

# Sir Wilfrid Laurier News



## “LAURIER EAGLES S.O.A.R”

Supportive, Open-minded, Awesome, Respectful

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**NEWSLETTER #4 December**

**November 29, 2019**

## Principal's Message

Dear Laurier Community,

With the festive season upon us, there will be much excitement in the air! Although our focus will be to work hard towards accomplishing our personal goals and next steps, we will take time to come together as a school community to celebrate the season of giving. On the mornings of December 6<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, we will have our primary and intermediate Winter Break Concerts beginning at 9:15 a.m. in the gym and, as always, parents are welcome to join us.

It is so great to see our young people dressed for the cold weather and enjoying the outdoor time they have each day. Fresh air combined with physical activity gives our learners the opportunity to run off their energy and clear their minds so they can continue to be the best learners possible. Please continue to ensure your child is properly dressed for the weather. (Clothing that has a name on it helps us get it back to the owner as well!)

And we are ready to welcome December, which will be busy, exciting and fun, as we are celebrating the end of our first trimester of the school year 2019-2020 and getting ready for two weeks of break!

Armin Samiei  
Principal

## Laurier Winter Concert 2019



We are excited to remind you the dates for our Primary and Intermediate Concerts that will take place in the school gymnasium on the following dates:

- **Dec. 6: 9:15 - 10:00am:** Primary (Div. 7 - Div. 13) and Laurier Choir Concert
- **Dec. 13: 9:15 - 10:00am:** Intermediate Concert (Div. 1 - Div. 7)

Please join us to celebrate our students through songs and music!

# Another Successful Book Fair! Thank You!

A big thank you goes out to all the families who supported our fall Scholastic Book Fair. It was a huge success and would not have been possible without the support of our parents and library monitors. Thank you for giving up your time to help support this fundraiser. We sold an amazing \$3772.00 and that translates into a great percentage that will go towards the buying of new books and resources for our library! Many thanks to our teacher-librarian, Ms. Altman for leading and organizing another successful Book Fair!



## Yes, We S.O.A.R.!

Our students continue to S.O.A.R. and collect tickets for being Supportive, Open-minded, Awesome and Respectful. Our S.O.A.R. committee meets regularly with their sponsor teachers, Ms. Boucher, Ms. Murphy and Ms. Sprintzios and discuss their roles and responsibilities as S.O.A.R. committee members.

- Our school goal for this school year is to collect 4000 tickets by the end of the school year!
- Our school goal for this term is to collect 1000 Tickets by December 13<sup>th</sup>!

## Can You Help Santa On December 18<sup>th</sup> At Laurier?!

Our SOAR Committee is brainstorming ideas as how to celebrate if students achieve the school goal of 1000 tickets by the December 13<sup>th</sup> deadline. We will hopefully learn soon about what they are planning to organize at the school level to acknowledge this achievement!

Apparently, somewhere in the North Pole, the collection of the S.O.A.R. tickets at Laurier is being closely monitored as well and there is a plan to deliver hot chocolate and marshmallows to our students on Wednesday, December 18 to celebrate the end of the Fall semester and their good work!

We need parent volunteers to help us with this event. If you are available on Wednesday December 18<sup>th</sup> between 8:00-10:30am, please email Mrs. Samiei at [asamiei@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:asamiei@vsb.bc.ca). You will be helping with making and pouring hot chocolate in small cups for our students! Santa will deliver them to the classrooms! Many thanks in anticipation!



## November S.O.A.R. Assembly

The focus of our November S.O.A.R. assembly was S. for Supportive. Through music and play, our students showed us beautifully how to be supportive.

### Pizza With Mrs. Samiei!

And after the assembly, the performers had a pizza lunch with Mrs. Samiei!



# COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING

**First Progress Report will go home on January 31<sup>st</sup> 2020.**

The teaching staff at Laurier is continuing to communicate student learning with parents on an on-going basis throughout the school year. Two years ago, the teaching staff at Laurier participated in a Vancouver School District pilot project designed to align reporting practices with the redesigned BC curriculum. This resulted in three significant changes to reporting in your child's class, as described below:

## **1. A shift from primarily focussing on summative assessment to a primarily focussing on formative assessment**

These changes in communicating with parents are part of the redesigned BC Curriculum. Based on current assessment research, ongoing personal feedback which is embedded in daily instruction, along with examples of student work are more beneficial in supporting student learning than simply reporting on student results. Thus, the shift in practice. The communication of student learning to parents is based on clear standards and expectations and is intended to make learning visible. Students are encouraged to think of the questions:

- Where am I now?
- Where am I going?
- What do I need to do to get there?

