



Donna Gabriel Robins Newsletter

February 27

February- A Month of Celebration and Community

Dear Owl Community,

What an incredible month we've had at Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary! February was filled with learning, celebration, and community spirit, and we are so proud of the way our students embraced every opportunity that came their way.

During Black History Month, students engaged in meaningful lessons, stories, and discussions that highlighted the achievements, voices, and contributions of Black Canadians and Black communities around the world. Thank you to Presentation House for delivering the Beyond Black History Month presentations to each of our grades.

We also celebrated Respect and Diversity Week (February 23–27)—a wonderful chance to reinforce the importance of kindness, inclusion, and empathy in our school community. Thank you to all our students and staff who participated with such enthusiasm. A special highlight was Pink Shirt Day on February 25, where our school was beautifully united in pink to stand together against bullying and to uplift one another with kindness.

This month also brought opportunities to learn about and recognize Chinese New Year and Lunar New Year. Students explored stories, and cultural celebrations connected to these important holidays.

The month was capped of with the Grade 5 Entrepreneur Fair. Students did an amazing job, creating and selling their products. Students were very excited to see the Grade 5 creations..

The Scholastic Book Fair is almost here! Join us March 3–5 for one of our most anticipated events of the year. It's a wonderful chance to build home libraries, spark a love of reading, and support our school community.

Thank you to our staff, students, and families for making February such a vibrant and meaningful month. We look forward to even more learning and celebrations ahead!

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

Warmly, Mr. Erker & Ms. McCrae



1 - Your Admin Team taking part in Pink Shirt Day.

upcoming
EVENTS

shutterstock.com - 211208097

Happening at DGR



UPCOMING DATES.....

March 3-5 Book Fair in the Learning Commons

March 4- Early Dismissal at 12:30 (Student Inclusive Conferences)

March 5- No School (Student Inclusive Conferences all day)

March 6- Hot Lunch

March 13- Last Day before Spring Break

March 16-29 Spring Break

March 30- First Day of School after Spring Break

April 3- No School (Good Friday)

April 6- No School (Easter Monday)

April 10- Hot Lunch

April 14- Gr. 5 Students Visit PEMS

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.





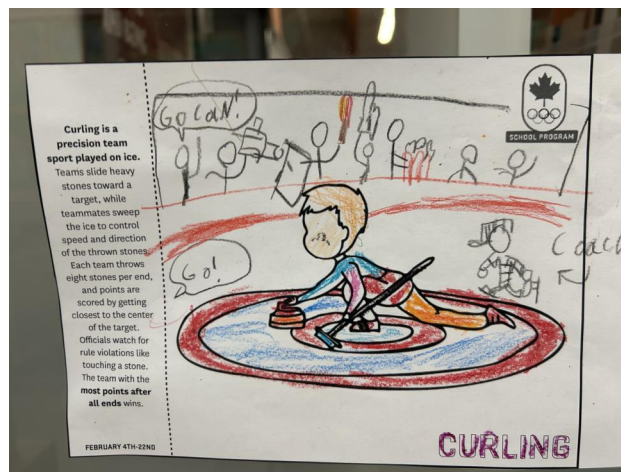
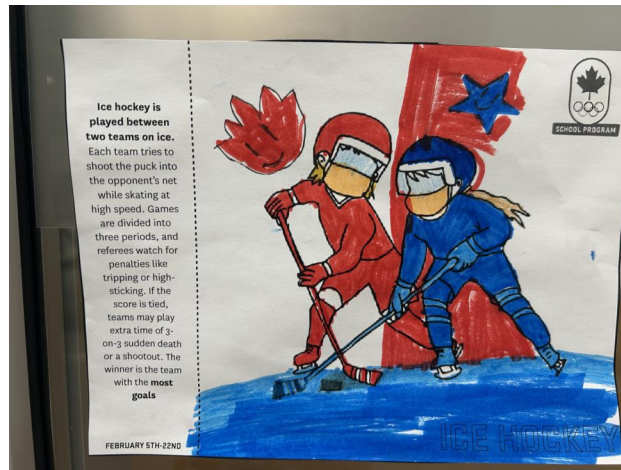
Olympic Fever at DGR!

Our students have caught **Olympic Fever** this month as we've been learning all about the exciting winter sports featured in the 2026 Winter Games. From skiing and skating to hockey and bobsledding, classes have enjoyed exploring the events, the athletes, and the incredible skill and dedication behind each sport.

