

## **Principal's Report – Jan. 24, 2025**

Happy New Year! Thank you for organizing all of the winter festivities back in December. We're looking forward to a fantastic year ahead. 😊

### **Staffing Update**

We are pleased to welcome the following new staff members to our school:

Mr. Joe Nguyen – District Inclusion Teacher

Ms. Marsha Williams – SEA

### **December/January Recap**

December was filled with a number of festive activities which included: Langley Children's Choir, Volleyball Jamboree, Christmas Concert, Whoville, Pancake Breakfast with the Grinch and Ugly Sweater Day! Thank you to the PAC for making this all happen for us.

January has been a busy start to the year, here are some activities that have taken place:

Welcome Back Assembly – We had our Welcome Back Assembly for students the second day back from the break. In that Assembly, we reviewed our fundamental pillars, general expectations, and finished off reading a beautiful story book titled "You, Me, We – A Celebration of Peace and Community".

Author Visit – Some of the classes participated in an author visit with Rebecca Selven Tamil. Her story is titled "Mellie Goes to the Circus". The purpose of the story is to encourage students to get active and healthy, with a strong focus on physical literacy. Teachers were provided with a follow up lesson plan with the story. Rebecca was very inspiring about her journey to becoming an author, and staff and students really enjoyed her visit!

Great Big Buddy Read Event – Yesterday, students participated in the Great Big Buddy Read Event. This is a province-wide event organized to promote the importance of reading together and to highlight that reading and literacy skills are not acquired in isolation. Classes have spent some time in the day reading together with their buddies. It was lots of fun!

Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) – The Gr. 5/6 students participated in the MDI survey last Friday. This survey is an opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of children's social and emotional health, well-being and assets during middle childhood, from their own perspective. It is completely confidential, and the data will be shared with schools to inform our teaching and learning practices for our students.

### **Upcoming School Activities/Events (Jan/Feb)**

Jump Rope for Heart Kick-Off Assembly – We're looking forward to our Jump Rope for Heart Kick-Off Assembly that will take place next Tuesday, Jan. 28. Jump Rope for Heart has been promoting kid's heart and brain health across Canada for more than 40 years. All funds raised support the Heart & Stroke Foundation for life-saving research and medical breakthroughs. A big thank you to Mrs. Smith for leading this year's Jump Rope Event again! Coghlan's Jump Day Event is scheduled for Wednesday, Feb. 19. More info to come. 😊

Spirit Day – Decades Day! – Our next spirit day is Decades Day, and it will be taking place on Thursday, Jan. 30. Students may dress up in their favourite decade from the past (50s, 60s, 70s, etc.). This will be a fun one for staff and students.

District Pro-D Day – A reminder that Monday, Feb. 10 is our District Pro-D Day. This is the day where all Langley Schools Staff will engage in a day of learning together. There is no school for students.

Green Thumbs Theatre 500 Words – Green Thumbs Theatre returns for another performance titled "500 Words". The performance is a story that focuses on the importance of learning together, and the benefits of having a little/big buddy in your life (mentorship). The performance will take place on Thursday, Feb. 13 at 1:15 pm, and the duration is about 1 hour. Families are welcome to join us!

Intermediate Valentine's Activity – This year, our Gr. 4-7 students will be participating in a different activity for their Valentine's celebration. Our intermediate students will be going ice skating at Twin Rinks! Due to rink availability, students will be going the week after Valentine's Day, on Friday, Feb. 21. Will be loads of fun. 😊

District Diversity and Respect Week – We're looking forward to our District's Diversity and Respect Week that will take place from Feb. 25 to Feb. 28. Similar to last year, each day of the week, students may choose to dress up in specific colour(s) for each day:

Feb. 25 – Red, Yellow and Green Day

Feb. 26 – Pink Shirt Day

Feb. 27 – Orange Shirt Day

Feb. 28 – Rainbow Day (dress up in a variety of colours)

On Feb. 26, we will be holding a Pink Shirt Day Kindness Assembly. This is an opportunity for students to learn about why we wear a Pink Shirt on this day, and how we can ensure that we are being kind every day. A few classes will be presenting on kindness at the assembly. Families are welcome to join us!

Student Inclusive Conferences (SICs) – Our SICs will return for Term 2. We will open up School Appointments for parents to sign up for a conference with their child's teacher. A friendly reminder that students are required to attend their conference with their parents. As well, a friendly reminder that Thursday, Mar. 6 is dedicated to a full day of conferences, and students do not attend school, unless they have a scheduled conference time that day. Further, Wednesday, Mar. 5 is a 2-hour early dismissal at 12:30 pm, and that afternoon is also dedicated to SICs. We have an evening option for parents as well following the 2-hour early dismissal on the same day until 6:15 pm. School Appointments will open on Friday, Feb. 7 until Sunday, Feb. 16 at 9:00 pm for parents to book their child's conference. Any further details will be shared on our weekly newsletters. We look forward to seeing you at the conferences!

