



Willoughby Elementary School

Newsletter #1 September 9, 2021

20766 – 80th Avenue

Langley, B.C., V2Y 1X6

Phone: 604-888-6033 / Fax: 604-888-9598

<https://willoughby.sd35.bc.ca>

Principal: Mrs. Karin Muuren

Vice Principal: Mr. Joel Olson

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Mya Bainbridge



Upcoming Events

September 10:	Second day of Kindergarten Gradual entry
September 20:	First full day of Kindergarten
September 23:	Meet the Teacher Evening (more details to follow)
September 24:	School Improvement Day- Students not in session
September 27:	PAC Meeting 7pm
September 29:	Activities to honour National Truth and Reconciliation Day
September 30:	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – School not in session
October 8:	Individual Student Photos
October 11:	Thanksgiving Day – School not in session



Welcome to a New School Year Start-Up!

Welcome back Willoughby families! We hope you had a terrific summer and are excited to begin another year with us. To our new families, welcome to Willoughby! You are exactly where you should be. We are very excited about the upcoming school year. Our goal remains to get things up and running as quickly and efficiently as possible and to ensure all our students are settled in their classes. We have an exceptional team of educators in place and a shared vision to be an innovative and inspiring and learning community. We are here to support all our students' health, academic learning, and social and emotional well-being. Thank you for your patience during our first few days getting students settled into classes.

Parents and caregivers, you play a very important role in the success of our school. We are committed to working with you to create the strongest learning environment for your children. There are many ways for you to be involved in their education and our school. Now is the time to re-establish home routines: proper bedtimes to get plenty of sleep, quiet work or reading time every night, reduced screen time, healthy meals and snacks, and time for active play. Most importantly, practice good handwashing and sneezing/coughing etiquette and keep your children home if they show any symptoms on the daily health check form!

STAFFING UPDATE: Please join us in welcoming the following new and returning staff members to our school:

Mrs. Mya Bainbridge- (Administrative Assistant)
Mrs. Jennifer Weisner – (Intermediate Teacher)
Mrs. Staci Jennejohn – (Reading Recovery Teacher)
Ms. Tamsin Bell (Primary Teacher)
Mrs. Justine Rowbotham (Primary Teacher)
Ms. Sarah Klann – (ELL Teacher)
Ms. Lizzie Breker – (Learning Resource Teacher)
Mr. James Reich (Primary Teacher)

Mrs. Jessica Weber – (Learning Commons Teacher)
Ms. Christina Pimentel- (SEA)
Ms. Megan Mohan – (Learning Resource Teacher)
Ms. Victoria DeBenedetto (Primary Teacher)
Ms. Jenais Ludwar – (Primary Teacher)
Ms. Alexa Laktin – (Music Teacher)
Mrs. Diana Yates- (Strong Start Teacher)
Mr. Scott Stevens – (Student Teacher)

Building Preparation: A big thank you to our school district maintenance workers and our amazing custodial staff, Ms. Wiesner, Ms. Hari, and Ms. Draayers, for working so hard this summer to make our school sparkle and shine! Thanks also to Mrs. Bainbridge for organizing the office and our staff, and helping our new families make a smooth transition to Willoughby.

PARENT CONSENT

Each year we send home forms for parent consent for such things as media release, internet and technology access, and walking field trips. **This year, we will be collecting parent consents through an online form rather than on paper. At the beginning of the school year, an email will be sent to the primary guardian of each child as indicated in MyEdBC. Instructions will be included in that email.**

Here is a description of the forms you will receive online:

MEDIA RELEASE FORM

We are moving into a new era of parent communication and use of technology at schools. We respect your family's privacy so for us to share images of students online in our weekly newsletters, we need your consent.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY AND COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS ACCEPTABLE USE

Student will have the opportunity in classes to use various forms of technology and online tools to enhance their learning experience. This will include TEAMS. Some students will be crating portfolios of their learning so it can be easily shared with a more authentic audience like parents and family members. Our staff will closely monitor internet tools and usage. This form allows students to use online tools as well as acknowledging that there are consequences and follow up for not following protocols.