Each morning, our announcements featured a **spotlight on a Canadian Olympic athlete**, giving students the chance to learn about their journeys, achievements, and the tremendous hard work it takes to compete at the Olympic level. These stories inspired our students and helped them appreciate the commitment and perseverance behind every medal. **What true role models they are!**

A highlight of the month was tracking **Team Canada's medal count** each day with the help of **Mrs. Dumond's Olympic Medal bulletin board**. Students loved watching the numbers climb and celebrating each new medal together—it was a wonderful way to build excitement, school spirit, and national pride.

It has been an energetic and inspiring learning experience for everyone, and we are so proud of the enthusiasm our students have shown throughout the Games!



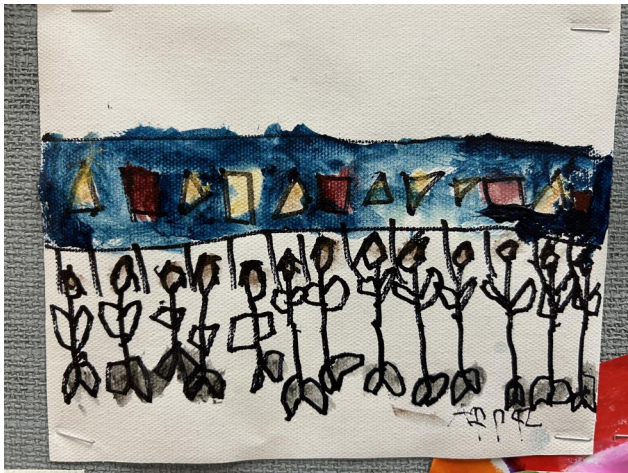
Celebrating Lunar New Year at School

This month, our school community came together to celebrate **Lunar New Year**, while also acknowledging the many other New Year traditions recognized across various Asian cultures. It was a beautiful opportunity for students to learn about the rich diversity of celebrations that take place throughout Asia, including Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, and other cultural New Year observances.

One of the highlights of the day was the **Kindergarten dragon parade**, which made its way through the hallways as the entire school lined up to cheer them on. The students were incredibly proud of the vibrant dragon they created, and our school spirit shone brightly as everyone clapped, encouraged, and celebrated together. Our Kindergarten students also drew the *cutest* pictures of the parade — **be sure to check them out below!** Their artwork truly captured the colour, movement, and joy of the celebration.

It was a joyful and colourful moment that reminded us of the importance of cultural diversity, community, and shared celebration. We are grateful to our staff and students for making it such a memorable event!







Celebrating Black History Month

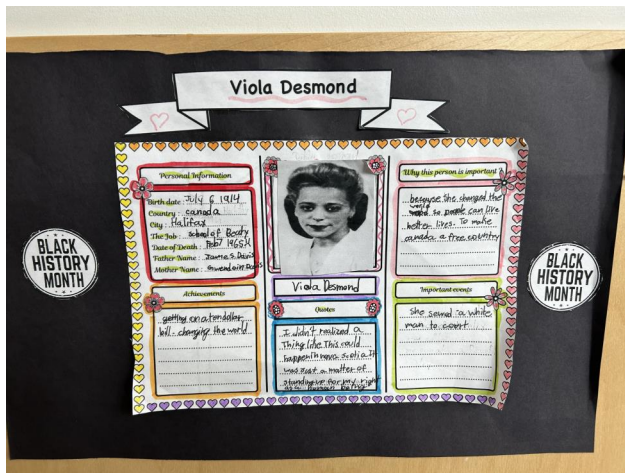
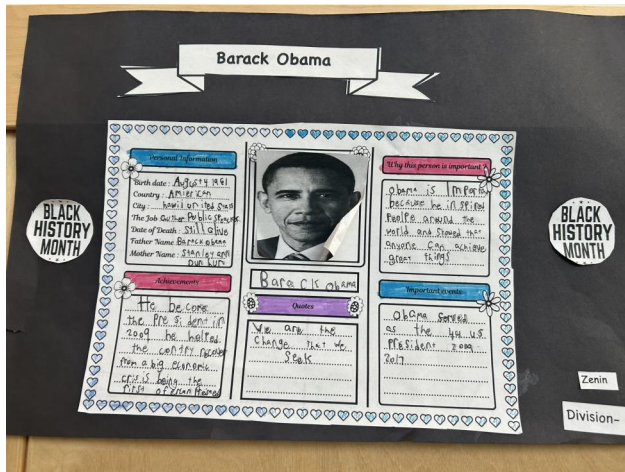


Throughout February, our school has been honouring **Black History Month** with meaningful learning experiences and community connections. We were thrilled to host several small presentations entitled “**Beyond Black History Month,**” where guest presenters helped students explore the richness of Black culture, history, achievements, and contributions both in Canada and around the world. Students were highly engaged and came away with a deeper understanding of the importance of representation, identity, and the diverse stories that shape our communities.

