



Chronicle

Langley Secondary School

Friday, December 20, 2024

Issue #8

Principal's Message

The school district announced a variety of administrative appointments and assignments to take place in the new year. Ms. Reid has been appointed to Vanguard Secondary School in the new year. We know that her experience in Administration, Special Ed, Resource, and classroom teacher lends well to the needs of her new building. We thank her for her dedication to the students and staff at LSS and wish her the very best. We welcome Rachel Johnson as our new Vice Principal. Rachel comes to LSS with a strong background in Resource and Learning Support Services. We look forward to Rachel joining our Thunderbird community.

Thank you to our staff and wonderful students for making LSS a great place to grow and learn.

May this holiday season bring you joy, peace, and the opportunity to relax and spend quality time with your loved ones.

Wishing you all Happy Holidays and a Happy New Year!

Diane Smillie
Principal, LSS & Focus Alt Ed.



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SEAMUS GEE MEMORIAL BURSARY:

Congratulations to Van Foy who is this year's recipient of the Seamus Gee Bursary.

Each year the Seamus Gee Memorial Bursary selects a youth who is seeking to further their education through the Youth Train in Trades program. Award recipients receive tuition funding for the trades program they are enrolled in. The letter and plaque is presented by Seamus's father, Mike Gee. Recipients were chosen by the following criteria in memory of Seamus: focus, humor and teamwork. We thank all the other applicants for submitting the applications which can also be used for future scholarships awarded in June.





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BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Many students took part in our fourth annual Breakfast with Santa on the morning of Thursday, December 19th. The breakfast brings staff and students together with food and music. Thank you to the many staff who worked behind the scenes to feed over 1,000 students. Here are some of the elves at work and some of the students enjoying their time together.





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Important Dates

(please visit the calendar on our website [LSS Calendar](#) for more information on each event)

December 2024

December 23 – January 3, Winter Break

January 2025

January 6, School re-opens after winter break

January 9 – 15 , Capstone Presentations

January 9 – 16, Grad photos

January 13 – 15, Grade 10 Provincial Assessments

January 15, Grade 9 Immunizations

January 28, Semester turn around (no school)

January 29, Semester 2 begins



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2024/2025 District Calendar

~~Sep 2 (M) Labour Day (Schools Closed)~~

~~Sep 3 (T) Schools Open~~

~~Sep 30 (M) Truth and Reconciliation Day (Schools Closed)~~

~~Oct 4 (F) School Improvement Day (students not in attendance)~~

~~Oct 14 (M) Thanksgiving (Schools Closed)~~

~~Oct 23 (W) 1 Hour Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Interviews~~

~~Oct 24 (Th) 1 Hour Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Interviews~~

~~Oct 25 (F) Professional Development Day (Provincial - students not in attendance)~~

~~Nov 8 (F) Learning Update Prep/Design and Assessment Day (students not in attendance)~~

~~Nov 11 (M) Remembrance Day (Schools Closed)~~

~~Nov 22 (F) Learning Updates Issued~~

Dec 20 (F) Last Day Prior to Winter Break

Jan 6 (M) Schools Re-Open After Winter Break

Jan 29 (W) Semester 2 Begins

Feb 7 (F) Learning Updates Issued

Feb 10 (M) Professional Development Day (District - students not in attendance)

Feb 17 (M) Family Day (Schools Closed)

Mar 12 (W) 1 Hour Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Interviews

Mar 13 (Th) 1 Hour Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Interviews

Mar 14 (F) Last Day Prior to Spring Break

Mar 31 (M) Schools Re-Open After Spring Break

Apr 11 (F) Learning Update Prep/Design and Assessment Day (students not in attendance)

Apr 18 (F) Good Friday (Schools Closed)

Apr 21 (M) Easter Monday (Schools Closed)

Apr 28 (M) Learning Updates Issued

May 16 (F) Professional Development Day (students not in attendance)

May 19 (M) Victoria Day (Schools Closed)

Jun 26 (Th) Final Learning Updates Issued & Last Day for Students Prior to Summer Vacation

Jun 27 (F) Administrative Day (students not in attendance)

July / August Summer Session



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GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATIONS

Immunizations for grade 9's take place on January 15th, 2025.

The signed consent forms that went home with students before the break (Friday Dec 19th) should be returned to the main office no later than January 7th. If students missed the paperwork, students can see their A block teachers on January 6th.

PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENTS

Provincial Literacy Assessments for grade 10's takes place during the week of January 13th – 17th

CAPSTONES

Grade 12 Capstone presentations take place on Jan 9th – 15th.