## **2. 5 required communications with parents within a calendar year:**

- a minimum of three ongoing communications of student learning throughout the school year
- one written progress report at the end of January
- one written summative report at the end of June

### **A. Ongoing Communication with Parents (a minimum of three times a year, timing at the teacher's discretion)**

- based on authentic evidence of student learning from a variety of sources (examples of student work, photographs, audio, video, portfolios)
- based on clear standards and expectations with the intention of making learning visible
- can occur in different ways (three-way conferences, electronic portfolio reviews, parent-teacher meetings, reflections on student work, Fresh Grade or other on-line platforms, telephone conversations, interim written reports)

### **B. Written Progress Reports – end of January and end of June**

- a written progress report will be sent to parents by the end of January. This report will indicate where the child is in relation to the age/grade expectations at the mid-year point
- a written summative report will be sent to parents by the end of June. This report will indicate where the child is in relation to the age/grade expectations and a student self-assessment of the Core Competencies (Communication, Thinking and Personal and Social)
- where applicable, a summary of the progress toward the goals in the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP) will be provided
- letter grades will not be included on the written reports

All 5 communications with parents can include:

- descriptive information about the child's learning
- the learning goals the child is working towards
- ways to further support the child's learning at school and at home
- the child's contributions to the classroom, school and community
- how the child interacts with others

## **3. Student Self-Assessment of the Core Competencies with the written summative report in June**

- began June 2017

By participating in this process, students are provided with meaningful information about their learning so that they can monitor their progress towards the learning goals they have set. Parents are involved as partners in a dialogue about their child's progress and the best ways to support and improve learning.

Currently, our teaching staff is exploring a new VSB Communicating Student Learning report card web application, which is user-friendly and improves the appearance and presentation of the report documents.

The staff at Laurier look forward to working with you as we continue to focus on your child's learning.

## FOOD BANK DRIVE AT LAURIER

The Me to We Committee at Laurier will be running a Food Bank Drive for our local Vancouver Food Bank. We would love to help support our community during this upcoming holiday season. It is the Food Bank's vision to "...help others in need so they can reach their potential and dreams." We will be collecting canned food and non-perishable items from now until **Friday, December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019**. Monetary donations are also welcomed. Please look for boxes in each individual classroom and around the school. Thank you!



## WINTER HOLIDAYS



The last day of school before the holidays is **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>**. The students will be dismissed at their regular dismissal time of 3:00pm. Winter holidays are from Monday, December 23<sup>rd</sup> until Friday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>. School reopens on **Monday, January 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020**.

## LOST AND FOUND

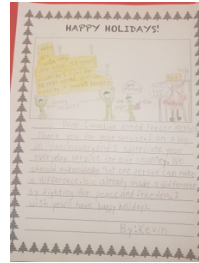
Please check the Lost and Found on the lower level of the school building if your child is missing anything. We also have a display at our office with smaller lost objects. Any items not claimed by the last day of school, **Friday, December 20<sup>th</sup>** will be donated.



## REACHING OUT

Division 5 has written thankful and encouraging letters to members of the Canadian Armed Forces for the Holidays. They read in a news article that some of these brave men and women do not receive much correspondence during the holiday season. As a way to lift their spirits, students drew funny pictures, shared jokes, and wrote heartfelt words of encouragement.

A Letter From Kevin  
in Div. 5



*Dear Canadian Armed Forces Member,  
Thank you for your service. I am a boy in Vancouver and I appreciate your everyday service for our country. We should acknowledge that one person can make a difference. You have already made a difference by fighting for peace and freedom. I hope you have happy holidays.*

## COLD WEATHER

Each year, as the weather begins to change, we want to remind parents to make sure that children are dressed appropriately before heading to school each day, so that they are comfortable outside during recess and lunchtime and for walking to and from school. On the rainy days, it is very wet outside! Please send your child(ren) with a spare change of clothes in their backpack.

