L'ÉCOLE BILINGUE

Friday October 30 , 2026

Evelyn Harcus, Principal
Louise Plante, Vice-Principal
Christopher Wong, Director of Instruction

Newsletter #6






Hello & Bonjour L'École Bilingue Families,

For those families celebrating Halloween this weekend and going Trick or Treating – we wish you a safe and fun time! Don't forget those flashlights and reflective gear.

As students return to school on Monday and in the days that follow, we kindly ask that Halloween candy remain at home and not be included in snacks or lunches. Nutritious foods help students stay focused, energized, and ready to learn throughout the school day. Thank you for your understanding, cooperation, and continued support.

It is hard to believe that we are already approaching November. We hope that the recent Informal Learning Update Conferences were productive and provided valuable insight into your child's progress and learning so far this year.
As part of the Vancouver School Board's reporting framework, learning conversations are guided by three key questions:

- *Where am I now?*
- *Where am I going?*
- *How do I get there?*

As a reminder, our first Formal Learning Update will be shared through the SpacesEDU platform on Tuesday, December 15. Please note that all learning updates will be provided digitally only. No paper copies will be sent home; instead, families will receive an electronic link to access their child's report. When you receive the invite to SpacesEDU for your child's class this year, please ensure that you subscribe.

The timing of this learning update, just prior to the Winter Break, allows families an opportunity to review their child's progress, ask questions, and, if needed, arrange follow-up conversations with teachers before the holidays. As learning and communication are ongoing throughout the school year, there should be no surprises regarding student progress.

At L'École Bilingue, as in many VSB schools, we use a variety of both formal and informal data sources to understand student learning, monitor progress, and identify areas of strength and growth across our school community.

Current school-based data, including classroom assessments, FSA results, and other student learning evidence, indicates that most of our students are progressing well in the core academic areas of literacy and numeracy. While we remain committed to fostering strong academic achievement, our focus this year also includes enhancing students' social-emotional learning. We are supporting learners in developing self-regulation strategies, emotional awareness, empathy, and positive relationship skills. These competencies are essential foundations for helping students navigate both challenges and successes, while becoming responsible, resilient, and contributing members of our community.

In addition, we continue to prioritize the Vancouver School Board's goal of Reconciliation by deepening our understanding and appreciation of Indigenous histories, cultures, perspectives, and ways of knowing. This important work aligns with both the VSB Education Plan and the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada, and helps foster learning environments that are inclusive, respectful, and reflective of the diverse stories that shape our country.

These areas of focus will continue to guide our work throughout the year as students and staff strive for growth, achievement, and well-being. Together, we remain committed to supporting all learners in reaching their full potential academically, socially, and emotionally, while continuing to strengthen outcomes in the foundational areas of literacy and numeracy.

Thank you for your ongoing partnership and support.

Sincerely,

The L'École Bilingue Team
Evelyn Harcus (Principal), Louise Plante (Vice-Principal) and Christine Fyfe (Office Admin)

Darker mornings, shorter days: tips for a safe school commute

As our mornings grow darker, we can all help students get to school safely. This year, we won't turn clocks back on Nov. 1, as B.C. moves to year-round Pacific time.
A few simple steps can help keep everyone safe on the way to and from school:

- Wear bright or reflective clothing
- Use lights when cycling or scootering
- Cross at marked crosswalks and follow traffic signals
- Stop, look and listen before crossing. Wait until vehicles have stopped before stepping onto the road
- Put phones and other distractions away during commutes
- Drivers should slow down, stay alert and take extra care around schools, crosswalks and drop-off areas

As the days grow shorter, please give yourself a little extra time and take extra care on your way to and from school.

Beaver Computing Challenge for Grades 4-7

Mme. Alison is organizing the Beaver Computing Challenge for interested Grade 4, 5, 6 and 7 students. This is a problem-solving contest with a focus on computational and logical thinking. Questions are inspired by topics in computer science and math. Information on the contest can be found at https://cemc.uwaterloo.ca/contests/bcc. This year, the contest will be taking place on: Tuesday, November 10th, 2026, interested students can visit Mme. Alison in room 243 to sign up.

HealthyMinds BC

Mental health challenges, such as mild to moderate anxiety and/or depression, can impact many areas of a child or youth's life. It can be difficult for parents and caregivers to recognize these challenges and know how to respond and support their child or youth through them. Since parents and caregivers have a significant influence on a child or youth's world, it is important that they are equipped with the skills and knowledge to support their child or youth's mental health. These online courses and resources are designed to build the capacity and support the needs of parents and providers, who are supporting children and youth experiencing mental health problems.

