West Langley Elementary School

9403 212 Street, Langley, BC

604-888-6444

Principal: Mr. S. Oliver Secretary: Mrs. C. Swerdan

Hello, West Langley Families!

It was a long, hot summer, but we all made it through, and here we are, freshly scrubbed, and ready to continue our learning journey together. West Langley is such a vibrant learning community, with students, families and staff all pulling in the same direction, I am ecstatic to be back to start my first full year as principal.

We, as a community, are dedicated to ‘engaging students in authentic learning, empowered by technology.’ We take risks and embrace challenges. We share our learning with each other, our community and the world. One thing that I think is important for families, teachers, and students to remember is that when we are learning important things, they won’t always come easily, and our first attempts at them won’t always be successful. I was reading the book **The Gift of Failure**, by Jessica Lahey, over the summer, and I was struck, in thinking back, on how much more I learned from getting things wrong than I did when I got them correct ‘right off the hop.’ With that in mind, let’s allow our kids to push themselves to the point of failure, and to learn from it. We can give them the skills and mindsets necessary for coping with frustration, but we don’t need to move all those frustrations out of the way for them (I confess I’ve been guilty of that as a parent and as a teacher). Let’s revel in what we learn by doing things wrong, revising our approach, and ultimately succeeding!

Your dedicated teachers have been in their classrooms for the last few weeks preparing, decorating, learning new things themselves, and generally making sure that this will be your best school year yet! I know that they have a wide range of new learning activities planned, and they will be adopting at least part of the much-talked-about new curriculum this year. You can find more information on it at <http://curriculum.gov.bc.ca> .

We hope that you all had adventurous, learning-filled summers. In fact, students can expect me to ask them about an adventure they had, and something they learned over the summer. It was a great learning time for me, on topics related to education, and beyond. Again, welcome back, and have a wonderful, and ROAR-filled year!

Mr. Oliver

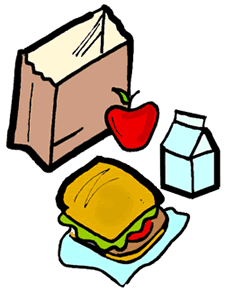
Update your information

Watch your child’s backpack for the student demographic verification form, coming home soon. On it, we ask for updated addresses, contact numbers, emergency contacts, and medical information that we might need to keep your kids safe. Please also make a special note of checking the email addresses there. The email system that Mr. Davids built worked wonderfully, but our new student information system is much more streamlined, as long as we have an email address. If you aren’t receiving weekly emails from the school, please let us know by emailing Mr. Oliver ([soliver@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:soliver@sd35.bc.ca)) so that we can update your info in the new system.

Traffic

We are delighted by our newly resurfaced driveway, parking lot and basketball courts. Unfortunately, the speed bumps aren’t in yet, and it’s easy to drive faster than you intend on the new surface. Please keep your speed below 10km/h on school roadways. Kids don’t always remember to look, and they regularly dart out between cars. We would also request that you be respectful of the ‘Drive-thru’ and ‘Drop-off’ Lanes in front of the school when you are travelling. We like to keep everyone moving safely, especially at those busy times of day before and after school.

Reverse Lunch

We will be following a play-first lunch (also known as a reverse lunch) this year at West Langley. In this scheme, students go outside to play before they come in to eat. Research and schools who have already implemented this plan both indicate that kids learn better, and eat more of their lunches. It does, however, require habit changes from a few. First, please make sure that your child eats a nutritious breakfast every day. My own experience suggests that proteins, like eggs, yogurt or cheese, have better staying power than a cereal-based (particularly sugary) breakfast. Second, recess snacks should be ‘solid,’ again avoiding the much-coveted junk food that provides a short burst of calories and energy, but that doesn’t stick to the ribs (apples or carrots are great for this). We will be making sure that students do not take lunch outside at 11:50, but rather that they wait until coming back indoors to wash up and eat. I suspect you’ll see fewer leftovers coming home under this scheme.

Bell Schedules

We have, as always, a few days with special bell schedules this year.

