



Laurier Elementary School

March 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 xʷməθkʷəy'əm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

Dear Laurier Families,

Looking out my office window, it's clear that Spring is just around the corner! As we welcome its long-awaited arrival, I'm excited to share the latest updates and upcoming events at our school. March is a month filled with continued learning, growth, and for many of us, holiday time with friends and family.

Safety First! Safety is always a top priority for us. I feel fortunate to work with a staff who shares this commitment and leads our students in responding appropriately, whether it's the use of sleds at school or during earthquakes. Friday's event, while thankfully a small incident, provided our school with the opportunity to use our practiced earthquake procedures. The swift evacuation of both buildings, along with building inspections and student reunification, assured me that our staff is prepared to manage an emergency situation. We are proud of our students who responded safely and responsibly, demonstrating that they can SOAR even in unexpected situations! Way to go, everyone!

Grounds Update VSB Grounds Crews have been on-site pruning trees to ensure they are healthy and to maximize sight lines. The failure of the tree on the bank in December was due to a major weather event that we normally don't experience. The winds hit the tree at the perfect speed and direction. The trees on the slope adjacent to the tennis courts have been assessed and are in good condition.

Upcoming Events On Tuesday, Ms. Cheung and our championship choirs will be performing at the VSB's Choral Festival. We wish them well at their performance! Unfortunately, due to unexpected circumstances, the Intermediate Concert scheduled for Friday, March 7th has been cancelled.

Thank You, PAC! Our school team is very grateful to our PAC for their volunteer time and fundraising efforts! With the change in weather, teachers are looking forward to all the learning that comes with children prepping and planting the garden boxes. Classes will also begin to enjoy more outdoor physical activity, and a new basketball hoop at the South Building will facilitate increased instruction and unstructured play on the courts. Thank you, PAC, for making these things happen for our students!

Enjoy the weekend ahead, and whatever March Break brings for you, may it be filled with memory-making moments and the perfect blend of relaxation and fun!

Warm regards,

Geri Gruft

Principal

Online Safety

In an increasingly digital world, understanding how to be a responsible and informed online citizen is more important than ever. **Join VSB After the Bell: Live** for an engaging session on digital literacy, where we'll explore how students can safely and responsibly navigate the online space.

Join experts in the field to discuss key topics including navigating social media platforms (Snapchat, Discord, Instagram, TikTok), the impact of Generative AI (Copilot, ChatGPT) and essential student online safety strategies. Learn how VSB is supporting both students and educators on this journey and gain practical insights to help your child thrive in the digital age.

A link to the information will be sent a day before the event.

Date: March 11, 2025 from 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Who: Jeff Spence, VSB District Principal of Information technology and Christina Walker, VSB Digital Literacy Mentor Teacher

Packing School Snacks & Lunches

Your child is growing! They may need more snacks and/or a larger lunch packed for school. Thank you for speaking with your child about their nutritional needs at school and ensuring they have the food they need.

If your family is currently experiencing challenges with food security, we can order a daily lunch for your child from *Food for Schools*. Please contact Ms.Geri.

On a final note, if you purchase Hot Lunch for your child(ren), please ensure you are sending cutlery with them for lunch and are packing a snack for recess time. Thank you!

Community Safety

Street Work

Currently, the City of Vancouver is doing work along Laurel Street. Please exercise additional care when dropping off and picking up your children. With the arrival of better weather, please consider parking a block or two (or three!) away and walking with your children to school to both help relieve congestion and to enjoy a bit of fresh air prior to the start of the school day.

Stranger Safety

Regular check-ins with your children about stranger safety is always encouraged. Children should be encouraged to:

- trust their instincts
- keep a safe distance and to stay away from cars
- never accept anything from a stranger
- never share personal information

Volunteering & Visiting Laurier

All visitors (that means parents too) are required to check-in at the school office during instructional time to sign-in. If visitors will be remaining for more than 15 minutes or visiting a variety of locations within the school, they will be provided with a Visitor Badge to wear during their visit. Visitors must all sign out at the office upon leaving. Thank you for your cooperation!

Important Dates

- Wednesday, March 5th – **Class and Group Photo Day**
- Monday, March 10th – **Written Learning Update #2 Sent Home**
- Tuesday, March 11th – **PAC Meeting**
- Friday, March 14th – **Last Day of Instruction before March Break**
- Monday, March 31st – **School Re-Opens after March Break**

PAC News

What is a Parent Advisory Council?

A PAC is the officially recognized collective voice of parents at their school. PAC serves as a forum for parents to discuss issues affecting the school and the education of their children. (Source: [BCCPAC](#)) As parents of students attending Laurier, you are all members! We would love your participation and input in making Laurier a vibrant place of learning! Please subscribe to our newsletter through the QR code provided for up-to-date information. Our next PAC meeting will be at the library **March 11, 2025 at 6:30pm**.

Please check our updated website for more information <https://www.laurierpac.ca/> and be sure to subscribe to our PAC News by clicking on this QR code:



Our hot lunch program still needs volunteers! Please follow this link to help out:

<https://volunteersignup.org/9W8F3>

PEDALHEADS DISCOUNT:

Laurier has obtained a special discount from Pedalheads that can be used for bike, trail, swim or soccer programs for spring or summer. Registration has now started. Any Laurier family who wants to attend these programs at Pedalheads will receive a \$25 discount if they use the code **25LAURIER**. This code is valid for any Pedalheads program, <https://pedalheads.com/en/british-columbia> in BC until June 30, 2025.

A promotional banner with a dark blue background. At the top, it says "FOR FAMILIES OF LAURIER ELEMENTARY" in white. Below that, a green and yellow pill-shaped button contains the text "Use code 25LAURIER for \$25 off" in white and yellow. At the bottom, the website "pedalheads.com/british-columbia" is written in white.

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