This important learning was also supported by the incredible work of **Mrs. Macdonald in the Learning Commons**, who curated a beautiful display of books highlighting Black authors, leaders, and stories. Her thoughtful organization made it easy for teachers to access high-quality texts and bring these conversations into their classrooms, further enriching students’ learning.

We are grateful to our presenters, staff, and students for helping make this month a meaningful celebration of learning, reflection, and inclusion.





Celebrating Who We Are: Respect and Diversity Week

Our school community came together to celebrate **Diversity and Respect Week**, focusing on the beauty of who we are as individuals and as a collective. Across all classrooms, students explored

books and stories that highlight how each person is unique, valued, and wonderfully different. These conversations encouraged students to recognize and appreciate the qualities that make every member of our school community special.

Our hallways are now filled with vibrant **culture jars**, created by students who drew pictures representing their cultural backgrounds, family traditions, and celebrations that are meaningful to them. These displays are a colourful reminder of the pride our students have in their identities and the rich diversity that strengthens our school.

Teachers continued the celebration by sharing many books centered on identity, respect, and belonging—helping students deepen their understanding of themselves and one another.

It has been a joyful and thoughtful week of learning as we honour the message that **everyone belongs, everyone is valued, and everyone has a story worth celebrating.**









It's OKAY TO BE DIFFERENT

Written by Hunter

It's okay to
have different clothes
different clothes & etc.



Hockey

Soccer

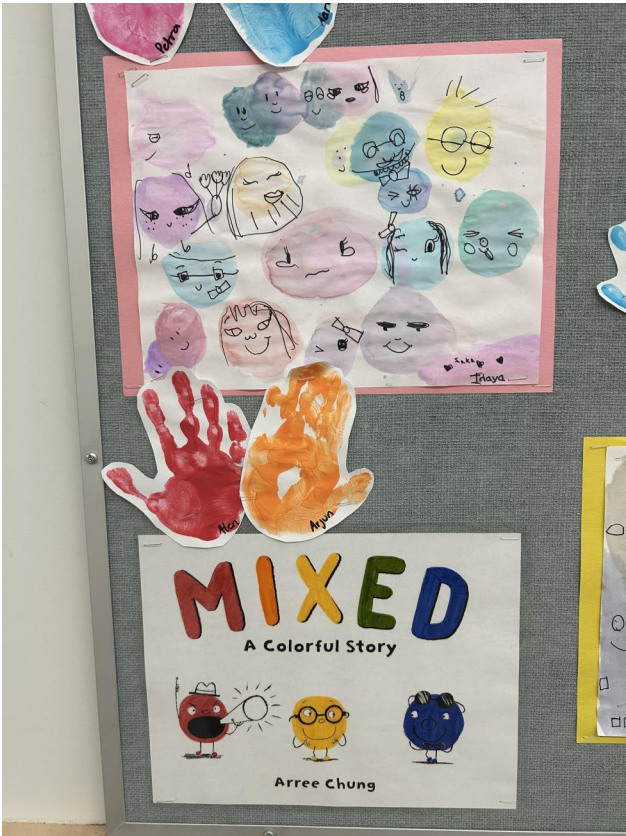
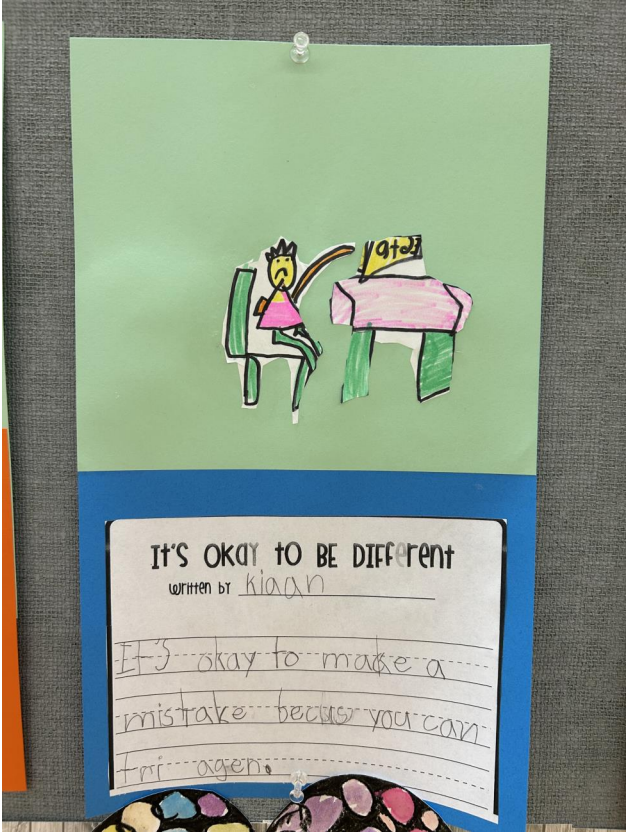
baseball