### How to Dress Kids for Cold Weather

Think of layering as a sandwich

Base Layer



Midlayer



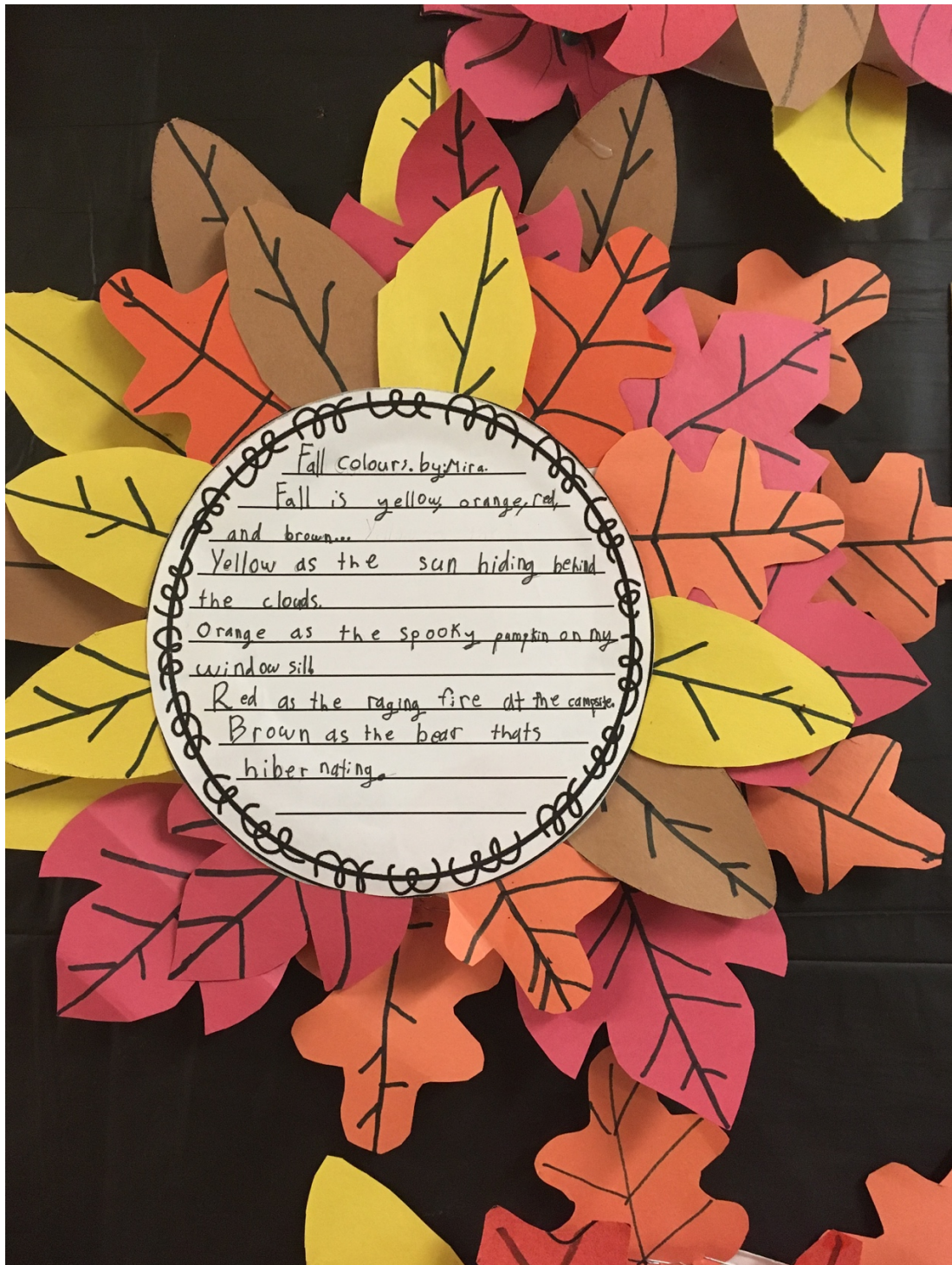
Outer Layer



Retrieved from:

<https://www.pinterest.com/pin/288793394848117333/?lp=true>

## Students in Div. 9, Ms. Millman's Gr. 1/2 class learned about Fall colours through poetry and art!



### We Learned About Fall Colours Through Poetry and Art

"Big Ideas: Playing with language helps us discover how language works" – BC English Language Arts Curriculum

"Big Ideas: People connect to others and share ideas through the arts" – BC Arts Education Curriculum

**Learning Intention: I can create a poem about items in different fall colours**

**Criteria:**

- Writing includes objects that are red, brown, orange, and yellow
- Copy and add to the writing stem provided
- Cut out leaves in different colours
- Glue all my leaves around the plate in two different layers
- Glue my poem on top

Students in Div. 8, Ms. Boucher's Gr. 2/3 class learned how to choose and describe something about themselves that they like by following the writing process and using linking words!

