

Sir Wilfrid Laurier News



“LAURIER EAGLES S.O.A.R”

Supportive, Open-minded, Awesome, Respectful

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NEWSLETTER #2 October

September 30, 2019

Principal's Message

Dear Laurier Community,

Our first four weeks of school have been active, exciting and productive. From the first bell on September 3rd, the staff and students have put themselves into gear and the energy has been boundless. My gratitude goes to our staff and the entire community of Parents and Guardians for their support during these first weeks of school. The entire staff of Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary School takes great pride in nurturing a safe and rich learning environment for your children. They have ensured that our students are settled into their new grades and are able to explore the opportunities offered to them at school and understand the importance of being a caring individual who supports one another both within and outside of our school community. Our Terry Fox Day, held on September 26th, was a great example of this. It was wonderful to see the entire school participating in the event that raised \$467.00 for cancer research under the leadership of Ms. Boucher.

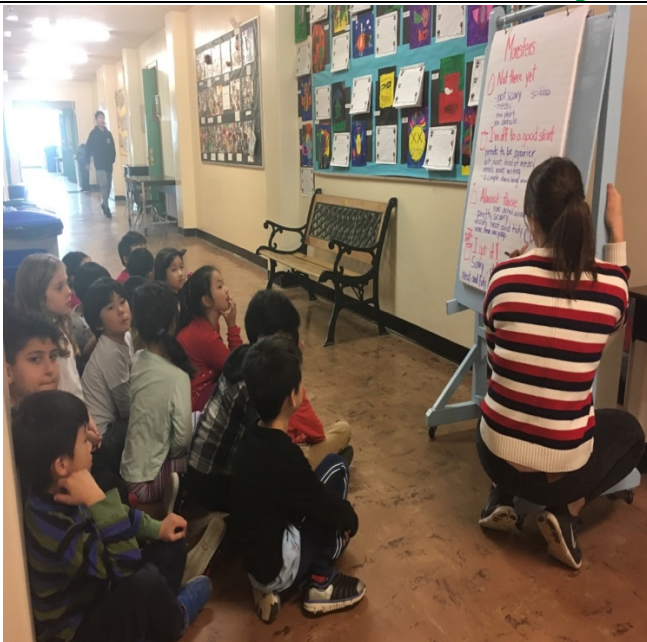
Learning never stops for students and staff at Laurier! We had a meaningful first Professional Development Day at our school on September 23rd. Our staff had a chance to focus on topics such as Formative Assessment and Student Self-Assessment of Critical Thinking that drive student learning.

As we move into our first long weekend of the school year, we truly have reason to give thanks. On behalf of all of the staff at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary School, I would like to extend to you a Happy Thanksgiving. May you enjoy this time with family and friends, giving thanks for all with which you have been blessed.

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

World Teachers' Day 2019: Saturday, October 5



Happy World Teachers' Day to all of our amazing teachers at Laurier who inspire hope in our students, ignite their imagination, and instill in them a love of learning.

Happy Teachers' Day!

****Thank you to all of our caring,
kind and dedicated staff
members at Laurier****

Laurier School Goals 2019-2020

Critical Thinking:

To develop critical thinking skills in our students guided by the principles of Formative Assessment in supporting student self-assessment.

Aboriginal Cultural Enhancement:

To increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Indigenous histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.

Aboriginal Dance Workshops At Laurier

To support our school goal in increasing awareness and appreciation of Indigenous traditions and cultures and in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations to come, we launched our new school year by having a series of Aboriginal Dance Workshops at Laurier under the leadership of Shyama-Priya, who taught all classes from K to grade 7 Pow Wow Dancing during the third week of school. Her enthusiasm, dedication to detail and her captivating movements enabled the students to not only learn Indigenous dancing, but also learn about the stories behind the dances. She taught for a full week and each division show cased their dances on the final day in front of parents, teachers, and community members. Many thanks to all of our parents who attended this performance and participated enthusiastically in a final dance led by Shyama-Priya! Thanks also for you positive feedback!



Supporting A Culture Of Inclusion In Our Schools And Communities

Inclusion: We value and celebrate diversity by supporting the well-being of every individual, creating a sense of belonging -- Vancouver School Board September, 2018 Board Policy Handbook

The Friend 2 Friend Social Learning Society creates and delivers programs and services that focus on addressing the social inclusion, peer play and friendship needs of individuals with autism and their peers. The Autism Demystification® programs are evidence-based, social-emotional, educational programs that focus on educating peer groups about autism, while at the same time, teaching prosocial communication strategies to enhance social inclusion and to reduce isolation and bullying. (Retrieved from <https://www.friend2friendsociety.org/autism-demystification-puppet-program/>).