END OF SEMESTER 1 TRANSITION DAYS

One of the most important measures of student success is the measure of student transitions, when students successfully move on to the next step in their educational journey. This might include a student who goes from one course to the next course (e.g., English 9), from one grade to the next grade, from one level of school to the next level of school (e.g., middle to secondary), or to post-secondary opportunities. At the end of each semester, secondary schools have Transition Days, in which staff create opportunities for students to demonstrate key transitions goals and growth, and assist them in their transitions. Successful transitions are vital for students to build on the successes they have had, and prepare them for the new challenges in their new classroom, new school, etc. The Transition Days also allow for students to complete and present their major careers requirements. Some of the activities that occur during Transition Days in different secondary schools include:



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END OF SEMESTER 1 TRANSITION DAYS *cont'd.*

- Mini-Capstone presentations by Grade 9 students;
- Capstone presentations by Grade 11 and 12 students;
- Careers and Capstone Fairs;
- Grade 7/8 visits to the secondary school (e.g., Taste of LSS);
- Other connections and activities between schools to assist in student transitions;
- Provincial Literacy and Numeracy Assessments for Grade 10 and 12 students.

At the end of Semester 1, secondary schools also will have a Semester Turnaround Day, to be able to complete the many tasks that are necessary in ending one semester and starting another, including reviewing semester-end student report cards and re-working student timetables.

The dates this year for the end of Semester 1 are:

- Friday, January 24th – Transition Day
- Monday, January 27th – Transition Day
- Tuesday, January 28th - Semester Turnaround Day & Taste of LSS
- Wednesday, January 29th - Semester 2 Begins

If you have any questions about semester end activities, please contact the school's Administration.



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2024/2025 Graduation

If you are a parent of a graduate, you may be interested in helping out with the **Dry Grad Committee** who can be reached at ssdrygrad@gmail.com

GRADS OF 2024 can swing by the office to pickup their official Graduation Diploma

Grad Photos

Graduation photos can now be booked online: [Book Here](#)

Our grad photo session is January 9 - 16 2025. Grad photos are Jan 9th - 16th. Artona Studios will have their mobile photo lab on the west side of the building. Students can sign up for a photo sitting at Artona.com and look for Langley Secondary School. Your child will need to provide you with their student number in order to book.

Any questions can be directed to Ms. Bezanson
mbezanson@sd35.bc.ca



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2024/2025 Graduation cont'd

Dry Grad

If you are a parent of a graduate, you may be interested in helping out with the Dry Grad Committee who can be reached at lssdrygrad@gmail.com

Dry Grad Event Info



*Dry Grad Celebration
Information
Click here* →





**Thank you to the students and parents that were
able to help with the Winter Market!**

Check out the Dry Grad site to get connected!



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2024/2025 Graduation cont'd

Tickets Available!

December 4th - 7pm - Vancouver Giants vs. Regina

January 3rd - 7pm - Vancouver Giants vs. Wenatchee



<https://lssdrygrad.square.site/fundraising-events>

\$24 each

Purchase online with ticket delivery via email

Experience the thrill of live hockey with Vancouver Giants!

Don't miss these exciting matchups!

A portion of your ticket cost will be given back to the school to help fund dry grad events.

50/50 Draw during the game



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Fine Art News

THIS MONTH IN THE ARTS

December



35	MUSIC WEEK Langley Fine Arts School Chief Sepass Theatre 7:00 pm
4	ESPRESSIVO – Music Celebration DW Poppy Secondary School Poppy Main Gym 6:30 pm
5 (OPENING) FEB 7	TOOLS OF THE TRADE Langley Fine Arts School Mary Pratt Gallery 7:00 pm
11	WINTER MUSIC CONCERT RE Mountain Secondary MTN Main Gym 7:00 pm
11	CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT Walnut Grove Secondary School WGSS Main Gym 7:00 pm
11 / 12	INNER PATHWAYS – Dance Langley Fine Arts School Chief Sepass Theatre 7:00 pm
16	CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT Aldergrove Community Secondary School ACSS Main Gym 7:00 pm
19	CHRISTMAS MUSIC CONCERT Langley Fundamental Middle Secondary LFMSS Main Gym 6:00 pm



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Career News

Opportunities

If you are interested in getting the latest District Careers info, consider checking out the Career Education Newsletter at <https://careered.sd35.bc.ca/news-events/newsletters/>

May you please add this to the TGIM for this week. It is still a little bit of a way away but good for teachers to be aware of.

