



Willoughby Elementary School

Newsletter #1 September 2, 2025

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: Mrs. Lara Gray

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Mya Bainbridge



Upcoming Events

September 3:	Kindergarten Gradual entry begins.
September 5:	PAC Freezie Day \$2
September 12:	PAC Freezie Day \$2
September 15:	PAC Meeting 6:30 PM in the Learning Commons
September 15:	First Full Day for K students
September 18:	Meet the Teacher Evening 6 PM
September 19:	Terry Fox Run & PAC Freezie Day
September 21:	International Day of Peace
September 26:	Hot Lunch
September 26:	Orange Shirt Day at school
September 29:	School Improvement Day – No students in session
September 30:	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No students in session
October 1:	Yom Kippur
October 5:	World Teachers' Day
October 10:	Individual Photos & Hot Lunch
October 13:	Thanksgiving Day – School not in session
October 16:	Great Shake Out & Reunification Drill
October 23:	Learning updates issued
October 23:	Halloween Dance - PAC
October 24:	Pro D – No Students in session
October 31:	Halloween Costume Twirl



Welcome to a New School Year Start-Up!

Welcome back once again, Willoughby families! We hope you had a wonderful summer and are excited to begin another fantastic school year with us. To our new families—welcome to Willoughby! You're exactly where you're meant to be, and we're so glad you're here. It was wonderful welcoming previous and new students to our wonderful school.





We are excited to welcome a significant number of new students who registered over the summer. Our dedicated staff is working diligently to ensure that the first week of school is both academically enriching and socially engaging for all students.

Throughout the week, students will be completing review assignments and re-familiarizing themselves with key routines and expectations, including:

- Playground safety
- Conflict resolution strategies
- Lunch routines
- Indoor day expectations
- Recycling rules

We appreciate your patience and understanding as we finalize class placements and make necessary adjustments to support all learners.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. We're looking forward to a wonderful year ahead!

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.

2025/26 Class Placements: Willoughby currently has **510 students enrolled**, and we are thrilled to welcome each one of them to a new school year. Our staff has been working diligently to create class groupings that support the academic and social success of every child. This is a process we take very seriously—planning began as early as May, and countless hours have gone into thoughtful discussions about each student's placement. 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!

At this time, we are **awaiting direction from the school board** regarding when we can officially move students into their **permanent classes**. We are hopeful that this transition will take place on **Friday, September 5**, and students will be informed of their teacher and class by the end of that day.

Thank you for your continued patience and support as we work to make the best decisions for all our learners.

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

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

Welcome back Ms. Robertson, from maternity leave	Lauri James (SEA)
Joan Berndt (ELL)	Vanshika Joshi, job sharing with Ms. Foster and Mrs. Dyck and our PE teacher on a Wednesday
Kyla Bartley (SEA)	Victoria Lin (SEA)
Lisa Bradshaw (Psych)	Mandy Yeung (Counsellor) – back in January
Christie Cheng (Clinician)	Joanne Zhou (SEA)
Tiana Chow (Resource)	Joey Lam (SEA)
Ludwig David (SEA)	
Carmen Howe (Office Assistant on Fridays)	
Kylie Hutton, job sharing with Ms. Robertson	

Building Preparation: A big thank you to our school district maintenance workers and our amazing custodial staff, Ms. Wiesner, Mr. Villagracia, and Mr. Virk, for working so hard this summer to make our school sparkle and shine! Thanks 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.

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 am, which is when students start entering the building. The second bell signals the start of instruction and learning at 8:50 am. 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.

Building Safety & Visitor Procedures

For the safety and security of everyone in our building, we kindly ask that **all visitors check in at the office**, regardless of how familiar you are with our staff. This includes visits to classrooms or participation in PAC activities.

If you arrive late with your child, please **do not escort them to the classroom**. Our staff will ensure they get there safely.

Thank you for helping us maintain a safe and respectful environment for all.

*****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 labelled 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, Grade 1, Grade 2, and Grade 3 students are asked to pay \$60 school supply fee at <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/> Mrs. Bainbridge will have this set up by the end of the week for all students.

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 and clothing
- 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.**

Freezie Friday,
September 5. Freezies
will be sold behind the
school close to the
playground.



willoughbypac@gmail.com
www.willoughbypac.ca
facebook.com/WilloughbyElementaryPAC

FREEZIE DAY



Thank you for supporting Willoughby Elementary PAC!

****PLEASE PRINT AND POST IN A PROMINENT LOCATION****
Please note that each school calendar is unique to the school

School District #35 (Langley) 2025-2026 School Calendar Elementary Schools		
MONTH	DATE	
September	Sep 1 (M)	<i>Labour Day (School Closed)</i>
	Sep 2 (T)	School Opens
	Sep 29 (M)	<i>School Improvement Day (Students not in attendance)</i>
	Sep 30 (T)	<i>Truth and Reconciliation Day (School Closed)</i>
October	Oct 13 (M)	<i>Thanksgiving (School Closed)</i>
	Oct 24 (F)	<i>Professional Development Day (Provincial - Students not in attendance)</i>
November	Nov 10 (M)	<i>Design & Assessment Day / Learning Update Prep (Students not in attendance)</i>
	Nov 11 (T)	<i>Remembrance Day (School Closed)</i>
	Nov 26 (W)	Student Inclusive Conferences
	Nov 27 (Th)	2 Hour Early Dismissal - Student Inclusive Conferences
December	Dec 19 (F)	Last Day Prior to Winter Break
January	Jan 5 (M)	School Re-Opens After Winter Break
February	Feb 9 (M)	<i>Professional Development Day (District - Students not in attendance)</i>
	Feb 13 (F)	<i>Design & Assessment Day / Learning Update Prep (Students not in attendance)</i>
	Feb 16 (M)	<i>Family Day (School Closed)</i>
March	Mar 4 (W)	2 Hour Early Dismissal - Student Inclusive Conferences
	Mar 5 (Th)	Student Inclusive Conferences
	Mar 13 (F)	Last Day Prior to Spring Break
	Mar 30 (M)	School Re-Opens After Spring Break
April	Apr 3 (F)	<i>Good Friday (School Closed)</i>
	Apr 6 (M)	<i>Easter Monday (School Closed)</i>
May	May 15 (F)	<i>Professional Development Day (District - Students not in attendance)</i>
	May 18 (M)	<i>Victoria Day (School Closed)</i>
June	Jun 25 (Th)	Final Learning Update & Last Day for Students Prior to Summer Vacation
	Jun 26 (F)	<i>Administrative Day (Students not in attendance)</i>
July / August		Summer Session
APPROVED: SD35 Board of Education Meeting April 29, 2025		

2025/2026 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