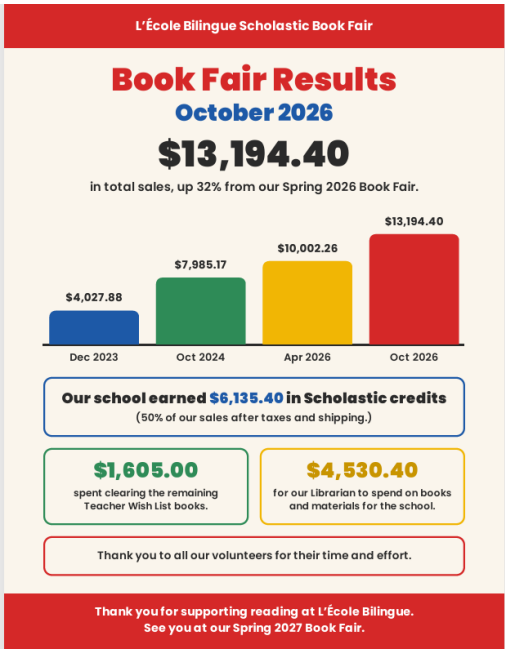
Parents and Caregivers - HealthyMindsBC

LEB Scholastic Book Fair Results:

Thank you to Erin Barrett and other parent volunteers for helping to organize and run our LEB Book Fair.

What a tremendous success!

Thank you to all families for supporting!



Terry Fox Fundraising for Cancer Research Results

Thank you to all our L'Ecole Bilingue staff, students and families.

This year our Terry Fox campaign raised $915 towards cancer research. Bravo!

Data and Image Consent for School Yearbooks

The Vancouver School Board (VSB) and its schools are authorized to collect, use, and disclose student personal information in accordance with the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* ("FIPPA"). At the start of the school year, your child's photo will be collected for operational purposes such as attendance or ID verification in accordance with section 26(c) of FIPPA.

As part of its commitment to protecting student privacy, the VSB is providing notice to you regarding the collection, use and disclosure of your child's personal information and image(s) for the purpose of creating a school-specific publication of the school year (a yearbook) and, if applicable, featuring their school photo, class composite photo, and other images (ex. Sports teams or clubs), in accordance with sections 32(a) and 33(1), respectively.

If you do not wish for your child's personal information or photographs to be included in the yearbook, **please email the school Principal by November 30, 2026.**

Production of this year's yearbook will be coordinated by the school PAC. If you do not wish for your child's image and personal information to be included, that will be shared with the PAC. Unless withdrawn, this consent is effective immediately from the day of receipt and lasts until June 30th of the current school year.

For inquiries about FIPPA, please contact privacy@vsb.bc.ca.

Library News: Author Danny Ramadan visits LEB!



This week, our students enjoyed a special library visit with Syrian-born Canadian author Danny Ramadan! Grade 4 students learned about *Salma and the Syrian Chef*, a picture book about a young girl who comes to Vancouver with her mother to escape war in Syria. Students asked lots of questions about writing and illustrating picture books.
Grade 5 students explored themes of immigration, displacement, and refugees through the Salma book series. Many students shared their own experiences with dual citizenship and different cultures, connecting the discussion to their Social Studies curriculum.



Reminder About Smartwatches and Personal Digital Devices

As we continue to support a focused and safe learning environment for all students, we would like to remind families about expectations regarding smartwatches and other personal digital devices at school.

The Vancouver School Board's Personal Digital Device Policy states that **personal digital devices, including smartwatches, must be turned off or placed on silent mode during instructional time and are not permitted for use unless authorized by an educator.**
Cellphone Policy.pdf

