



Willoughby Elementary School

Newsletter #28 April 7, 2026

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

- April 8: Reading Link Challenge @ Willoughby 1:00 PM
- April 10: Hot Lunch Hot Dog Day and Booster Juice
- April 14: Happy Vaisakhi
- April 14: Gr 5 students transitioning to PEMS
- April 14: Reading Link Challenge @ Lynn Fripps 12:30-2:00 PM
- April 17: Spirit Day: Decades Day & PAC Movie Night
- April 20: PAC Meeting 6:30 PM
- April 24: Jump Rope for Heart Event
- May 1: Class Photo Day & PAC Treat Day
- May 3- 8: Teacher Appreciation Week
- May 6: Gr 5 students transitioning to YCMS
- May 8: Hot Lunch
- May 12: IDEA Summit LEC
- May 15: Pro D – No students in attendance
- May 18: Victoria Day – No school
- May 21: Spring Concert Gr 3, 4 & 5 Choir at 1 PM
- May 22: Hot Lunch & Spirit Day – Switcharoo Day
- May 25: PAC Meeting AGM @ 6:30 PM
- May 28: Sports Day
- May 29: PAC Treat Day
- June 5: Welcome To K Event



Important Reminders

April 8 Reading Link Challenge at Willoughby

April 10 Hot Lunch

Easter



This weekend, we recognized Easter, one of the most significant times in the Christian calendar. Easter commemorates the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday and his resurrection on Easter Sunday. Christians believe Jesus to be the Son of God and the Saviour of humanity. Many families gathered to worship and to spend time celebrating together.

Passover



This past weekend marked the middle of the Jewish festival of Passover, which commemorates the Exodus of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt. One of the central traditions of Passover is the seder, a ceremonial meal that follows a 15-step ritual and is often served using special family dishes. During the seder, families retell the story of the Exodus and share symbolic foods, including matzah, an unleavened bread made from flour and water, and maror, bitter herbs such as shredded horseradish, which represent the hardships endured by the Israelites. To all of our Willoughby families who observed, we hope you had a meaningful Passover.

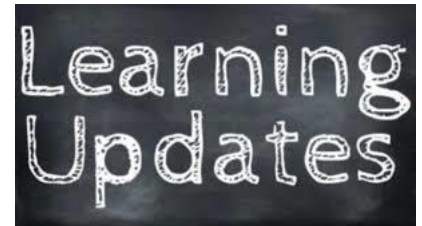
Vaisakhi

April 14 is Vaisakhi (or Baisakhi), the Sikh harvest festival and New Year celebration. While the celebration is marked throughout South Asia, it has special significance for people of the Sikh faith, as it also marks the date in 1699 when Guru Gobind Singh asked the Sikhs to adorn themselves with the Sikh articles of faith. Vaisakhi is also celebrated by Hindus around the world as it marks the beginning of the solar new year.



Learning Updates

During the week of May 4, your child will receive a paper record of the second informal learning update as part of the requirements within the Ministry of Education and Childcare's Reporting Order.



This informal Learning Update serves as a record of communication, which can include (but is not limited to) past email communication, meeting, digital student portfolio or written communication, to serve as an update to families on student learning progress since the Term 2 Formal Learning Update. Parents/Caregivers will be able to see the method of communication indicated at the top of the paper informal Learning Update.

If you have further questions about your child's learning progress, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Talk with Me, Play with Me, Learn with Me

Talk with Me, Play with Me, Learn with Me is a fun and engaging Langley Literacy Network program designed for Kindergarten students and their caregivers. The program will run Saturday mornings from 10–11 am, April 4th to May 23rd, at the Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary School Welcome Centre. It is an opportunity to read, play, learn, and connect. Each week, families will explore new books and activities that support early literacy and learning. Plus, every participating family will take home eight new books to build their home library!



Registration is required, and space is limited. Sign up today at

<https://langleyliteracynetwork.com/talk-with-me-play-with-me-learn-with-me/>

The Mane Event - Saturday, May 23, 2026

If you're looking for something a little different this spring, **The Mane Event** is worth a spot on your calendar.

Hosted at Thunderbird Show Park, this Kentucky Derby-inspired afternoon brings together community and world-class show jumping, all in support of Langley students. It's a chance to step away from the everyday and experience something elevated, social, and meaningful.

All proceeds support programs that help remove barriers for students, ensuring they have access to the opportunities they deserve.

<https://lsdf.org/mane-event/>

Electric Kick Scooters - Important Reminder

As more students use electric kick scooters to come to school, and the weather improves into the Spring, the District would like to inform schools on some basic safety.

1. What is an electric kick scooter? Electric kick scooters have a simple design and are very much the same scooters that children have used for decades... they require the rider to stand on a narrow platform with one foot and then kick or push off with the other. The difference now is that these kick scooters are electric, they no longer need the rider to push off, and they go at much faster speeds.
2. In BC, you must be at least 16 years of age and be wearing a helmet to operate an Electric kick scooter, within certain parameters, as per below and in the links.
3. Electric kick scooters cannot be ridden on public roads, except if the municipality is conducting a pilot. The Township is in the pilot, but the City is not. For more information, please click on the link: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling/personal-mobility-devices/scooter>
4. Operators cannot ride an electric kick scooter on sidewalks or in crosswalks, except if a sign or traffic control device allows.
5. Please refer to the link below for a full list of safety rules for operators. <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling/electric-kick-scooter-rules>

We are aware that some students who ride their electric kick scooters to school are under the age of 16 and/or may not be following safety rules. Please take note of the age restrictions and the safety rules around electric kick scooters. Our school are not allowed to store your child's electric scooter during the day, as we follow district and municipal rules.



Outside Play – Fraser Health

Health, safety, and wellness continue to be a priority in our schools. To help support our students and families, we are sharing important information from our community partner Fraser Health about outside play. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your child.

Get Outside and Play!

Physical activity is a necessary requirement for optimal health – and the benefits are even greater if you can do it outdoors.

Regular physical activity in childhood helps to develop cardiovascular fitness, muscle strength and bone density, and being outdoors is known to improve mental health.

There are many benefits to unstructured, outside play. When children spend time outside, they:

1. **Sit less, move more and play longer** – key to cardiovascular health and fitness.
2. **Have healthier eyes** – 10+ hours a week outside reduces nearsightedness risks.
3. **Sleep better** – sunlight helps regulate melatonin and sleep patterns.
4. **Enjoy improved mood** – exercise reduces symptoms of anxiety and depression.
5. **Feel more connected to nature** – experience calm and develop mindfulness.

Planning active outings doesn't have to be challenging or costly. Here are some ideas that you can try this week:

- **Go for a walk or hike** – try these [10 hikes to take your kids on this summer](#).
- **Play in a forest or park** – try a new [regional park](#) every day for a week.
- **Climb a tree** – this [Vancouver climbing tree](#) is inspiring, but start smaller!
- **Explore a local stream** – check these [beautiful watershed walks](#) in the region.
- **Play hopscotch or jump rope** – try teaching these [six fun jump rope games](#).
- **Swim at the pool, waterpark or beach** – check [beach safety conditions](#) first.
- **Ride a bike or scooter** – find [easy, family-friendly cycling routes](#).
- **Visit farms, fish hatcheries and bird sanctuaries** – this [local family fun guide](#) has unique ideas.

Find more ideas to keep your kids active through the year on Fraser Health's website: <https://ow.ly/lrmm50PezbK>