## Best Part of Me

By Wesley

My hands are the best part of me. My hands are the best part of me because then I can make art for my mom in arts umbrella. Then I can open doors and write and I can read books. This is why my hands are the best part of me. I think the best part of me are my hands because then I can play games. It will be hard to eat and therefore the best part of me are my hands. Since I can help my mom the best part of me are my hands.



THE BEST

PART OF ME

### Learning Intentions.

I can choose and describe something about myself that I like.  
I can follow the writing process (draft, edit, final copy)  
I can use linking words (because, therefore, since)

# Severe Weather



Vancouver School Board has procedures that are followed in situations where severe weather, like heavy snowfall or very high winds, might be affecting schools.

All schools in the Vancouver School District will remain open if at all possible during severe weather events. Any district-wide closure will be decided by 7:00 a.m. at the latest. Details of district-wide or individual school closures will be announced through the media and the [district website front page](#).

Please note that no announcement will be made stating that schools are open. Only closures and delayed openings will be announced.

Information about any district-wide closures will be sent to Metro Vancouver radio and television stations. Please check the following stations for school closure information (but do not call them).

<i>Radio</i>	<i>Television</i>
CBC AM 690 radio, 88.1 FM	Global BC
CKNW AM 980 radio	CBC TV
News AM 1130 radio	CTV BC
Fairchild AM 1470 radio	City TV

Individual school closures due to unique circumstances (e.g. power outages) will be announced as early as possible on the district website as well as on the affected schools' websites. On occasion, schools may delay the start of the school day. If this happens, specific details will be posted on the school and district websites.

Student safety is the first priority of Vancouver School Board. Schools will be kept open except under extreme circumstances to provide the option of attendance for all, but the decision to attend is the responsibility of each family.

Parents/guardians are responsible for their children's safe travel to and from school. If for any reason a parent/guardian feels that a child cannot travel safely to school, then they should make other arrangements.

During extreme weather conditions it is also common for police and other authorities to advise citizens to avoid unnecessary travel. Parents should take this advice as well. Students will not be penalized for lack of attendance under such poor weather conditions. Students are reminded to wear appropriate clothing for the conditions. When sidewalks and roads are slippery, students walking to school should take extra care.

We encourage you to review your own preparations for severe weather conditions and ensure that you are familiar with the city's response procedures for those conditions. We request that you strictly adhere to parking restrictions in and around all Vancouver schools. Your child's school will contact you about any changes to driving routes that may be put into effect on streets adjacent to the school.

## ***Busing***

VSB bus transportation will attempt to operate on their normal schedule during days with snow or other severe weather. Significant changes to the bus schedule as a result of weather conditions will be reported on the district website. Should the condition of side streets require a cancellation or change to the operation of school buses for students using the service, affected families will be informed.



# KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION



**Kindergarten registration for children born in 2015 began on November 1<sup>st</sup>.**

All Kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (French Immersion, Montessori, etc.) and/or a cross boundary placement. The priority registration period for Kindergarten opened on **Friday November 1<sup>st</sup> and closes at 4 pm on Friday January 31<sup>st</sup>**. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

Applying for Kindergarten is a **2-Step process**:

**Step 1:** Completion of an online application form.

**Step 2:** Bringing supporting documentation, along with your child, to your neighbourhood English catchment school.

**Supporting Documents Needed:**

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records
5. Court Orders/Documents (if applicable)

If you want to apply for a Choice program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school.

Applications for Choice programs and cross boundary placements will begin to be accepted in early 2020.

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than available space\* at the school, the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

## **Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1<sup>st</sup> and January 31<sup>st</sup>**

1. **In-catchment** Kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a **random draw** for the remaining Kindergarten spaces.
3. Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name was drawn.
4. Between January 31<sup>st</sup> and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

## **Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31<sup>st</sup>**

In-catchment Kindergarten students who apply **after** January 31<sup>st</sup> will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist.

