



kindness
MATTERS

The Lion
Lowdown
February 5
2021

Calendar

February 12 – Pro-D Day (Schools not in session)
February 15 – Family Day (Schools not in session)
February 16 – FSAs begin for Grades 4 and 7 Students
PAC Meeting at 6:30pm (see Zoom link below)
February 19 – MDI Surveys begin for Grade 5 and 6
February 22 – Design & Assessment Day (Schools not in session)
February 22-26 – Diversity and Respect Week
February 26 – Jump Rope for Heart

Daily Pick up and Drop Off Reminders

A few friendly reminders for families during our pick up and drop off times:

- 1) Please refrain from pulling any U-turns when driving into or on the school grounds. Making U-turns causes safety concerns and traffic congestion. Please drive all the way in and use the drive-thru to change directions. Thank you for your help.
- 2) Please observe the 30 km/h School Zone speed limits that begin BEFORE you drive onto 212 Street. Upon turning into the school entrance, please limit your speed to 10 km/h.
- 3) Ensure you are following physical distancing guidelines when interacting with other adults and please consider wearing a mask.

Thank you for your continued support and cooperation in keeping our school welcoming and safe.

SchoolMessenger Launch Test

Our District is launching a new notification service called SchoolMessenger to communicate with students and parents/guardians throughout the District. This new way of connecting with the school community does not replace other methods of communicating, the school administrator is always available to engage with students and families by phone and in-person. Please read the attached letter with accompanying infographic and instructions to opt-in for text messaging service.

This Monday, February 8th at 4pm, we will be running a test of our SchoolMessenger System via email and phone. We will be doing a texting test on Wednesday, February 10 at 4pm.

Enhanced Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines

The District appreciates all the hard work from students, staff, and families in helping keep our community safe. We continue to work closely with the Ministry of Education and Provincial Health Office. This week the province announced changes to COVID-19 health and safety guidelines for schools. Mask requirements for middle and secondary school students and K-12 staff have been amended. Guidelines have also been strengthened for physical education and music classes.

It is important to note, our schools will need some time to implement these new changes; all changes will be in effect as of February 26, 2021. Your continued patience and support are appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

Please read below and full details found in the province's news release located on the District website [here](#).

Changes to Mask Wearing

All middle and secondary students and K-12 staff will now be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are with their learning groups. The only exceptions are when:

- sitting or standing at their seat or workstation in a classroom;
- there is a barrier in place; or
- they are eating or drinking.

For elementary students, wearing masks indoors remain a personal choice. It is important to note, as advised by the province, these changes above do not apply to grade 6 and 7 students attending an elementary school.

Changes to Physical Education and Music Classes

High-intensity physical activities are to be held outside as much as possible. Shared equipment or items, such as weight machines, treadmills or musical instruments, can be used only if they are cleaned between use, according to strict school sanitization guidelines. Students using equipment or playing instruments should also be spaced at least two metres apart and masks are to be used when singing.

What do I need to know?

1. **Water Bottles:** Students are asked to bring a water bottle each day with their name on it. While we do have disposable cups for students to use if they are thirsty, our regular water fountains are currently shut off as per COVID-19 protocols and each student having a water bottle would be very helpful throughout the day.
2. **Masks:** We have WLE Masks (black with adjustable ear elastics) available for students and families to purchase for \$8.00 through SchoolCashOnline. While masks are not mandatory at elementary school, we are strongly encouraging our older students to please wear masks in common spaces such as hallways and washrooms. We do still have a limited number of reusable masks in the office for students. If your child would like one, they can come to office to request one.



3. **Valentine's Day Cards:** While it is a long-standing tradition to exchange Valentine cards at West Langley, due to health and safety guidelines, we are asking families to not send cards or treats to school. Teachers and classes will do seasonal activities to celebrate which will follow our COVID-19 protocols. Thank you for your understanding. We appreciate everyone's support and efforts helping is adhere to guidelines set out by the Provincial Health Officer and School District which help reduce the risk of exposures in school.
4. **Kindergarten Registration:** The process for this year's Kindergarten Registration has changed. Please see the section titled Kindergarten Registration 2021-2022 for more information. We are encouraging families to register as soon as possible so we can confirm your registration for the year. Registrations received prior to March 31, 2021 are guaranteed placement at their catchment school. Registrations after March 31, 2021 will be placed on a waitlist for September.
5. **Daily Health Check Reminder:** Health and safety remain our top priority. A reminder to please be sure to review the daily health check form at the following link. Click [here](#)



6. **Weather Reminder:** We live on the West Coast and it rains – a lot! Students should be prepared with rain gear (boots, coats, umbrellas, change of clothes, etc.) as we will be going outside unless there are exceptional weather circumstances.

7. **When parents/guardians need to come to the building:** If you need to visit us in person, we ask that all parents/guardians wait outside at the front door –

please do not enter the building. If we miss you, please call us at 604-888-6444 and we will come to help you. Thank you for your cooperation.



Jump Rope for Heart

Families should have received a parent meeting in regards to our Jump Rope for Heart Campaign. Attached to this newsletter is a parent letter outlining the campaign and important information. You can also watch a video students and staff viewed today at <https://youtu.be/tqMXRC0oOZo>.



Have you registered for Kindergarten 2021-2022?

