



Willoughby Elementary School

Newsletter #3 September 22, 2026

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 24:	Terry Fox Run 9:30 AM – 10 AM
September 25:	School Improvement Day – No students in session
September 29:	Orange Shirt Day at school
September 30:	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – No students in
October 2:	Custodian Appreciation Day
October 2:	Hot Lunch – Indian Affair
October 5:	World Teachers' Day
October 9:	Individual Photos
October 12:	Thanksgiving Day – School not in session
October 15:	Great Shake Out & Reunification Drill
October 16:	School Spirit Day – House Team Colour Day & Hot Lunch- Panago Pizza
October 21:	Learning updates issued
October 23:	Pro D – No Students in session
October 30:	Halloween Costume Twirl
October 30:	Halloween Dance - PAC



Reminders

- **Thursday, September 24 - Terry Fox Run – Please donate \$2 cash or online**
- **All school fees for all grades have been posted on SchoolCash online.**
- **Grade 5 Hoodies are scheduled for delivery the first week of Oct**

PLEASE REMEMBER

Terry Fox Run



This week, our students are learning about Terry Fox and why he is a hero to us all. It is so important to us to make the students aware of our “why” and why we take part in certain activities at school. The students learned that Terry ran his Marathon of Hope and was determined to make everyone aware of cancer research while he faced his own battle with cancer.

Students discussed their own reasons for running, and some even dedicated their running effort to someone they know who is a survivor or dealing with cancer.

On Friday, our students will take part in their own Terry Fox run. Parents are welcome to join us outside on the field at 9:30 – 10 AM.

We will reveal the final amount raised for the Cancer Foundation in next week's newsletter. Thank you very much to all parents who are donating to this worthy cause. Please send your child with a Toonie to contribute to the Terry Fox Foundation. Online donations are open until Monday, September 28 on School Cash Online. All monies raised will be forwarded to the Terry Fox Foundation to further the cause of cancer research. Let's keep Terry's dream alive to find a cure for cancer!

Communicating With Your School

Schools and families continue to work together to ensure success for students. If you have an issue or concern but don't know who to speak with, the District encourages you to read these helpful Communicating with your School guidelines for parents/guardians found on our District website [here](#). As an additional reference, review this one-page resource [here](#).



Student Accident Insurance Plan

The District is offering two options for a voluntary student accident insurance plans for students. This plan is voluntary, but provides significant benefits for accident insurance coverage for families.

Please note, enrolment in the program can be done online only, through one of the following options:

Insure My Kids

OR

Study Insured

Corresponding digital support materials for above service providers can be accessed via the following links:

Insure My Kids:

Insure My Kids - School Resources

Study Insured:

 Study Insured - Support Material

Community Resource: Raphael House

Raphael House is a community-based non-profit in Langley dedicated to supporting families experiencing food insecurity. They provide access to healthy, fresh food through our food distribution programs, as well as opportunities for community connection and support. Registered families are welcome to come weekly for fresh groceries.

The program is available to Langley families with children under the age of 18. Families can learn more about registering for food support by emailing info@raphaelhouse.ca.

Raphael House exists to be a resource for the community by offering practical help and creating spaces where families feel cared for and supported.



ICBC Back to School Awareness

"With the start of the school season, we're asking drivers to avoid distractions and watch for children, especially near schools, parks and residential areas," said Leanne Cassap, local ICBC road safety coordinator. "We encourage parents and caregivers to give their children a refresher on road safety and practice their route to and from school if they'll be walking or cycling." Please see the attached info sheet for parents and caregivers.



Teach your child to be a safe pedestrian. Good habits start at home. <https://www.icbc.com/road-safety/teaching/road-safety-for-your-kids>.

Parent Consent Request

Each year, Langley Schools asks families to complete a set of parent consent forms for their child. These consent forms are required by our schools to ensure the health, safety, and security of all students. Langley Schools uses 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 your school to correct it in our files. If you have not received an email regarding Parent Consent Request by the end of the month or have any questions/concerns, please contact your school administrator



School Health Resources

Fraser Health's **[Healthy Back-to-School Guide](#)** has information on back-to-school anxiety, nutrition, safe travel to and from school, sleep and immunizations.

Fraser Health **[School Health Web Resource](#)** has answers to the most frequently asked health related questions from parents, teachers and school administrators.

Back to School Immunization – Fraser Health



The district's community partner Fraser Health is sharing important information with families regarding Vaccination Status Reporting and Regulation (VSRR). Families are encouraged to review the following newsletter to help keep our community health and safe:

[Keep Immunizations Up to Date - Elementary](#)

For other languages read **[here](#)**.

