



Willoughby Elementary School

Newsletter #12 November 18, 2025

20766 – 80th Avenue

Langley, B.C., V2Y 1X6

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

Principal: Mrs. Karin Muuren

Vice Principal: Mrs. Lara Gray

Administrative Assistant: Mrs. Mya Bainbridge



Upcoming Events

November 24:	Spirit Day – Future Career
Nov 24-28:	Student Inclusive Conferences & Scholastic Bookfair
November 26:	Student Inclusive Conference – No School
November 27:	Early Dismissal 12:30 PM- Student Inclusive Conference
November 28:	Hot Lunch
December 4:	Winter Concert K- Gr 2 – 1 PM & 6 PM
December 5:	Hot Lunch
December 8-12:	Food drive
December 12:	Pancake Breakfast
December 19:	Last Day before Winter Break
January 5:	School reopens after winter vacation

*** IMPORTANT REMINDER***

Spirit Day – November 24

Scholastic Bookfair November 24- November 28

Student Inclusive conference booking closing November 23 at 8 PM

Student Inclusive Conferences November 24 – November 28

Willoughby Annual Food Drive

The holiday season is fast approaching, and we are having our annual food drive for the Langley Food Bank starting the week of, December 8 -December 12. Our school really values helping those who are less fortunate and teaching our students the virtues of caring and generosity.

Food Drive: There will be a friendly competition between house colour teams to see which team can bring in the most non-perishable food items (e.g., canned and/or packaged goods, baby food/items). Last year the Willoughby community donated over 1500 food items to the Langley Food Bank. Our goal is to meet and hopefully beat this total. Donations will be collected in each classroom during our food drive week. Reminder: please don't forget to check the expiry dates on food donations. Thank you in advance for helping us support others!



Student Inclusive Conferences Booking



Thank you to all families who have already booked Student Inclusive Conference times. All classes should have booking times available. We would request that, whenever possible, you use the daytime slots on **November 26**. Also, please note that we have time for **one** conference time per student, so co-parenting families should be arranging to either take turns between Terms 1 and 2 or attend the conferences together. It is extremely important to meet with your child and their teacher(s) to celebrate successes and set goals for Term Two. Our teachers are preparing your children to share their learning with you. Your children are really looking forward to you coming to the school for this very important conference. Research shows that a solid home/school relationship and good communication have many benefits for student achievement and success.

Please note the following important dates and information:

- **November 26 – Student Inclusive Conference Day (non-instructional day)**
- **November 27 – Two-hour early dismissal (12:30 pm) for student-inclusive conferences; all students will eat their lunch at school at noon.**
- **Individual teacher conference days/times will vary during our one-week window (e.g., some teachers may choose to have before-school appointments while others may not; teachers may not have appointments available on every day during the conference window)**

Please secure childcare for siblings. This will allow you to be a fully engaged participant during your child's conference.

Christmas Market

Our Christmas Market on Saturday was an incredible success! The school was filled with festive cheer, and we were thrilled to welcome so many wonderful vendors and families. A huge thank you to our amazing PAC for all their hard work and dedication in organizing this event—it truly brought our community together in such a joyful way. Your efforts made this celebration unforgettable!





Long Term Student Absences: During the school year, parents sometimes take their children out of school to accompany them on business trips or on a holiday. We understand that at times these extended absences are necessary. What is difficult for teachers is when they are asked to prepare homework packages for students, so they do not “fall behind” while they are away. No matter what homework package is prepared, parents must realize that when children miss school for long periods of time, they will be behind. The learning that happens in the classroom, on a day-to-day basis, cannot be duplicated. Teachers have long-range goals and unit plans, which are changed and modified on a weekly and sometimes daily basis to reflect the needs of the class. This daily assessment and teaching is impossible to duplicate in a homework package. For these reasons, when you make the decision to take your child out of school for an extended period of time to accompany you on a business trip or for a vacation, teachers are not in the position to provide assignments for your children. Remember that the experiences your children have while away with you cannot be duplicated in a classroom, either. When you decide to take your child out of school, what are some ways you can help them?