Spring Book Fair – Mrs. Conway will be putting on another Book Fair for the spring! This time, we will be able to align the Book Fair with the conferences the week of March 3 to 7. More info to come, please check the weekly newsletter closer to the date.

### **Sports/Athletics/Clubs**

Basketball – Our Gr. 6/7 Basketball Season has begun. This year's teams are coached by Mrs. Conway and Mr. Chadsey. A schedule of games will be shared in the coming weeks. Poppy will be hosting a Jamboree for basketball towards the end of the season. More info to come!

Pokémon Club – Will continue for the remainder of the year, taking place every other Monday. Led by Mrs. Chan and Ms. Baylie.

### **Action Plan for Learning Goals**

Literacy Goal – Aligning with our Action Plan for Learning Goals, our primary staff have been exploring different approaches to supporting literacy interventions for our students. While all primary classes are providing targeted literacy interventions in their classrooms; one example we're currently exploring in Term 2, are Div. 7 & 8 classes piloting a platooning model to target specific literacy skills for our students, up until spring break. Our non-enrolling teachers are taking part in this project, which includes our LA/LLI Teacher and our Resource Team. Our intermediate staff are also looking at different ways to support with targeting specific literacy skills, and we have been using our PLC Time on Wednesdays to discuss instructional strategies and assessments with ongoing guidance and support from one of the members of our District Literacy Team.

February Design & Assessment Day – To further support our APFL goal around Literacy, we are pleased to have Dr. Nancy Young join us on Feb. 24 to present her book titled "Climbing the Ladder of Reading and Writing". Dr. Young will be focusing on ways to address a wide range of literacy learning needs, leveraging the Science of Reading and how we can improve outcomes for all of our students. We're looking forward to this amazing Pro-D Opportunity as a staff!

### **Previous PAC Meetings Items/Others**

Parent Volunteer Application Process – A friendly reminder that all approved volunteers are to sign-in/out at the office and wear a volunteer nametag that will be given by Mrs. Laycock or Ms. Lam.

Nut Aware School – A friendly reminder that Coghlan Fundamental is a nut aware school. We have several community members who have life threatening allergies to many types of nuts, and it is an expectation that we, collectively, make every reasonable effort to ensure that there are no nuts brought to school. To clarify, the reason why we are nut “aware”, and not nut “free” is because we cannot always guarantee that every food product brought to school has not been contaminated or have traces of nuts in it, but we encourage everyone to make best efforts to avoid bringing nuts to school. Thank you for your care and support for the members of our school community.

In-School Field Trip Idea: Fish on Fences Program – An opportunity for a meaningful school-wide mural project. Cost is \$15-\$17 per student. Program details directly from the website (how does the program work?):

1. Find a fence to display the mural.
2. Get your staff, students and parents excited about the project and arrange for volunteers to help with the installation.
3. Stream of Dreams instructors present the workshops, usually over 1 to 4 days, depending on how many students participate in the program.
4. After the workshops are completed, Stream of Dreams staff design the mural with the help of community volunteers, ideally 6-8 people.

More info here: <https://www.streamofdreams.org/fish-on-fences>

## Questions

Darby Photos – Would we like to continue with Darby Photos for the 2025-2026 school year?

## Upcoming Dates

Jan. 27: Pokémon Club

Jan. 28: Jump Rope for Heart Kick-Off Assembly. 1:00 pm

Jan. 30: Spirit Day – Decades Day!

Feb. 7: School Appointments Open for Parents to sign up for Conference

Feb. 10: District Pro-D Day (no school for students)

Feb. 13: Green Thumbs Theatre – 500 Words. 1:15 pm

Feb. 14: Valentine's Day

Feb. 17: Family Day (Stat, No School)

Feb. 18: Jump Rope for Heart Event Day (more details to come)

Feb. 20: Spirit Day – Careers Day!

Feb. 21: Ice Skating Field Trip for Gr. 4-7 Students

Feb. 24-Mar. 7: Student Inclusive Conferences 2-Week Window Begins

Feb. 24: Design & Assessment Day (no school for students)

Feb. 25-28: District Diversity & Respect Week

Feb. 26: Pink Shirt Day Kindness Assembly

Mar. 3-7: Spring Book Fair

Mar. 5: SICs 2-hour Early Dismissal (students dismissed at 12:30 pm) & SICs Late Evening until 6:15 pm

Mar. 6: SICs Full-Day (students do not attend school, unless they have a scheduled conference that day)

Mar. 10: Elementary Band Concert @Poppy

Mar. 14: Spirit Day – Stuffed Animal/PJ Day & Last Day Before Spring Break

Mar. 31: School Reopens