



Donna Gabriel Robins Newsletter April 17

Amazing April News

Dear Owl Community,

Spring has sprung, and we can truly feel the renewed energy throughout Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary School! Our building is as busy and vibrant as ever, filled with learning, laughter, and creativity.

We absolutely loved seeing the imagination on display during our recent Spirit Day. The students dressed as their favourite storybook characters, and the creativity was amazing to see!

We are looking forward to several exciting events ahead, including Oral Storytelling Night, the Spring Concert, and the start of Track and Field for our Grade 4–5 students.

Thank you to our students, staff, and families for making our school such a wonderful place to learn and grow.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us at the office or send us an email nerker@sd35.bc.ca or dmccrae@sd35.bc.ca

Warmly, Mr. Erker & Ms. McCrae



Happening at DGR



UPCOMING DATES.....

April 20- DGR Swag Day

April 23- Oral Storytelling Evening- See Invitation

April 24- Treat Day (Cobs Bread)

April 30- Class Photos

May 4- DGR Swag Day

May 7- PAC Used Book Sale in Gym

May 8- Hot Lunch (Popeye's Chicken) & Spirit Day "Superhero Day"

May 12- Welcome to Kindergarten Event

May 13- Spring Concert for Grades 3-5 (6:00pm)

May 15- Pro-D Day (School Not in Session)

May 18- Victoria Day (School Not in Session)

May 22- Treat Day (Frozen Yogurt)

May 25- Grade 5 Swim Program Starts

May 29- Hot Lunch

June 5- PAC Family Picnic

Please see the [District Calendar for the 2025 - 2026 School Year](#)

Student Absences- A Friendly Reminder

We appreciate parents keeping us informed when students will be absent. Knowing in advance helps our office team efficiently manage attendance and ensures the safety of all students.

If your child is going to be absent from school, please email this information to: dgrattendance@sd35.bc.ca and provide the following:

Date of Student absence:

Child's Name:

Student's Teacher or Division:

Reason for absence:

or phone 778-726-5555 and press 1

- Providing this information helps us quickly and accurately record the absence in our system. Thank you to all parents who are proactive in letting us know—we truly appreciate your support!

Why Regular Attendance Matters

At Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary, we know that strong attendance habits in the early years lay the foundation for future success in middle and high school. This is especially important now, as data across Canada and here in British Columbia shows a significant rise in student absences in recent years.

Across Canada, chronic absenteeism—typically defined as missing 10% or more of the school year—has increased and is closely linked to later academic difficulties and a higher risk of dropping out. Studies also show that attendance issues in elementary school can predict later mental health and academic challenges, making early intervention essential.

Here in British Columbia, the trend mirrors the national picture. A recent CBC investigation found that absences in B.C.'s largest districts have significantly increased, in some cases

tripling since 2018. Experts warn that “the more school students miss, the less likely they are to graduate,” highlighting a clear link between early attendance patterns and long-term school completion. In the Vancouver School Board specifically, excused absences doubled in elementary schools between 2018 and 2025, reinforcing how widespread the challenge has become.

These findings underline what we know from decades of educational research:

When students attend regularly in elementary school, they build stronger academic foundations, develop key social-emotional skills, and are more likely to thrive as they move into middle and high school.

We understand that families may face challenges, and we are here to help. If you are experiencing barriers that make regular attendance difficult, please reach out—we are committed to partnering with you to support your child’s success.



Why Showing Up Matters: How Elementary Attendance Shapes Long-Term Student Success in Canada

Across Canada, schools are experiencing a sharp rise in **student absenteeism**—especially in the elementary.

A Growing National Concern

33% of Ontario elementary students missed **10%+** of the school year in 2022-2023



ABSENTEEISM UP



2018-19 2022-23

Why Elementary Attendance Matters



Early Gaps in Learning
Missed days lead to academic struggles



Mental Health Risks
Linked to anxiety & stress



Higher Dropout Risk
At-risk for future dropout

Long-Term Implications



↓ Lower Graduation



↓ Academic Success



↓ Mental Health Issues

What Schools and Families Can Do



Build Routines Early
Set regular schedules

- Build routines early



• Talk about attendance issues



• Make School Welcoming



• Address student

The Bottom Line: Early action in elementary years leads to future success!