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| Regular Days | Start | 8:31 | Most days, of course… |
| Recess | 10:25-10:40 |
| Lunch | 11:50-12:35 |
| Dismiss | 2:30 |
| Half Days | Start | 8:31 | September 25, November 20,  February 22 |
| Recess | 9:46-10:01 |
| Dismiss | 11:26 |
| Collaboration Days | Start | 8:31 | October 26, November 24, January 14,  February 23, April 15, May 9 |
| Recess | 9:50-10:05 |
| Lunch | 11:15-12:00 |
| Dismiss | 1:15 |
| Early Dismissal for Parent Teacher Interviews | Start | 8:31 | November 4-5,  March 9-10 |
| Recess | 9:50-10:05 |
| Lunch | 11:15-12:00 |
| Dismiss | 1:30 |

School-home communication

It has been a few years, now, since West Langley switched away from paper-based communication, and to an electronic approach. That effective, efficient, and eco-friendly approach will continue. In fact, you can expect this to be the only paper newsletter you see this year. You can, however, keep informed about the happenings at the school in a number of ways:

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| School Website | <http://westlangleylionspride.com> |
| Twitter | @wlelions |
| Facebook | Search for West Langley Elementary and ‘Like’ |
| Instagram | @wlelions |
| Email | If you aren’t receiving school-wide emails by mid-Septemer, please contact Mr. Oliver to confirm that we have a working address for you. An email from the address you’d like to receive messages at would be most effective, as it eliminates typos! |
| 5 Things to ROAR About | Our weekly success blog. If you are following us on Facebook or Twitter, you’ll get notifications when we publish. |
| This Week @WLE | A weekly digest of information relevant to families. This replaces the traditional paper school newsletter. Find it through the website, or from an email, Facebook or Twitter notification. |
| FreshGrade | Some of our teachers this year will be piloting a new system of electronic ‘portfolios’ of student work. Stay tuned for details! |
| PAC Meetings | No tech can substitute for a face-to-face meeting of people devoted to quality educational experiences for kids, and making West Langley Elementary the best school it can be! |

PAC Meetings

Our first PAC Meeting of the year will be on September 22, at 6:00 in the library. Please join us. Childcare is available during the meetings, and we always have a fun time. Here are the scheduled PAC Meeting dates for the school year.

September 22

October 20

November 17

January 19

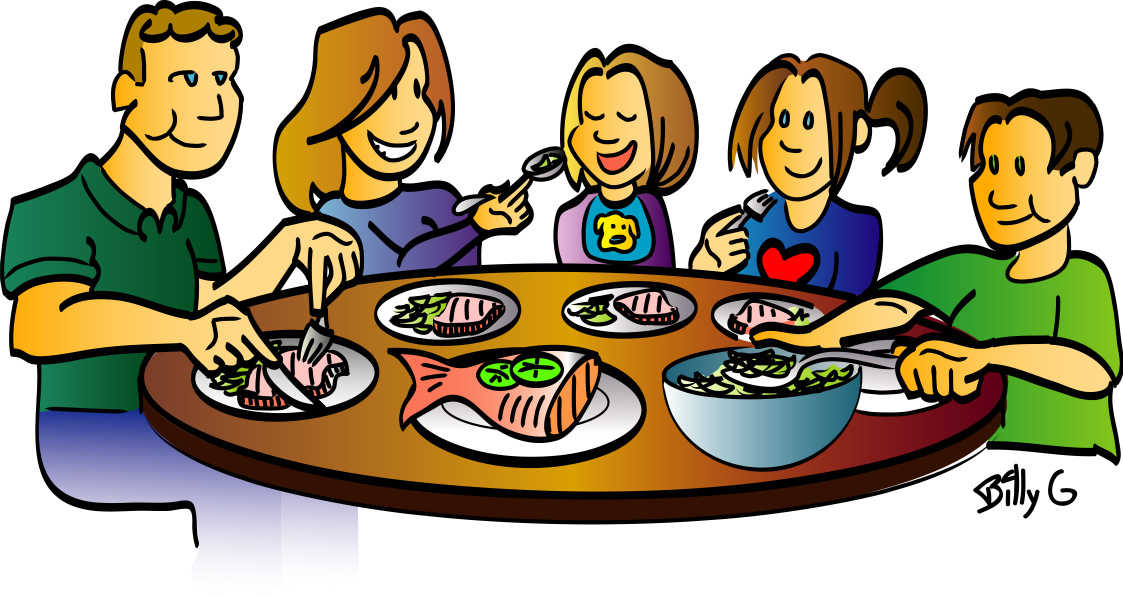
February 23

March 8

April 19

May17

June

Meet the Teacher/Community Dinner

Wednesday, September 23 will be our annual Meet the Teacher Open House and Community Dinner. Teachers will open their rooms for you to meet them and get a feel for your kids’ learning environments, and you can enjoy an Olive Garden-catered dinner in support of the Grade 7 Camp program will follow on new blacktop court (or in the gym if it rains). Watch for upcoming details!