WALKING FIELDTRIP FORMS

This allows teachers to take students for a walk in the neighbourhood following health and safety protocols. The email link will be sent to parents or guardians for completion and **may not be forwarded.**

Health and Safety

It is important to stay healthy. As we look to a successful and healthy school year, please take note of the following information and guidelines:

ILLNESS

Students are unable to attend school if they have ANY cold or flu symptoms. Keeping students home when they are ill not only helps them heal faster, but also helps to keep our whole community safe. If your child suffers from seasonal allergies or has a chronic concern, please do not hesitate to reach out to us! Please keep students home until they are symptom free for 48 hours for any illness, and follow Public Health recommendations for COVID symptoms (call 811). We are all doing our part to help keep school a safe and healthy place to be. If your child becomes unwell at school, you will be contacted for pick-up right away. We take all of our guidance from Fraser Health and the PHO. We will follow all of their direction when it comes to illness.

MASKS

As per the K-12 COVID GUIDELINES, ALL staff and GRADE 4/5 students MUST wear masks. While masks are not mandated at the K-3 level, they are encouraged and strongly recommended. Please feel free to speak with your child's classroom teacher if you have questions about masks in the classrooms.

STUDENT ARRIVAL IN THE MORNING

Our school has a warning bell at 8:45 and that is when students start entering the building, and the second bell signals the start of instruction and learning. On time arrival allows for students to begin learning with their peers and decreases anxiety. When students arrive late, they often worry about joining activities midstream and how to transition. Students are asked to access outside classroom doors until the second bell has rung. If students arrive after the second bell, they will not be admitted to class without a late slip from the office. This is to ensure safety and accurate attendance.

Please phone the school office at 604-888-6033 if your child is going to be absent. This allows us to accurately mark attendance and to phone the parents of those students who are unaccounted for.

*****REMINDERS: STUDENT ABSENCES CAN BE EMAILED TO*****

WilloughbyElem@sd35.bc.ca

NUT AWARE!

We are a nut aware school. Please do not send ANY snacks or lunch products containing peanuts or tree nuts. This includes nuts in items such as granola bars. This will help keep our school community safe.

LUNCHES/SNACKS

We ask that you send a litter-less lunch if possible. To reduce waste at school, garbage will be sent home with students. Please make sure you send the cutlery needed for your child's lunch along with a labeled water bottle. Students will be eating all food indoors supervised by classroom teachers.

OUTSIDE FOOD

While we will be able to bring back hot lunch this year, and are excited to do so, we continue to ask that FOOD/TREATS from home are NOT brought for sharing at school (i.e., birthday cupcakes, cakes, treats etc.). In our efforts to support students with allergies, families with cultural and health restrictions, and in our efforts to focus on learning and student development, we appreciate your help and cooperation.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

School supplies for Gr 1-5 students can be ordered online. School supplies will be delivered to students once classes have been finalized. If you have not done so, you can still order supplies at <https://schoolstart.ca/>

Kindergarten students are asked to pay \$50 school supply fee at <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/> Kindergarten families will be provided student numbers to set up School Cash Online accounts during the first week of Gradual Entry.

Please Remember the Following

- Ensure all your child's items are labeled with their name, especially school supplies
- Labeled litterless lunch containers that can be brought home, washed, and reused
- A labeled water bottle
- A change of clothes is a must for primary students; intermediate students should also consider having an extra change of clothes in their backpacks

Agendas and School Supplies: Student Agendas will be \$6 this year and can be purchased online. School Start supply kits have arrived and will be sent home with students early next week so you can label the supplies and return them to school. Some teachers may choose to do this for their students.



