# Willoughby Elementary School

**Newsletter #7 October 20, 2026**

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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




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| **October 21:** | **Learning updates issued** |
| **October 23:** | **Pro D – No Students in session** |
| **October 30:** | **Halloween Costume Twirl** |
| **October 30:** | **Halloween Dance – PAC** |
| **November 2:** | **Photo Retakes** |
| **November 6:** | **Hot Lunch** |
| **November 8:** | **National Aboriginal Veterans Day** |
| **November 11:** | **Remembrance Day – No school** |
| **November 13:** | **World Kindness Day** |
| **November 13:** | **PAC Movie night** |
| **November 14:** | **Christmas Market** |
| **November 16:** | **PAC Meeting 6:30 PM** |
| **November 20:** | **Design and Assessment Day** |
| **November 27:** | **Hot Lunch & Spirit Day** |
| **Nov 30 – Dec 4:** | **Student Inclusive Conferences** |
| **November 28:** | **Hot Lunch & Spirit Day** |
| **December 2:** | **Full Day conferences** |
| **December 3:** | **SIC – 2-hour early dismissal** |
| **December 4:** | **Pancake Breakfast** |
| **December 11:** | **Hot Lunch – Golden Medal Chinese** |
| **December 15:** | **Winter Concert 1 PM – Gr 3, 4 & 5** |
| **December 16:** | **Winter Concert 1 PM – Gr 3, 4 & 5** |
| **December 17:** | **Last Day and Movie Day prior to winter break** |

## Important Reminders

**October 21- Learning Updates issued**

**No School on Friday, October 23 – Provincial Pro D Day**

Our students go outside for recess and lunch rain or shine, and we encourage you to ensure they are dressed for the weather. Our lost and found is currently full, so if you have items you are missing, please ask your child to check the lost and found. You are welcome to visit our lost and found. All items are placed in the hallway to spot clothing more easily.



*Emergency Procedures & Response*

*Health and safety are a priority in the Langley School District. Schools follow emergency procedures to ensure students, staff, and any visitors in our schools or sites are safe when unexpected incidents or events happen. At the start of every school year, administrators, teachers, and staff review these emergency procedures. Schools practice a set number of drills annually in preparation for unexpected situations. The District encourages families to become familiar with these staff emergency procedures and the drills that are completed in schools. You can read about them in the Staff Emergency Procedures Poster* ***here*** *or find them posted in areas throughout District buildings. If you have questions or concerns about emergency procedures, please contact your child's teacher or principal.*




***Information About School Status During Inclement Weather***

*Snow closures and power outages are an annual occurrence in Langley School District. So, where do you go to get information about the status of schools during periods of inclement weather? If you are able to access the internet via computer or smartphone, current information about Langley schools can be accessed on all school websites or www.sd35.bc.ca. Updates are also posted to X (formerly Twitter) @LangleySchools and Facebook at www.facebook.com/langleyschooldistrict. If you don't have internet connectivity but your phone is working, call a relative or friend in an area that has not been affected by the storm and ask them to check the district website for you. Local radio stations are also informed of school status in Langley. Tune in to CKNW 730AM, Country Radio 107.1FM, Pulse 107.7FM, CBC 690AM or CBC 88.1FM for updates.*

*In the event of inclement weather, the District may implement a delayed start or early dismissal at school sites. This information will be communicated to families via one or more of these methods: SchoolMessenger, email and/or text and on the District website. For District bus riders, schedules may change depending on the school status.*

*Bus riders will be notified of changes via one or more of these methods: My Ride K-12 App, email, phone, and/or District website.*

*Please note that Langley District schools are all considered 'open' until a decision to close is required. Decisions on school closures are usually made by 6:30am. As always, it is a parent's decision whether to send their child to school based on safety and individual circumstances. If you feel it is unsafe for you or your child to travel to or attend an open school for any reason, please keep your child home and report an absence to the school.*

*Gifts and Gatherings is a 90 min program from 8:30 - 10am hosted weekly at one of the Langley Strong Start sites. Any family member or caregiver is welcome to participate along with children ages 0-5 years. Families will explore activities that emphasize indigenous perspectives, highlighting the many interconnected gifts of land, people and animals. Experiences may include: art, sensory exploration, story-time, table top activities and more. During each session, participants will receive a gift that will allow families to continue to explore their learning at home. The program is intended to build connections between families and the school and to support children in their transition into Kindergarten. Please see the flyer below with locations and dates:*



## ***Daylight Saving Time Information for Families: Fraser Health***

*Earlier this year, British Columbia adopted permanent daylight saving time, with the final clock change taking place on March 8, 2026. As a result, the province now observes Pacific Time (PCT) year-round, eliminating the twice-yearly switch between Pacific Standard Time (PST) and Pacific Daylight Time (PDT).*

*During parts of the winter, particularly between late November and early February, many children will travel to school before sunrise. Fraser Health is sharing this information to support families as they adapt to year-round Pacific Time and maintain healthy sleep habits and safe travel to and from school.*