We are pleased to have Friend 2 Friend Learning Society at our school on Monday, October 7th. This highly professional team of experts will increase awareness and promote inclusion through the following programs:

- Autism Demystification Puppet Program: Gr. K-3
- Autism Demystification Simulation Game Program: Gr. 4-7

Orange Shirt Day in VSB: September 30th

Please Wear Orange at Laurier in recognition of the Residential School Experience



September 2019

VSB – INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

WEAR ORANGE
ON
SEPT 30TH

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

A DAY TO RECOGNIZE AND REMEMBER THE RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day annually, in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to Indigenous children's sense of self-esteem and well being,

WHY ORANGE SHIRTS?

Orange Shirt Day is a legacy of the St. Joseph Mission (SJM) residential school commemoration event held in Williams Lake, BC, Canada, in May 2013. It grew out of Phyllis Webstad's story of having her shiny new orange shirt taken away on her first day of school at the Mission, and it has become an opportunity to keep the discussion on all aspects of residential schools happening annually.



Orange Shirt - Design
by Robin Roberts,
Haida/Tsimshian/Squamish

Orange Shirts for staff can be ordered individually through the ProD website under Indigenous Education <http://prod.vsb.bc.ca> Bulk orders for schools can be ordered by emailing Elizabeth at ewunch@vsb.bc.ca

and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that everyone around us matters. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and it also provides educators an opportunity to foster dialogue and deepen their understanding of Indigenous People's histories for the coming school year.

Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for Indigenous and Non-Indigenous people, local governments, schools and communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

RESOURCES

Legacy of Hope <http://www.legacyofhope.ca/>

Orange Shirt Day Lesson Plans <http://mbteach.org/mtscms/lesson-plans/>

Orange Shirt Day <http://orangeshirtday.org>

Phyllis Webstad's YouTube Video <https://youtu.be/E3vUqr01kAk>

Residential School History and Dialogue Centre
<http://irshdc.ubc.ca/orangeshirtday>



EVERY
CHILD
MATTERS

#orangeshirtday

"I just wish people would realize that anything's possible if you try; dreams are made possible if you try." Terry Fox



LAURIER EAGLES RUN TO SUPPORT TERRY'S LEGACY



Laurier community celebrated the spirit of Terry Fox by hosting our Terry Fox Run on September 26th and raising funds for the Terry Fox Foundation and Cancer research. Our students ran laps around the Oak Park on September 26th, and raised \$467.00 for research. Thank you all for your contributions and special thanks to Ms. Boucher for leading this event.

ROOTS OF EMPAHTY

We are thrilled to have Roots of Empathy at Laurier again this year. Ms Cacapit's grade 3/4 class will be welcoming Baby Elliot once a month for 9 months into their classroom, only this time, he will be the teacher! Thanks Ms. McElroy for sponsoring this program. Students will learn about babies, brain development, temperament traits and how the first few months are so important. "Roots of Empathy is an international, evidence-based classroom program that has shown significant effect in reducing levels of aggression among schoolchildren by raising social/emotional competence and increasing empathy." Please visit the following link to find out more about this wonderful program that started in Canada 22 years ago by Mary Gordon:

<https://rootsofempathy.org/roots-of-empathy/>



Roots of Empathy

LAURIER SAFETY PATROLLERS

Laurier Safety Patrollers will be on guard beginning October 1st at the pedestrian crossing on Laurel St and W 58th before and after school. We have about 30 students who were just trained by the VPD. Some are veterans and some are new. Please cross with your children at the crosswalk at all times and say "Hello" to our crew who will cross your children safely to school. Thank you Ms. Magdee for sponsoring this program at Laurier.



A reminder to have curbside drop off and pick up in the mornings and afternoons. Please do not pick up and drop off your children at the crosswalk area or in the middle of the street.

EARTHBITES



Our school is in partnership with EarthBites, which is a program that is sponsored by our PAC, and supports our school in managing our school garden and by holding engaging workshops where teachers and students discover how to grow plants and eat with the seasons.

