



Laurier Elementary School

May 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 xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Principal's Message

Welcome to May, Laurier Families! Lucy Maude Montgomery, the author of Anne of Green Gables wrote, "Nothing ever seems impossible in spring." As the city is bathed in sunshine and spring blossoms, these words remind me of the beauty and strength that define our community -- and that are mirrored in the natural world around us. As we head into a weekend of rest and recovery, please remember to take a moment with your child(ren) to appreciate the beauty of the spring.

A heartfelt thank you to all parents and students for participating in our student conferences. These afternoons are a celebration of each child's social and academic growth and achievements. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to connect and reflect on their learning journey. Thank you also for your amazing support with the Laurier Spring Read-A-Thon, the Scholastic Book Fair, the book drive and Walk & Roll to School week. The enthusiasm that you model for school-based activities contributes to your child(ren)'s well-being at school in many important ways.

As many in our community continue to navigate their healing, I wanted to highlight that there is ongoing support available for you and your family in response to the Lapu Lapu tragedy throughout the weekend. Please refer to supports highlighted by the VSB <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/ci/p/80013> and by the City of Vancouver <https://vancouver.ca/home-property-development/lapu-lapu-day-mass-casualty-incident.aspx>. Thank you for contacting me if your child needs additional support at school.

We've a lot of wonderful learning opportunities still to come at Laurier this school year! Please see Important Dates below and look for updates from our teaching team via classroom communications.



Health & Safety

On May 8th, our school will be participating in an important earthquake drill called **The Big One at Two**. Given the recent seismic activity, we are reminded of the importance of taking time to practice and review our emergency procedures to ensure the safety of all students and staff. We have had two opportunities to practice the Student Reunification aspect of our drill, so we won't be practicing this at the drill next week. We appreciate your support in helping our students understand what to do in the event of a real earthquake. Thank you for your cooperation in making this a valuable learning experience for everyone!

School Organization

We are in the process of planning for the 2025-26 school year. At the end of the month, teachers will be working to create new classes for September.

The assignment of students to classes is a collaborative decision made by a team of professionals including the current teacher, resource teachers, prep teachers and principal. Various factors are considered in this process, such as program needs, maturity, learning styles, academic balance, and more. Please understand that this is a complex process that teachers commit a considerable amount of time doing to make the best choices.

Parents/guardians who feel that they have **educational** information that would help the decision-making process should convey that information in writing using the form provided in the office to Ms. Geri **before May 16th**. Only this form will be used; we will not be taking emails or letters. The form will be shared with staff, and we will do our best to consider all information received. All teachers offer strong instructional programs. Requests for specific teachers will not be considered.

Books, Books, Books...

LAURIER SPRING READ-A-THON

Congratulations, everyone! We did it! Cash donations are due by May 8th. PAC volunteers will be tallying the funds raised by our students' literary efforts and determining individual and whole class winners. Way to go, students! Please note that if you've not already handed in collected pledges, you can do so by: 1. Giving them to your **teacher** along with your completed recording sheet and sponsorship form in a sealed envelope. 2. Do an **e-transfer** to laurier.pac@gmail.com. Include student name, division, grade and teacher on the envelope and e-transfer. Remember to give your recording sheet and sponsorship form in a sealed envelope to your teacher. Questions? Reach out to us at laurier.pac@gmail.com.

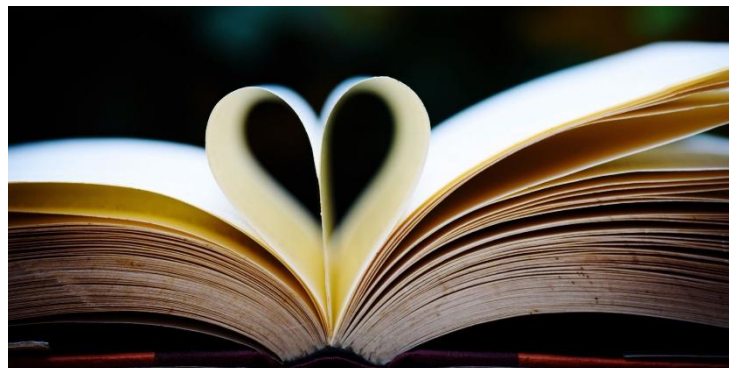
SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR UPDATE

Thank you to all the students and families that visited the Book Fair. It was a great fundraiser, and we raised over \$1600 for new books for the library! Keep your eyes open for all the new titles to come! A special thank you to the student and parent volunteers, the Book Fair could not happen without your support, and you are all very much appreciated.

WORDS4DREAMS: A TREMENDOUS SUCCESS!

A heartfelt thank-you to all the students and families who donated books for *Words4Dreams*, a nonprofit foundation created by Laurier alumni high school students. Thanks to your generosity, several hundred books were collected and will soon bring joy to young readers at BC Children's Hospital and other organizations in need.

This was a tremendous success—your support truly makes a difference!