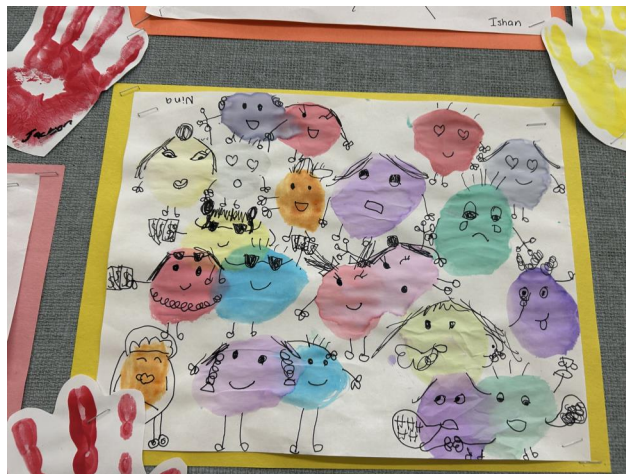
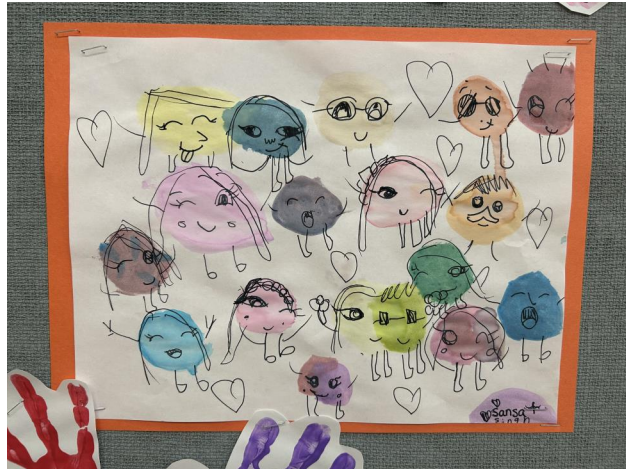


It's OKAY TO BE DIFFERENT

Written by Bohrie

It's okay to play different
sports. Because every person
is different.





Grade 5 Entrepreneur Fair!

Today, Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary School buzzed with energy as our Grade 5 students hosted this year's Entrepreneur Fair. Excitement filled the gym as classes visited the event, eager to see the creative products and displays the Grade 5s had worked so hard to design.

Students showcased an impressive range of handmade items, thoughtful advertisements, and well-planned sales strategies. They interacted with 'customers', explained their products, and managed their own mini-businesses.

The event was a wonderful success, highlighting the hard work and entrepreneurial spirit of our Grade 5 learners. Congratulations to all the students for their enthusiasm, effort, and innovation—and thank you to the staff and visitors who helped make the day memorable!





Kindness Starts Here: Pink Shirt Day at DGR

Our school proudly joined thousands of students across Canada in celebrating **Pink Shirt Day**, a special day dedicated to promoting kindness, empathy, and lifting one another up. The halls were filled with shades of pink as students and staff came together to show their commitment to creating a safe, caring, and inclusive school community.

Throughout the day, classes engaged in meaningful discussions about the power of kindness and the importance of speaking up, supporting one another, and choosing compassion in our everyday actions. Many classes read stories, participated in reflection activities, and shared examples of how small acts of kindness can make a big difference.