Friendly reminders:



- To help ensure the safety of all students, parents and caregivers are not permitted in the hallways while school is in session.
- If you are picking up your child at the end of the day, please make your way around the outside of the school and wait at your child's classroom's exterior door.
- If you need to pick up your child before dismissal, we kindly ask that you notify the office in advance whenever possible. We will do our best to have your child ready and waiting for you in the office at the requested time. Please note that all

students must be signed out by an authorized adult before leaving the school.

- If you are planning to pick up your child during recess or lunch recess, please let the office know ahead of time. During outdoor play periods, students are spread out across the school grounds, which can make them difficult to locate quickly. Advance notice helps us ensure a smooth and timely pickup for both families and staff.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding as we work together to keep all students safe and accounted for throughout the school day.

Washrooms: To help ensure the safety, privacy, and well-being of all students, adults are asked **NOT** to use student washrooms at any time. If you need to use a washroom, or if a younger child accompanying you requires one, please stop by the office, and a staff member will be happy to direct you to a designated adult washroom.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping us maintain a safe and comfortable environment for everyone in our school community.



Thank you to all of the families who joined us for our Meet the Teacher Evening last Thursday. It was wonderful to see so many parents and caregivers in our

school, connecting with teachers and learning more about the exciting year ahead. Building strong home-school partnerships is an important part of student success, and we appreciate the time you took to attend.

We would also like to extend a heartfelt thank you to our PAC for organizing the food trucks for families. It was a wonderful addition to the evening and provided a great opportunity for our school community to gather, connect, and enjoy a meal together. We are grateful for all that our PAC does to support our students, staff, and families.

Every Child Matters: National Truth and Reconciliation Day/Orange Shirt Day on Tuesday, September 29

National Truth and Reconciliation Day/Orange Shirt Day is a National Event to honour the Survivors of Residential Schools. To honour survivors of residential schools, staff will be wearing orange shirts to support this important day. We encourage our students to also wear orange on Tuesday, September 29. If you'd like to learn more about Phyllis Webstad's story (the person who inspired Orange Shirt Day), visit <http://www.orangeshirtday.org>. We hope that you will discuss Residential Schools with your own children in an age-appropriate way. The legacy of the Residential Schools is real and overwhelming. We hope you and your children participate with the staff at Willoughby Elementary by wearing an orange shirt on Friday!



Controlled Release Drill or Reunification Drill

During the Great Shakeout in October, we will be conducting a controlled release drill to practice our preparedness for significant emergencies where we might have to release students one at a time directly to their guardians or other emergency contacts. **ONE** class in the whole school will be participating in the fully controlled release drill. To do this, we need to know who a safe, nearby pickup contact for each child in the school is. Emergency Release Form will be sent out soon. Remember that these are the contacts who can pick up your children in the event of a major emergency that might prevent you from getting home (of course, we hope this doesn't happen in any of our lifetimes). Specific detailed information will be communicated to the class involved shortly.



SCHOOL DRIVE-THROUGH AND PARKING

We ask that you be patient when dropping your children off and picking them up at school. Remember to be an example for your children. They look and learn from us. We have a very busy parking lot. Our parking lot

is reserved for staff only. Please do not park in the parking lot throughout the day.

Please **DO NOT** park in the drop-off or pickup lane. Please use the church parking lot across the street and walk your child over at the traffic light. Please do not jaywalk. Please **DO NOT** park on the drive-through lane on 80th Avenue. This causes a traffic holdup, and it is against the law. Please use the assigned crosswalks and do not cut through the parking lot. Please stay on the sidewalk.

WHY A GOOD NIGHT'S SLEEP IS SO IMPORTANT!

Did you know research shows that today's children get, on average, an hour less sleep each night than they did 30 years ago? Because children's brains are a work in progress until the age of 21, and much of that work is done while asleep, this lost hour appears to have an impact on children it simply doesn't have on adults. It has been proven that fatigue can lead to poor school performance and negative behaviour, not to mention morning (and even all-day) grumpiness.