Oral Story Telling Night



Oral Storytelling Night is coming to Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary! Join us for a fun and interactive evening for incoming Kindergarten to Grade 5 students, where learning comes to life through storytelling and play. This event highlights our Action Plan for Learning by showcasing student creativity, growing vocabulary, and oral language skills. We look forward to sharing this exciting night of stories and imagination with our parent community. Come play along side the children and learn how easy and fun language building can be.

This is a no cost event.

If you are interested in coming, we would appreciate that you fill out the form below to let us know what approximate time slot you will be attending.

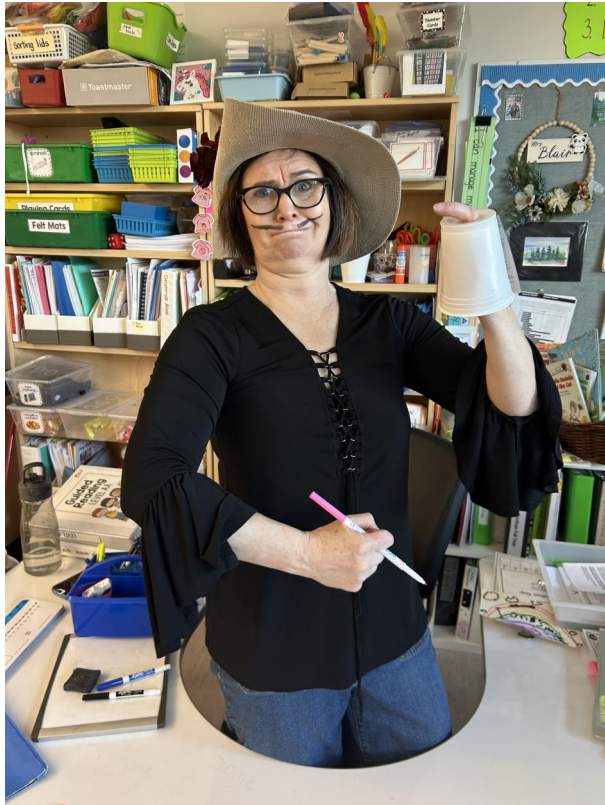
Parents/Guardians MUST STAY in attendance with the students. Please do not drop children off and leave.

If you are interested - please sign up here - [Oral Story Telling Night](#)

Our School Comes to Life with Storybook Characters

Storybook Character Day was a joyful celebration of imagination and a love of reading, as students and staff came to school dressed as their favourite storybook characters. Our school was filled with colour, creativity, and characters who stepped straight off the pages of beloved books.

Staff highlights included **Mrs. Rabbit as the Paper Bag Princess, two Waldos cleverly hiding in the library, Pete the Cat, a swashbuckling Captain Hook, the iconic Cat in the Hat, and Little Red Riding Hood.** Thank you to everyone who participated and helped make the day such a fun and memorable experience for our school community.





Welcome to Kindergarten- newest Owls

It is nearly time to welcome our newest Owls to DGRE. On Tuesday, May 12, we will be holding our Welcome to Kindergarten event for the parents/guardians of our incoming Kindergarten students.

Our **Welcome to Kindergarten** event is a special opportunity for families to meet our **fabulous Kindergarten teaching team**, have the children explore our **beautiful Kindergarten classrooms**, and begin building connections with our school community. This event is designed to help children feel comfortable and excited about their new school, while giving families a chance to ask questions and learn more about the Kindergarten experience.

We can't wait to meet you and begin this exciting journey together!

Please note, to accommodate this event, ***our current Kindergarten students will be dismissed at 11:15 on Tuesday, May 12.***



Student 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 on your child's learning progress, please contact your child's classroom teacher.

