

Sir Wilfrid Laurier News



“LAURIER EAGLES S.O.A.R”

Supportive, Open-minded, Awesome, Respectful

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NEWSLETTER #5 November

January 4, 2019

Principal's Message

Welcome back!

Returning to school in January is always filled with renewed energy, which makes the start of the second term even more exciting. I hope that you had a restful and relaxing break. I would like to take a moment to thank the entire school community for their support with our busy December schedule. Students were involved with a number of activities including our community food drive, our annual primary and intermediate concerts, our Fun Day, and many class activities that were thoroughly enjoyed by all. Looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

The staff members at Laurier are looking forward to 2019 being filled with excitement for new learning and new experiences. We will continue to S.O.A.R in our community and reinforce the importance of being Supportive, Open-Minded, Awesome and Responsible. As we begin the New Year, it is always a good time to focus once again on our personal goals and to adjust and fine tune the steps we must take to achieve them. I encourage parents to sit down with their child(ren) and discuss their performance, celebrate the successes and develop goals and next steps. This is also a good time to review Sir Wilfrid Laurier's code of conduct, which is included in this newsletter.

Students will receive their first written progress reports on January 31st. As explained in the November newsletter, Laurier is one of the many schools in Vancouver School District that are in their second year of piloting the new reporting, which is aligned with the redesigned BC curriculum. Details about this reporting is once more included in this newsletter for your review.

In December, we had the opportunity to say goodbye to Ms. Whitney Humphry from Division 7 who was covering for Ms. Sabrina Wong while she was on maternity leave. Welcome back to Ms. Wong, who will be working with students in Division 7!

With the official arrival of winter, we know that weather can be unpredictable in Vancouver. Please have your child dressed appropriately for outdoor play on rainy, snowy and during cold winter months. Make sure they have hats, gloves, boots and warm coats every day when walking to and from school and for playing outside during recess and lunch breaks. Please send your child(ren) with a spare change of clothes in their backpack.

Finally, I wish everyone a very Happy New Year and I look forward to witnessing the many successes and achievements of our students as the year unfolds.

Thanks for reading this newsletter, and as always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at school.

Armin Samiei
Principal



Laurier Code of Conduct

(Please review this code with your child regularly.)

At Sir Wilfrid Laurier we encourage all student to S.O.A.R. with success. (Supportive -Open Minded- Awesome - Respectful)

Purpose:

Laurier's Code of Conduct has been created to help maintain a safe, caring and orderly school environment. The Purpose of the Code of Conduct is:

1. To encourage the development of socially responsible behaviour resulting in a positive reputation for students and the school community.
2. To foster a safe, respectful and welcoming learning environment for all students, staff and parents.
3. To clearly communicate behavioural expectations to the school community.

The Code of Conduct applies to all members of the school community at school, traveling to and from the school, at any school-related activity at any location, or any circumstance/activity that will have an impact on the school environment. At Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary School we believe that character development through the proactive teaching of positive social skills is paramount to the success of any student.

At Laurier the staff have adopted a School Wide Positive Behaviour Support (S.W.P.B.S) approach to supporting behaviour. The staff explicitly teach and model what it means to S.O.A.R in all locations in the school and at home.

Supportive means:

- we welcome everyone
- we include others
- we are helpful
- we are kind

Awesome means:

- we try our best
- we are cool (we know how to self-regulate)
- we have fun
- we are proud to be ourselves

Open Minded means:

- we are flexible
- we try new things
- we make new friends
- we are brave

Respectful means:

- we respect ourselves
- we respect others
- we respect the environment
- we respect our school

Minor Misbehavior:

- staff member will speak directly to the student to review appropriate behaviour
- the student will be reminded of the school Code of Conduct and prompted to identify his or her breach of the Code. The expectation will be retaught, role-modeled and positively reinforced.