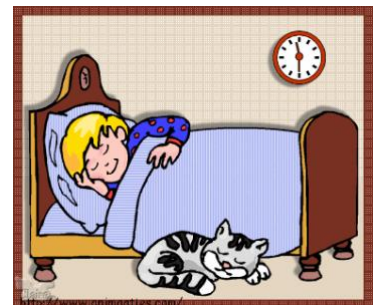
Sleep is so important for good health and to keep children feeling their best. Lack of sleep affects children's learning and how they get along with others. Children need about 9-10 hours of sleep a night. If this is a concern or, if you have a hard time waking your children in the morning, try moving bedtime a half hour earlier until you find a time that leads to their ability to wake independently or, at least without a fight. Have your child go to bed at this same time every night and rise at the same time every morning, even on the weekends to help them stick to a routine.

How do I help my child get enough sleep?

- ◆ Set a regular bedtime routine
- ◆ Have a quiet time 30 minutes before bedtime (read, warm bath)
- ◆ Avoid caffeine soft drinks and chocolate
- ◆ Have a cool, dark, quiet room

What if I have concerns about my child's sleep?

- ◆ Talk to your family doctor
- ◆ Contact your public health nurse at your local health unit
- ◆ Check out the BC Health Guide online www.bchealthguide.org



What is Early Literacy Screening?

Early literacy screening is a quick check that helps teachers understand how your child is developing early reading skills, an important part of literacy development. It's not a diagnosis or academic assessment.

It looks at skills such as letter knowledge, sound awareness, and word reading.

Early literacy screening tools are:

- Brief and easy to use
- Developed using research and student data
- Used by classroom teachers
- Designed to help keep children on track with reading

Early literacy screening provides a snapshot of where your child is in their reading journey.



How Does Early Literacy Screening Help My Child?

Early literacy screening helps teachers understand each child's reading skills and learning needs.

Screening helps teachers:

- Identify students who may need extra reading support
- Plan reading instruction for the whole class, small groups, or individual students
- Track student progress in reading over time
- Adjust teaching to better support student learning

Early literacy screening helps identify reading challenges early so support can begin right away.

This gives your child the best opportunity to build strong literacy skills and a solid foundation for future learning.

For more information and resources visit:
<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/literacy-screening>



Early Literacy Screening

Information for
Parents and
Caregivers



Ministry of
Education and
Child Care

What is Literacy?

Literacy is your child's ability to understand language and communicate in a variety of ways.

Literacy includes:

- Speaking and listening
- Building vocabulary
- Reading and understanding text
- Expressing ideas in writing
- Understanding stories and information

Literacy skills are tools that open doors to learning throughout life.



Why is Literacy Important?

Strong literacy skills support lifelong learning and wellness.

Success in Learning

Children with strong literacy skills are better able to:

- Understand classroom lessons
- Learn new subjects
- Share their thinking through speaking and writing
- Complete assignments independently
- Stay engaged and motivated in school

Health & Well-Being

Children with strong literacy skills are also more likely to:

- Build confidence and self-esteem
- Understand health and safety information
- Build independence and problem-solving skills
- Strengthen skills such as memory, attention, and focus

Later in life, literacy helps people:

- Apply for jobs
- Continue learning new skills
- Build social connections with others
- Participate fully in their communities

How Do Children Learn Literacy Skills?

Literacy development takes time, teaching, and practice.

Children will:

- Learn at different speeds
- Find some parts of literacy easier than others
- Build skills over time
- Show progress in different ways

Some children need more time and practice.

This does *not* mean they won't develop strong literacy skills over time.

Early support makes a big difference, and schools are there to help!

Literacy development can also happen at home. Reading together is a great way to build these skills.

Transportation: My Ride K-12 App

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the Langley School District's Transportation service will be using the My Ride K-12 (app or website) to share up-to-date bus rider information with parents/guardians and students. The application allows parents/guardians and students to view assigned bus stops and pick-up/drop-off times and receive notifications about bus delays or route changes. To access your child's bus rider information, sign-up and login to the My Ride K-12 app by following instructions found on the District website [here](#).

LEAP (Outdoor Education) Parent Information Session Thursday, October 1, 2026

Imagine your child's classroom in the open air! Join us on Thursday, October 1st @ 5pm at Fort Langley Elementary for our LEAP (Langley Environmental Awareness Program) Information Session. This meeting is for families interested in Kindergarten enrolment for the 2027-2028 school year, as well as any current grade 1-7 students who might want a change and an opportunity to learn in the great outdoors. For more about the outdoor education program and to watch our new stunning promotional video please visit:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PdXcrUJSzfl>.

Safer Schools Together Parent Information Sessions

Safer Schools Together is once again providing Family Information Sessions on a variety of topics. These are good opportunities for parents and guardians to increase their knowledge on the evolving world of digital citizenship, social media, AI, etc. Sessions are recommended for those in care of children aged 10 & up.

