



# Donna Gabriel Robins Newsletter May 1

[A-MAY-zing things are happening at DGR](#)

Dear Owl Community,

April was an exciting and joyful month at Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary, and we are so proud of all that our students and families accomplished together.

One of the highlights was our Oral Storytelling Night. It was wonderful to see so many families come out to take part in an evening filled with imagination, laughter, and creativity. Our students delighted us as they played with ideas and created stories that were fun, exciting, and uniquely their own. We were also deeply honoured to welcome Fern Gabriel, who generously shared stories with our community. Moments like these remind us how powerful storytelling is in bringing people together.

Opening our school to families and the wider community creates a strong sense of connection and pride, and events like this truly show the heart of DGRE. Thank you to everyone who attended and helped make the evening such a success.

As we look ahead to May, it's hard to believe how quickly the school year is flying by. The end of the year is approaching fast, and there are many exciting activities and important dates coming up. Please be sure to check the calendar and stay connected—DGRE will be buzzing with learning, celebrations, and special events.

Thank you for your continued support and partnership. Together, we make DGRE 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](mailto:nerker@sd35.bc.ca) or [dmccrae@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:dmccrae@sd35.bc.ca)

Warmly,

Mr. Erker & Ms. McCrae



## Happening at DGR



### UPCOMING DATES.....

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 28- Builder's Night 4:00-5:30 in our Gym

May 29- Hot Lunch  
June 1- 5 Grade 5 Swim Program  
June 1- DGR Swag Day  
June 5- PAC Family Picnic  
June 11- Grade 4/5 Track Meet  
June 12- Sports Day  
June 12- Hot Lunch (Fuel Catering- Hot Dogs & Hamburgers)  
June 17- Grade 5 Celebration in Gym  
June 19- Popcorn Day  
June 24- Treat Day (Kona Ice)  
June 24- Spirit Day "Rainbow Day"  
June 25- Last Day of School

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](mailto: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 Storytelling Evening – A Community Celebration



Last week, we were thrilled to welcome over **80 students and their families** to our Oral Storytelling Evening, and what a wonderful success it was! Students and caregivers spent meaningful time together creating pictures and stories using loose parts, filling our school with imagination, creativity, and connection.

We were **so very honoured to have Fern Gabriel join us** to share Indigenous stories in front of our beautiful owl house posts. Her lively and engaging storytelling captivated students and adults alike, creating a powerful and memorable moment of learning, listening, and belonging.

Sharing stories and talking about their creations provided rich opportunities to support **oral language development for all learners**, while strengthening relationships between home and school. A heartfelt thank you to our staff members who thoughtfully set up imaginative provocations and welcomed families into these shared learning spaces.

It was a joy to be together and to open our doors to our wonderful school community—our creations truly came alive with story, joy, and celebration.

We are excited to invite families to our next community event, **Builder's Night**, taking place on **Thursday, May 28th from 4:00–5:30 pm**. This will be another opportunity for students to use their creativity and imagination as they build with a variety of materials. We look forward to welcoming our families for another engaging evening together!







## Our Lost & Found Is Looking for Its Forever Homes

Hello from the Lost & Found,

We've grown quite big, it seems!

We're filled with hats and hoodies,

And *many* missing jackets' dreams.

A lonely sock is waving,

A sweatshirt calls your name,

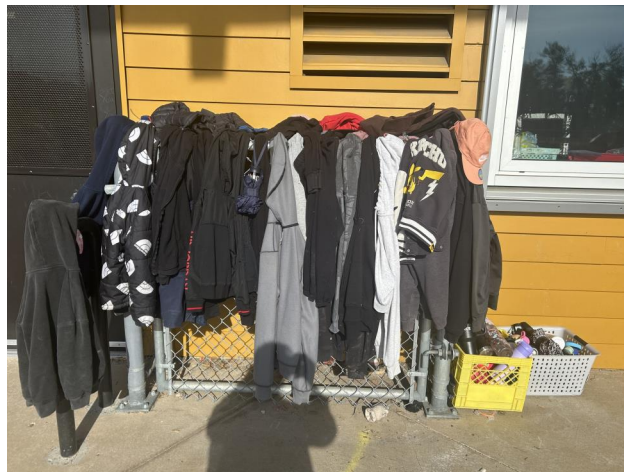
"I miss my home, my person too—

School just isn't quite the same!"

If you're missing coats or sweaters,  
Or a water bottle left behind,  
Please come have a little look—  
A friend you love, you just might find!

Good news for busy families—  
We're outside, easy to see,  
Pop by evenings or weekends,  
Anytime, it's worry-free!