Here are some ideas you may want to consider as you plan for your children's educational needs while you are away:

Read. Set aside some time each day to read. Visit the bookstore before you leave and make some choices together. Read with your children. Please remember that classroom books and school library books are not loaned out to students who are on extended absences for holidays during school time.



Keep a journal, create a scrapbook or, have them make a sketchbook of the special places you visit and the things you see and do. You will be amazed how creative your children can be while at the same time reinforcing their writing skills.

Use technology. Have your children take digital pictures and/or movies. Keep a diary of when and where the pictures were taken and once you are home, have them create their own slideshow.

Apply their math skills in practical ways. Give them a certain amount of money to spend and plan a day's activities. If you are driving, keep track of the cost of fuel. Compare and contrast the prices between cities and countries and tabulate the total cost of fuel. Converting money from one currency to another and learning the different time zones are other valuable learning opportunities.

Once your children are back at school, they are welcome to bring and share what they have done with their classmates. As teachers have not assigned the work nor set the criteria for the assessment, they will not be marking or evaluating your children's work. As parents, it is your right to decide to take your child out of school during the time they are scheduled to be in school. Once you have made that decision then you must also accept the responsibility for your children's education during that absence. **Please remember to come to the office to complete the District's “Missing School Time” form.** If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call Mrs. Muuren.

Christmas Concert: Our music teacher, Ms. Dotto, is busy getting our students ready for this year's concert. There will be two performances on December 4 at 1:00 pm & 6:00 pm. Please see the important information below regarding our concert.

Please Note:

- Extended family members (e.g., grandparents) and parents who do not work during the day are kindly requested to attend the afternoon performance on December 4.
- To ensure we do not exceed gym capacity limits, each K –2 family will receive two tickets for either the afternoon or the evening performance; if any extra tickets are left over, we will inform the school community. Indicate your preference on the form [here](#)
- Younger siblings who can sit on their parents' laps will not need a ticket for the evening performance.
- The students will see the class performances at our dress rehearsal.
- In order for the evening performance to begin on time, we would like K - Gr. 2 students dropped off at their classrooms at 5:40 pm (not before, please).
- Choir students need to meet Ms. Dotto at 5:30 pm in the gym, ready to go on the risers.
- To minimize disruptions while the concert is in progress, we expect that you will remain in the gym for the ENTIRE performance rather than leaving once your child has finished performing. We need to respect the fact that **ALL** performing students have worked hard to put on a great show.
- For the evening performance, the students can be picked up after the performance in their classes. Students will not have permission to leave the class without an adult.



Updates from the PAC



FundScrip Gift Card Fundraiser

- Gift cards are on sale until November 21 at noon.
- Purchase gift cards through our fundraiser and help raise funds for classroom resources!
- Order forms were sent home with students last week.

Next hot lunch: Fri Nov 28: Rib & Chicken and Booster Juice

- Please order by Nov 18.

Christmas Market Success!

- Thank you to all the volunteers who helped make our annual Christmas Craft Market a success!
- The PAC raised over \$3500, part of which will go towards the Pancake Breakfast and the Christmas hamper.

Annual Pancake Breakfast and PJ Day – Fri Dec 12

- Students will celebrate the festive season with a pancake breakfast! More details will be sent out about eating schedules soon.
- We need your help!
 - **Volunteer:** This fun event is made possible by parent volunteers. Please sign up to volunteer here: <https://tinyurl.com/3ee8z5vu>
 - **Donate:** We rely on donations from neighbouring businesses and from parents. Please sign up to donate some breakfast items here: <https://tinyurl.com/5can6jdp>

Please email the PAC with questions: willoughbypac@gmail.com

The Night Before Christmas

A K-2 School Concert

Featuring the WES Grade 3 and Grade
4/5 Choirs



December 4th 1pm and 6pm
Willoughby Elementary Gymnasium
Ticket required for entry