



Laurier Elementary School

December News

2025-2026

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary School: 7350 Laurel Street, Vancouver BC V6P 3T9, 604-713-4925

Principal: Geri Gruft OAA: Dora Szeitz 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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Dear Families,

As we step into this festive season, I want to acknowledge the diversity and warmth that make our school community so special. December is a time of reflection and joy — a time when traditions from around the world remind us of the beauty in our differences and the strength in our embracing of them.

Our classrooms are alive with open minds and awesomeness, and it's inspiring to see students learning not only academics but also the values of empathy and respect. Laurier students earned their first SOAR Day of the year enjoying free play time in learning spaces of their choice. It was a huge success. Way to go, students!

Communication is the heartbeat of our partnership. Whether it's a quick conversation at drop-off, an email, or attending a school event, every interaction helps us build a stronger, more caring environment for our children.

As we look ahead to the new year, let's continue to nurture these connections. Together, we can continue to create a school where every child feels seen, valued, and empowered to thrive. At Laurier we believe, "the learning never stops."

Wishing you and your loved ones a season filled with peace, joy, and meaningful moments.

Warmly,
Geri Gruft
Principal



PRIMARY WINTER CONCERT: Our Next Community Connection



We are excited to invite you to join us in the gym on **Friday, December 12th at 1:30 PM** for our **Primary Winter Concert**!

Each primary class will be part of a special performance under the direction of our incredible music teacher, **Ms. Chung**. In addition, our **Primary Dance Group**, led by **Ms. Cacapit**, will showcase their creativity and energy.

We look forward to seeing you there and sharing this festive afternoon with you! The gym doors will open at 1:15. Please enter through rear doors of the gym near the playground where students will welcome you in.

Please note, our **Intermediate Spring Concert** will take place before March Break.

AFTER THE BELL & WRITTEN LEARNING UPDATES

Laurier teachers are currently working on **Written Learning Updates** to share your child's progress and growth this term. These updates reflect the commitment and care our educators put into understanding each learner's strengths and next steps. They are an important part of our ongoing communication and partnership with you. These updates will come home with your child December 16th.

If you'd like to learn more about the purpose and process behind Written Learning Updates, we invite you to listen to the **VSB Podcast After the Bell**. This episode provides valuable insight into how these updates support student learning and family engagement.

[After the Bell: VSB Podcast](#)



LAURIER 2026 CALENDAR-Get yours today!

A big thank you to everyone who has already purchased the **Laurier 2026 Calendar**, featuring beautiful artwork created by **every Laurier student!** Your support makes a real difference. For those who haven't had a chance yet, this is your **last weekend to purchase**. Calendars can be bought easily through your child's SchoolCash account. Sales close Sunday at midnight!

Funds raised from these sales will go directly toward enriching student learning experiences, including field studies & in-class workshops, technology accessories and equity initiatives. Finally, we extend a big thank you to **Ms. Kim** for designing our calendar! It's gorgeous!

SAFETY & SUPERVISION

Laurier staff provide outside supervision starting at **8:40 AM** and after school until **3:18 PM**. Parents of primary students should meet their child where their teacher dismisses them outside, please. Please note, the school office closes at 3:30 PM.

If your intermediate child has your planned permission to be on school grounds after 3:18 PM, it is important to have a **safety plan** in place. This plan should include:

- How your child will get home safely.
- What they should do if they are injured or an unexpected situation arises during this time.

Thank you for working with us to prioritize student safety and well-being.



VOLLEYBALL & BASKETBALL

We are so proud of our volleyball team for an incredible and successful season!

A special thank you to **Ms. Sekhon** and **Ms. Cacapit** for volunteering to support the team. Way to go, players!

You've made Laurier proud!  **The Elementary School basketball season** kicks off in **January 2026** after winter break. Keep your ears open for an upcoming meeting to see who might be interested in playing. 



STAFF UPDATES

At the end of December, we will say goodbye to Ms. Stuart and will welcome back Ms. Peng to our Resource Team. We've loved working alongside Ms. Stuart and wish her well at her next school!



LIBRARY

One of our big adventures this year is helping every Laurier student to build their reading comprehension—a skill that opens doors to magical worlds and endless possibilities! The holidays ahead are the perfect time to **dive into a story**, get lost in a favorite tale, or discover new characters together as a family.