Help these clothes get back to homes,  
Where they're warm and meant to stay—  
Thank you for checking Lost & Found,  
And saving laundry day! 😊





## 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](mailto:dmcrae@sd35.bc.ca)) and Mr. Erker ([nerker@sd35.bc.ca](mailto: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.

## Spring Is Blooming in Our Hallways

Our hallways are bursting with colour and creativity! Beautiful flowers and stunning cherry blossom art pieces now fill our spaces, bringing a fresh and joyful feeling to the school. It has been such a delight to see the vibrant colours and thoughtful details created by our **budding artists**. These cheerful displays truly brighten our days and remind us that spring—and creativity—are in full bloom throughout our school.

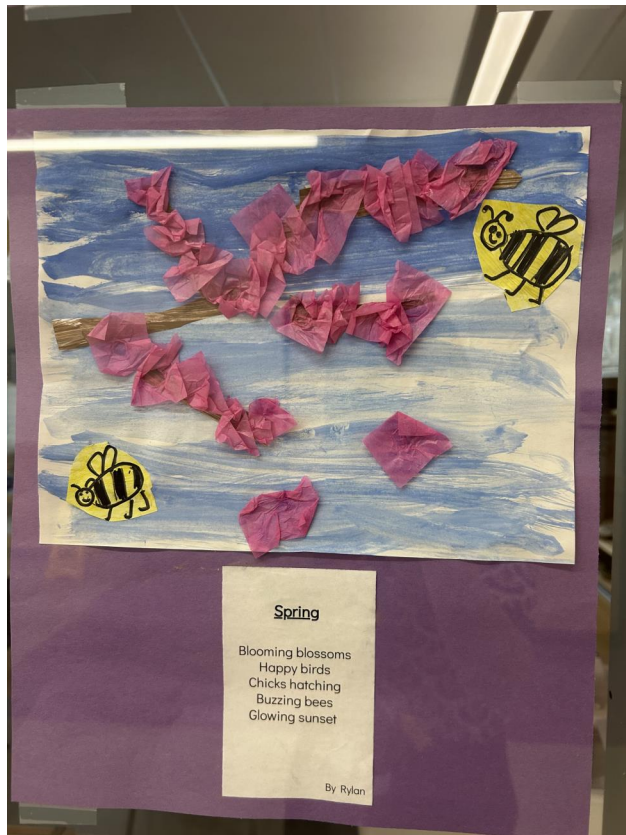








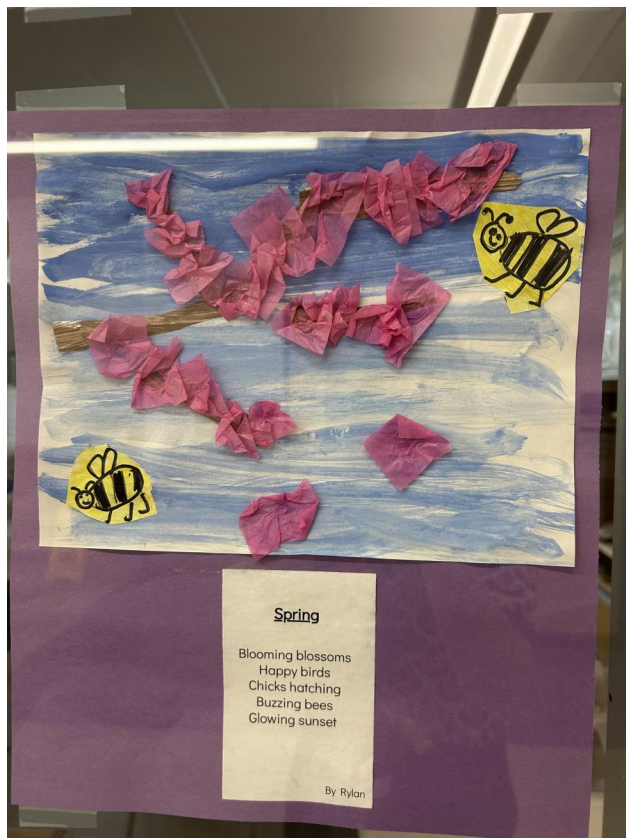




**Spring**

Blooming blossoms  
Happy birds  
Chicks hatching  
Buzzing bees  
Glowing sunset