The workshops are integrated with the evolved BC curriculum allowing students and teachers to explore how to:

- Grow and harvest spring, summer and fall vegetables, fruits and herbs
- Forage edible plants to create teas, salads, salves and soaps
- Create seasonal nutritional snacks featuring produce from the school garden

School Emergency Procedures

School emergency procedures are consistent with Vancouver Board of Education policies and guidelines and are reviewed regularly with staff and with students. Each school year, we conduct 2 Earthquake drills [**October 17, 2019** (Great BC Shakeout, 10:18 am) and **May 7, 2019** (Big One @ 2:00 pm)], 6 Fire drills and 2 Lockdown Drills. Classroom Teachers review the procedures with students on a regular basis to ensure they keep themselves safe in case of real emergency. The following terminology and procedures are used and explained when teaching students:

Evacuation Procedures:

- In case of an emergency requiring evacuation such as Fire or Earthquake, staff and students are trained to assemble at the gravel field in the back field. Visitors to the school should also evacuate the school.
- The school has equipment and provisions to adequately care for children until their parents can pick them up. In such an emergency, parents are directed to carefully follow the instructions of staff so we can ensure the proper accounting and safe dismissal of children to their parents or emergency designates.
- In case of a real emergency, we can anticipate that children and parents both will be worried about their family members' health and safety. The school has specific student release procedures in place to ensure that families are re-united as quickly and safely as possible, and to ensure accountability and tracking of each student's safe release.
- During an Earthquake, students are asked to follow the following steps before evacuation:

Drop, Cover, and Hold On

Use if an earthquake or explosion occurs or anytime a building or its materials shake and fall:

Drop - get down on the ground/floor

Cover - take cover under heavy furniture or millwork

Hold On – hold on to the furniture/millwork as the shaking may cause even large items to move about

After the shaking stops and possible falling debris settles, wait 60 seconds, then Evacuate the building.

Other Procedures:

Lockdown

Staff and students also rehearse what to do in the unlikely event of a dangerous intruder either on the school grounds or within the school. During a "LOCKDOWN" drill, we lockdown the school: "Lockdown, lockdown, lockdown" is announced over the school PA system in the unlikely event that there is a dangerous intruder in the school. All students gather in their classroom (or closest room), lock the doors, turn off lights and remain quietly with their teacher until they are directed that it is safe to come out.

In the unlikely event of a lockdown situation, we will be turning off and collecting cell phones from students, as using them at such a time poses potential additional risks: we do not want phones to sound at times when quiet is essential. Additionally, texting, tweeting, etc. risks sending out inaccurate information that could hamper police efforts to resolve the incident. Parents are asked not to attempt to contact the school or their children directly.

Hold & Secure

Use if there is a security concern in the neighborhood

Everyone is to come into the school and remain in the school; Exterior doors are secured
Exterior windows secured and blinds closed; No one may enter or exit the school

Shelter in Place

Use if an environmental hazard is in the vicinity of school (including coyotes)

Everyone is to come into the school and remain in the school; Exterior doors are secured
Exterior windows are closed and secured plus blinds/drapes closed; All ventilation systems may be turned off; Principal will monitor access to the school

Room Clear

Use to move students away from a hazard contained in one room/area

Students directed to go directly to a previously agreed-upon alternate location

In Preparation for Halloween

October 31st

Thursday, October 31st is our fun Halloween day at Laurier, and many of our students are looking forward to the related activities in their classrooms and school-wide. Our staff members are working hard to make this day a special one for our students, organizing educational and fun activities.

This is also a special time of the year with Halloween followed by Remembrance Day, and is a time to pay much attention to our most vulnerable children, and the fact that Halloween may tend to draw out undesirable behavior. Please let us know in advance if we can be of any support and assistance and/or if you notice anything unusual.

Student Halloween Costume Expectations

In an effort to enjoy and celebrate Halloween at Laurier appropriately and respectfully, please use the following guidelines when helping your child(ren) selecting a costume:

1. Costumes that are provocative, revealing, sexual in nature, or employ questionable props are not permitted.
2. Costumes that depict violence, alcohol, or drugs are not permitted. Fake weapons are not allowed.
3. Costumes that could be offensive or perpetuate a stereotype of someone's culture, gender, heritage, or religion are not permitted.
4. Costumes should not hinder student ability to participate in classes, including P.E. Costumes may not disrupt or impede traffic, or present issues of safety in the hallway. No masks in school.

Talking points for Parents to assist in this teachable moment:

- Remind your child(ren) of their audience in the building (students, teachers, parents, community members).
- This is a school—what may be appropriate in pop culture or the media may not be appropriate for a place of learning.
- We are a community, and we want students to think about how their costume choice may impact others within this community.