Ms. Altman invites students to **borrow books to enjoy over the holiday break**. And don't forget—the **public library** is a treasure chest of stories waiting for you, open throughout the holidays! **Happy Reading!**

PRIORITY KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Priority Kindergarten Registration: Continues until January 31st for children born in 2021 who live in the Laurier catchment. Families are encouraged to complete the online application. Following that, Laurier office staff will contact you to set up an appointment for documentation verification. Please refer to this link for more information [Priority Kindergarten Registration](#).

Please note: Students born outside Canada must first register at the Newcomer Welcome Centre (NWC). Please see the [NWC website](#) for more specific information about registration procedures.

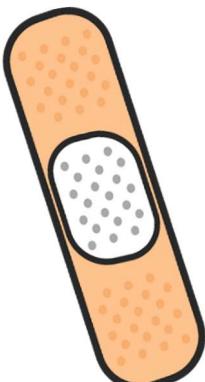
UPCOMING FIELD & IN-CLASS LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Field trips and in-class workshops are valuable ways to **support and enhance the curriculum**, allowing students to connect classroom learning with the world around them in meaningful and engaging ways. Field studies are **carefully planned under the discretion of the classroom teacher** and are always **supervised by the teacher** to ensure safety and learning. Transportation for field studies can vary depending on the destination and can include **walking to nearby locations, taking free public transit** (or a combination of both) and possibly **chartering a private bus**.



Thank you for checking your child's [SchoolCash](#) account for any outstanding fees. Please contact your child's teacher or Ms. Geri if support is needed to cover part or all of any school-related costs.

STUDENT ILLNESS & INJURY



At Laurier, care and confidentiality are exercised whenever incidents to students occur. Both our office staff have first aid training, and either Ms. Kim or Ms. Dora is always available to attend to an ill or injured student. They determine the nature and extent of the illness or injury before proceeding further. Where the illness/injury appears to warrant further medical attention, our office staff will contact the parent. Thank you for keeping your child's emergency contact information up to date for this reason.

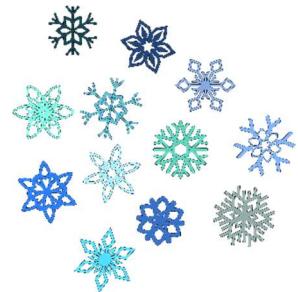
If it is necessary for school staff to administer regular medication to your child, would you please contact the office as we will need you to sign a "Request to Administer Medication" form, provide the appropriate medication and to provide a physician's written order.

SNOW

During severe weather events, all schools in the Vancouver School District will remain open, if possible. If a District-wide closure is necessary, that will be decided and publicized by 6:30 a.m. These will be announced through the media, the [District website](#), and school websites.

In the event of a snowfall, our engineer, Mr. Rudy, has designated **priority areas** that he clears prior to 9am. Please use care when coming onto the site particularly if your usual entry point has not yet been shoveled.

Sleds, toboggans and crazy carpets need to remain at home, please.



UPCOMING DATES

- Friday, December 12th: **Winter Concert** featuring Music and Dance @ 1:30 pm.
- Tuesday, December 16th: **Written Learning Update** (report card) goes home
- Friday, December 19th: **Last day of school before Winter Break**
- Monday, January 5th: **School Re-Opens after Winter Break**
- Monday, January 12th: **Professional Development Day**: No school for students.
- Tuesday, January 13th: **Laurier PAC Meeting**

LAURIER PAC

Thank you to all the families for your support in purchasing **First Aid Kits** during our recent fundraiser. Your generosity not only helps keep your family prepared for emergencies but also directly benefits our school community. We'd also like to extend a big thank you to **Summer Chatagwe** for organizing this fund-raising initiative!

Laurier Spirit Wear that was ordered in November will be delivered soon!

Remember to check the link below to place **Hot Lunch** orders for the new year and to volunteer.

Our next meeting is **Tuesday, January 13th** at 6:30pm on-line. As a parent, you are a member of the PAC! Visit the PAC website to learn more about the committee and how you might become involved, <https://www.laurierpac.ca/>.