### ***What Families Can Do***

*Support healthy sleep and well-being by:*

- *Spending time outdoors during morning daylight hours whenever possible.*
- *Encouraging physical activity and social connection through after-school programs and activities.*
- *Maintaining consistent bedtimes and wake-up times.*
- *Turning off screens at least one hour before bedtime, as evening screen use can make it harder to fall asleep.*

*Support safe travel to and from school by:*

- *Helping children choose well-lit routes with sidewalks and designated crossings.*
- *Encouraging children to wear reflective or high-visibility clothing and use a flashlight when travelling during darker morning hours.*
- *Reminding children to use designated crossings, scan traffic, and make sure vehicles have stopped before crossing.*

*If driving:*

- *Use extra caution when driving near schools, crosswalks, intersections and shared pathways.*
- *Be aware of one's surroundings and refraining from cell phone use, make eye contact, and shoulder check before turning or changing direction.*
- *Travel at slow speeds and stop completely at stop signs and crosswalks.*

*Additional school health resources can be found on our website at fraserhealth.ca/schoolhealth.*

## ***Student Safety in Schools***

*The Langley School District is committed to fostering safe and caring schools that promote mutual respect, cooperation, and social responsibility, and support optimal learning. Trauma Informed Practices and Procedures promote the creation and maintenance of safe, inclusive, equitable, welcoming, and nurturing school environments. The District expects all students to follow the Student Code of Conduct* ***AP 350****. This expectation is also in line with the new* ***Provincial Firearm Violence Prevention Act (FVPA).***

*The District is sharing a reminder that no one can have "any weapon for any purpose" on school property. This means that weapons are not allowed to be used as part of an educational project, drama production, or themed costume. Examples of weapons include but are not limited to knives, bb guns, and toy guns. Failure to follow these expectations may result in confiscation, intervention, and consequences.*

### ***Keep your children free from respiratory illnesses this winter***

As the weather gets colder and we spend more time indoors, we're more likely to get sick with things like colds, flu or COVID-19 because these illnesses spread more easily in enclosed spaces.

Everyone should take these steps to protect themselves and limit the spread of respiratory illnesses:

- Get vaccinated for flu and COVID-19 if you are eligible.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water is not available.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, mouth and nose.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- If you have flu-like symptoms, stay home and away from people at higher risk of serious illness. If you are sick and cannot stay away from others, wear a mask. Learn more about masks here.

### ***Vaccinations for respiratory illness***

Vaccinations prepare our immune system to recognize and respond to viruses. When children get immunized, they are less likely to get sick or pass along illness to others and better able to focus on learning, playing and doing the activities they love.

Register your children with the Get Vaccinated system so you can be reminded to get flu or COVID-19 vaccinations when they are due. Seasonal respiratory vaccinations are available from pharmacies, public health units and some primary care providers.

***School-aged immunizations***

As children get older, the protection from some infant immunizations can wear off. To set young people up for long-term health and well-being, vaccines are offered routinely in kindergarten, grade 6 and grade 9 with catch-up opportunities in other grades. Getting your child vaccinated on schedule is one of the best ways to protect their health.

All routine school-aged immunizations are free in British Columbia. If your child is not up-to-date with their vaccines, please make an appointment with a public health unit, family doctor, nurse practitioner or pharmacy. If your child's record shows their vaccines are not current, but they did get vaccines from a health care provider outside of public health:

- Contact the health care provider who immunized your child and ask for a copy of the immunization record.
- Report these immunizations to Public Health online at: http://www.fraserhealth.ca/immunizationform

Learn more about school-aged immunizations, including how to access your child's records, here: Children and youth immunizations – Fraser Health Authority

**Halloween at School:** **Halloween at School:** Students are welcome to wear their Halloween costumes to school on Friday, October 30. Please ensure that your children do not bring costume pieces that could get lost or broken.

**Also, exercise good judgment.** For example, masks should be left at home as it is hard for children to see when wearing them, and often young children are scared by them and/or scary make-up. Children cannot bring "play" weapons to school. This includes toy guns, knives, axes, or other items that represent a weapon. We also ask that you do not send any food/treats/items (including wrapped Halloween candy) to school with your child to share with others.

*As Halloween approaches, this is a reminder of the importance of being culturally sensitive as you choose your costumes. As clothing from various cultures is not a costume, but is often part of sacred rituals or beliefs, dressing as such is considered cultural appropriation. According to the Cambridge Dictionary, "the act of taking or using things from a culture that is not your own, especially without showing that you understand or respect this culture." As you move forward with planning costumes for your family, please take this information into consideration. As always, we want all students and staff to learn in a healthy, safe and inclusive learning environment.*



Willoughby Elementary PAC

WILLOUGHBY ELEMENTARY

# HALLOWEEN DANCE





**October 30**

**5:30-6:45pm**
Sensory-friendly, K - Gr 2

**7:00-8:30pm**
Gr 3 - 5

In the School Gym

**Purchase pizza and tickets on munchalunch.com until October 26**



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED