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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Gator families,

The past couple of weeks have been busy and productive at WGSS. Following the Thanksgiving long weekend, we held our Informal Learning Update Day, giving students and families an early opportunity to review progress and identify areas for continued growth. Shortly afterward, students and staff participated in the Great BC ShakeOut Earthquake Drill alongside schools across the district and province. These practice drills are an important part of helping us prepare for emergencies and ensuring that everyone understands safety procedures.

This week also marked our first Parent-Teacher Interview sessions of the school year. Thank you to all the families who took the time to visit the school and engage in conversations about student learning. Strong partnerships between home and school are essential to student success, and we appreciate the opportunity to work together in supporting our learners. As always, families are encouraged to reach out to their child's teachers whenever questions or concerns arise throughout the year.

Looking ahead, the next two weeks promise to be equally full. On Tuesday, we are looking forward to the District Choir Festival at REMSS, where talented choral students from across the district will share the results of their hard work and dedication. Next Friday, we are hosting our annual Post Secondary Institution Day. Grade 11 students will have the opportunity to meet with representatives from several post-secondary institutions as they begin planning for life beyond graduation.

With Halloween falling on a Saturday this year, costume contests and other Halloween related events will be happening on Friday as well. While it is always a fun and spirited day at WGSS, we ask students and families to keep a few important expectations in mind. All costumes should align with the [Langley School District Student Code of Conduct and Dress Guidelines](#). For safety reasons, students must have their faces visible, meaning full-face masks or costumes that conceal identity are not permitted. Replica or imitation weapons are also not allowed. In addition, costumes must be respectful and culturally appropriate. Cultures and gender identities are not costumes, and all students should be able to celebrate the day in an environment that is welcoming, inclusive, and respectful of everyone in our school community. Please consider these expectations when planning costumes for the day.

The following week brings us into November and another busy stretch of school activities. Throughout the week, WGSS will be administering Provincial Graduation Assessments, including Literacy 10 and Literacy 12. These assessments are graduation requirements for all students, and this session will focus primarily on Grade 10 and Grade 12 students currently enrolled in Semester 1 English courses. Assessment schedules are included later in this edition of Gator News.

Thank you for your continued support of WGSS. Have a wonderful weekend!

Mr Mike Pue
Proud Principal



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IMPORTANT DATES

November 2-6: Literacy Assessments in the Library
November 3: Volleyball Senior's Night in Main Gym
November 5: UVic Gustavson School of Business Information Session during REP (Cafeteria)
November 6: University of Waterloo Information Session during REP (Cafeteria)
November 9: University of the Fraser Valley (UFV) Information Session during REP (Library)
November 9: WGSS Fall Concert, 7:00 p.m. (Gym)
November 10: University of Calgary Information Session during REP (Location TBD)
November 11: Remembrance Day
November 12: District Band Festival, 7:00 p.m. (Gym)
November 20: Design & Assessment Day (Students not in attendance)
November 27: Learning Updates issued in MyEducation BC
November 27: McMaster University Information Session during REP (Library)
November 30 - December 5: Grad Photos (Booking Required)

NEW FROM OUR SCHOOL

Attention Grad Families!

It's time to start collecting **baby photos and grad quotes** for the 2026–2027 yearbook!

We are asking all graduating students to submit one baby/childhood photo and their grad quote using the form below.

Deadline to submit: December 4, 2026

Please encourage your grad to submit their form before the deadline so they can be included in this special part of the yearbook.

Grad Baby Photo & Quote Form:

[Grad Baby Photos & Grad Quotes – Yearbook 2026–2027 – Fill out form](#)

BOOKING GRAD PHOTO

Grad Cap & Gown and Fashion Photos are coming up soon! Photo sessions will take place at the school.

The sitting fee is \$35 and includes the following year-end memorabilia: Diploma Folder, Grad Certificate, Grade Composite, Individual Ceremony Photo, Banquet Photo, Grad Group. [Book Here](#)



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SCHOOL REMINDERS

Grad Assessment

November 2, 3, 4, 5, & 6 we will begin our Provincial Assessments. Students in grade 10 are required to complete a Literacy 10 and Numeracy 10 assessment, and students in grade 12 must complete their Literacy 12 assessment prior to graduation. At this time of year, we will be administering Literacy 10 and Literacy 12 only. Assessments will begin with the Semester 1 English classes listed below.