Pink Shirt Day served as a wonderful reminder that **we are all responsible for making our school a place where everyone feels respected, valued, and included**. Thank you to all our students and staff for wearing pink with pride and helping us spread the message:

Kindness is always in style.



2 - Mrs. Rimaldi and Mrs. McGillveray

Dive Into A Good Book- The BOOK FAIR is Here!

Get ready, readers — our **Scholastic Book Fair** is arriving **next week**, and we can't wait to welcome families, students, and staff to this exciting annual event! The Book Fair is a wonderful opportunity to spark a love of reading, explore new stories, and support our school's Learning Commons.

Dates & Times:

- **TUESDAY, MARCH 3 – [8:00-8:45a.] [12:00-1:05pm] [2:30-3:30pm]**
- **WEDNESDAY, MARCH 4 – [8:00-8:45am] [12:30-7:00pm]**
- **THURSDAY, MARCH 5 – [8:30- 2:30pm]**

There will be books for every age and interest — from picture books and graphic novels to chapter books and thrilling new releases. Students will have a chance to browse during school hours, and families are warmly invited to stop by during our open times to shop together. **The Book Fair accepts Visa, Mastercard, debit and cash.**

We hope to see you there as we celebrate reading, imagination, and the joy of finding that perfect new book!



Tuesday, March 3

8:00 to 8:45 am
12:00 to 1:05 pm
2:30 to 3:30 pm

Wednesday, March 4

8:00 to 8:45 am
12:30 to 7:00 pm
(Open after the Early Dismissal and during the Student Inclusive Conferences)

Thursday, March 5

8:30 to 2:30 pm
(Open during the Student Inclusive Conferences)

The Scholastic Book Fair is in our Learning Commons.
The Scholastic Book Fair accepts Visa, Mastercard, debit, or cash!
Please leave backpacks outside.

School Catchment Information

Willoughby Slope Catchments Information Sessions – Round 2

The District has completed the first round of consultation meetings to help plan the catchment boundaries for the new Smith Middle and Secondary schools, which are expecting to open in fall 2027. The District is continuing with its next series of meetings to share any proposed change(s), answer questions, and gather additional feedback from families. The District welcomes all families to be informed and take part in the process. For details on info sessions, read more [here](#).

The next meeting at DGRE will be - March 2, 6:30pm @ Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary

Double Parking



Though this message has gone home a number of times, we wanted to put out another reminder to all drivers that double parking is not allowed within our driveway. We understand that there is limited parking for everyone at the school, however we cannot create a safety issue due to the limited parking. We have over 230 students who are under the age of 7 at DGRE and, at times, students make mistakes and cross our drive-thru at different places. A double parked car makes it very difficult for drivers to see this, and it could lead to an accident. Please pull through and circulate through our drive thru a second time, or until a space opens up. Thank you in advance for ensuring we all follow this rule and keep everyone safe.

Around the Community

International Student Program Homestay Families

Embark on a rewarding journey of cultural exchange! The District is seeking homestay families to host International Student Program (ISP) students for the 2026-2027 school year and beyond. There are many benefits including learning a new culture, sharing your family traditions, and

developing life-long friendships. Homestay families are provided \$1200 per month to offset costs.
Start your journey here: [Students & Homestay](#)

 SCHOOL DISTRICT
Langley
INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAM

HOMESTAY FAMILIES NEEDED

How to apply:



www.studyinlangley.com
isp@sd35.bc.ca
604-534-7891

PAC NEWSLETTER AND INFORMATION



DONNA GABRIEL ROBINS PAC NEWSLETTER

March 2026



Greetings, Owls!

The early flowers are starting to appear and spring is in the air - but temperatures vary this time of year so be sure to send your kiddos with adequate clothing for the changing conditions (we love layers!).

Thank you to all who have contributed to our fundraising efforts - our latest playground installment is finally taking shape! Make sure to check out what your efforts have gone toward!

A quick note for Grade 5 parents - we will be assembling the Grade 5 yearbooks in the spring months, and any pictures you would like to contribute of our Grade 5s in school events, please email donnagabrielrobinspac@gmail.com with any questions!