Safety recommendations when going out trick-or-treating:

- Wear costumes that are short enough so that you do not trip.
- Decorate costumes with reflective tape.
- Shoes should fit well so you do not fall.
- Costumes should be "flame resistant."
- When you go out, carry a glow stick or flashlight with new batteries.
- It can be hard to see out of a mask, so use makeup or face paint instead.
- Trick or treat in groups with a trusted adult – It's safer and more fun.
- Carry a cellular phone with you, if possible.
- Visit only houses with the lights on.
- Don't eat any treats unless they are checked by a parent, or the adult looking after you.
- Always remember to keep yourself safe.

Have a Happy and Safe Halloween!

Thank you for taking the time to review these guidelines with your children.



AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Each year, the VSB Westside Community Schools Team offers after school programs to neighborhood schools at different times of the school year to different age groups. Below, please find the registration form for the first after school program of the school year for students in Gr. 3-7. Registration forms were also emailed to families and are also available at the office. Registration starts on October 1st at 8:30am and 3:00pm in the school office foyer.



Important Information – Please Translate

这是一份重要信息 — 请找人为您翻译

这是一份重要资讯 — 请找人为您翻译

这是一份重要信息 — 请找人为您翻译

Thông tin quan trọng - Xin phiên dịch

Mahabigang Impormasyon - Paki salin sa sariling wika

Información importante - Por favor traducir

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary School West Side Community Schools Team

- DIY Project – Rainbow Loom:** TUESDAYS / Oct 8 – Nov 26 / 3:00 – 4:15 PM /
Grade 3 – 6 / ROOM 113A (in the library) / \$60

Join the hottest craze craft today with some Churchill students- the Rainbow Loom. They will teach you how to use the kit and learn how to weave rubber bands into a figure and more. Come check out how easy and fun to make your own bracelets, charms, and more. *Yes, you will get to keep your work!*
(max 8 students)

On-Site Registration – School Office Foyer

To register, please bring completed forms and payment during the registration period – **Tuesday, October 1 at 8:30AM and 3:00PM (if space is available)**. Registration for this program is **IN-PERSON** only.

Pay* by CASH or CHEQUE to
VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD

TOTAL: _____

Important Program Notes: Please note that some programs entail physical activity or that we may go outdoors, so please pack a water bottle and dress appropriately for the weather. A healthy snack and all program supplies will be provided by the West Side Community Schools Team.

Programs will not run on statutory holidays, professional development days, or early dismissals.

*Please contact Lovelle Castro if you need assistance paying for the programs at 604-803-1143 or lcastro@vsb.bc.ca



Sexual Health Education Presentations by Saleema Noon Sponsored by Laurier PAC

Each year, students in all elementary grades throughout BC receive instruction in sexual health education. This information is included in the Physical and Health Education program mandated for all BC students by the Ministry for Education. From time to time, schools bring in experts in the field to address this topic with the school community. We are excited to inform you that this year Brandy Wiebe of Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators will be visiting our school to work with parents and students Kindergarten to Grade 7.

In their Body Science presentations, Saleema Noon and her team of educators work with children of all ages, teaching them about healthy bodies and healthy sexuality in ways they find non-threatening and entertaining. In their own language, children learn about how their bodies change, and what those changes mean.

Please join us for an informative Presentation for Parents on Wednesday, October 23rd from 6:30-8pm in the library. In this session, Brandy Wiebe will give an overview of student presentations and, using humor and straight talk in an open, interactive environment, she will show parents how easy it is to convey healthy, meaningful messages about sex and growing up to young children.

Student sessions will take place during the school day on Thursday, October 24th. The content of the presentations is supported by current research as being age appropriate and it is believed that it contributes to healthy child development. Some of the topics Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators cover in their workshops extend beyond the content of the BC Physical and Health Education curriculum. For this reason, parents may choose to have their children OPT OUT of the Body Science sessions with Brandy. Consent letters for student participation will be sent home soon. Attendance at the parent presentation before making this decision is strongly encouraged by Saleema Noon and her team.



MORNING/AFTERNOON SUPERVISION

School is in session from 8:55am to 3:00pm. 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 LAURIER PAC

We had a great turnout for both our first PAC meeting and Meet-the-Teacher Potluck. It was so good to see so many families together at the school. Big thank you to all who helped with set up and clean up. We are looking forward to more community events this year.