Please make note of your child's arrival time if they are in the English classes writing for our first session:

AM session – arrive by 8:15 AM

PM session – arrive by 11:45 AM

November 2026 Assessment Schedule					
Course	Teacher	Term	Block	Session	Date
ENGLISH STUDIES 12	Brasnett	S1	A	Mon AM	2-Nov
ENGLISH STUDIES 12	Fast	S1	A		
ENGLISH STUDIES 12	Fast	S1	B		
ENGLISH HONOURS 10	Butcher	S1	C	Mon PM	2-Nov
AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION 12	Robinson	FY	D(Day 1)		
ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 10	Fike	S1	A	Tues AM	3-Nov
ENGLISH 10	Fike	S1	B		
ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 12	Brasnett	S1	C	Tues PM	3-Nov
AP ENGLISH LITERATURE & COMPOSITION 12	Robinson	FY	D(Day 2)		
ENGLISH STUDIES 12	Heer	S1	C	Wed PM	4-Nov
ENGLISH STUDIES 12	Avdic	S1	D		
ENGLISH 10	Johnson	S1	C	Thurs AM	5-Nov
ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 10	Heer	S1	D		
ENGLISH 10	Butcher	S1	A	Thurs PM	5-Nov
ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 12	Avdic	S1	B		
ENGLISH FIRST PEOPLES 10	Fike	S1	C	Fri AM	6-Nov
ENGLISH 10	Johnson	S1	D		
AM Session - arrive by 8:15 in the library; assessment runs from 8:30-11:30					
PM Session - arrive by 11:45 in the library; assessment runs from 12:00-3:00					



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DRY GRAD CONTACT

We are looking forward to an amazing year for our Grads of 2027. Our Dry Grad Committee is made entirely of parents and is responsible for planning the Dry Grad event that follows the Grad Dinner & Dance. The Dry Grad committee also holds fundraising initiatives to support Dry Grad. All Grade 12 parents/guardians are invited to attend our Dry Grad Meetings which are held at 7pm in the WGSS Library.

Next Meeting Dates: Monday, October 26 & Monday, November 9

If you have any questions about the Dry Grad Committee or how you can get involved, please email our Dry Grad Parent Contact for 2026/2027 Kim Wishinski at kim.wishinski@gmail.com.

MEDICAL ALERTS

We want to ensure the school is aware of any student life-threatening conditions. If your child has a new or updated life-threatening condition, please contact Ms. Lee at dlee@sd35.bc.ca to have a Medical Alert Form emailed to you for completion.

SCHOOLMESSENGER

The Langley School District uses a notification system called SchoolMessenger to communicate information to families. As we welcome our new families to our schools, some parents/guardians may receive a text message notifying them about SchoolMessenger. For more information about the system and how to opt-in to receive text messages, visit the District webpage [here](#).

REPORTING AN ABSENCE

The school uses an automated absence reporting system called SafeArrival, offered through SchoolMessenger. With SafeArrival, you are asked to report your child's absence in advance using any of these three convenient methods:

1. **SchoolMessenger App** – Using your mobile device, download and install the SchoolMessenger app from the Apple App Store or the Google Play Store. The first time you use the app, select “Sign Up” to create your account. You must use the same email address and phone number that is on file at the school. Select “Attendance” then “Report an Absence”.
2. **SafeArrival Website** – Use the SafeArrival website: <https://go.schoolmessenger.ca>. The first time you use the website, select “Sign Up” to create your account. You must use the same email address and phone number that is on file at the school. Select “Attendance” then “Report an Absence”.
3. **Toll-Free Phone** – Call the toll-free number 1-833-294-4837 to report an absence using the automated phone system. If you are calling the toll-free number, you must call from the parent/guardian phone number on file with the school.



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These options are available 24 hours/day, 7 days a week. We ask that daily absences are reported as soon as possible and **before 3:00pm** on the day of the absence. This includes late arrivals and early departures. Future absences can be reported at any time. If absences are not reported before the cut-off time of 3:00pm, the parent/guardian may still receive an automatic notification in the evening to inform them of an absence.

Absences are only to be reported by parents/guardians on file with the school. Students are NOT to report their own absences.

Please report absences using SafeArrival instead of sending notes, calling, or emailing the school. Please use the three options above to report absences. **The school office will no longer accept calls regarding attendance. Parents/guardians will need to report via the app, website, or toll-free number in a timely manner.**

If families have children attending other schools, please continue to report absences using the existing procedures for those schools.

STUDENT DROP OFF & PICK UP

We have a very large school population, with approximately 2200 students attending WGSS this year. The morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up are very busy and our school grounds and surrounding roadways become very congested.

We thought it would be helpful to send a few reminders:

- Please do not drop-off or pick-up students along Walnut Grove Drive. This is unsafe.
- If you can drop-off or pick-up your student in a neighbouring area that is not as busy, that would be helpful.
- Please do not park in the parking lots of our neighbouring Townhouse Complexes. This creates situations where residents are not able to park in their own homes and makes it more difficult for them to navigate their internal roadways.
- If you can stagger your drop-off times (a little earlier) or pick-up times (a little later) that would also help to alleviate congestion.
- Please be mindful of blocking lanes if you are coming through the front of the school:
 - Please make room for our buses to be able to park and maneuver in the parking lot.
 - Please do not park in the lanes in front of the parking stalls; this holds up traffic and prevents cars from leaving the parking spots.
 - Please do not park in the designated bus zones.



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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.

INTIMATE IMAGES PROTECTION ACT

The Intimate Images Protection Act makes the non-consensual sharing of intimate images illegal. Individuals who have experienced, or are threatened with, the sharing of intimate images can access free supports through the **Intimate Images Protection Service**. Additional information is available on **erase Online Safety**.

STUDENT TRAVEL OPPORTUNITY: EXPLORE ITALY & GREECE

A once-in-a-lifetime adventure awaits! Students are invited to join an unforgettable 10-day journey through Italy and Greece, exploring iconic destinations such as Rome, the southern Italian coast, Athens, and Delphi, where history and mythology come to life. From the ancient ruins of Pompeii to the legendary Acropolis, this immersive educational experience brings classroom learning into the real world while creating memories that will last a lifetime.

Families who enrol by September 30th will receive a \$200 Early Enrolment Discount. Pricing, trip details, itinerary information, and enrolment instructions can be found on the tour website:

<https://www.eftours.ca/tour-website/2986951MR>

Don't miss your chance to be part of this incredible adventure and secure your spot before the early enrolment discount expires!

Contact Ms. Neuscheler for more: UNeuscheler@sd35.bc.ca



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DISTRICT INFORMATION

ROAD, PEDESTRIAN, AND SCHOOL BUS SAFETY

With fewer daylight hours and as we enter the season of wind, rain, and ice, we are sharing an important reminder from our community partner ICBC to students, staff, and families to help keep our community safe. Drivers should be alert, focus on the road, watch for pedestrians, especially at intersections and transit stops, and always be ready to stop. Pedestrians and travelers on bikes or scooters should be careful at intersections, always use designated crosswalks, remove headphones and devices, and be aware of your surroundings.

An important note for drivers, when a school bus has its red lights flashing, drivers travelling in either direction must stop. Students may be crossing the road to get to or from the bus. Please stop, stay alert, and do not proceed until it is safe.

For more tips read this resource Kids Pedestrian Safety or visit ICBC's webpage [here](#).

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.



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PROGRAMS OF CHOICE – DEADLINE TO REGISTER IS MONDAY, OCTOBER 26

Langley School District offers a rich diversity of programs that are designed to meet the specific needs and interests of students. Programs include Fine Arts, French Immersion, Fundamental, Langley Environmental Awareness Program (outdoor education), Montessori, and UConnect. Registration for Kindergarten entry (for most programs) begins on **Monday, October 5th at 12 noon**, and closes on **Monday, October 26th at 12 noon**. For UConnect, please contact the school directly. For more information and instructions to register your child, visit our District website [here](#) and review our FAQ choice programs resource [here](#).

SAFER SCHOOLS TOGETHER PARENT INFORMATION SESSION

Safer Schools Together is once again providing Family Information Sessions on a variety of topics. These are good opportunities for parents and guardians to increase their knowledge on the evolving world of digital citizenship, social media, AI, etc. Sessions are recommended for those in care of children aged 10 & up.

The first two sessions available are titled:

- Establishing Safe, Caring, and Respectful Digital Communities
- Establishing Family Practices for Safeguarding Against Cyberbullying and Sextortion

<https://pages.saferschoolstogether.com/erase-family-sessions>

YOUTH ADVISORY COMMITTEE (GRADES 10 & 11)

The Langley School District Foundation is seeking applications from students in Grades 10 and 11 to join its Youth Advisory Committee for the 2027 calendar year. The Youth Advisory Committee meets once or twice throughout the school year and provides students with an opportunity to share their perspectives, offer feedback on Foundation initiatives, and help inform projects and priorities that support students across the District. Students interested in leadership, community involvement, and making a meaningful impact are encouraged to apply. **Application Deadline: November 15, 2026**

Apply Here: <https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/FfRCrJmLRY>



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GIFTS AND GATHERINGS - READY, SET, LEARN SESSIONS

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: [Gifts and Gatherings](#)

COATS FOR KIDS CAMPAIGN

The Langley School District Foundation, in partnership with the Langley School District, is pleased to bring back the Coats for Kids Campaign for its second year. Schools are invited to collect new or gently used winter coats for students from K - Grade 12. We're asking for your help in sharing this campaign with your school community and encouraging families to participate. Cash donations are also graciously accepted and will help us purchase additional coats for students in need.

Collection Dates: October 14th – 30th

Drop-off: Any Langley School OR Langley School Board Office

Coats collected can be sent through School Mail c/o LSDF for sorting and distribution.

Thank you for helping us spread the word and keep Langley students warm this winter!

E-SCOOTERS/E-BIKES GUIDELINES IN LANGLEY SCHOOLS

The Langley School District has new guidelines around the use and storage of e-scooters and e-bikes at our schools. **E-scooters and e-dirt bikes are prohibited on all school sites. This ban applies for elementary, middle, and secondary schools.** Legally, e-pedal bikes are permissible at secondary schools; light e-bikes for students aged 14 and 15, and standard e-bikes for students aged 16 and older. E-pedal bikes are permissible at all schools for adults. Health and safety are a priority. Please have conversations with your child about these guidelines and help us maintain a healthy, safe, and positive learning environment. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to your school administrator. For more information, visit the district website [here](#).



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TRANSPORTATION: MY RIDE K-12 APP

Beginning in the 2026-2027 school year, the Langley School District's Transportation service will be using the My Ride K-12 (app or website) to share up-to-date bus rider information with parents/guardians and students. The application allows parents/guardians and students to view assigned bus stops and pick-up/drop-off times and receive notifications about bus delays or route changes. To access your child's bus rider information, sign-up and login to the My Ride K-12 app by following instructions found on the District website [here](#).

COMMUNICATING WITH YOUR SCHOOL

Schools and families continue to work together to ensure success for students. If you have an issue or concern but don't know who to speak with, the District encourages you to read these helpful Communicating with your School guidelines for parents/guardians found on our District website [here](#). As an additional reference, review this one-page resource [here](#).

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.

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.



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FROM OUR PAC

PAC MEETING DATES

Meetings will start at **7:00pm** in the WGSS library. The meeting in June doubles as a regular meeting as well as the Annual General Meeting.

Here are the remaining dates for PAC Meetings for the 2026 – 2027 school year:

Date	Date
November 16th	January 18th
December – No Meeting	February 22nd
March – No Meeting	April 5th
May 3rd	June 7th

We are very appreciative of our PAC and the Executive for the support that they provide for our students and our school!

Support Our PAC with an All-Occasion Card Set Fundraiser - 40 Cards for \$35!



Our PAC has launched its first fundraiser of the season! An all-in-one Card Set is a convenient, budget-friendly option that costs less than buying everything individually at the last minute.

Order deadline: November 6th - Don't miss out, order now with our [Online Form](#)

Every purchase makes a difference! Funds raised help support student scholarships, curriculum resources, teacher appreciation, and the ongoing work of our PAC to benefit WGSS students and staff.

Thank you for supporting our PAC and helping us make a difference in our school community. For more information on the fundraiser, please have a look [here](#).

Your WGSS PAC



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FROM FRASER HEALTH

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.



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STAYING HEALTHY THIS WINTER (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 how to stay healthy this winter. Please see below for helpful reminders to support your child.

Keep Your Children Free From Respiratory Illnesses This Winter

As the weather gets colder and more time is spent indoors, we are 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 against flu and COVID-19.
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- 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. When children remain healthy, they are better able to focus on learning, playing and doing the activities they love. Their parents and caregivers also have less disruptions in their personal and work routines.

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

Getting your child [vaccinated on schedule](#) is one of the best ways to protect their health. 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.

Protection is long lasting for most vaccines, except for whooping cough. This vaccine is one of the [infant immunizations](#) that can wear off and needs to be given again around Kindergarten and Grade 9 to provide protection. 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:



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- Contact the health care provider who immunized your child and ask for a copy of the immunization record.
- Provide these immunization records 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

Need fast access to health advice? Call Fraser Health Virtual Care

Our Fraser Health Virtual Care registered nurses and dietitians can provide convenient, fast health advice and information for busy families. With options for phone or web chat consultations, families receive medical advice from nurses with emergency experience. It can save you time and may help you avoid having to visit a clinic or emergency department. Nurses can also connect you with an Urgent and Primary Care Centre, if needed.

How to reach Fraser Health Virtual Care

1. **Dial 1-800-314-0999.** For an interpreter, say your language in English.
2. For web chat, go to fraserhealth.ca/virtualcare and click the blue chat bubble in the right corner to start.

Available 10am to 10pm every day, including statutory holidays. After hours, call 8-1-1.

Learn more about Fraser Health Virtual Care, other care options and more at:
Fraserhealth.ca/VirtualCare