



# Laurier Elementary School

*April 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:** Rahul Aggarwal   **Trustee:** Joshua Zhang

*With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̅əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tseil-Waututh Nation).*

## Principal's Message

Dear Laurier Families,

It has been wonderful to come back to warmer weather and brighter days. I hope that your family was able to spend some time together making memories and enjoying the break. The last three months will go by quickly so do take some time to enjoy them!

As spring blooms around us, we're excited to share some updates, reminders, and upcoming events that will make this month both educational and fun for our students. We're all excited about our April Read-A-Thon that kicks off today! Thank you for supporting your child in participating by reading each day and tracking their progress on the sheet that was sent home before the break (both a paper version and a digital version). At Laurier, we love reading!

Enjoy spring and, as always, thank you for all that you do to help make Laurier a wonderful place to learn!

Warm regards,

*Geri Gruft*

Principal

## Teacher Candidates

We are happy to welcome a group of enthusiastic teacher candidates from UBC to Laurier for their 10-week practicum. These future educators bring fresh perspectives, innovative ideas, and a passion for teaching that will enrich our school community. As they develop their teaching skills, and learn from our experienced staff, our students have a great opportunity to interact with and learn from another teacher in the room.

A big welcome to Ms. Bee in Division 1, Ms. Paul in Division 3, Ms. Hurst in Division 11, and Ms. Milligan in Division 15!

## A Note About Safety

With the warmer weather, more students are walking, biking, and playing outdoors. Please remind your child about pedestrian, bike, scooter and skateboard safety and being aware of their surroundings. Let's keep everyone safe and happy as they enjoy the spring air!

It's a great time of year to start walking to school – even if you park a few blocks away to enjoy a short walk to the school, it makes a difference!

## VSB Summer Learning Programs

Each summer the VSB offers a variety of courses to current students who may want to strengthen skills in a particular area – or develop new ones! Registration for elementary programs opens on Wednesday, April 23rd at 12:00 PM. Please see the link below for further information about VSB Summer Learning Programs.

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5211/summer-learning>

## Student-Led Conferences

Student-Led Conferences are a valuable way for your child(ren) to share their learning with you. Conference set-up and organization may look different for each class. Your child's teacher will be in touch soon about scheduling conferences. Please note, there will be an **early dismissal at 2 pm on Wed., April 23 and Thurs., April 24.**

Please pick up your child(ren) at 2 pm on both days.

## Read-A-Thon

Laurier is hosting its first-ever Read-A-Thon!

The Read-A-Thon is a fundraising event where students read to gather pledges or donations from family and friends for the school. It's reading with a purpose!

This event not only benefits our school but is also incredibly rewarding for our kids! It offers a wonderful chance for our children to take pride in their contributions. We encourage you to assist your child in setting and achieving their goals, fostering both academic growth and a sense of accomplishment.

Extra Pledge and Reading Tracking sheets are available outside the office on the wall. A big thank you to our PAC for organizing this event!

## Helping Kids Navigate Digital Literacy, Online Safety and AI

After the Bell LIVE! (ep. 31) Helping kids navigate digital literacy, online safety and AI.

This episode aimed to help families navigate the digital world with their children and had audience members submit questions during the broadcast.

[https://www.vsb.bc.ca/\\_ci/p/79470](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/_ci/p/79470)

## Garden Boxes

As the weather warms up, we're excited that many classes are gearing up for outdoor learning opportunities! Our outdoors will be buzzing with activity, providing a dynamic environment for our students to explore and learn. Many classes will soon begin preparing our garden boxes, to beautify our grounds, attract pollinators, grow food and, most importantly, have fun learning! Students will also explore the importance of the land and native plants to the host nations.

## YMCA – Generation Health

Free spring program for families!

Learn about building long-lasting healthy habits as a family in Generation Health Community. This 10-week program for families with children ages 8 to 12 is fun & interactive!

Delivered through YMCA BC starting April 2025 on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday evenings, and Sunday afternoons. Families who join this program will receive a complimentary YMCA membership.

To learn more, visit [gv.ymca.ca/generation-health-community](https://gv.ymca.ca/generation-health-community)

## Important Dates

- Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> – **PAC Meeting**, 6:30PM in Library
- Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – **Immunization Clinic** (Grade 6 & Kindergarten)
- Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> – **Good Friday Holiday**
- Monday, April 21<sup>st</sup> – **Easter Monday Holiday**
- Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> – **Early Dismissal 2PM, Student Conferences**
- Thursday, April 24<sup>th</sup> – **Early Dismissal 2PM, Student Conferences**
- Monday, April 28<sup>th</sup> – **Indigenous Focus Day**: No school for students

## PAC News

We look forward to seeing everyone at the next PAC meeting on Tuesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm in the library.

Make sure you stay up to date on all that is happening with LAURIER PAC. Everything you need to know about fundraisers and how to get involved can be found on the PAC website, including how to subscribe to the Laurier PAC newsletter.

Please visit their website <https://www.laurierpac.ca/> for all the news!