Class Placements

As we begin planning for the upcoming school year, we'd like to share some information about our class placement process.

Creating balanced and thoughtful class groupings is a very involved process that includes input from multiple staff members. We carefully consider a wide range of factors to ensure each child is placed in an environment where they can thrive socially, emotionally, and academically. A great deal of time and attention goes into these decisions.

For this reason, we are unable to accommodate placement requests based on individual teachers. If you feel there is important information we should be aware of, we ask that any requests focus solely on the specific needs of your child rather than on a particular classroom or teacher.

Please know that we approach this process with great care and with your child's best interests at the forefront of every decision. We appreciate your trust and partnership as we work to create positive learning experiences for all students.

If you feel the need to place a request, please be sure to include both Ms. McCrae (dmcrae@sd35.bc.ca) and Mr. Erker (nerker@sd35.bc.ca) in the email. Please be sure to title the email "Class Placement Request"

Please note - placing a request does not guarantee it can be granted.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

Grade 3-5 Spring Concert - May 13



On May 13 our Grade 3 - Grade 5 students will be taking part in the Spring Concert. Are you ready to go on a musical journey through our solar system? The students will be travelling planet to planet highlighting different genres of music during each stage of their trip. Come take part in this musical adventure.

Tickets for the concert will be available starting - APRIL 17

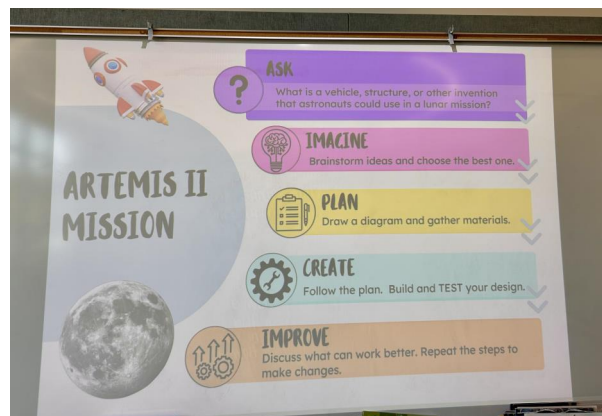
<https://www.sd35.bc.ca/dgre/pay-your-school-fees>

- There will be two performances (**1pm and 6pm**)
- Please log on to school cash online to reserve tickets
- We ask that you please reserve tickets for **one performance only**
- If there are extra tickets, we will inform our community.

From Ideas to Innovation- The Design Process in Action

During Library time with Mrs. McDonald, students have been exploring the Design Process— learning how to ask questions, imagine solutions, plan carefully, and create with purpose. Using this framework, students were challenged to think like engineers and designers by identifying problems astronauts might face during a lunar mission. Inspired by the Artemis II Mission, they brainstormed innovative ideas to support astronauts living and working on the Moon, from transportation vehicles to protective structures and helpful tools.

Once their ideas were planned, students brought their designs to life using a variety of hands-on building materials including KEVA planks, LEGO, Bristle Blocks, and Magna-Tiles. This creative process encouraged problem-solving, collaboration, and resilience as students tested and improved their designs. It has been exciting to see their imagination and ingenuity shine as they connect real-world space exploration to their own innovative creations!