**Note:** There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31<sup>st</sup>.

**For more information on kindergarten registration visit:** <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

\* Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the district. (Administrative Procedure 300)



1 Apply Online



2 Visit your catchment school with necessary documents



## **MORNING/AFTERNOON SUPERVISION**

School is in session from 9:00am to 3:00pm, with the first warning bell at 8:55am. The outside supervision takes place from **8:45am to 9:00am in the mornings** and **3:00 to 3:15pm in the afternoons**. There is no supervision outside these hours for students who are dropped off too early at school. The safety of our students is our first priority, and we need your support to do our job well with the only resources we have available to us at this time. Thank you for your consideration and for ensuring that your children are not dropped off or picked up from school outside of the supervision hours.

## **Vancouver Board of Education SAFE ARRIVAL PROCEDURES**

If your child will be absent from school, please call **604-713-5159** to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message at the dedicated answering service by calling the number provided. You will be prompted to provide the two-digit extension for your child's school to access the school's voicemail box for reporting an absence. The two-digit extension for Laurier Elementary is **44**.

**It is important to report your child's absence prior to 9:00 a.m. each day of the absence.**

If your child is late for school they must sign in at the office before they make their way to the classroom. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.

*General Gordon Elementary*

**Grade 6 Late French Immersion**

**Information Session**

*For schools WEST of Main Street*

**Please join us for an informative evening with details on our Late French Immersion Program.**

**Thursday, Jan. 9, 2020**

**Time: 7- 8 pm**

**Location: General Gordon Elementary –  
Multipurpose Room  
2268 Bayswater St.  
Vancouver, B.C. V6K 4P5**

# A MESSAGE FROM THE LAURIER PAC

Hello Laurier Families and Staff,

Wow! November was a busy month with our Winter Craft Fair, Fresh to You delivery and Purdy's delivery, monthly PAC meeting as well as our ongoing daily Hot Lunch.

Thank you to all who have made our first term so fun and productive! We rely on volunteers to make events happen and supporters to make them successful.

## In Search of Volunteers

Please consider helping out with our hot lunch program. If you have about an hour to spare between 11:30am to 12:30pm, come get involved with the school and help us distribute hot lunches to the students. It's easy, fun and you get a peek at your child during lunch hour. We are currently needing hot lunch volunteers for December to March. Thank-you in advance.

Sign up here for December: [www.volunteersignup.org/TMM38](http://www.volunteersignup.org/TMM38)

Sign up here for next term (Jan-Mar 2020): <https://volunteersignup.org/DXT8P>

## Term 2 Hot Lunch Order:

We will be opening Munchalunch for Term 2 (Jan-Mar 2020) Hot Lunch ordering. All orders must be completed and paid for before the winter break (by Dec 22<sup>nd</sup>) to receive hot lunch in January. Please see PAC website for more information.

## Direct Appeal:

Our Direct Appeal fundraiser is underway to help fund PAC initiatives. PAC has already sponsored the Seleema Noon Parent and Student presentations and is committed to paying for the majority of the Earthbites program. Thank you to all those who have already donated! If you have not already donated, please consider doing so online using the SchoolCashOnline.com, the same account you use to pay for school fees and tax receipts are automatically generated.

To make a donation:

1. Go to <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/Fee/Details/1869/196/false/true>  
(this link is also on our PAC website <https://laurierpac.weebly.com/events--fundraising.html>)
2. Select the school PAC from the Fund Destination drop-down menu. Choose **E-Sir Wilfrid Laurier PAC**. Enter the campaign name in the message field: **2019 Direct Appeal**

## Lunar New Year

Join us for a Lunar New Year celebration on Thursday, January 16th from 3-5 in the library. We will have some Lunar New Year crafts and activities. If you would like to help or join by teaching or showing a craft or activity please contact PAC. Please also note that this is not a drop off event – students must be accompanied by an adult.

Next PAC meeting: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 6:30 in the school library. *Child Care Provided*

Laurier PAC

e-mail: [laurier.pac@gmail.com](mailto:laurier.pac@gmail.com)

website: [laurierpac.weebly.com](http://laurierpac.weebly.com)

facebook: Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier-Elementary-PAC





# Hello December

<http://TheFunnyPlace.net>

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1	2	3	4	5	6 Primary Winter Concert @9:15 in the gym	7
8	9 Kindergarten Hearing Screening @9:15am	10	11	12	13 Intermediate Winter Concert @9:15 in the gym	14
15	16	17	18 FUN DAY!	19	20	21
23	24 Winter Break Begins!	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					