It Takes A Village...

Recently, Mr. Fisher organized a **fencing** lesson for each class at our school. Sessions were thoroughly enjoyed by everyone and were taught by excellent instructors. A big thanks to Dynamo Fencing for securing a grant to offer this unique opportunity to our students and to Mr. Fisher for organizing the lessons!



Our **Track & Field** coaches are busy with practices for the upcoming mini-meets and the Zone Meets at the end of May. A big shout out to Ms. Boucher for organizing our team as well as the entire zone for the upcoming meets!

The **Pickleball** craze hit Laurier last year. A class set of paddles and balls were purchased so teachers could introduce this great game to their students. The love for the game spread and many of our staff meet weekly to compete against each other. VSB Athletics has just introduced a pickle ball league and Ms. Murphy and Mr. Holdham are coaching Laurier students to compete against other schools. Good luck team in our inaugural pickleball year!

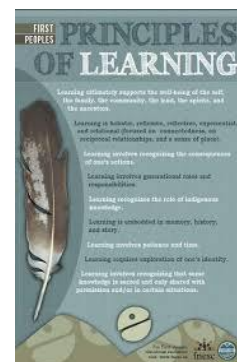
Sports Day is just around the corner! It's an annual event that students and staff alike look forward to with great anticipation. We're looking forward to another great Sports Day at Laurier where Team Yellow, Team Red, Team Blue and Team Green will SOAR as they compete. Ms. Wong and Ms. Lee are working hard to organize the big event. Stay tuned for more details coming soon!

On a daily basis at Laurier, students' days are enriched by daily and weekly activities that teachers offer outside of instructional time including **Dance & Drama Club** (Ms. Cacapit), **Games Club** (Ms. Wong), **Choir** (Ms. Chung), **Chess Club** (Mr. Holdham), **Playground Pals** (Ms. Yang & Ms. Millman), **Lunch Monitors** (Ms. Alojado), **Library Monitors** (Ms. Altman) and, of course, our **SOAR Committee**. I am, undoubtedly, missing some of the amazing opportunities other staff offer to Laurier students, enriching their days outside of instructional time. Join me in giving thanks to everyone on our Laurier staff who give their all every day to our students!

Garden Boxes & Indigenous Learning

As the weather warms up, classes are planning outdoor place-based learning adventures. We're thrilled to make the most of our grounds for outdoor learning spaces. Several classes have adopted garden boxes and are busy preparing them for planting. These boxes are where they'll explore the wonders of growing food, discover native plants of BC, and learn about those significant to the Coast Salish people.

On Monday, our dedicated staff took part in the **VSB Indigenous Focus Day**, gaining valuable insights into integrating the First People's Ways of Knowing into daily learning activities. Ms. Sekhon and Ms. Alojado led workshops at Churchill, enriching understandings of Indigenous history, culture, and the ongoing contributions of Indigenous communities in Canada and inspiring their colleagues to incorporate their new understandings into their classrooms.



Summer School

Registration for summer school began on April 23rd and will end on May 21st. Classes tend to fill up quickly, so if you are considering this for your child, please register soon. More information can be found by visiting: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5211/summer-learning>

Red Dress Day



On May 5th, we observe **Red Dress Day**, a poignant day of remembrance and activism dedicated to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and Two-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+). Ms. Alojado's grade 6's worked with her to create a display to highlight the importance of this day and to stand in solidarity with Indigenous communities. This powerfully beautiful piece is on display at the VSB.

Students are encouraged to wear red on May 5th. Teachers have age-appropriate resources to build awareness about this event with their classes.

Important Dates

- Monday, May 19th – **Victoria Day Holiday**
- Tuesday, May 20th – **PAC Meeting @ 6:30** in the Laurier Library
- Friday, May 23rd – **Sports Day**: Begins at 9:20 on the gravel field. More details to come.
- Thursday, June 5th – **On Our Way to Kindergarten** for incoming students
- Friday, June 6th – **SOAR with your Buddy Dance**: 1-3pm for students with DJ Rock'n'Beau
- Friday, June 13th – **Laurier Volunteer Tea**: Invitations coming soon
- Monday, June 23rd – **Grade 7 Celebration**
- Wednesday, June 25th – **Final Written Learning Update** goes home
- Thursday, June 26th – **Last Day of School for Students**

PAC News

See our updated website <https://www.laurierpac.ca/> for all the news!

A very big thank you to our PAC volunteers (parents!) who give the gift of time to help make great events for our students and who raise funds to support learning opportunities for our school. We are grateful!

A colorful flyer titled "News and Events" with a light green background. It features four main sections: "Fundraisers" with a piggy bank icon, "Walk and Roll" with a group of people walking and a child on a bike, "Volunteer" with a "TEAM UP!" banner, and "Upcoming Meeting" with a calendar icon. Each section contains text about upcoming events and fundraising efforts. At the bottom, there is a "Visit our Website" section with the URL www.laurierpac.ca and a laptop icon.