The first two sessions available are titled:

- *Establishing Safe, Caring, and Respectful Digital Communities*
- *Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion*

<https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-sessions>



September 3, 2026

Ref: 319548

Dear Parents and Caregivers:

The start of a new school year is always an exciting time for students and families. As schools reopen this fall, I am pleased to share important information about early literacy screening which will support and strengthen your child's learning. It also plays a vital role in how government is focusing on educational excellence for all British Columbia students.

Across the province, government has been focused on improving literacy outcomes for all students. Early literacy is the foundation for lifelong learning, student confidence, and learner well-being. One of the most effective ways to ensure children stay on track with their reading development is through early literacy screening. Beginning this year, all public schools from Kindergarten to Grade 3 will use screening tools to help teachers identify when students may benefit from additional instruction or early intervention. This helps build strong reading skills and sets students up for future success.

You may not be familiar with early literacy screening but it is important to know what it is and why it matters. Early literacy screening is an assessment that happens in your child's classroom, two to three times across each school year. Screening is a way to check in on your child's early literacy skill development, and it can help identify any gaps in their learning that may require additional support. Screening is one of the tools that supports quality classroom instruction and intervention, and this is the first school year where screening is required for all public schools from Kindergarten to Grade 3.

Every day, your child will engage in early literacy learning through play-based activities and targeted instruction that builds oral language, reading, and writing skills. Whether they are singing the alphabet, exploring letter sounds and new vocabulary, or beginning to write simple sentences, these foundational experiences are essential building blocks for future academic success. If you would like to learn more about what your child is learning, please connect with their teacher. You can also explore the [BC Curriculum](#) for literacy and numeracy expectations by grade:

- [English Language Arts](#)
- [Français Langue Seconde](#)
- [Français Langue Première](#)
- [Mathematics](#)

.../2

SPIRIT WEAR

ON SALE NOW!



COLOUR T-SHIRTS

Yellow, red, green, and light blue

YOUTH: \$15

ADULT: \$20

Teachers will send home details on your child's team colour.

*Willoughby Elementary's first
spirit day will take place October 16!*

PLACE YOUR ORDER BETWEEN SEPTEMBER 21- OCTOBER 5



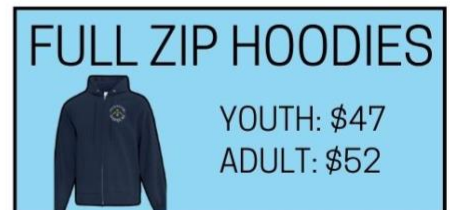
JOGGERS

YOUTH: \$40
ADULT: \$45



HOODIES

YOUTH: \$45
ADULT: \$49



FULL ZIP HOODIES

YOUTH: \$47
ADULT: \$52

Hoodies, full zip hoodies, long sleeve shirts,
crew neck, sweat shirts and sweat pants
available (in black, navy, and grey).

ORDER HERE:

<https://www.9blocks.ca/willoughbywarriorsspiritwear>



ALSO AVAILABLE

CREW NECK SWEATSHIRTS: \$45
LONG SLEEVE SHIRTS: \$26/\$31
TOQUES: \$20
TOTE BAGS: \$15
HIP BAGS: \$24
PENCIL CASES: \$8

SHOW YOUR SCHOOL SPIRIT! ORDER TODAY!

CONTACT THE PAC WITH QUESTIONS: willoughbypac@gmail.com

**PAC Meeting** – thanks for attending

- Thank you to the parents who attended the first PAC meeting of the school year!
- Meet the Team: We welcomed Tugce back to the role of Treasurer and two new Members at Large.
- You can email the team any time you have questions or if you'd like to get involved with an upcoming event or fundraiser.

Coupon Books are on sale now!

- On sale until October 1.
- Help us fundraise with the Community Values Coupon Book.
- Books and information packages were sent home with all students.
- Please purchase or return your book.
- <https://www.munchalunch.com/schools/willoughby/>

Spirit Wear now available for purchase!

- On sale Sept 21-Oct 5.
- Show your school spirit! Each student is assigned a team colour (yellow, red, green, or light blue- assigned by their teacher).
- Purchase online: <https://www.9blocks.ca/willoughbywarriorsspiritwear>
- Please see full details on the flyer below.

Hot Lunch order by Sept. 22

- Our first hot lunch is on October 2. Please order by September 22.
- Order online: munchalunch.com/schools/Willoughby

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