2015-16 Staff List

We have welcomed a number of new staff to the school this year, including teachers for grades 3-4

and 6-7, as well as Resource and Physical Education teachers. We have also brought in three new educational assistants, and welcome a new counsellor, Childcare Worker, and Aboriginal Support Worker. Please join me in welcoming the following: Ms. Andrews, Mr. Joly, Mrs. Lawlor, Ms. Lockhart, Ms. Richardson, Mrs. Powar, Ms. VanHatten, and Ms. Yeung, to the West Langley family.

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| Name | Position | Email |
| Alsop, Linda | Division 9 Teacher (grade 1) | [lalsop@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:lalsop@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Andrews, Marissa | SEA | [mandrews@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:mandrews@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Bentley, Melissa | Division 7 Teacher (grade 2) | [mbentley@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:mbentley@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Black, Allison | Resource Teacher | [ablack@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:ablack@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Coulson, Candace | Resource & Reading Recovery Teacher | [ccoulson@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:ccoulson@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Gesy, Margot | ESL Teacher | [mgesy@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:mgesy@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Gordon, Sandra | Division 10 Teacher (Kindergarten) | [slgordon@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:slgordon@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Gorseth, Nicola | Division 6 Teacher (Grade 3) | [ngorseth@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:ngorseth@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Hall, Sherry | Division 8 Teacher (Grade 1-2) | [shall@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:shall@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Janzen, Gold | Division 4 Teacher (Grade 4-5) | [gjanzen@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:gjanzen@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Joly, Jim | Counsellor | [jjoly@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:jjoly@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Kellner, Caitlin | Integration Support Teacher | [ckellner@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:ckellner@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Kotwal, Shanu | Speech-Language Pathologist | [skotwal@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:skotwal@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Lawlor, Gayle | Youth Care Worker | [glawlor@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:glawlor@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Lockart, Kim | SEA | [klockhart@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:klockhart@sd35.bc.ca) |
| MacDonald, Lori | StrongStart Coordinator | [lmacdonald@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:lmacdonald@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Marshall, Katie | School Psychologist | [kmarshall@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:kmarshall@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Massin-Ball, Brigitte | SEA | [bmassinball@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:bmassinball@sd35.bc.ca) |
| McKellar, Kelly | SEA | [kmckellar@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:kmckellar@sd35.bc.ca) |
| McLeod, Fran | Division 3 Teacher (Grade 5-6) | [fmcleod@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:fmcleod@sd35.bc.ca) |
| O’Byrne, Riki | Division 7 Teacher (Grade 2) | [robyrne@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:robyrne@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Oliver, Sean | Principal | [soliver@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:soliver@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Plant, Victoria | SEA | [vplant@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:vplant@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Powar, Raj | Division 5 Teacher (Grade 3-4) | [rpowar@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:rpowar@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Richardson, Kara | SEA | [krichardson@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:krichardson@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Schmidt, Rebecca | Music Teacher | [rschmidt@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:rschmidt@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Senften, Christine | Division 1 Teacher (Grade 6-7) | [csenften@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:csenften@sd35.bc.ca) |
| Swerdan, Cathy | Administrative Assistant | [cswerdan@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:cswerdan@sd35.bc.ca) |
| TBA | Division 2 Teacher (Grade 6-7) |  |
| VanHatten, Bonnie | Aboriginal Support Worker | [bvanhatten@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:bvanhatten@sd35.bc.ca) |

Class Building

It has been a daunting task, but we have completed our class building process and students were placed in their ‘forever classes’ (well, at least until June) on Thursday. It is an interesting and intense process building classes in a small school like ours, where we try to balance student learning needs, contractual and legislated limits, peer relationships, family preference, and budgetary restraints. Every student is placed with an eye to ensuring his or her greatest academic, emotional and social success. Thank you for trusting us with your children, and with this important task. Let’s have a great year working together to ensure our students’ growth!