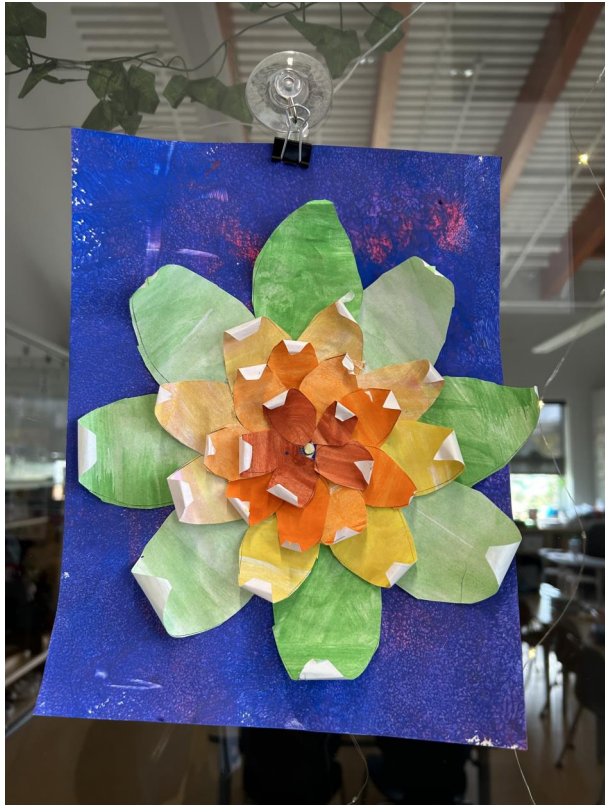


Spring Has Sprung in Our Hallways

Our school is blooming with colour and creativity as students celebrate the season through art. Ms. McCullough's Grade 5 students have filled the walls with beautiful watercolour flowers, Mrs. Cooper's Grade 2 class is showcasing stunning 3D water lilies, and Mrs. Black's Kindergarten students have added extra cheer with their adorable spring chicks. The hallways truly feel alive with the joy and freshness of spring!