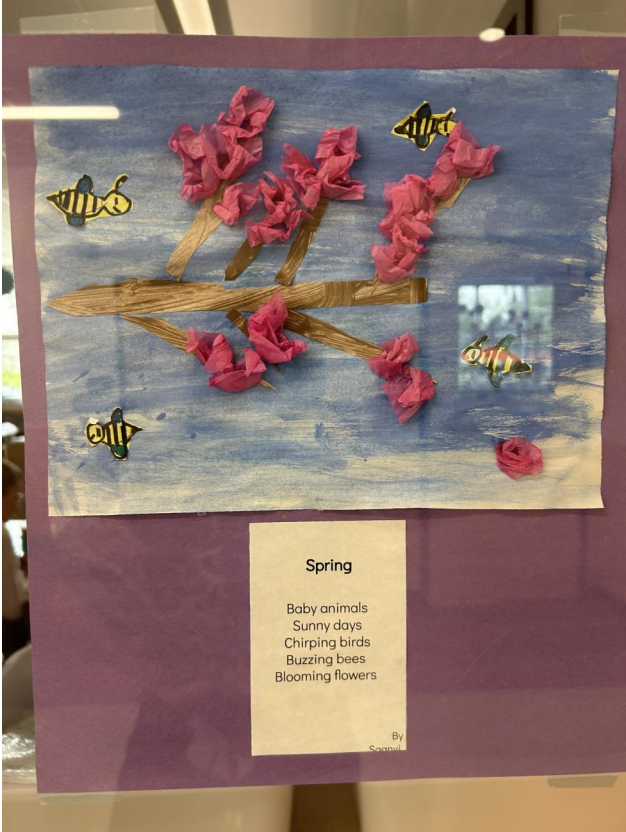
By Rylan



**Spring**

Blooming blossoms  
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Glowing sunset

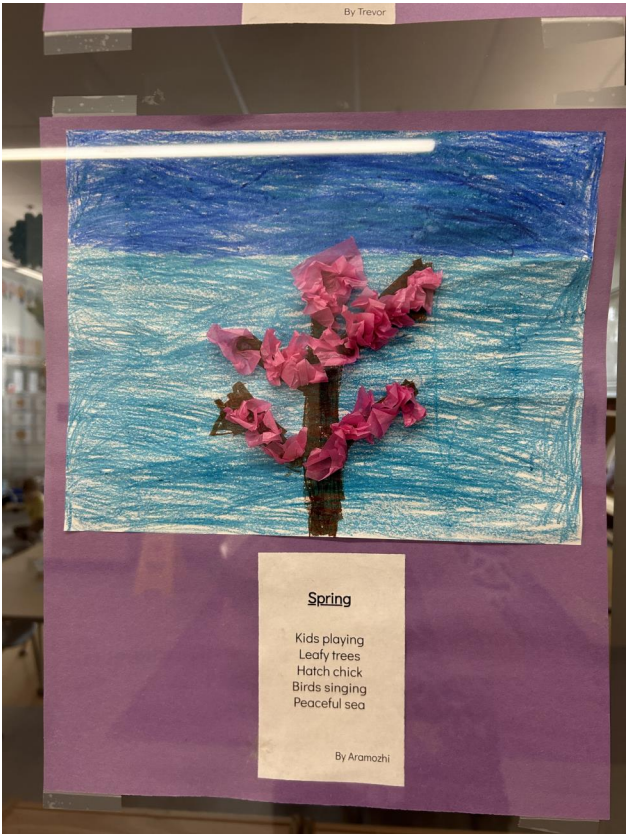
By Rylan



**Spring**

Baby animals  
Sunny days  
Chirping birds  
Buzzing bees  
Blooming flowers

By  
Samantha



**Spring**

Kids playing  
Leafy trees  
Hatch chick  
Birds singing  
Peaceful sea

By Aramozhi

## DGR Used Book Sale – Coming May 7!

Our PAC is thrilled to be hosting the **second DGR Used Book Sale on May 7th!**

Every child who donated a book will be entered into a draw to **win an Indigo gift card**—a big thank you to all our generous donors!

On sale day, students will be able to shop for:

- 📖 **Books for just \$2**
- ✎ **Pencils and bookmarks for \$1**
- ★ **Stickers for only \$0.25**

We are so looking forward to a lively and successful book sale that supports our school community and continues to foster a love of reading for all our students. Thank you for your generosity and support—we can't wait to see our readers in action!



## Screens at Night: Why Sleep Matters for Learning

Quality sleep plays a critical role in children’s growth, learning, and emotional wellbeing. Research consistently shows that **screens in bedrooms and screen use in the evening** can interfere with children’s sleep, making it harder for them to fall asleep, stay asleep, and get the rest their growing brains need.

