



December 18, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians and Students,

Re: Willoughby Slope Catchments Update and New School

The District is sharing important information for elementary students and their families on the Willoughby Slope to help you plan for the next school year. As you know, the District will be opening a new elementary school in the SW Yorkson area in September 2021. Earlier this week, at its Regular Board Meeting, the Langley Board of Education named the new elementary school. The District is pleased to share the new school will be named **Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary**, after a District Teacher who tirelessly dedicated nearly three decades working in our Aboriginal Program. Donna has made a difference in the lives of so many students and staff. Please join us in celebrating this positive news for our community. Learn more about the announcement [here](#).

With the naming of the school, the District can move ahead with other stages of the transition including registration. On November 17, 2020, the Langley Board of Education approved the proposed catchment changes for the Willoughby Slope. The catchment changes mainly impact students who currently attend Willoughby Elementary and those who will be attending Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary in September 2021. As we have informed families earlier in the year, students on the Willoughby Slope will be attending their catchment school based on their home address and there will be limited options to attend schools outside of their catchments. We acknowledge the continued growth in the area and are ensuring all of our schools have sustainable resources to support student learning.

What does this mean for my child?

Many students who currently attend Willoughby Elementary will continue at that school in September 2021, dependent on their home address. Many of the students who currently attend Willoughby Elementary will transition to Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary in September 2021, dependent on their home address. All students attending neighbouring schools in the Willoughby Slope will attend their catchment school, dependent on their home address. This may also mean that some students currently attending neighbouring schools may need to return to Willoughby Elementary, transition to Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary, or return to their catchment school.

How do I find my child's catchment?

Please visit our District website and use the school locator tool to determine your child's catchment school: <https://www.sd35.bc.ca/schools/school-locator/>

During the winter break, the new catchments will be updated into the school locator tool system and this process is expected to be completed by mid-January. For now, if your child's catchment school is currently Willoughby Elementary, please review the catchment changes to determine if your child is expected to continue at Willoughby Elementary or transition to Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary. View map [here](#).

How do I register my child for the 2021-2022 school year (entering Grades 1-5)?

If your child is expected to attend Willoughby Elementary or Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary, the District will confirm your child's registration after Spring Break. This includes students currently attending other Willoughby Slope schools who will be making the transition to either of these two schools.

If your child is expected to continue at their catchment school in one of the neighbouring schools on the Willoughby Slope no action is needed. Your child will automatically be registered at their current school for September 2021.

Please note, families that have extenuating circumstances and want their child to continue attending their current school even if it is not their catchment should connect with their school principal.

How do I register my child for the 2021-2022 school year (entering Kindergarten)?

All children who will be five years old by December 31, 2021 (children born in 2016) are eligible for the Kindergarten program beginning September 7, 2021. Registration opens Monday, January 18, 2021 and will be open until Wednesday, March 31, 2021. Registration takes place at the school level. Please check your school's website or the District webpage in mid-January for specific instructions [here](#).

Please note, Kindergarten registration for students attending Donna Gabriel Robins Elementary will take place at the District level. Please check the District webpage in mid-January for specific instructions [here](#).

There are many important stages in the process of opening a new school. Willoughby Slope families can expect updates in the coming months. The District is committed to providing as much information as possible in a timely manner to mitigate the impacts opening a new school has on our families. Our hope is for everyone to celebrate the benefits a new school will provide for our growing community.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact your school principal.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Mal Gill', with a stylized, looped design.

Mal Gill
Assistant Superintendent of Schools
School District No. 35 (Langley)