



OUR VSB

L'ÉCOLE BILINGUE

Monday, February 3, 2025

Newsletter #11

Evelyn Harcus, Principal
Alice Jungclaus, Vice-Principal
Christopher Wong, Director of Instruction

Enjoy the snow and stay safe! A reminder to check the VSB website to be advised of any school closures due to this inclement weather. Merci!

Inclement Weather & School Closures

- Follow VSB on social media to stay updated about school closures due to severe weather.
- During extreme weather conditions (heavy snowfall, extreme cold, freezing rain, extreme heat, etc.) VSB schools will remain open if possible. If a District-wide closure is necessary, it will be announced by 6:30 a.m.
- **Stay updated:**
 - Facebook: [Vancouver School Board](#)
 - Instagram: [@vsb39](#)
 - X: [@VSB39](#)
 - VSB website: vsb.bc.ca/weather



Dear LEB Families,

Welcome to February! January was a wonderfully full month for our school community. We kicked off the lunar new year with a vibrant lion dance. Happy New Year to all of our families who celebrate the lunar new year!

We also had an informative assembly with Constable Christie from the Vancouver Police Department, who spoke to our students about pedestrian safety. This was a valuable session, and we appreciate Constable Christie's time and dedication.

She will also continue to support us with our pick-up and drop-off situation. We are grateful to our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and our community partners, including school streets (City of Vancouver) and community policing, who will be supporting our safety needs and helping to make our traffic situation safer and more manageable for everyone. A reminder that we do have outside supervision starting at 8:40am and so you are welcome to drop off your children before 9am as this will help to alleviate our 9am drop off traffic. Please also consider parking a few blocks away and walking to school with your children, providing a little exercise and a little conversation time to start the day.

As we move into February, we are excited about upcoming activities and events. We look forward to more field studies, Earth Bites starting up again, our first-ever LEB art show, and celebrating special days like Pink Shirt Day, Family Day, Black History Month, and Valentine's Day.

Thank you for your continued support and involvement in our school community. Together, we are creating a safe and enriching environment for our students.

Kind regards,

Evelyn Marcus, Principal & Alice Jungclaus, Vice-Principal

2025-2026 School Year Intentions

A reminder to please complete the '**are you returning**' survey that was sent out last week (linked below for your convenience). We are doing some preliminary planning for next year and looking at registration numbers. Please complete the form **before Friday February 14th** to let us know your intentions for next year. Thank you!

[L'École Bilingue – Returning Students Survey for 2025-26](#)

SAFE ARRIVAL – How to notify the school

If your child will be **absent from school** or **arriving late**, please inform the office by contacting the Safe Arrival line before 9am:

Safe Arrival phone: 604-713-4585

Safe Arrival email: lec-safearrival@vsb.bc.ca (You can CC your classroom teacher!)

Dress for the weather

It looks like the rainy and cold weather upon us! Students are expected to be outside during our two recesses, therefore, please ensure that your child is coming to school dressed to play outside. Sending a change of clothes is a good idea.

Punctuality

Due to this current inclement weather, it is understandable that some students will be a little late for school. After all safety is of utmost importance so please take your time and be careful when commuting. However, a friendly reminder to all that **school starts at 9:00am** and we would like to emphasize the importance of punctuality. Arriving at school on time is crucial as it sets a positive tone for the day and helps establish good habits that will benefit our students throughout their lives.

Thank you for your continued support in ensuring our students start their day together with their class, ready to learn and succeed!

Extra Snacks

We regularly have a number of hungry students coming to the office looking for an extra snack. If you could please have a chat with your child(ren) to see if they need a bit more lunch/snacks to get them through the school day, that would be most appreciated. It's important that bellies are satisfied so that students can focus on their learning and we're happy to help out where we can but our snacks are running low. Merci!

Utensils

If you have plastic forks/spoons/chopsticks to donate to the school, please send them to the office.

If you are ordering SUSHI lunch, please remember to send utensils, as each week several students are in the office asking for supplies.

[FREE Parent, Guardian and Caregiver Sessions on Substance Use Prevention Part 2: Mental Health & Decision-Making](#)

The Ministry of Education and Child Care, in partnership with adolescent clinical psychologist Dr. Hayley Watson, will host three, free virtual sessions for parents, guardians and caregivers that will focus on practical skills you can teach your child and youth (ages 0-19) to prevent substance use and mental health needs. These sessions will build on a previous presentation, which focused on practical conversation tools for speaking about substance use prevention with your children/youth. The [previous session](#) is not a pre-requisite for this session.

