



Laurier Elementary School

October News

2025-2026

Sir Wilfrid Laurier Elementary School: 7350 Laurel Street, Vancouver BC V6P 3T9, 604-713-4925

Principal: Geri Gruft **OAA:** Dora Szeitz **Director of Instruction:** Chris Wong **PAC Chair:** Rahul Aggarwal **Trustee:** Joshua

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) & səlilwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

Thank you to the many families who attended our Laurier Open House to meet the teachers and to see the spaces where their children learn. We have an exciting year ahead, and the excitement of September was just an introduction!

Our Terry Fox Run was, once again, a wonderful event! The students ran keeping in mind the legacy that Terry left us and were committed to this year's "Finish It" theme. Thank you to those parents who volunteered to cheer our students on and keep them safe as they ran. I also want to extend a big note of appreciation to all the students and families that donated to the Terry Fox Foundation. Your kindness and generosity make a difference. Our community raised \$1 382.85 surpassing our goal of \$1300! Way to go!

Students from Ms. Alojado's class hosted a remarkable Orange Shirt Day Assembly where a special guest, Troy MacBeth Abromaitis joined us to share his story, expanding our understanding of the importance of Orange Shirt Day and to gift us with a copy of the Musqueam Declaration which will be hung in the South Building. I was so proud of the student's participation in this important assembly and of their commitment to being open-minded and respectful and Troy shared that he was overwhelmed by it saying, "Your students give me hope that the future of reconciliation is bright."



"Reconciliation is ... about building relationships, creating opportunities and embedding justice and belonging into the very fabric of our communities. It requires courage, honesty and participation to repair what has been broken and to build a legacy toward everlasting reconciliation."
-Troy MacBeth Abromaitis

Out my office window, I can see the trees beside the playground beginning to showcase their autumn glory. I am grateful to be a part of this inclusive and accepting community and in the month ahead, I wish all families the very best and join you in embracing the season with open hearts and a spirit of thankfulness as you celebrated Yom Kippur yesterday and, in the days ahead, celebrate Thanksgiving, Diwali and Halloween and the joys of fall.

With warmth and gratitude,

Geri Gruft

Principal

AFTER THE BELL

The September 16th edition of VSB: After the Bell, "Supporting Student Success at Home" is available here: <https://creators.spotify.com/pod/profile/vsbafterthebell/episodes/Ep--37---After-the-Bell-Supporting-Student-Success-at-Home-e38adib/a-ac5lh2l>

ACTIVITIES AT LAURIER

Staff were excited to kick off our extra-curricular sports programs with our Laurier Cross Country Team and our Laurier Soccer Team.

Under the direction of Ms. Chung, the Laurier Intermediate Choir is practicing twice per week at lunch. We can't wait to hear their magic! The Drama and Dance Club is underway with Ms. Cacapit choreographing their moves at recess times. More activities will be popping up for our students as the year progresses. Stay tuned. A heartfelt thank you to our dedicated staff coaches and who volunteer to make these opportunities possible for students!

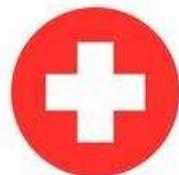
SAFETY WEEK



During the week of October 14th to 17th we are having a themed Safety Week. This week will include a fire, earthquake and lockdown drills, which are essential for reviewing and practicing our safety and preparedness procedures. This is also a great reminder to discuss and plan for emergencies at home. Do you have an escape route and a designated meeting spot in case of a fire? Is your earthquake kit

ready? Our first earthquake drill will be in the afternoon of Thursday, October 16th, as part of the Great BC Shake Out. Kindergarten families will be welcomed to participate in the reunification portion of our drill. More details to follow for our K families.

Brochures are going home today to highlight **first aid kits and supplies** our PAC is selling as part of a fund-raising campaign. Please have a look for them in your child's backpack. Let's get prepared together!



GOAL SETTING CONFERENCES

We look forward to seeing you at our Goal Setting Conferences on Wednesday, Oct. 29TH & Thursday, Oct. 30. To facilitate the conferences, students will be dismissed early and need to be picked up at 2:00PM. You will be receiving an email from your child's classroom teacher to schedule appointments for the conferences.

BE PREPARED FOR THE WEATHER



Living in Vancouver means our weather can be quite unpredictable. Students need their outdoor time for free play and exercise, so recess and lunch will be held outside regardless of the weather. Therefore, families should dress their children appropriately for the conditions. Our teachers also enjoy the outdoors and often conduct lessons outside in various weather conditions. Please ensure your child has rain gear, a change of clothes (especially for primary students), and indoor shoes when necessary. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our students prepared and safe.

VSB DOG POLICY

We all love our four-legged friends, but they are not allowed on school grounds, especially during pick-up and drop-off times. Dogs are prohibited on the school grounds, play fields, and inside the school from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm, as well as during any organized school events outside these hours, unless they are service dogs. Please review the VSB's Dog Code, which is posted on the bright green signs on the fences. Thank you for your cooperation in keeping our school grounds and play fields safe and comfortable for our students and all members of the Laurier community.



UPCOMING DATES

- Monday, October 13th: Thanksgiving Holiday. School is closed.
- Thursday, October 16th: BC Shake-Out
- Friday, October 17th – School Immunizations; Parents will be notified by Vancouver Coast Health
- Wednesday, October 22nd – PAC Meeting @ 6:30 in the library
- Friday, October 24th – Professional Development Day: No School for Students
- October 29nd and 30th – Early Dismissal Day @ 2pm for conferences & **Scholastic Book Fair**

PAC NEWS

Get involved with our PAC! Laurier staff and students are lucky to have a group of dedicated parent volunteers. Please consider participating in the Parent Advisory Committee this year. You are also welcome to leave a note in the PAC box at the school office or to contact our PAC at laurier.pac@gmail.com. The ongoing support of our parent community is so greatly appreciated! Our next meeting is Wednesday, October 22nd.

Questions about the PAC Hot lunch can be directed to laurier.hotlunch@gmail.com.

Upcoming PAC Initiatives:

- **Be Ready, Stay Safe, Support Our School!** Let's get prepared together while raising money for our school. The PAC is selling First Aid Supplies so your family can build or restock your emergency kit. Check out the brochure that is going home today to the eldest child in each family. Order by October 17th! A big thanks to Summer for organizing this fundraiser!
- **PAC Craft Fair:** A flyer has gone home today with information about the PAC sponsored Laurier Craft Fair on Friday, November 14th. More information is attached. A big thanks to Debra for organizing this upcoming event that always helps to joyfully kick-off the holiday season!