SAVE THE DATE: Pathways to the Future Event

When: February 4th , 2024 at Langley Events Centre from 6:30pm - 8:00pm

What: Our District Career Education event has the following goals for students and their parents:

- to build their knowledge of district trades and career programs
- to benefit from learning about the Youth Apprenticeship program in our district
- to build connections to career success, both within our district programs and beyond, through post-secondary pathways

SD35 Career Education

PATHWAYS TO THE FUTURE

Exploring Langley School District's Trades & Career Opportunities

Scan to watch last year's video: 

SAVE THE DATE!

04 DAY
FEB MONTH
25 YEAR

6:30 pm - 8:00 pm
Langley Events Centre

Automotive Carpentry Electrical Hairstylist Landscape Horticulture Piping/Plumbing Professional Cook 1 Welding Early Childhood Education Intro to Health Science Biomedical & Health Science



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Career News cont'd.

Youth Train in Trades Workshops - January 2025

Applications for the following Youth Train in Trades workshops are now closed: Piping/Plumbing, Carpentry, Automotive, and Professional Cook. **Applications were Due: December 19th!**



PIPING/PLUMBING WORKSHOP

THURSDAY | JAN 16, 2025 | 9:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Students in grade 9 - 11 are invited to join us for a workshop at Langley School District's Youth Train in Trades BCIT Piping/Plumbing Training Shop at Langley Secondary School to learn more about the Piping/Plumbing program.

Students will also learn about occupations related to the Piping/Plumbing industry and will be involved in some hands-on activities with current students. There will be plenty of time to ask questions!

Apply
Now!
Limited seats!



See your Career Advisor for an Application!
Applications due December 19, 2024



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Career News cont'd.



CARPENTRY WORKSHOP

MONDAY | JAN 27, 2025 | 11:00 AM - 12:30 PM

Students in grade 10 - 11 are invited to join us for a workshop at Langley School District's Youth Train in Trades Carpentry Training Shop at Aldergrove Community Secondary School. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Carpentry program!



Students will also learn about occupations related to the Carpentry industry and will be involved in some hands-on activities with current students.



There will be plenty of time to ask questions!

See your Career Advisor for an Application!
Applications due January 13, 2025



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Career News cont'd.



AUTOMOTIVE WORKSHOP

MONDAY | JAN 27, 2025 | 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Students in grade 10 - 11 are invited to join us for a workshop at Langley School District's Youth Train in Trades Automotive Service Technician Training Shop at Aldergrove Community Secondary School. This is a great opportunity to learn more about the Automotive Service Technician program!



Students will also learn about occupations related to the Automotive industry and will be involved in some hands-on activities with current students.



There will be plenty of time to ask questions!

See your Career Advisor for an Application!
Applications due January 13, 2025



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Career News cont'd.



PROFESSIONAL COOK 1 WORKSHOP

MONDAY | JAN 27, 2025 | 10:00AM - 12:00PM

Students in grade 10 and 11 are invited to join us for a Professional Cook 1 Workshop at Walnut Grove Secondary School where you will learn about occupations related to the Professional Cook industry and will be involved in some hands-on activities with current students.



Students will also learn about Langley's Youth Train in Trades Professional Cook 1 Program.



There will be plenty of time to ask questions!

See your Career Advisor for an Application!
Applications due January 13, 2025



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Community News

Youth Clinics


Let your teen know about our youth clinics. These clinics are located across the Fraser Health region and provide free, confidential information and education regarding sexuality and health to youth under 21 to 24 (age varies by site). Learn more about the services available at youth clinics: [Youth clinics - Fraser Health](#)

[Authority](#)


The **Psychological Services and Counselling Training Centre (PSCTC)** at the University of British Columbia will be offering the **PEERS® for Adolescents** program which is a clinical service that families may access through their Autism funding in the province. **PEERS®** is a program for youth with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ages 12-18) and their parents. The goal is to increase the social skills of youth with to help make and keep friends.



THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA
Psychological Services & Counselling Training Centre
Educational & Counselling Psychology, & Special Education | Faculty of Education



PEERS®
PROGRAM FOR THE EDUCATION AND
ENRICHMENT OF RELATIONAL SKILLS



PEERS® for Adolescents is a 16-week program that teaches important social skills to youth ages 12-18 who want to learn new ways to make and keep friends. During the weekly group sessions, teens practice these social skills through fun activities and discussions.

At the same time, parents attend their own sessions to learn how they can support their teen. Parents will get tips on expanding their teen's social network and providing feedback to help them complete weekly homework assignments focused on socializing.