When screens are used at night, the light and stimulation can delay the release of melatonin, the hormone that helps our bodies prepare for sleep. As a result, children may feel tired in the morning, have difficulty focusing, and struggle with attention, memory, and self-regulation during the school day.

Studies have also found that **children with televisions or devices in their bedrooms tend to get less sleep overall**, which can impact academic performance, engagement in learning, and emotional regulation at school.

Supporting healthy nighttime routines—such as keeping screens out of bedrooms and creating screen-free time before bed—can help children arrive at school feeling rested, ready to learn, and better able to engage with peers and classroom activities. Even small changes can have a positive impact on sleep and learning.

Every family’s routines look a little different, but small, consistent changes around screen use can make a big difference for children’s sleep and learning. Here are a few ideas families may wish to explore:

- **Create a screen-free bedtime routine** Try building in 30–60 minutes before bedtime for calming, screen-free activities such as reading, drawing, puzzles, quiet conversation, or listening to music.
- **Keep screens out of bedrooms overnight** Charging devices outside of bedrooms and keeping TVs and tablets in shared spaces can help support better sleep and reduce nighttime disruptions.
- **Choose calm evenings** If screens are used earlier in the evening, consider selecting slower-paced, age-appropriate content and turning devices off well before bedtime.
- **Model healthy habits** Children notice adult routines. Putting devices away during the evening can help signal that it’s time to slow down and rest.
- **Aim for consistency** Regular bedtimes and predictable routines—even on weekends—help children’s bodies know when it’s time to sleep and wake, setting them up for a stronger learning day at school.



## Around the Community

### **This Month in the Arts - May 2026**

This May, our schools light up the stage and gallery with musicals, plays, art shows, writing, dance, and music galore! From musical theatre favourites to student creativity, come and celebrate the arts.

[MAY 2026.pdf](#)

### **Langley Flag Football**

Langley Flag Football is every Friday evening at Josette Dandurand for ages 4-16. It's co ed teams, no contact, beginner to experienced, official NFL teams/jerseys, no travel, no cuts and no financial barriers.

If a family would like to join and they could use financial support, fees will be waived and they will purchase cleats for the kids. The men organizing it have had a league in Abbotsford for many years and are trying to get it started in Langley. It's all about having fun and the love of the game.

For questions [LangleyFlag@gmail.com](mailto:LangleyFlag@gmail.com)

Please go to <https://www.langleyflag.ca/>

## Yorkson Creek Watershed

### Respecting Our Natural Neighbour

Our school is fortunate to sit beside an important part of the Yorkson Creek Watershed, a vital ecosystem that is home to many plants and animals. This beautiful area provides a wonderful opportunity for students to observe nature firsthand and learn about how living things are connected to the land.

To help protect this special place, we remind students that they must not climb the fence or play near the pond at any time. We also ask everyone to refrain from littering or throwing objects into the water, as this can harm the ducks and other wildlife that call the pond home.

By treating nature with care and respect, we help protect it for future learning and enjoyment. Let's all work together to respect and care for this special environment.



# PAC NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION



## APRIL 2026

# DGR PAC NEWSLETTER

### 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.

### 1st Annual DGR Family Picnic

Friday, June 5, 2026  
Join us for games, photo booth, food trucks, TOL fire department truck and more!

### Reminder:

**DONNA GABRIEL ROBINS PAC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Tuesday, May 5, 2026  
TIME: 6:30  
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](mailto:DonnaGabrielRobinsPAC@gmail.com)

### New Fundraiser:



**\$35.00 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 YURDY'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 @ 6:30
- APRIL 10 FRESH SLICE HOT LUNCH
- SPIRIT DAY DRESS AS YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK CHARACTER
- APRIL 11 ART OF TAEKWONDO FUNDRAISER
- APRIL 14 COBS BREAD ORDER DEADLINE
- APRIL 24 COBS BREAD TREAT DAY
- LAST DAY FOR GREETING CARD FUNDRAISER
- APRIL 28 POPEYES CHICKEN HOT LUNCH ORDER DEADLINE

The PAC will be holding a **Used Book Fair** **May 7**  
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](mailto: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



Spirit wear

PARTIAL PROCEEDS OF SPIRIT WEAR SALES GO TOWARDS THE DGR PAC



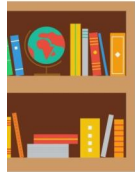
# Used BOOK Fair

May 7



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](http://MUNCHALUNCH.COM)  
 CONTACT [DONNAGABRIELROBINS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:DONNAGABRIELROBINS@GMAIL.COM) WITH ANY QUESTIONS



SCAN ME

1 - Hot Lunch Schedule 2025/2026

## 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](#).*