



Willoughby Elementary School

Newsletter #1 September 7, 2023

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 8:	Second day of Kindergarten Gradual entry
September 8:	PAC Freezie Day \$2
September 15:	PAC Freezie Day \$2
September 18:	PAC Meeting 6:30 PM in the Learning Commons
September 21:	International day of Peace
September 21:	Meet the Teacher Evening 6 PM
September 28:	Individual Photos
September 29:	Orange Shirt Day at school
September 29:	Hot Lunch
October 2:	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No students in session
October 6:	School Improvement Day – No students in session
October 9:	Thanksgiving Day – School not in session
October 19:	Great Shake out and Evacuation Drill for one class TBD
October 20:	Pro D – No Students in session



Welcome to a New School Year Start-Up!

Once again 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.





First-Week Activities: Our staff is working hard to ensure the first week of school is academically and socially productive. Students will be completing review assignments and re-familiarizing themselves with playground safety, conflict resolution strategies, lunch eating time and indoor day expectations, and recycling rules.

If your child is going to be absent, arriving late, away or leaving early due to an appointment, please notify the school of your child's absence by email or call the school. To report an absence by email, send information including the student's first name and last name, grade, division, length of the absence, and reason to WESAttendance@sd35.bc.ca

To report an absence by phone, call 604-888-6033 and follow the prompts for the attendance line to leave a message with information including the student's first name and last name, grade, division, length of the absence, and reason. You can find these instructions on our school webpage <https://willoughby.sd35.bc.ca/submit-absence/>

If you have any questions about attendance/absence procedures, contact the school office.

2023/24 Class Placements: Willoughby has 620 students currently. Students will know by the end of the day on Friday, September 8, who their teacher/class for the rest of the year will be. Creating the classes is a task our staff members take very seriously. We work hard to make what we believe are the best educational decisions for every child. The administration and staff began meeting in May to discuss each child's placement. This process takes many hours to complete.

When building class lists, we always take the following criteria into consideration:



- Gender and Social Compatibility
- Small groups that need to be kept together for instructional purposes
- Leadership style of individual students
- Degree of independence in student work habits
- Integration of special needs students
- Separation of students who do not work well together (if possible)
- Class size and composition

This week we will review the class lists and adjust them as needed to accommodate the movement of families into and out of our school catchment. **Class lists are to be considered final.** We have a wonderful staff at Willoughby. All children will be in very good hands no matter which class they are in!

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

Ho Sun Kim – Gr 5/4	Karen-Jot Dhaliwal K
Danika Melnyk Gr 4	Jacquelynn Olafson K
Sarah Keane Gr 4	Angela Berdusco – PE
Jennifer Kim Gr 3	Kyma George _ELL
Alicia Warwick Gr 2	Phillip Legentil Gr 3
Victoria DeBenedetto Gr 2	Doha Asbai SEA
June Amano Gr 2	Ludwig David SEA
Karen Wong Gr 2	Evelyn Park SEA
Tamsin Bell Gr 1	Ruth Tao SEA
Justine Rowbotham Gr 1	Mandy Yeung Counsellor
Christina Roberts LA	Renne Cheung Library Tech

Building Preparation: A big thank you to our school district maintenance workers and our amazing custodial staff, Ms. Wiesner, Ms. Hari, and Mr. William, 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

Parent Consent Request

Each year, Langley schools ask families to complete a set of parent consent forms for their children. These consent forms are required by our schools to ensure the health, safety, and security of all students. Langley schools use a secure web form to collect this information. Beginning mid-September, please watch for an email request (subject Parent Consent Request) that contains one link for you to submit consents for all children in your family attending any Langley school. If your email address or contact information has changed, please call the school to correct it in our files. If you have not received an email regarding Parent Consent Request by the end of September or have any questions/concerns, please contact your school administrator.

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 creating 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**.

School Messenger in the Langley School District

The Langley School District uses a notification system called SchoolMessenger to communicate information to families. As we welcome our new families to our schools, some parents/guardians may receive a text message notifying them about SchoolMessenger. For more information about the system and how to opt-in to receive text messages, visit the District webpage [here](#).

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. If your child becomes unwell at school, you will be contacted for pick-up right away.

