

RAPTOR REPORT



October 10th 2024

Dear Families,

Our School Improvement Day last Friday provided a powerful opportunity for collaboration and learning for our staff. We focused on our goals as laid out in our school's *Action Plan for Learning*. We are working on four school goals in the areas of: Literacy, Numeracy, Staff Team, and Social & Emotional Learning. Should you wish to learn more, I have attached a one-pager overview of our *Action Plan for Learning* document to this newsletter; it is also posted on our school website. October is lining up to be a full and fun month at BGMS:

- We look forward to welcoming families to Parent Teacher Conferences on Oct. 23/24. Sign up information on page 3 of this newsletter.
- We have many many clubs up and running and it's wonderful to see students seizing the opportunity to get involved and try something new.
- Volleyball for our Grade 6 & 7 students will be starting up soon.
- We will celebrate on Oct. 31st with a costume contest and Halloween Carnival.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Burns

-- BIKES, SCOOTERS & E-SCOOTERS --

Please speak with your child about their road awareness. We have had multiple concerns from the public about students veering out in front of cars without checking the road is clear first. This will eventually lead to a child getting hit by a car. If students are trusted to ride or scoot to school, they must be able to follow road safety expectations.

Please ensure your child wears a helmet.

Please send your child to school with a lock so their wheels are stored securely during the day.

Considering having your child travel to school on an electric scooter? Here is a quick overview of BC's e-scooter safety standards; some of them might surprise you:



<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/transportation-environment/active-transportation/scooter/safety>



BETTY GILBERT MIDDLE SCHOOL

2024-2025 ACTION PLAN FOR Learning

www.bgms.sd35.bc.ca

SCHOOL CONTEXT

- Betty Gilbert Middle School (BGMS) is part of the Langley School District which resides on the unceded, traditional, and ancestral territories of the Matsqui, Kwantlen, Katzie, and Semiahmoo First Nations.
- Located in Aldergrove, BGMS is a community school that reflects a diverse population. BGMS is a proud member of the Aldergrove Family of Schools including: Parkside Centennial Elementary, Shortreed Community Elementary, and Aldergrove Community Secondary School.
- The BGMS student body is primarily a blend of students from our two feeder elementary schools, as well as a growing population of students new to Canada.
- BGMS has a constantly growing enrolment. We currently have just under 500 students in our 19 Divisions.

OVERVIEW

BGMS is a thriving school. Each day, the building is filled with a student body that is deserving of both high-level academic supports and interventions addressing social and emotional wellness. The staff at BGMS are a team of dedicated professionals striving to meet the needs of all students so that their middle years are filled with joy, increasing self-confidence, and academic gains. We care deeply for our students and are proud of the environment and opportunities we provide.

SCHOOL GOALS

1. LITERACY

Developing a schoolwide culture of positivity towards reading, underpinned by specific and targeted instructional strategies to improve student literacy skills.

2. NUMERACY

Developing a schoolwide culture of positivity and growth mindset towards Math, underpinned by specific and targeted instructional strategies to improve calculation skills.

3. STAFF TEAM

Strengthening our staff professional learning communities (PLCs) within a culture of collaboration, communication, and compassion with a focus on improving results in academic learning and wellness for all learners.

4. SOCIAL & EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Fostering resiliency with restorative practice while developing a strong culture of connection, care, and belonging ensuring BGMS is inclusive, safe, and accepting for all students.

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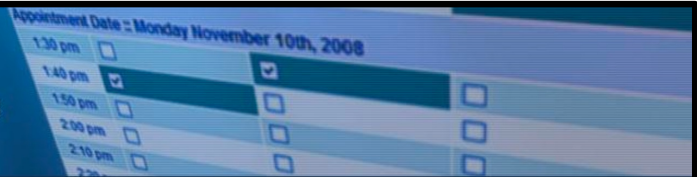
INTERIM REPORTS COMING HOME ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 11TH

An Interim Report will be sent home with your child on October 11th. Please read it and discuss it with your child. Then sign it and send the signed lower portion back to school. The interim report will provide you with a snapshot of how both your child, and their teacher, view how they have settled into the school year. It will also offer talking points for our upcoming Parent Teacher Conferences.

PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES WED. OCT. 23RD & THURS. OCT. 24TH

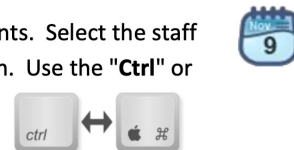
Our online booking system will open on October 15th and close on October 21st at midnight. To book a timeslot, please go to: <http://bgms.schoolappointments.com>

SchoolAppointments.com
Scheduling Parent Teacher Appointments
Can be Easy for Everyone!



School Appointments - Parent Instructions

1. Go to our school appointments web site: <http://bgms.schoolappointments.com>
2. Register for an account by clicking the "**REGISTER**" menu tab and filling in the on-line form. Choose a user id and password for yourself and then click the "**Register Now**" button.
3. Add your children into the system by clicking the "**Add a Student**" button. Click "**Insert New**" button to add more children.
4. Click the "**date**" icon beside each child's name to schedule appointments. Select the staff you wish to book appointments with and the "**View Calendars**" button. Use the "**Ctrl**" or "**Command**" key to select multiple staff to view at the same time.
5. Click on available time slots to book your appointments and then click the "**Book Appointments**" button to save your bookings.



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HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

We love dressing up for Halloween at BGMS; it's always a really fun day of the year! While helping your child choose a costume, please follow these guidelines:

- Full faced masks or costumes that completely hide the person are not permitted as they can be scary for some students and pose a safety risk with regards to us knowing who is in our school building.
- Replica weapons of any kind are not permitted unless pre-approved by Administration.
- A culture is not a costume - costumes that emphasize cultural stereotypes are insensitive and offensive to the diverse backgrounds represented at our school and are not respectful of those cultures.
- Students are not permitted to wear anything suggestive or provocative in nature. Underwear as outerwear is not acceptable.
- Costumes that promote the use of illegal substances, or that portray violence are not permitted.

Election Day – Use of School Sites

On Saturday October 19th many of our school gyms across the District will be used as provincial election polling stations from 8am – 8pm. As guided by Section 81 of the Election Act "accommodation in a school that is the property of a board of school trustees under the School Act must be made available by the board for use as a voting place." Please take note of extra pedestrian and vehicle traffic in the area of these sites on election day.

The District appreciates the support and cooperation from families and members of our community. The District is encouraging everyone who is eligible to do their civic duty and vote. For a list of school sites being used, visit the District website [here](#).

RAPTOR REPORT

LATE or ABSENT?

To report an absence, please call the office at 604-856-8178 and press 1 to leave a voicemail.

**IF YOUR CHILD WILL BE ABSENT OR LATE,
PLEASE LET US KNOW BEFORE 8:45AM.**

Parents can also input an absence using our online form although we have had a few technical glitches with that system so apologies if we do not receive your submission and call to inquire about the safety of your child.

<https://bgms.sd35.bc.ca/our-school/attendance/>

STAFF SPOTLIGHT



Ms. Lauman
Learning Commons Teacher

- Ms. Lauman likes spending her summers camping, gardening, and (no surprise!) reading.
- She spent a semester living in Ireland when she was a university student.
- She runs a student book club at BGMS.

RAPTOR REPORT

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 schools. You can read them in the Staff Emergency Procedures Poster [here](#) or find them posted in areas throughout District buildings. If you have questions or concerns about emergency procedures, please contact your child's teacher or principal.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Fri. Oct 11	❖ Interim Reports Sent Home
Mon. Oct. 14	❖ School Closed – Happy Thanksgiving
Wed. Oct. 16	❖ Hot Lunch
Thurs. Oct 17	❖ Great Shake Out Earthquake Drill 10:10am
Wed. 23 & Thurs. 24	❖ Early Dismissal at 1:55pm – Parent Teacher Conferences
Fri. Oct 25	❖ No School for Students: Pro-D Day
Thurs. Oct. 31	❖ Costume Day and Halloween Carnival
Fri. Nov. 1	❖ PJ Day
Tues. Nov. 5	❖ Popcorn Day
Thurs. Nov. 7	❖ Remembrance Assembly ❖ Photo Retakes
Fri. Nov. 8	❖ No School for Students: Design & Assessment Day
Mon. Nov. 11	❖ School Closed – Remembrance Day
Wed. Nov. 13	❖ Hot Lunch

RAPTOR REPORT

BGMS PARKING AND DRIVING (please see map on next page)

- ❖ We have received multiple legitimate complaints from parents, neighbours, and the RCMP sharing concerns regarding driving and parking at our school.
- ❖ Patience and thoughtfulness toward others is critical to avoiding an incident. If you choose to drive into our parking lot, please take a calming breath and model for your child how we can all work together to solve problems. We do not expect yelling or rude gestures made toward other drivers.
- ❖ Do not block driveways or cars that are parked on the road and do not park up on the sidewalks.
- ❖ There is a stop sign at the of of our parking lot as you reenter onto 27th Ave., be sure to stop for oncoming traffic at that intersection.
- ❖ We have requested new paint and signage for our parking lot which will clearly show the '1 minute pick up and drop off' zones as well as the 'drive through only' lane.
- ❖ Until the painting is complete, please note that the lane closest to 27th Ave. is drive through only – no stopping allowed
- ❖ The lane closest to our school is for quick pick up and drop off only, no stopping allowed
- ❖ Children should only exit or enter your car from the door facing our school (otherwise they will be in oncoming traffic).
- ❖ Once you have dropped off or picked up, please signal, shoulder check, and then merge safely back into the left drive through lane.
- ❖ If you wish to park and wait for your child, you are requested to use the farthest parking lot near the ball diamond. Make a plan with your child so they know where to meet you.
- ❖ Be prepared to stop for students at the crosswalk in front of our school entrance.
- ❖ Drive slowly in the parking lot and on surrounding roads.

Thank you for your efforts to make our parking situation safer and a more positive experience for all. 😊



BGMS Parking Improvements

Please use this lot to park and wait for your child.

After dropping off or picking up, please signal, shoulder check, and then merge into drive through lane.

When in drive through lane, please allow others to merge from right.

Thank you for your help in making our school parking lot a safer place.

No Parking
Keep Sidewalk Clear for Students

Access Gate No Parking

Disabled Parking Only

1 minute drop-off or pick-up only

Drive Through Lane - No Stopping

No Stopping

Student Cross Walk

1 minute drop-off or pick-up only

Drive Through Lane - No Stopping

Stop Sign

No Parking



RAPTOR REPORT



TABLE TALKS ALDERGROVE

SUBSTANCE USE & YOUR NEIGHBOURHOOD
A DESSERT & DIALOGUE EVENING

WED
OCT 16

6:30PM - 9PM
ALDERGROVE KINSMEN
COMMUNITY CENTRE
26770 29TH AVE.

///// JOIN US FOR CONVERSATIONS ON IMPORTANT TOPICS RELATED TO SUPPORTING OUR LOVED ONES, REDUCING STIGMA, EXPLORING ROOT CAUSES, AND THE ROLE WE PLAY IN THE TOXIC DRUG CRISIS



Langley Community
Services Society



RAPTOR REPORT

VOLUNTEER DRIVER FORMS

Thank you in advance to our parent volunteer drivers. Your help ensures that our students are able to attend sports events and field trips. ☺

If you are able to help out this year and be a parent driver, please note that you will be required to:

1. Fill out a volunteer driver form (attached to this newsletter)
2. Provide copies of your driver's license, ICBC insurance, and private insurance (if applicable)
3. Provide your ICBC Driver's Abstract: <https://onlinebusiness.icbc.com/cli/>

This process needs to be redone for each new school year.

Please don't wait until the date of the trip or sports event, as this can lead to a last-minute line up of parents trying to fill out forms.

Please pop into the office over the next few weeks to register!

ONLINE FAMILY SUPPORT SESSIONS ON NAVIGATING DIGITAL WORLD HOSTED BY SAFER SCHOOLS TOGETHER

The Ministry of Education has once again contracted Safer Schools Together to offer complimentary Family Sessions, designed to support families and caregivers navigate the digital world. There is one session per month. Families can participate in as many as they wish. Sessions can be found at the link below:

[erase Registration \(saferschoolstogether.com\)](https://saferschoolstogether.com)

Families will learn:

- Digital media habits, oversharing, and digital addiction
- The permanence of online posts/activity
- The significance of your digital tattoo in how others perceive you (e.g., sports teams, college admissions, and potential employers)
- The importance of caring for peers both online and offline
- Geo-locational settings and the dangers of social media and cell phone misuse
- The social and legal consequences of cyberbullying behaviour as well as possession and distribution of intimate images (sexting and sextortion)
- An anonymous student reporting tool that can help you and your friends stay safe both online and offline



VOLUNTEER AUTOMOBILE DRIVER AUTHORIZATION (ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE)

School: _____

Dear Volunteer Driver:

Thank you for volunteering to drive students. Your assistance is much appreciated. The responsibilities in regards to transportation of students can be found in [Administrative Procedure 562 Transportation of Students Travel for Field Trips and Extracurricular Trips](#). To protect our children and you as a driver, we ask that you complete the following. You will need to provide the school a copy of your driver's license, driver's abstract and your current Autoplan Insurance Policy, the policy must include a minimum \$2 million liability insurance.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Driver's License Number: _____ Class: _____ Expiry: _____

Years of Infraction-free Driving Experience: _____

Vehicle Make: _____ Model: _____ Year: _____

Vehicle License Number: _____

Seating Capacity: _____ Booster Seat Capacity: # of no-back _____ # of high back _____

I hereby affirm that I have never been convicted of impaired driving or any other criminal driving offense. If I have a serious traffic violation after providing my driver's abstract, I will inform the school principal and withdraw as a volunteer driver. I acknowledge the requirement that all vehicle occupants must use seat belts and where applicable, booster seats. I affirm that I will operate the vehicle in a safe and legal manner, and I will be responsible for the proper installation of booster seats that are supplied by parents or the school in my vehicle, if they are required. I will not allow any child under the age of 12 to sit in the front seat of the vehicle if it is equipped with a passenger side airbag unless the airbag can be legally deactivated.

