, February 8, 2024	2:00 pm

Forms Online:

In efforts to save paper, a number of our forms will be online this year including:

- VSB Internal Use Media Consent
- External Use Media Consent
- CASL - Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation
- Adobe CC Consent (if applicable)
- Student AUP - Acceptable Use Policy

To access and complete these forms, please:

- Go to <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/>
- Enter your child's PEN number (found on front page of report cards) and birthdate
- Accept the consent for each of the forms. Not accepting or completing implies decline

News from Weir PAC

A warm welcome back after the summer holidays! For our returning families, we are happy to see you again. For all of our new families, welcome! You have joined a great community of children, families, and educators at Weir and we are looking forward to getting to know you this year.

Weir PAC Mailing List: if you haven't already opted-in to this, please hop over to <https://weirpac.weebly.com/> to subscribe and stay connected with the PAC. This mailing list is used for keeping our school community up-to-date on the latest news and events, including hot lunch, special days, and activities at the school and much more. Please note that submitting your email address to the school administration **does not** get you into this important communication list, so subscribe now and stay in touch with us!

PAC Meeting: Our first PAC meeting for the new school year will be **Monday, September 25th at 6:30pm**. PAC meetings may be hosted on-line or in-person, please check the [PAC Website](#) for meeting details.

Reporting Absences From School:

Safe Arrival: 604-713-4771 ext 1

When reporting your child(ren)'s absence from school. Please the following safe arrival number.

Report Cards

The Ministry of Education has developed new reporting guidelines for the 2023 – 2024 school year. Included in these guidelines are:

THREE formal report cards (two progress reports and one summative end of year report) will go home on:

- Friday, December 1st
- Tuesday, March 12th
- Monday, June 24th

TWO informal communications of student learning (parent-teacher conferences, student-led conferences, goal-setting) will take place on:

- Wednesday, November 1st and Thursday, November 2nd
- Wednesday, February 7th and Thursday, February 8th

Arriving Late to School



There are times when we all run behind in the mornings. If you find yourself getting your kids to school after the bell, please observe the following two scenarios:

- **Before 9:15am** - Please have your child(ren) report to their classroom. Their teacher will adjust their attendance.
- **After 9:15am** – Please have your child(ren) report to the office to get a late slip which they will bring to their teacher.

Student Planners



We received notification from our student planner vendor, First Class Planners, that their storage facility was unfortunately affected by the wildfires this summer in BC. Luckily, none of their staff were injured during the fire. As a result, along with most Vancouver elementary schools, our student planners will be delayed in arriving. First Class Planners is working very hard to reprint all of our planners and anticipates delivery in two to four weeks.

Code of Conduct



Our code of conduct is what guides our work in schools and outlines clear expectations for our students. While students do have consequences for their actions, we prefer to navigate conflicts with a restorative lens. Under staff supervision, students need to meet with those who are impacted, hear how their actions affected others, and then decide on actions to take to restore the relationship and repair the harm done. Our approach can change slightly depending on the age of the student, events and situations surrounding the incident, and past behavioural history.

The Code of Conduct will be in your child's planner. We encourage you to review it with them at home. It can also be found [here](#) on our website.

Killarney Street Construction:

As many of you will have noticed, the construction along the Killarney St. side of our school is not yet completed. We have been in contact with the City of Vancouver many times over the past six months and have expressed our concern over safety issues and the length of time this area has been unavailable to our families for pick up and drop off. The district planning office is closely monitoring the situation. However, should you have any questions or wish to express your concern over this project to the City of Vancouver, please do so at:

schoolactivetravel@vancouver.ca

School Daily Schedule:

8:40am – Morning Supervision begins

8:55am – Welcome bell

9:00am – Teacher pick up

10:30am – RECESS

10:50am

12:10pm – LUNCH

12:57

3:03pm – Dismissal

3:20pm – After School Supervision ends

VSB Student Accident Insurance

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

Lost and Found



Lost
&
Found

can do hard things.

A large number of items remain in our lost and found from last school year. Please come by and check to see if anything belongs to your family within the first two weeks of school. All remaining items will be boxed up and donated to a children's charity near the end of September.