DONNA GABRIEL ROBINS ELEMENTARY



PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

MARCH EVENTS

S P R I N G

MARCH 2 NEUFELDS ORDERING CLOSES
MARCH 2 PURDY'S ORDERING OPENS
MARCH 3 PAC MEETING @ 6:30
FUN HAIR DAY
MARCH 3-5 SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR
MARCH 4 EARLY DISMISSAL @ 12:30
MARCH 5 NO SCHOOL
MARCH 6 UMAMI SUSHI/BOOSTER JUICE HOT LUNCH
MARCH 7 NEUFELDS PICK UP @ 1:30
MARCH 13 POPCORN DAY
MARCH 14-29 SPRING BREAK
MARCH 23 PURDY'S ORDERING DEADLINE

Get ready for Spring Break and Summer Travels





DonnaGabrielRobinsPAC@gmail.com



Don't forget to mention DGR when you make a purchase at Cobs Yorkson, Cobs Walnut Gate or Cobs Willowbrook Park. The Doughraiser Program donates 5% of your receipt total back to our school.



Together we can reduce the lost & found!

Shop for FREE directly to your home!

Go to campaigns.mabelisabels.com and choose our organization from the list



3 - [Neufeld Farm Fundraiser Link](#)

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](#).

Emergency Procedures

Emergency Procedures in Schools

Schools follow emergency procedures and practice drills throughout the year to ensure students, staff, and any visitors at our sites are safe when unexpected incidents happen. The District encourages families to become familiar with emergency procedures to help you and your child

be prepared. You will find the District's Emergency Procedures poster in schools and on the website [here](#).

Community Volunteers in Emergencies

Emergencies can happen unexpectedly due to weather events (e.g., earthquake or flooding) or unforeseen situations in the community. The health and safety of students, staff, and families is the District's priority. The District, together with schools, follow emergency procedures to respond to incidents as well as prevent them from happening. As stated in the provincial [Emergency Management Planning Guide for Schools, Districts and Authorities](#), staff have a legal "duty of care," meaning that they "must ensure that students are cared for until such time as they can be safely reunited with their parents." Depending on the situation, the school may be caring for students for many days.

In these circumstances, schools may rely on members of the community to assist with emergency responses. Administrators may send a request to parents/guardians to help volunteer with first aid, facilities and maintenance, safety and security, and general labour. Adults with special skills in health care, policing, and engineering would be an asset in an emergency. No action is needed from families at this time as the purpose is to keep families informed.

December Health Messaging – Fraser Health

As part of its health promotion for students and families, our community partner Fraser Health is sharing important information on various topics. The theme for December is Winter Health. Please share the following information below in your next newsletter or communication to families. This information will be shared on the District's social media channels.

Winter Health (from Fraser Health)

Health, safety, and wellness continue to be a priority in our schools. To help support our students and families, we are sharing important information from our community partner Fraser Health about Winter Health. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your child.

Keep Your Child Healthy During Winter

As the chilly winter season approaches, there are things you can do to help keep your children healthy and well.

Get Ready For Winter At Home And In The Community

Winter can bring extreme weather and it's important to have plans to be safe during cold weather, storms and power outages, including staying warm, having a carbon monoxide detector and planning for emergencies. Learn about programs that can support your family:

- [Get ready for winter: Snow and cold safety for you and your home - Fraser Health Authority](#)
- [Indoor air quality - Fraser Health Authority](#)

Bundle Up For The Cold

Dressing appropriately for cold weather keeps your child comfortable and protected. Wearing multiple layers is a great way to trap body heat and provide insulation against the cold.

Keep a warm hat, gloves, scarves and warm, waterproof boots handy. Remind your child to wear these items before heading outside to play or going to school.

Learn about [hypothermia](#) and [frostbite](#) as children can be more susceptible.

Protect Against Winter Illnesses

Winter brings an increased risk of colds and flu. Ensure your child receives their annual flu vaccine and talk to a health care provider about any additional vaccines that may be recommended. Teach your child good respiratory etiquette such as regular hand washing, covering their coughs and sneezes and staying home when sick. If they are sick and cannot stay away from others, masks can help to reduce the risk of spreading illness. Learn more about masks [here](#).

Keep Their Bodies Moving

It is important to keep your child active during winter as regular physical activity is important for good health. Outdoor activities such as skating, sledding and going for walks as a family are all great ways to keep active. On colder days, indoor play and activities such as dancing, yoga or

sports are great ways to promote movement. Look for drop-in programs at local community centres or indoor sports facilities.

If you play on frozen lakes or ponds, be sure that the ice has been tested for strength and safety. Learn more on the [Lifesaving Society's website](#).

Find more tips for a healthy winter on Fraser Health's [Winter Health](#) page.