Date

Signature of Driver

School Administration Approval:

Copy of Driver's License

Copy of Driver's Abstract
(Confirm no recent serious traffic violations)

Copy of Insurance Coverage
(Confirm min \$2M Liability Ins.)

Signature of Principal

Date

Parents and Guardians

You can take advantage of our Text Messaging Service

Our school utilizes the SchoolMessenger system to deliver text messages, straight to your mobile phone with important information about events, school closings, safety alerts and more.

You can participate in this free service* just by sending a text message of “Y” or “Yes” to our school’s short code number:

For **CANADA-BASED** numbers: **978338**

For **US-BASED** numbers: **61569** (see next page for QR code)

You can also opt out of these messages at any time by simply replying to one of our messages with “Stop”.

SchoolMessenger is compliant with the Student Privacy Pledge™, so you can rest assured that your information is safe and will never be given or sold to anyone.

For **CANADA-BASED** numbers:

**Opt-In from
your mobile
now!**



**Just send “Y”
or “Yes” to
978338.**

(For Canada-based numbers).



*if your number is Canada-based.

Fundraiser: Willowbrook's Charity Shopping Night

Join us for a night of holiday magic during Willowbrook's 9th Annual Charity Shopping Night - Merry & Bright! 100% of ticket and event proceeds using [THIS LINK](#) will go directly to the Langley School District Foundation. Embrace the spirit of the season as we come together to make a difference in our community.

- General Admission include event access, light bites, prize entry, reusable shopping tote & more.
- VIP SWAG Admission includes all general admission elements plus elevated SWAG component.



CHARITABLE PARTNER OF

Merry & Bright

9TH ANNUAL CHARITY SHOPPING NIGHT

TUES., NOV. 19 7 PM - 10 PM

Tickets Start at \$20
\$20,000+ in Prizes - 50/50 Cash Draw
10% Back* Gift With Purchase

Willowbrook

100% of ticket and event proceeds will go directly to the Langley School District Foundation when purchased through the links below



KICK OFF YOUR HOLIDAY SHOPPING

Amazing fashion and access to special sales and promotions available only during the evening.

FESTIVE SIPS & SNACKS

Visit either the Nespresso Martini or Christmas Cocktail Bar, where expert mixologists will craft signature cocktails to elevate your evening. If bubbles are more your style, the Champagne & Wine Bar will also have you raising your glass in celebration. Plus, enjoy delectable bites and appies from Willowbrook's very own restaurants that will leave you craving more.

General Admission
includes event access, light bites, prize entry, reusable shopping tote & more
\$20

VIP SWAG Admission
includes all general admission elements plus an elevated SWAG component
\$40



School District #35 (Langley)
2024-2025 School Calendar
Middle Schools

MONTH	DATE	
September	Sep 2 (M)	Labour Day (Schools Closed)
	Sep 3 (T)	Schools Open
	Sep 30 (M)	Truth and Reconciliation Day (Schools Closed)
October	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)
November	Nov 8 (F)	Learning Update Prep/Design & Assessment Day (students not in attendance)
	Nov 11 (M)	Remembrance Day (Schools Closed)
	Nov 29 (F)	Learning Updates Issued
December	Dec 20 (F)	Last Day Prior to Winter Break
January	Jan 6 (M)	Schools Re-Open After Winter Break
February	Feb 10 (M)	Professional Development Day (District - students not in attendance)
	Feb 17 (M)	Family Day (Schools Closed)
	Feb 24 (M)	Learning Update Prep/Design & Assessment Day (students not in attendance)
March	Mar 14 (F)	Last Day Prior to Spring Break
	Mar 14 (F)	Learning Updates Issued
	Mar 31 (M)	Schools Re-Open After Spring Break
April	Apr 18 (F)	Good Friday (Schools Closed)
	Apr 21 (M)	Easter Monday (Schools Closed)
	Apr 30 (W)	1 Hour Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Interviews
May	May 1 (Th)	1 Hour Early Dismissal - Parent/Teacher Interviews
	May 16 (F)	Professional Development Day (District - students not in attendance)
	May 19 (M)	Victoria Day (Schools Closed)
June	Jun 26 (Th)	Final Learning Update Issued & Last Day for Students Prior to Summer Vacation
	Jun 27 (F)	Administrative Day (students not in attendance)
July / August		Summer Session