Traffic Flow and Parking Reminders



Parents and caregivers, in order to start the school year off right and to ensure everyone's safety, we ask that you PLEASE REMEMBER THE FOLLOWING:

- 1) You MUST proceed through the drive thru SLOWLY and with caution and stop for pedestrians.
- 2) Please be reminded of BC's Distracted Driving Legislation. BC laws states that drivers cannot:
 - send or read text messages or emails
 - make or receive calls unless using a hands-free device
 - hold or operate any electronic device

- 3) Our lot is **ONE WAY ONLY**. All vehicles must enter on the 80 Avenue side where the flag poles are and then exit onto 208 Street. There is no entry into the parking lot from 208 Street and no exit onto 80 Avenue.
- 4) The lane closest to the school is our drop off/pick up zone. It also serves as our fire lane in case of emergency. It is not a place to park your vehicle so you can walk your child to class. Vehicles **ARE NOT** to be left unattended at any time, as they cause a backlog and make it very difficult for other vehicles to enter the drive thru and for pedestrians to cross safely over to the school.
- 5) The lane closest to 80 Avenue/208 Street is the drive thru lane. Please do not stop/park here to let your child into or out of your vehicle.
- 6) U-turns are not permitted in the drive thru.
- 7) Do not park on 80 Avenue by the flag poles; this area is reserved for bus parking only.
- 8) Parking stalls on the east side of the school facing the Early Years Centre as well as the parking stalls facing 80th Avenue, are designated as "Staff Only." Please do not park your vehicle in these stalls as they are reserved for staff and support staff who begin their workday at 8:25 am.
- 9) In order to ensure everyone's safety, we ask pedestrians to set a good example and that cars do not park on the crosswalks.
- 10) You are welcome to park your vehicle in the church lot across the street and please remember not to jay walk.
- 11) Exercise patience and flexibility. Everyone's physical and emotional safety matters. If you need to be reminded about our parking lot safety rules, we expect your understanding and cooperation.

2021-2022 BELL SCHEDULE

8:45 am- Warning Bell
8:50 am- Instruction Begins
10:20am- Recess Begins
12:00pm- Lunch Begins
2:33pm- Dismissal

Get on Board – Kids 12 and Under Ride Free starting September 1, 2021



Starting Wednesday, September 1, children 12 and under will be able to ride TransLink services free of charge as part of a new provincial program. The program will make transit more affordable for families and help to encourage children to become lifelong transit riders.

Here's what you need to know about children 12 and under riding our different services:

Riding the bus

Children 12 and under will be able to ride buses free of charge without requiring a transit pass, identification or an accompanying fare paying customer.

Riding SkyTrain, SeaBus, and West Coast Express

Children 12 and under will be able to ride on SkyTrain, SeaBus, and West Coast Express free of charge only if accompanied by a fare paying customer. A fare paying customer can accompany up to a maximum of four children through the fare gates.

Children 12 and under will continue to be able to access the gated system by themselves with the purchase of a fare to tap through fare gates.

Riding HandyDART

Children 12 and under who are registered HandyDART customers or children who are accompanying a registered HandyDART customer will be able to travel for free on HandyDART without requiring a fare product or identification.

While travel for children 12 and under will be free, parents and guardians are responsible for educating and making decisions about the safety and care of their children whenever travelling on transit. This includes when children are travelling unaccompanied where permitted and determining if their children can or should take transit independently.

Please visit translink.ca/kidsridefree for more information about the program. For resources and youth travel initiatives, please visit the [TravelSmart page](#) under the "TravelSmart for Schools" section.

Langley Children's Choir is looking for singers!

Openings are now available for singers in grades 4-7.



What are we looking for?

- Good attitude and enthusiasm!
- Advanced vocal skills, and focus
- A firm commitment to the group
- Desire to develop as a singer and choir member

What do I get out of this?

- Make new friends who like to sing, too
- Learn about how to sing better and learn lots of music

How Do I Join?

Contact us with your name, phone number, school and grade.

Patti Thorpe email pthorpe@sd35.bc.ca