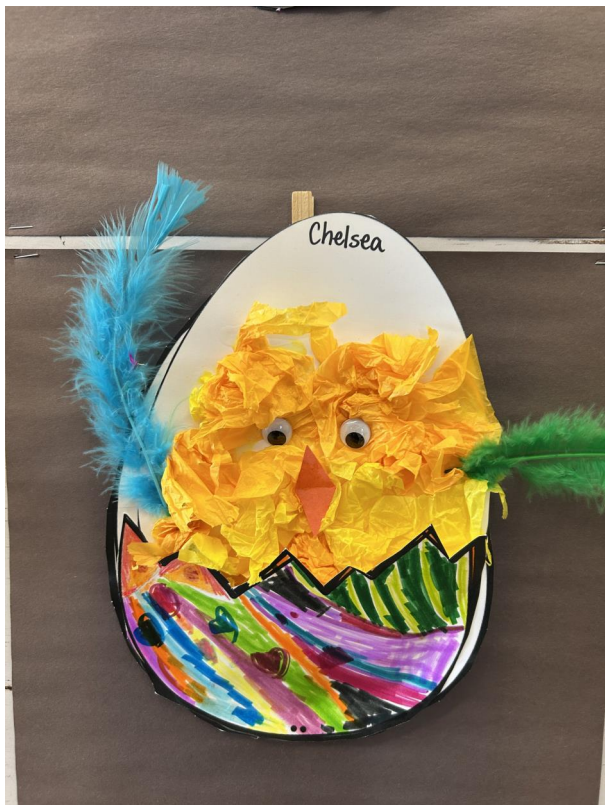


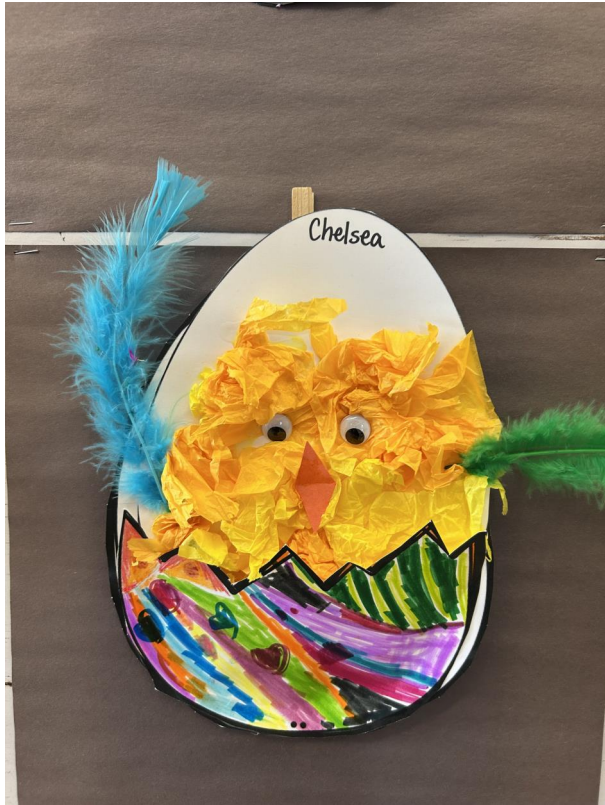














CHILDREN'S BOOKS NEEDED

Our PAC is excited to be hosting our second **DGR Used Book Sale on May 7**, and we are currently collecting **gently used children's books** in all classrooms. There is also a box in our foyer where you can easily drop off some books. Please take a moment to have a look around at home to see if there are a few books your child is ready to pass along.

As a special incentive, **each child who donates a book will be entered into a draw to win an Indigo gift card**. We are looking forward to a successful book sale that supports our school community and continues to **promote a love of reading for all our students**.

Thank you for your generosity and support!



Spring Time is Screen-Free Time

With the arrival of warmer weather and longer days, spring is a wonderful time to **step away from screens and spend more time outdoors together**. Outdoor play supports children’s physical health, creativity, curiosity, and overall well-being—and it’s a great way for families to slow down and connect.

Taking children outside to explore their neighbourhood and natural surroundings can help build confidence, reduce stress, and foster a lifelong appreciation for the outdoors. Here are a few simple, screen-free ideas families can enjoy together this spring:

- 🍷 **Chalk drawing on driveways or sidewalks**
- 🗺️ **Go for a walk and try to find the beaver dam in our neighbourhood**
- 🌿 **Go on a nature scavenger hunt** (look for buds, birds, insects, rocks, or signs of spring)
- 🚲 **Bike rides, park visits, or backyard games**
- 📖 **Read a book outdoors or have a picnic together**

The **World Health Organization**, recommends:

- **No screen time for children under the age of 2**
- For school-aged children, **limiting recreational screen time** and encouraging more active, hands-on play and learning experiences throughout the day.

As a school community, we encourage families to embrace spring as an opportunity to **unplug, explore, and enjoy time together outdoors**—even small moments make a big difference.

Below is a link to a fun Outdoor Nature Scavenger Hunt for your family to enjoy!

<https://canva.link/6arc2vwdl92gcx2>



Nature Scavenger Hunt

Go outside and find the natural items listed below.

Find something soft	 Dandelion	 butterfly	 rock
 grass	 tree bark	Collect three different leaf shapes	 sticks
 mushroom	 seeds	 feathers	 eagle
 ant	 bird nest	Find something rough	 pond
 Beaver Dam	 caterpillar	 cloud shapes	 worm


1 - Click the link above to get a copy of this fun Outdoor Nature Scavenger Hunt for your family to enjoy!

Discover Reading with SORA!

How do I sign in?


Access Sora from the app

Your school setup code is:
sd35ca



1. Tap to open the Sora app.
2. Enter your school setup code.
3. Enter your login credentials.
4. Browse, borrow, enjoy!

Download the Sora app



OverDrive

2 - SORA is our school's digital reading platform that gives students 24/7 access to a wide range of ebooks and audiobooks—right on their device. Whether students are reading for pleasure, exploring new interests, or supporting classroom learning, SORA makes reading easy, engaging, and accessible anytime, anywhere. Encourage your child to log in, browse the collection, and enjoy the joy of reading at home or on the go!

JB4 (Just Be Four) Preschool Registration



Donna Gabriel Robins Just Be Four (JB4) Preschool - Registration Open for September 2026

Langley School District operates a licenced 4 year old preschool program at Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary. Registration is now open for September 2026-2027.

Classes operate on Tuesdays/Thursdays from 12:30 - 2:30.

