

RAPTOR REPORT

November 9th 2024

Dear BGMS Families,

On Thursday, we held our Remembrance Day Ceremony to reflect as a school community and honour those who scarified so much for our freedom. I was touched by the reverence and respect our students demonstrated. The Band, Choir, and student presenters allowed us to connect with the topic in a powerful way, and I am so grateful to our students and teachers for their support of our ceremony. It was a day that left me with a full heart and hope for the future. These events connect us to each other and to our history in such important ways.

Take care, Mrs. Burns



Grade 8's at their Book Café

This Book Café activity gave students the opportunity to visit various tables set up with a selection of Dystopian novels. Their task was to select the book they want to read for their upcoming Lit Circle. When students have choice over their learning, we see a rise in engagement. Thank you to Ms. Lauman and our Grade 8 English Team for setting this up!

The Arts are alive and thriving across many Langley secondary schools and each month there are many different events happening which are inspiring and engaging evenings for staff and family. Please see the flyer below for a list of events happening "This Month in the Arts" across Langley schools:

<https://langleyschoolsca.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/InstructionalServices/EZkw6txpNPVGsiWw927HbrlB62n-EhSYrgY2zTdg2gsfPQ?e=RgPbRR>

It's that time of year when we see a rise in illnesses impacting students and staff in our school. We are hearing from families about colds, respiratory illnesses, and stomach bugs circulating in our community. As a reminder to help keep our school community healthy and well, we are sharing this online resource from our community partner Fraser Health. Here you will find information about protecting your child from communicable diseases and managing their illness:

<https://www.fraserhealth.ca/health-topics-a-to-z/school-health/illness-and-immunizations/illness-in-the-classroom>

RAPTOR REPORT

GROWING SCHOOL = GYM AT CAPACITY

As a growing school, one of the areas we are navigating is the shared use of our gym. As our school population is now over 500 students, we are no longer able to fit all students, staff, and families in the gym at the same time.

I share this so you understand why events such as our Terry Fox Run and Remembrance Day Assembly are not open for families to attend.

As a staff, we are looking to creative ideas so that families can still be involved in some of our events. For example, next year, on National Truth and Reconciliation Day, we will welcome families to walk with us outside once we have exited the gym.

Many thanks for your understanding as we navigate the growth of our school population.

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES:

Mon. Nov. 11	❖ School Closed – Remembrance Day
Wed. Nov. 13	❖ Hot Lunch
Thurs. Nov. 14	❖ PAC Meeting 6:30pm
Tues. Nov. 19	❖ Lockdown Drill
Nov. 25 - 29	❖ BGMS Coin Drive
Thurs. Nov. 28	❖ Spirit Day!
Fri. Nov. 29	❖ Term 1 Formal Learning Updates (report cards) issued
Dec. 2 - 6	❖ BGMS Food Drive
Mon. Dec. 2	❖ Door Decorating Contest Begins ❖ Grade 6 Immunizations
Fri. Dec. 6	❖ Expos Rotation #3 starts today ❖ Performance for Students
Dec. 16 - 20	❖ Spirit Week
Wed. Dec. 11	❖ Hot Lunch
Mon. Dec. 16	❖ Band Concert at ACSS 7pm
Thurs. Dec. 19	❖ Pancake Breakfast – classes will be called down to eat throughout the morning (students should still eat breakfast at home that day – think of this more as brunch!)
Fri. Dec. 20	❖ Spirit Assembly ❖ Last Day of School Prior to Winter Break
Mon. Jan. 6	❖ First Day Back in 2025

RAPTOR REPORT



A huge shout out to all of our parent volunteer drivers - thank you for making Away games a reality!

RAPTOR'S VOLLEYBALL:

MONDAY

- Gr. 6 Girls' Practice 7:30 am (Muir/Giles)
- Gr. 7 Boys' Practice 3:00 pm (Wadell)
- Gr. 8 Playoffs (TBD)

TUESDAY

- Gr. 6 Girls' Practice 7:30 am (Pool)

WEDNESDAY:

- Gr. 7 Girls' Practice 7:30 am ([Birkhiem](#))

THURSDAY:

- Gr 7 Girls' Drop-In 7:30 am (Muir)

FRIDAY:

- Gr 6 Boys' Practice 3:00 pm (Makela/Mawhinney)



Emergency Preparedness, Power Outages, and School Closures

With storm season upon us, the District is reminding families about procedures during emergencies such as power outages. The District will post important information on school and District websites as well as on social media channels. The District may also send special instructions in emails and text messages (for those that opt-in) via SchoolMessenger. In the event of power outages, schools have an emergency phone line operational. Please avoid calling the school unless it is an emergency as this ties up the phone line.

