



Laurier Elementary School

September 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) & səlilwətaɬ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

On behalf of the Laurier Staff, welcome to the 2025-2026 school year! I hope your summer was filled with rest, joy, and time spent with loved ones. As we step into September, we're so very happy to welcome many new faces to our community and have enjoyed seeing students and families back at school.

Laurier is a place where curiosity is nurtured, kindness is celebrated, and every child is encouraged to grow academically, socially, and emotionally. This year, we continue to focus on creating inclusive learning environments, fostering student well-being, and building strong connections between home and school. By working together, we aim to achieve many great things this year.

Please join me in welcoming our new staff members:

- Ms. Melanie Ferguson, grade 6
- Ms. Aleah Wielanga, grade 4/5
- Ms. Sara Frankard, grade 1/2
- Ms. Hayley Enns, resource
- Ms. Tina King, resource
- Ms. Jennifer Stuart, resource
- Ms. Helen Hu, SSA
- Ms. Ping Ping Leung, SSA
- Ms. Grace Chow, SSA
- Ms. Kim McMane, Office Support
- Ms. Dora Szeitz, Office Admin Assistance



RESPECTFUL WORKPLACE

At Laurier, we are committed to upholding a safe, inclusive, equitable, welcoming, nurturing, and healthy school environment. There is zero tolerance for dangerous or disrespectful behavior in the school community. It is our shared responsibility to ensure adult interactions are conducted safely and respectfully. Students learn here, and together we can be models for those that are watching.

MOVING TO NEW CLASSES

Thank you for your patience with class placements. We will move to new classes on Monday morning. We understand that this can be an anxious time and appreciate your support in helping your child(ren) transition smoothly.

We are, as part of our School Plan, working with students to build skill resiliency. Change is an opportunity to build this skill. As parents, you play an important role in supporting resiliency by being calm, empathetic listeners and

modeling positivity. Laurier staff spend many hours considering social, emotional and academic strengths and stretches of individual students while taking into consideration that classes are balanced.

We appreciate your trust in our decisions. Thank you for understanding that moving students once classes are set can have a cascading effect on our goal of developing balanced classes. Experience has shown that our students are remarkably adaptable and settle into their new classrooms quickly. Please allow some time for your child to adjust to their new teachers and classmates. If you have any concerns, please schedule an appointment with the classroom teacher. We are committed to ensuring that all students at Laurier have a successful year!



PICK UP & DROP OFF OF STUDENTS

I would like to encourage families to park one or two blocks away and walk to drop off or pick up your child. This helps to reduce congestion around our school and is a healthy way to begin the school day. Please follow the signage around the school and refrain from backing out of the laneways or doing U-turns. We want to keep everybody safe! This is also a reminder that students (and parents) need to walk their bikes and scooters when on school property.

Students cannot leave the school property during instructional hours without a permitted adult. Only designated adults that are indicated on your child's emergency contact form can pick up your child from school. If you need to pick up your child early, please come to the office to sign them out, and if applicable, to sign them back in.

If your child arrives after the 9:00 bell, they need to sign in at the table outside of the office in the Main building. This applies to students in the South Building as well. Our school day ends at 2:58. If you will be late picking up your child, please call the office at 604-713-4925 to let us know.

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

If your child is going to be away or late for school, please call our Safe Arrival Number at **604-713-5159 press 44** and leave a message with your child's first and last name, their division number, and the date(s) of absence. Please speak slowly and spell your child's last name. This system takes messages 24 hours per day. Please call as soon as you're aware that your child will be absent. You can also email LAUAttendance@vsb.bc.ca



VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

Whether it's the PAC-run Hot Lunch Program, helping in the library or supporting a class, visitors to the school to sign in at the office each time they are in the building and to wear a visitor badge. Safety is a priority at our school, and we thank you for doing your part.

STUDENT ACCIDENTAL INSURANCE

The VSB is once again offering parents the ability to purchase **voluntary student accident insurance** plans if they choose. These plans offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The two companies offering this coverage are Insuremykids and Industrial Alliance (The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan). These plans are ideal for supplementing costs not covered by provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Families can find more information and register online to purchase and participate in any of these insurance plans by using the URL provided here:

<https://insuremykids.com/schoolresources/>

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com>

TERRY FOX RUN

On Thursday, September 25th our school is going to kick off our day with our annual **Terry Fox Run**. Terry Fox was a Canadian university student who was diagnosed with cancer in his right leg in 1977 and had his leg amputated above the knee. While in hospital, Terry was so overcome by the suffering of other cancer patients that he decided to run across Canada to raise money for cancer research. He called his journey the Marathon of Hope. He began in 1980 in Newfoundland and ran an average of 42 kilometres (26 miles) every day for 143 days. Terry was forced to end his run on September 1, 1980, when the cancer spread to his lungs. By February 1, 1981, Terry's dream of raising \$1 for every Canadian was realized – the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope fund totaled \$24.17 million. Terry died in June 1981.



Each year we run in memory of Terry's determination, and to help raise funds to find a cure for cancer. Students are encouraged to bring a Toonie for Tuesday on this day. There will be a donation bucket for students to toss their Toonie into as they pass by on their run. More information to come.

DISTRICT CALENDAR

Thank you for taking a moment to download our updated School Calendar which includes dates when school is not in session or when students are dismissed early. Our first Professional Development Day is Friday, September 19th. There is no school for students on that day. In addition, Tuesday, September 30th is Canada's National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. School is closed on this day.

Our School Calendar will be updated throughout the school year. Please note you can subscribe to the calendar on our website [here](#).

IMPORTANT DATES

- **Kindergarten Parents Digital Literacy Workshop:** Thursday, September 11th from 9:15 to 10:15 in the library
- **Terry Fox Run:** Thursday, September 25th from 9:15 to 10:30am
- **Welcome Back Open House:** Thursday, September 25th from 3:15 to 5:00pm
- **Professional Development Day (No School):** Friday, September 19th. No school for children.
- **Individual Photo Day:** Friday, September 26th
- **Orange Shirt Day at Laurier:** Monday, September 29th.
- **National Day for Truth & Reconciliation:** Tuesday, September 30th. School is closed.

LAURIER PAC

As a parent at Laurier you are a member of our PAC. Attending PAC meetings and/or volunteering at PAC events is a great way to become connected with other Laurier families and to help enrich our Laurier school community. Please watch for communication from our PAC and be certain to check out their website <https://www.laurierpac.ca/>. Last year our community enjoyed a family dance event, a craft fair and movie nights. Each event was made successful due to the gift of time from volunteers.

PAC Meetings are held once per month at 6:30pm in the library in September, October, March, April and May and online during the other months (the dark months) of the year. The first PAC Meeting is coming up; date TBD. We're looking forward to seeing you there!