Please complete the contact form below and our staff will connect with you regarding securing a space for your child. Please contact Charlene Redekop at credekop@sd35.bc.ca for further information.

https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=rvqr_Ar4dE-2p7oVwqS7Jlz2vmItlLtGrI0qa8negQtUOEEzU0o4R0JHVldIWDRRNzQxSVAzWII3Sy4u

Around the Community



McHappy Day - May 6, 2026

On **Wednesday, May 6, 2026**, McDonald's Langley locations will celebrate McHappy Day, raising funds to support families and children in our community. Proceeds will be split between three local charities, including the **Langley School District Foundation!**

This year, the goal is to raise \$28,000. Your support will help fund Out-of-School Programs for Langley students.

Volunteers Needed!

Volunteers will help create a fun and welcoming atmosphere while supporting fundraising efforts.

Volunteer activities may include:

- Greeting guests in the lobby
- Helping with games or activities for families
- Collecting donations in the drive-thru donation bucket
- Encouraging guests to support McHappy Day fundraising

No experience is needed — just bring your energy, enthusiasm, and community spirit!

Volunteer Times

Volunteers are needed throughout the day from: **9:00 AM – 7:00 PM**. You are welcome to volunteer for **as little as 1 hour or longer**. We welcome:

- Individuals
- Families
- Students completing volunteer hours
- Community groups
- School groups such as band, cheer teams, and dance teams

PAC NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION



APRIL 2026




Welcome to Spring!

Thank you to all who have participated in our fundraisers so far this year - from hot lunches to our Purdy's and Neufeld sales. All of our efforts are now visible in the latest additions to the playground and the future addition of more swings! Please see below for two new opportunities to support our students.

Reminder:

DONNA GABRIEL ROBINS PAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Tuesday, May 6, 2026
 Time: 8:30
 Place: Learning Commons (Library)

We are accepting nominations for the following PAC executive positions:

- President, Vice President,
- Secretary, Treasurer,
- DPAC Representative
- Member at Large (4)

Submit applications by May 5 to DonnaGabrielRobinsPAC@gmail.com

New Fundraiser:



40 full sized cards!

\$55.00 for 40 full sized gift cards for various occasions, sales on Munch-a-Lunch until April 24th.

APRIL EVENTS

- MARCH 30-APRIL 1 ART OF TAEKWONDO
- MARCH 31 FRESH SLICE ORDER DEADLINE
- APRIL 1 PURDY'S ORDER PICK UP (AFTER SCHOOL)
- APRIL 3 GOOD FRIDAY (NO SCHOOL)
- LAST DAY FOR SPIRIT WEAR ORDERS
- APRIL 6 EASTER MONDAY (NO SCHOOL)
- APRIL 7 GREETING CARD FUNDRAISER BEGINS
- PAC MEETING @ 8:30
- APRIL 10 FRESH SLICE HOT LUNCH
- SPIRIT DAY: DRESS AS YOUR FAVORITE BOOK CHARACTER
- APRIL 11 ART OF TAEKWONDO FUNDRAISER
- APRIL 14 COORS BREAD ORDER DEADLINE
- APRIL 24 COORS BREAD TREAT DAY
- LAST DAY FOR GREETING CARD FUNDRAISER
- APRIL 28 POPEYES CHICKEN HOT LUNCH ORDER DEADLINE

Used Book Fair
May 7

More details to come regarding book fair sales
Donnagabrielrobinspac@gmail.com

DONNA GABRIEL ROBINS

SPIRIT WEAR

SPIRIT WEAR ON SALE NOW!

ADULT & CHILD APPAREL & ACCESSORIES

Lots of styles to choose from!
New colours and items!

Order between March 13-April 3

Delivery to classes the week of April 7
(click DGR Free delivery when ordering)

**9BLOCKS.CA/
DGRSPIRITWEAR**

DONNAGABRIELROBINSPAC@GMAIL.COM

PARTIAL PROCEEDS OF SPIRIT WEAR SALES GO TOWARDS THE DGR PAC

DGR PAC

Used BOOK Fair

May 7

DGR PAC

The PAC will be holding a Used Book Fair May 7 and we need YOUR help!