As per the District's procedures, schools in the District may be closed to students by the Superintendent for weather related emergencies such as power outages or other causes related to health and safety. The decision to close a school due to a power outage is based on many considerations including expected power restoration time, operational emergency lighting, access to water and washrooms, among other factors. As always, it is a parent's decision whether to send their child to school (or keep their child at 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. For more information on school status information, read [here](#).

The District thanks students, families and staff for their cooperation during recent power outages impacting schools.



RAPTOR REPORT



SUPPORT
BETTY GILBERT &
ALDERGROVE
SECONDARY MUSIC
DEPARTMENTS



Christmas Flower Fundraiser

aldergrovemusic.growingsmilesfundraising.com/home

AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE:

- RED OR WHITE POINSETTIAS
- INDOOR TROPICAL PLANTER
- HOLIDAY WREATH
- SUCCULENT BOWL
- HANGING GREENERY BOUGH
- OUTDOOR GREENERY ARRANGEMENT



RAPTOR REPORT

PAC FUNDRAISERS!

There are only a few more days to purchase for our Neufeld's Fundraiser. All orders are due Nov 11th at 11:59pm. Delivery will be Nov 19th at 6pm in the school parking lot.

You can pay with the following options:

* Credit Card

* E-transfer to fundraisingbgmspac@gmail.com ** please use Raptors as the password, and include your order #.

*****Due to the long weekend if paying by cheque or cash please make a note on your order. *****

* Cheques made out to BGMS PAC ** please include your order #. Please ensure this is at the office first thing Tuesday morning.

* Cash - please put in a sealed envelope with name and order #. Please ensure this is at the office first thing Tuesday morning.

<https://app.neufeldfarms.ca/fundraising/2024-betty-gilbert-middle-school-1c57e95704/ref/em>

We also have our Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser OPEN. All orders are DUE Nov 18th. Pick up is November 28th at the school office. If you wish for your order to be sent home with your student please indicate their division and "please send home". Please click the following link and use customer number 24030.

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1378459-120937>

You can pay with the following options:

* Credit Card

* E-transfer to fundraisingbgmspac@gmail.com ** please use Raptors as the password, and include your order #.

* Cheques made out to BGMS PAC ** please include the name you placed the order with.

* Cash - please put in a sealed envelope with the name you placed the order with.

Thank you for your continued support,
Your BGMS PAC Executive Team

A MESSAGE FROM FRASER HEALTH

Make dental, hearing and vision checks part of a healthy routine

Health screenings help find issues early which can make treatment easier and more effective. It's important for your child to have regular eye exams and routine dental checkups. It is also important to recognize any hearing loss early as this is essential for speech and language development. Read on to learn when and how to access services for your child.

Dental

Tooth decay is the most common, but preventable, childhood chronic disease. It is important to establish good oral hygiene at a young age and have children's teeth checked by a dentist regularly. To find a local dentist near you who is accepting new patients, visit the BC Dental Association's [Find a Dentist database](#). If you are a member of a low-income family and you do not have extended health coverage, there are several programs that can help you access [affordable dentistry for your children](#). You can also contact the dental program at your [local public health unit](#) and ask about resources available in your community.

Vision

[BC Doctors of Optometry](#) recommends children receive their first eye exam when they are six to nine months old with a follow up exam at least once between the ages of two and five and then yearly once they enter school. You can find an optometrist accepting new patients near you at the College of Optometrists of British Columbia's [Find an Optometrist database](#). In B.C., one basic eye exam per year is free up to the age of 18. Some optometrists may charge a user fee of about \$35-50 per visit, so be sure to ask about any fees before you make an appointment.

Hearing

Good hearing is essential for speech and language development and plays an important part in a child's social and emotional growth. It is important to recognize hearing loss early and seek out testing and treatment if needed. Fraser Health's Public Health community audiologists provide hearing services for children from birth to 19 years of age. If you have a concern about your child's hearing, referrals can be made by a parent or caregiver, a health care provider or education professional to [your local public health audiology \(hearing\) clinic](#).

Find more information on child health screenings and how to access free vision, hearing and dental exams on Fraser Health's website: <https://ow.ly/oK9z50PegZB>

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/>

Offering to be a parent driver for one of our sports teams?



First, thank you so much. Without your help we would not be able to attend most of our 'away games'

Second, the District has increased the paperwork you need to complete. Please don't let that deter you, but please do plan ahead:

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/>**

Finally, if you are able to pop into the office in the days preceding game day, we can help you with making copies of your documents and clearing you to drive without you needing to wait in a long line.

Your help and support is very much appreciated. ☺



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:		
<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Driver's License	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Driver's Abstract (Confirm no recent serious traffic violations)	<input type="checkbox"/> 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.

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