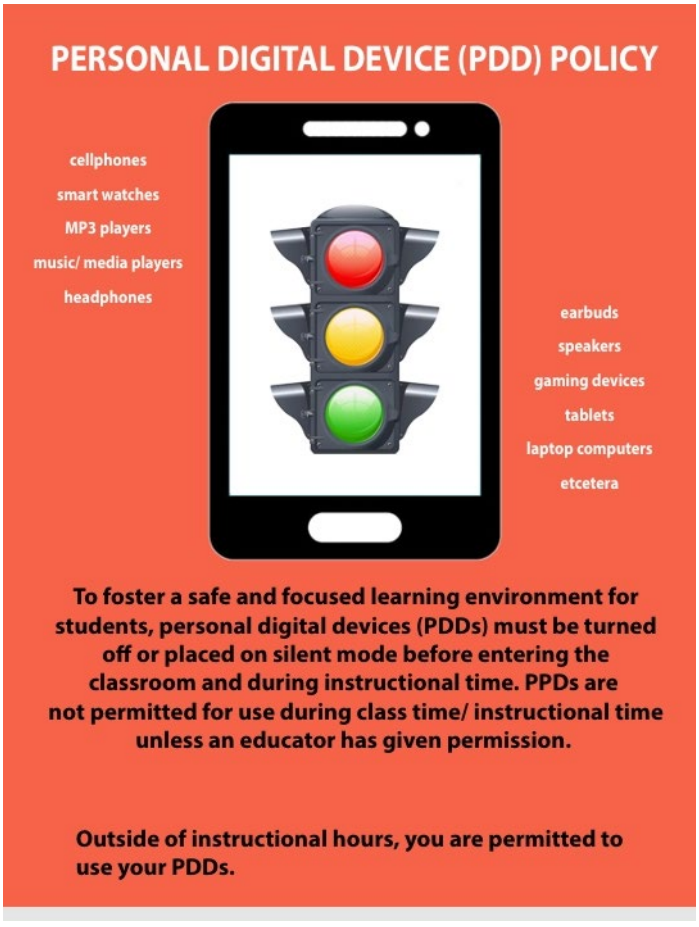
While smartwatches can be helpful for families outside of school hours, students should use them only for telling time while at school. Messaging, phone calls, gaming, notifications, and other smartwatch features should not be accessed during the school day.

We have recently seen an increase in students using smartwatches to communicate directly with family members during school hours regarding pick-up arrangements and other matters. For student safety, **all changes to dismissal plans must be communicated through the school office**, and students should not be making alternate arrangements independently during the school day.

Similarly, if a student feels unwell, they should speak with a staff member and report to the office. School staff can then assess the situation, provide support, and contact families if an early pick-up is necessary. Students should not be contacting home directly to arrange dismissal without staff knowledge.

We ask families to support these expectations by reviewing appropriate smartwatch and device use with their children. Maintaining clear communication through the school helps ensure student safety, accurate attendance, and smooth school operations.

Thank you for your cooperation and partnership in supporting a positive learning environment for all students.



Volunteer Conduct Agreement and Criminal Records Check

If parents will be volunteering at school this year (for field trips, coaching or helping in the library for example), we encourage you to complete a volunteer conduct agreement and a criminal records check. The VSB volunteer agreement is linked here and must be completed annually and the criminal records check information is listed below (CRCs are valid for five years). Even if you've already completed a CRC with another organization, we are required to have it linked to our organization – and you can do so by following the prompts on the site. Thank you for helping to volunteer this year!

Volunteer Conduct Agreement link here: Volunteer Conduct Agreement.pdf

Criminal Record Check CRC:
https://justice.gov.bc.ca/screening/crrpa/org-access

L'École Bilingue Access Code: UCQ9JNKQMR

Your CRC result/clearance letter will be emailed directly to Madame Harcus.
CRCs are valid for five years. If you've already completed a CRC for another organization, you can use the link above to link that CRC to our organization. Merci!

Parent Resources on Digital Citizenship

Some great parent resources to share, such as:

- "Raising Digitally Responsible Youth" Guide for parents and caregivers (updated January 2026; please see link attached below).
- Remote Parent sessions: Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion & Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities
    - Dates throughout the year, with a 5:30 PM PST start time for caregivers and youth over 10.

Raising Digitally Responsible Youth.pdf

Important Dates:

Friday October 30 – PAC sponsored Halloween Haunt event 5:00-7:00p.m.

Friday November 6 – Student Photo Retakes (See attached form)

Wednesday November 11 – Remembrance Day – NO SCHOOL

Friday November 20 – Pro-D Day – No School for Students

Tuesday December 15 – Learning Update #1 goes home via Spaces

Friday December 18 – last day before winter break

Monday January 4 – first day back after winter break

LEB PAC NEWS

PAC Updates - Subscribe!

The school newsletter shares official school information only. Updates from the LEB Parent Advisory Council (PAC) - such as early notice of lunch and after-school programs, PAC-led events and initiatives, volunteer and fundraising opportunities, and how PAC funds support LEB students come through the PAC bi-weekly newsletter.

Subscribe at https://lebpac.ca/newsletter so you don't miss out on important updates. Join other LEB families and stay in the loop.
Questions? Contact the PAC at hello@lebpac.ca.