Bring in your used books (good condition please!) to your child's classroom from March 30-May 1 and your child will be entered into a draw to win an Indigo gift card!

More details to come regarding book fair sales

Donnagabrielrobinspac@gmail.com

Hot Lunch Information

HOT LUNCH SIGN UP

If you are a returning student please log in here:

<https://munchalunch.com/login>

If you are new to DGR, you can create an account here:

<https://munchalunch.com/schools/dgr>

PAC INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION

Check out our PAC Facebook page for school updates, hot lunch information, fundraising events and more!

<https://www.facebook.com/share/g/1FCWxHYvhA/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

**DONNA GABRIEL ROBINS ELEMENTARY**
**HOT LUNCH
MENU**

Date	Vendor	Order By Date
September 19	Fuel/Booster juice	September 10
October 10	White Spot	September 30
October 23	TCBY FROZEN YOGURT (Treat day)	October 13
November 7	Hellcrust pizza	October 28
November 21	POPCORN DAY	November 11
December 12	OPA Greek	December 2
January 9	HiFive Chicken	December 30
January 16	COBS Bread (Treat Day)	January 6
January 30	A&W	January 20
February 20	Subway	February 10
February 27	POPCORN DAY	February 17
March 6	Umami Sushi & Booster Juice	February 24
March 13	POPCORN DAY	March 3
April 10	Fresh Slice	March 31
April 24	COBS bread (Treat day)	April 14
May 8	Popeye's Chicken	April 28
May 22	TCBY FROZEN YOGURT (Treat day)	May 12
May 29	Earl of Sandwich	May 19
June 12	Fuel Catering (hot dog/ hamburger day)	June 2
June 19	POPCORN DAY	June 9
June 24	Kona Ice (Treat Day)	June 14

- CUT OFF FOR ORDERING IS 10 DAYS PRIOR TO THE LUNCH DATE
- ANY UNPAID ORDERS WILL BE AUTOMATICALLY CANCELLED, PLEASE ENSURE YOU MAKE A PAYMENT AS SOON AS YOU PLACE THE ORDER
- WE ARE NOT ABLE TO ACCEPT CASH/CHEQUES FOR HOT LUNCH ORDERS
- WHEN PLACING AN ORDER WITH SUBWAY YOU CAN SELECT TOPPINGS AT THE END OF YOUR ORDER BEFORE YOU PAY
- IF YOUR CHILD IS NOT ATTENDING SCHOOL ON THE HOT LUNCH DATE YOU CAN PICK UP THEIR FOOD FROM THE FRONT FOYER. PLEASE EMAIL DONNAGABRIELROBINS@GMAIL.COM TO LET US KNOW SO WE CAN HAVE IT READY FOR PICK UP.
- WE CAN NOT OFFER REFUNDS FOR HOT LUNCH AS THIS IS A PAC FUNDRAISER
- ONCE YOU HAVE PLACED AN ORDER, EMAIL CONFIRMATION WILL BE SENT TO YOU. IF YOU DO NOT RECEIVE THIS CONFIRMATION THE ORDER WAS NOT PROCESSED.
- EMAIL REMINDERS WILL BE SENT THE DAY BEFORE HOT LUNCH WITH DETAILS OF YOUR ORDER.

ORDER ON MUNCHALUNCH.COM
CONTACT DONNAGABRIELROBINS@GMAIL.COM WITH ANY QUESTIONS


SCAN ME

Parent Code of Conduct - SD#35



[Parent Code of Conduct](#)

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.

Families play an important role in helping students achieve success as well as helping create a compassionate learning community. Just as students are expected to follow the District's [Student Code of Conduct](#), there is an expectation for parents/guardians to uphold the District's [Parent/Guardian Code of Conduct](#).