Kindergarten Registration for the 2021-2022 school year will begin on January 18 and continue through to March 31, 2021. All children who will be five years old by December 31, 2021 are eligible to register for Kindergarten classes that will begin in September 2021. This year you will be able to register either online OR in person.

Online registrations can be sent to Mrs. Rinke at nrinke@sd35.bc.ca.

If you are interested in registering in-person, please call the office at (604) 888-6444 and speak with Mrs. Rinke to set up an appointment time.

Please check our school website for specific information about how to register. **YOU MUST REGISTER AT YOUR CATCHMENT SCHOOL.**

Proper documentation is required at the time of registration. **YOUR CHILD'S REGISTRATION WILL NOT BE PROCESSED WITHOUT THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTATION.**

Following is a list of required documents:

- Proof of Age (Birth Certificate, Passport).
- Proof of Citizenship or Permanent Resident Status for both child and parent (Canadian Birth Certificate, Canadian Citizenship Card, Canadian Passport, Landed Immigrant documentation, Permanent Resident documentation/cards)
- Proof of residence (Driver's License, utility bill mortgage statement, subject-free purchase agreement, municipal tax bill).
- Immunization Records (if available – school does not retain a copy)

Although your child's Care Card is not a required document, it is an important piece of information for the school to have. Please make sure that you have indicated any medical concerns or information that the school should be aware of (i.e. asthma, allergies, etc.). If you have copies of any medical documents or diagnostic reports for learning or physical needs, please also have a copy or the original (a copy can be made at the school). Please also have a copy of any court orders regarding custody so the school can have a copy on file.

Sexual Health Workshops sponsored by the Langley Children Committee

Talk Sex Today: Body Science Workshop with Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators, bootcamp for parents

Monday March 8, 2021

6:30 - 8 pm

Registration link:

<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/talk-sex-today-bootcamp-for-parents-tickets-133389596875?aff=erelexpmlt>



Emergency Prep Drills

We will be conducting a "Lock Down Drill" on Friday, February 19 where our RCMP School Liaison office will be in attendance. Our RCMP School Liaison office visits the school weekly so many students know who she is and it is not uncommon to have RCMP at the school. Each year, schools must conduct multiple emergency procedure drills to ensure all adults and older students have a clear understanding of the routines. Our Lock Down drill will be communicated in advance to students with age-appropriate explanations being given and students reassured that is only practice and that they are safe. Families can support us by reminding students we do all sorts of emergency drills/practices throughout the year so we know routines which keeps everyone safe and calm.



PAC Meeting – February 16 at 6:30pm

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our last PAC meeting. Our next PAC meeting is Tuesday, February 16 at 6:30pm. Meetings are being held online at this time. We hope you can all join us to be informed about what is happening in the school. Students and staff of the WLE thank the West Langley PAC for their generosity and contributes to our WLE learning community!

Online Meeting Information:

Time: Feb 16, 2021 06:30 PM Vancouver

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/79304002587?pwd=YjJDbjY3NVpTV2lFZW0rTUE0MkVhZz09>

Meeting ID: 793 0400 2587

Passcode: B2D7d2

Student Learning Surveys

Students in grade 4 and 7 have completed the Student Learning Surveys. Parents may access the survey by the Direct Access from the website listed below. Surveys can be completed by parents with children in Grades 4, 7, 10, and 12. A parent may complete a survey for each child in the targeted grades. The parent survey is available in English, French and 16 other languages.

Parents can complete surveys on their own time.

Please go to this link to access the survey and go to the parent box. Parents do not need specific codes to complete the survey.

www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey/access.htm



Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) – Change of Administration Dates

The BC Ministry of Education has adjusted the administration dates for this year's Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). All Langley students in grades 4 and 7 will now complete the FSA in the new administration window between February 16 and March 12, 2021. Information on the exact dates students will write their FSA's will be provided by your child's classroom teacher in the coming

weeks. Parents of students in grade 4 and 7 would have received a letter in September from Gord Stewart, Superintendent of Langley Schools, regarding the annual Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) for the 2020/2021 school year. The letter indicated that this year's FSA would be administered between October 5 and November 13, 2020. The remainder of the information outlined in the letter still applies and if parents have any questions regarding the FSA, they should contact their school's Principal.

**HUMAN
EARLY LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP**



Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI)

THE MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (MDI) IS COMING TO YOUR SCHOOL IN JANUARY/FEBRUARY!

The Langley School District has partnered with the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia to measure and promote children's social and emotional development, health, well-being, and assets through the Middle Year Development Instrument (MDI). The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a self-report questionnaire that asks children in middle childhood about their thoughts, feelings and experiences. The MDI is the first survey of its kind to gather information about the lives of children both in school, in the home and in the community, from their own perspective. The survey questions align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum, which includes a focus on promoting children's personal and social competencies.

Grade 5,6 and 8 students are invited to complete the MDI during class time between:
February 5th and March 5th, 2021.

For more information and to view the questionnaires:

<http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi/>

Parent FAQs:

<http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi/parent-guardian-resources/>

Families of students in grade 5 and 6 should have received a consent letter sent home and by email. If you did not, please contact the school office. If you don't want your child to participate please contact your child's teacher, fill out the withdrawal form at the end of the parent/guardian informed passive consent letter, or contact the MDI project staff at mdi@help.ubc.ca. The withdrawal form should be returned to the classroom teacher by February 19, 2021



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, CKNW 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.