Direct Appeal:

This month we will be launching our Direct Appeal fundraiser - please look out for the notice which will come home with your child.

Please note: If making a donation to support PAC sponsored activities online using the School Cash Online system, please be sure to select "E-Sir Wilfrid Laurier **PAC**" as the fund destination.

Friendship List:

A hard copy of the Friendship List will be sent home this month. Please submit your forms if you would like to be included. Kindly remember that the purpose of the friendship list is to help kids connect with other kids at school – no solicitations.

Saleema Noon Parent Presentation:

PAC is excited to again be hosting a talk by Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators. Please join us for this parents talk, Wednesday October 23, 6:30 pm in the school library.

Body Science Boot Camp for Parents

Parenthood never arrives with a rulebook, and when it comes to explaining the world of sexual health to your child, it can be hard not to end up a bright shade of red. Using humor and straight talk in an open, interactive environment, Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators will show you how easy it is to convey healthy, positive messages about sexual health to kids.

For more information, see attached flyer and visit their web page:

<https://www.saleemanoon.com/workshops/elementary-program/>

Please register for your free ticket so we know how many people will come:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/74369407901>

Hot Lunch Disposable Cutlery Free Challenge:

Thank you to all who brought reusable cutlery this week! Only 3 forks were requested on Thursday. What a fantastic start to our challenge.

Did you know that plastic takes 1000 years to break down? Disposable utensils and food packaging eventually leak from landfills into the soil and ocean, where they are mistaken for food by wildlife and endangering everyone on the food chain - including us humans. Let's do our part in keeping Earth beautiful, starting with bringing reusable utensils from home. Small action taken by many people will lead to big impacts - let's challenge ourselves to do the right thing! Taking a minute to pack reusable cutlery for lunch, and you will save a millennium.

Fresh to You:

Local fruits and veggies will be for sale in Oct! "Fresh to You" is one of the ways Laurier promotes healthy lifestyles. In this program, families, friends, and neighbours can pre-order bundles of BC produce, which will be shipped to the school in Nov for pick up. Many of the fruits and veggies will be organically grown, and all will be fresh and local. More details to come in Oct, such as program info, family recipes, and more. 100% of proceeds will go directly to the PAC and benefit all Laurier students!

T-Shirts:

Thank you to all who purchased orange shirts. Looking forward to seeing all Orange Soar t-shirts on Orange Shirt Day, September 30. We also have an assortment of t-shirts for sale.

Please use the form on our website:

https://laurierpac.weebly.com/uploads/1/4/8/9/14892754/t-shirts_-nov2018.pdf or get one from the office.

Next PAC meeting:

Wednesday, Oct 16, 2019 6:30 in the school library *Child Care Provided*

If you have any question, suggestions or comments, we would love to hear from you, please email us at laurier.pac@gmail.com. Also, be sure to check out our website. laurierpac.weebly.com where there is information on PAC meetings and minutes, Events, Fundraising, Hot Lunch, Volunteer Opportunities, Earthbites, www.laurierpac.weebly.com or our facebook page Sir-Wilfrid-Laurier-Elementary-PAC.

Laurier PAC



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	30 -Gymsense	1 -Gymsense	2 -Mini Meet- Cross-Country 3:30-4:45 Quilchena Park -International Walk to School Day -Gymsense	3 -Individual Photo Day -Gymsense	4 -Gymsense	5 World Teachers' Day
6	7 -K-7 Free Bus Week -Friend 2 Friend Puppet Show and Simulation Games -Gymsense	8 -K-7 Free Bus Week -Mini Meet- Cross-Country 3:30-4:45 Balaclava Park -Gymsense	9 -K-7 Free Bus Week -Gymsense	10 -K-7 Free Bus Week -Gymsense	11 -K-7 Free Bus Week -Gymsense	12
13	14 Thanksgiving School Closed	15 -Gymsense	16 -Gymsense -PAC Meeting @6:30pm-Library	17 -Shake Out BC Earthquake Dril: 10:17am -Gymsense -District Cross Country 12:00- 3:00pm Trout Lake	18 -Gymsense	19
20	21 Laurier Gym used for Federal Election – 6:00am-10pm	22	23 -K Vision Screening 9:15am -Saleema Noon Parent Presentation 6:30-8:00pm in library	24 -Seleema Noon Student Worskhop	25 Provincial ProD – School closed for students	26
27	28	29	30	31 HALLOWEEN		