Parent participation is required for this program which is designed specifically for teenagers diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

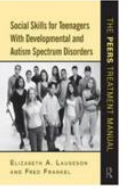
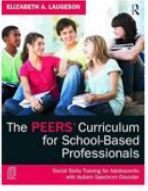
Teens will learn how to:

- Use appropriate conversational skills
- Use humor appropriately
- Use electronic communication
- Enter & exit conversations
- Be a good host during get-togethers
- Be a good sport
- Handle arguments and disagreements
- Change a bad reputation
- Handle rumours and gossip
- Handle rejection, teasing, and bullying




**Funding available through the
Autism Funding Unit
British Columbia
Ministry of Child and Family Development**

When:
January 16 - May 8, 2025
Thursdays 6:00PM-7:30PM

Location:
University of British Columbia
Neville Scarfe Building
1100 - 2125 Main Mall
Vancouver, BC Canada V6T 1Z4



For enrolment information, please contact:

 604-822-1364  <https://pscto.ubc.educ.ca>  pscto.reception@ubc.ca



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Community News cont'd

PAC Meetings 2024-2025

~~October 21, 2024~~

~~November 18, 2024~~

January 20, 2025

February 24, 2025

April 28, 2025

May 26, 2025 – AGM



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Communication

Communication Tools

In order for us to collectively best support students, it is crucial that communication lines are open and efficient. We have a few structures in place to help share information. Please be sure you utilize the following:

Thunderbird Chronicle: Good communication between home and school is a critical factor in student success. We encourage parents to read the monthly newsletter “Thunderbird Chronicle” and pay attention to school emails for important information. We welcome your involvement, and your suggestions.

Please feel free to communicate with us, by following:

Website: <https://lss.sd35.bc.ca/>

Instagram: @langleysecondary. @lss thunderbirds. @lsscareers



Youth Care Worker:

Our two Youth Care Workers, Diaz Kambere and Maina Manodon assist both students and families with ways of coping with and correcting negative behaviours, making friends and finding success.

Feeding Futures

A breakfast program runs every morning for students who wish to participate. The Feeding Futures Program is intended to offer food for those in need. Healthy nourishment is vital to set student's up for success as they put their minds to work in class.

Canuel Caters offers Lunch which is also served daily Thank you!

Math Tutors Available

If you or your student are looking for a math tutor this semester, Mr. Vanbergen has a list of students who would be excellent candidates to support your student. Please reach out to your math teacher or counsellor for some possible options.

Homework Club

Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday room 114 – 3 – 3:45pm



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Communication cont'd.

Community Justice Initiatives will be holding our annual Restorative Action Training in February 2025. In this training, participants are introduced to the values and theory underlying a restorative approach to conflict and harm and learn the foundational skills necessary to facilitate restorative mediation processes.

If you have a student in grades 10-12 who has not taken the training (or would like a refresher), they are welcome to attend. Please see the QR code to register

Winter Health Tips (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.

Keeping Your Child Healthy During Winter (from Fraser Health)

As the chilly winter season is upon us, there's a few extra things you can do to help keep your children healthy and well. Navigate this season with these essential tips.

Bundle Up For The Cold

Dressing appropriately for the cold weather is vital in keeping 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 insulated boots handy. Remind your child to wear these items before heading outside to play or going to school.

Protect Against Winter Illnesses

Winter brings an increased risk of colds and flus. Make sure your child is getting enough sleep (nine to 11 hours for elementary-aged children), eating a variety of foods and staying hydrated by drinking plenty of water. 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, they can wear a mask to reduce the risk of spreading their illness. Learn more about masks here: [Masks \(bccdc.ca\)](https://bccdc.ca)



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Communication cont'd.

Keep Their Bodies Moving

While colder weather may limit outdoor activities, it's crucial to keep your child active during winter as regular physical activity boosts their immune system and keeps them energized. Encourage indoor play and activities such as dancing, yoga or interactive video games that promote movement. Look for winter programs at local community centres or indoor sports facilities.

Find more tips for a healthy winter: <https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/winter-health>



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Support Services

School Based Team (SBT):

The Resource lead chairs a meeting of teachers and an administrator, plus School District support staff twice a month. Meetings are scheduled to discuss the needs of individual students, referred by teachers, and to brainstorm suggestions for their support.

English Language Learner Support (ELL):

ELL support teachers work with students for whom English is their second language.

Aboriginal Support Worker:

Our Aboriginal Support Workers, Danielle Smith and Amy Poirier work with our Aboriginal students for academic and cultural support.



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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 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 CKWX 1130AM, KKNW 980AM, Country Radio 107.1FM, Pulse 107.7 or CBC 690AM or 88.1FM for updates.