Key takeaways for participants during this session:

- Learn the factors that lead to substance use and mental health needs from a trauma-informed lens
- Focus on prevention rather than intervention/response

SUBSTANCE USE PREVENTION:
MENTAL HEALTH & DECISION-MAKING
A COMPLIMENTARY WEBINAR FOR PARENTS, GUARDIANS & CAREGIVERS

Join leading adolescent Clinical Psychologist Dr. Hayley Watson for an online event that aims to help parents, guardians and caregivers gain a deeper understanding of substance use prevention and learn practical tools for supporting youth mental health.

Key Takeaways:

- Learn the factors that contribute to youth mental health/substance use
- Understand the skills that youth need to overcome these needs
- Acquire practical tools for empowering your child and youth to make positive choices
- Increase your ability to support your own mental health

Time: 6-7:30pm PST
Date: 20th, 25th, 28th Feb 2025

REGISTER NOW

Scan the QR Code to Register

- Applies to parents, guardians and caregivers of all age groups (youth aged 0-5, 6-10, and 11-18)
- Learn ways that these skills can be applied to yourself and the rest of your family to support the mental health of parents, guardians and caregivers

Participants must register in advance. Session dates are:

- [February 20, 6:00-7:30 pm PST](#)
- [February 25, 6:00-7:30 pm PST](#)
- [February 26, 6:00-7:30 pm PST](#)

Counsellor's Corner

Dear Parents,

For this newsletter I'd like to highlight two programs that I've previously introduced but they are really great programs and have been very well received:

Confident Parents, Thriving Kids, a program developed by the Canadian Mental Health Association. This initiative offers valuable support to children dealing with anxiety and behavioural challenges, and it's entirely free of charge.

- **Anxiety Program:** As your school counsellor, I can refer your child to this program if they are experiencing anxiety. The program provides evidence-based strategies and one-on-one coaching to help children build confidence and manage their emotions effectively.
- **Behaviour Program:** If your child is struggling with behavioural issues, a referral from your family doctor is required. This program focuses on improving children's behaviour and emotional well-being through structured support and coaching for parents.

For more information, feel free to visit <https://welcome.cmhacptk.ca>.

Please don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or think this resource could benefit your family.

Supporting Parents, Supporting Families: Introducing Family Smart

Parenting can be both rewarding and challenging, and sometimes, navigating your child's mental health journey can feel overwhelming. You don't have to do it alone. We are excited to share the **Family Smart Parent Peer Support Program**, a wonderful resource available to families in our community.

Family Smart connects parents and caregivers with other trained parents who have personal experience supporting a child or youth with mental health challenges. These Parent Peer Support Workers understand firsthand what you may be going through and are there to listen, provide guidance, and offer valuable resources and insights.

Whether you're looking for advice, need someone to talk to, or simply want to feel more confident in supporting your child, Family Smart is here to help. Their compassionate team provides free, confidential support to ensure you feel understood and empowered during difficult times.

For more information about Family Smart and how you can access their services, visit familysmart.ca

Warm regards,
Nancy Chong, School Counsellor

LEB Art Show

Calling all artists! L'École Bilingue's **Winter Art Show** is happening!

This art show is a curated exhibition where students can present their artwork for the rest of the school to enjoy. It's a fantastic chance for them to share their creativity with friends, family, and the community. The event aims to celebrate their artistic skills and the hard work and dedication they've put into their art. We are eager to see the diverse expressions of creativity our students will bring to this exciting showcase!

For the Winter Art Show, we are looking at pieces under the student's interpretation of the themes we usually observe in February/March such as: family, Black history Month, Lunar new Year, Pink Shirt Day and Valentine's Day. Students can also submit pieces of their choice if the themes do not fit their artistic interests. Themes are there to help guide the show. No art will be turned down.

We are now accepting email submissions from Kindergarten to Grade 7 until Thursday, February 13th, 2025. If your child is interested in participating, please note the following important details:

Event Details:

- Location: Display in L'École Bilingue Foyer/Hall
- Artwork Dropoff: Tuesday, February 18th, 2025, in the morning in the foyer starting at 8:40 am.
- Show Dates: Thursday, February 20th, 2025, to Thursday, March 13th, 2025

A separate email will follow with all the important details. We are looking forward to this wonderful celebration of art!

2025 IMPORTANT DATES

**Friday, February 14: District-Wide Professional Development Day –
No school for students**

Monday, February 17: Family Day – No school

Monday, March 10: Learning Update #2 goes home

March 17-28: Spring Break

Monday, March 31: Return to school after spring break