STUDENT ARRIVAL IN THE MORNING

Our school has a warning bell at 8:45, which is when students start entering the building. The second bell signals the start of instruction and learning at 8:50. On-time arrival allows 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.

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

wesattendance@sd35.bc.ca

PARKING LOT

Our parking lot is exclusively for staff. We need all the spots for staff to come to work. We encourage parents to park in the church parking lot if you wish to walk your child to their classrooms instead of driving through to drop off.

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.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

Please bring school supplies to school when classes are finalized. If you have not done so, you can still order supplies from SchoolStarts. Please see school supply lists [here](#)

Kindergarten students are asked to pay \$50 school supply fee at <https://www.schoolcashonline.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 labelled with their name, especially school supplies
- Labelled litterless lunch containers that can be brought home, washed, and reused
- A labelled 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 – [please label all clothing items.](#)



willoughbypac@gmail.com

www.willoughbypac.ca

facebook.com/WilloughbyElementaryPAC

FREEZIE DAY



Freezie Friday,
September 8. Freezies
will be sold behind the
school close to the
playground.

Thank you for supporting Willoughby Elementary PAC!

****PLEASE PRINT AND POST IN A PROMINENT LOCATION****

School District #35 (Langley)
2023-2024 School Calendar
Willoughby Elementary

MONTH	DATE	
September	Sept 4 (M)	<i>Labour Day (School Closed)</i>
	Sept 5 (T)	<i>School Opens</i>
	Sept 30 (S)	<i>Truth and Reconciliation Day</i>
October	Oct 2 (M)	<i>Truth and Reconciliation Day (School Closed)</i>
	Oct 6 (F)	<i>School Improvement Day (Students not in Session)</i>
	Oct 9 (M)	<i>Thanksgiving (School Closed)</i>
	Oct 20 (F)	<i>Professional Development Day (Provincial - students not in attendance)</i>
November	Nov 10 (F)	<i>Report Card Prep/Design and Assessment Day (students not in attendance)</i>
	Nov 11 (S)	<i>Remembrance Day</i>
	Nov 13 (M)	<i>Remembrance Day (School Closed)</i>
	Nov 29 (W)	<i>Student Inclusive Conferences (Students not in Session)</i>
	Nov 30 (Th)	<i>2 Hour Early Dismissal - Student Inclusive Conferences</i>
December	Dec 21 (Th)	<i>Last Day Prior to Winter Break</i>
	Dec 22 (F)	<i>Calendar Variation (School Closed)</i>
January	Jan 8 (M)	<i>School Re-Opens After Winter Break</i>
February	Feb 16 (F)	<i>Professional Development Day (District - students not in attendance)</i>
	Feb 19 (M)	<i>Family Day (School Closed)</i>
	Feb 26 (M)	<i>Report Card Prep/Design and Assessment Day (students not in attendance)</i>
March	Mar 6 (W)	<i>2 Hour Early Dismissal - Student Inclusive Conferences</i>
	Mar 7 (Th)	<i>Student Inclusive Conference (Students not in Session)</i>
	Mar 15 (F)	<i>Last Day Prior to Spring Break</i>
	March 29 (F)	<i>Good Friday</i>
April	Apr 1 (M)	<i>Easter Monday</i>
	Apr 2 (T)	<i>School Re-Opens After Spring Break</i>
May	May 10 (F)	<i>Professional Development Day(RC Garnett only - students not in attendance)</i>
	May 17 (F)	<i>Professional Development Day (District - students not in attendance)</i>
	May 20 (M)	<i>Victoria Day (School Closed)</i>
June	Jun 27 (Th)	<i>Final Report Card & Last Day for Students Prior to Summer Vacation</i>
	Jun 28 (F)	<i>Administrative Day (students not in attendance)</i>
July / August		<i>Summer Session</i>

SD35 Board of Education Meeting
APPROVED May 16, 2023

2023/2024 Bell Schedule

	Warning Bell	Start Time	Recess Start	Recess End	Calculation Total Recess	Lunch Start	Lunch End	Calculation Total Lunch	End Time
Willoughby	8:45 AM	8:50 AM	10:20 AM	10:35 AM	0:15	12:00 PM	12:33 PM	0:33	2:33 PM