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.

Student Safety in Schools (Middle/Secondary Schools)

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. The District expects all students to follow the Student Code of Conduct [AP 350](#). The District is sharing a reminder that no one can have "any weapon for any purpose" on school property. This means that weapons are not allowed to be used as part of an educational project, drama production, or themed costume. Examples of weapons include but are not limited to knives, brass knuckles, swords, decommissioned firearms, replicas, air soft guns, bb guns, and toy guns. The possession or use of fireworks, firecrackers, explosives, or similar devices or objects is also prohibited on school property. Failure to follow these expectations may result in confiscation, intervention, and consequences.



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Emergency Procedures & Response

Health and safety are a priority in the Langley School District. Schools follow emergency procedures to ensure students, staff, and any visitors in our schools or sites are safe when unexpected incidents or events happen. At the start of every school year, administrators, teachers, and staff review these emergency procedures. Schools practice a set number of drills annually in preparation for unexpected situations. The district encourages families to become familiar with these staff emergency procedures and the drills that are completed in our schools. You can read them in the Staff Emergency Procedures Poster [here](#) or find them posted in areas throughout our buildings. If you have any questions or concerns about emergency procedures, please get in contact with your child's teacher or administrator.

See next page for poster/procedures



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Parent Marshalling Areas

In the case of an emergency and a school is cordoned off or unavailable to parents, we will need to have an alternate site where parents can congregate and get important updates from the District.

The marshalling area for LSS parents and guardians is the Twin Rinks parking lot at 5700 Langley Bypass.

STAFF EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

LOCKDOWN

Used in response to an armed or dangerous assailant WITHIN the school

- ☐ Gather people in your vicinity into a secure room – do this quickly
- ☐ Close and secure doors
- ☐ Turn off lights, be quiet, get down low/behind heavy furniture, get out of sight
- ☐ Silence all cell phones and ask that they be placed face down on floor
- ☐ Alert other occupants by any means available and/or call 911 - only if safe to do so **OR Leave Safe**. If no secure area is available and a safe exit is, then quickly leave the area/school. Report to the designated assembly area and await instructions.

*Normal activities in the school cease. Await police response.

HOLD & SECURE

Used if there is a security concern in the neighbourhood

- ☐ Bring everyone into the school and remain inside
- ☐ Secure exterior doors and windows
- ☐ Close exterior window blinds/drapes (if available)
- ☐ No one may enter or exit the school during Hold & Secure

*Typically normal activities continue WITHIN the school.

EVACUATE

Used to move people out of the school when a hazard exists inside

- ☐ Direct students and other staff to exit the school via the shortest safe route
- ☐ Report to and assemble outside at the designated assembly site

*Principal or designate will determine next steps.

SHELTER IN PLACE

Used if an environmental hazard may impact the school

- ☐ Bring everyone into the school and remain indoors
- ☐ Secure exterior doors and windows
- ☐ Close exterior window blinds/drapes (if available)
- ☐ Turn off all ventilation systems (if locally available/situation dependent)
- ☐ Staff designates will monitor access to the school via the main entrance
- ☐ Access may be denied if a risk exists that jeopardizes the safety of occupants

*Typically normal activities continue WITHIN the school.

ROOM CLEAR

Used to move people away from a hazard contained in one room/area

- ☐ Direct students to leave the room/area and report to designated area (Ex. Library)
- ☐ Summon assistance as needed and appropriate (Ex. call First Aid Attendant, Principal/Vice Principal, 911)

*Staff should remain to manage the situation or exit if the room is unsafe.

DROP, COVER & HOLD ON

Used in the event of an earthquake, explosion, or any event that shakes the school

- ☐ Quickly move away from obvious hazards
 - ☐ **DROP** - low to the ground
 - ☐ Cover - take **COVER** under a sturdy table, desks, furniture, or other large sturdy items
 - ☐ **HOLD ON** - to the furniture you are under and stay there until the shaking stops
- After the shaking stops, wait 60 seconds and then **EVACUATE** via the shortest safe route. Report to and assemble outside at the designated assembly site.

*Principal or other designate will determine next steps.



EMERGENCY
TERMINOLOGY
QUICK
REFERENCE

SCHOOL DRILLS

FIRE

- 6 drills per year
- 3 per semester - fall and spring

Note: actual alarms and false alarms count as drills

EARTHQUAKE

- 2 drills per year
- October - Great BC Shakeout

LOCKDOWN

- 3 drills per year

HOLD & SECURE + SHELTER IN PLACE

- 1 review of procedures per year with all