Serious or Repeated Misbehavior:

- reported to teacher/principal
- discussion and reflection with the student, reminding student of our Code of Conduct
- alternative choices the student could have made
- record of the incident and action taken
- parents will be contacted to review the Code of Conduct with their child
- may include loss of privileges (playground, classroom or school privileges)
- may include some type of restorative justice

Very Serious Misbehaviour:

- reflection on past behaviour
- discussion with staff involved
- parents contacted
- officials or other agencies contacted as needed
- School Board Officials, the Police, MCFD or other community agencies may be contacted if deemed necessary.

Unacceptable Conduct:

The following are examples of conduct that must be reported as soon as possible to a staff member or supervising adult:

- Bullying, harassment, intimidation or exclusion
- interfering with an orderly environment
- interfering with the learning of others

COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING PILOT PROJECT YEAR 2 REPORTING ALIGNED WITH THE NEW CURRICULUM

Many Vancouver Public Schools, along with schools throughout British Columbia, have been moving from a model of 'reporting to parents' on a regular and pre-determined schedule to 'communicating student learning with parents' on an on-going basis throughout the school year.

Last year, 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. We are pleased to participate in the Year 2 of this pilot project along with many schools in Vancouver.

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.

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

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 2014 began on November 1st.

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 **Thursday November 1st and closes at 4 pm on Thursday January 31st**. 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 2019.

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 1st and January 31st

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 31st and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31st

In-catchment Kindergarten students who apply **after** January 31st 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 31st.

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)

BELL SCHEDULE

-WARNING BELL: 8:55 am

-Period 3: 10:00-10:30

-Period 5: 11:30 – 12:10 pm

-Period 6: 1:00 – 1:40 pm

-Period 1: 9:00 – 9:30 am

-Recess: 10:30– 10:50 am

-Lunch time: 12:10 – 12:57 pm

-Period 7: 1:40 – 2:20 pm

-Period 2: 9:30 – 10:00 am

-Period 4: 10:50 – 11:30 am

-Homeroom: 12:57 – 1:00 pm

-Period 8: 2:20 – 3:00 pm



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.

A MESSAGE FROM THE LAURIER PAC

Happy New Year!

Earthbites will be attending our January 15th PAC meeting. Come and learn more about this fantastic program that teaches our kids about nutrition and growing food and is one of PAC's largest contributions to the school. Tuesday January 15th 6:30 pm in the library. Free child care provided.

Please join us in a big thank you to our hot lunch coordinators **Anita Chui** and **Karen Lidhar** and all our Term 1 hot lunch volunteers: **Aoi Hiroyasu, Tenny Chui, Joyce Law, Joe Qiu, Angel Zeng, Winola Chu, Kyoko Ito, Kelly Huang, Shilpa Rajput, Sam Cho, Pim Chua, Katy Won, Chuming Gao, Angela Li and Amy Wei.**

They served 4638 hot lunches over 65 days (14 weeks)!!! Special thanks to Aoi who volunteered 23 times (almost twice a week) and Tenny – 20 times and to Joyce, Joe, Angel and Winola who made a weekly commitment.

Looking for Volunteers:

1. **Hot Lunch** - If you are able to volunteer to help at a hot lunch or two (or more!) before spring break please sign up at www.volunteersignup.org/E47TK -- THANK YOU!
2. **Pancake Breakfast** - We are planning to organize a Pancake Breakfast before the Spring Break.
3. **Lunar New Year Celebration** – We are asking for your ideas to celebrate the Lunar New Year at Laurier.

We are looking forward to hearing from you! You can join these committees anytime. Thanks for your support and for making Laurier a wonderful place for our students. If you are interested in joining these committees, please contact us at Laurier.pac@gmail.com.

At our last PAC meeting the purchase of tables was approved (now we will have our own set for potlucks, craft fairs, science fairs, etc.) as well as painting the SOAR logo in the gym. We are looking forward to both of these additions to the school. Thank you to all of you who contribute to PAC fundraising. If you have any suggestions or ideas for events please contact us at Laurier.pac@gmail.com or leave a message in the PAC box.



QuotesIdeas.com

		1	2	3	4	5
6	7 First Day of School after Winter Break	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15 PAC Meeting @6:30pm - Library	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25 ProD – School not in session	26
27	28	29	30	31 Student Progress Reports Go Home		