

RAPTOR REPORT

December 21st 2024

Dear BGMS Families,

As we enter into the holiday season, I have been reflecting on our first term together and feel grateful for the many wonderful events, activities, and experiences the students have been involved in. They have joined clubs and teams, they have laughed and learned, they have also solved problems and grown in so many ways. From myself and the staff, I would like to thank you for your continued support and wish everyone a restful and joyous two weeks together.

Have a wonderful Winter Break,

Mrs. Burns

Staffing Update

We would like to congratulate Mr. Durnin on his assignment as the new principal at Langley Fundamental Elementary School. His strengths as a leader and educator will be a gift to their school. As we say goodbye to Mr. Durnin, we welcome Mrs. McKinnon who will be taking over for him. Mrs. McKinnon is a former BGMS teacher, and we are thrilled to have her returning to the Raptor's family.

Reminder

Our first day back to school in the new year is Monday, January 6th.

Enjoy Winter Break!



Be on the look out for our Grade 6 & 7 Basketball teams starting up in January. Practice and Game Days tbd.

RAPTOR REPORT



'Pancakes and PJs'

A PAC sponsored event for the students and staff at BGMS.

Thank you to our amazing volunteers and to everyone who made a donation. We appreciate you and thank you for making this fun event a reality.



RAPTOR REPORT



A Winter highlight each year is our Band and Choir concert and this year was no exception. Our students sounded terrific. Thank you to Mrs. Mills for her commitment to our music program and thank you to the students for dedicating their time and focus to practicing. You sounded awesome!

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES

Mon. Jan. 6	❖ First day back
Mon. Jan. 13	❖ Div. 61/62 Skating
Tues. Jan. 14	❖ Popcorn Day ❖ Div 64/65 Skating
Wed. Jan. 15	❖ Div 61/62 Skating ❖ Div. 66/67 Skating ❖ PAC Meeting 6:30pm
Thurs. Jan. 16	❖ White Hatter Digital Safety Presentation for Staff and Students
Wed. Jan 22	❖ Hot Lunch
Fri. Jan 24	❖ School Dance 6-8pm (theme tbd, stay tuned!)
Tues. Jan. 28	❖ Div. 62/63 Skating ❖ Grade 8's: Course Planning (Block 2 @ ACSS)
Wed. Jan. 29	❖ Div. 66/67 Skating ❖ Div. 64/65 Skating
Thurs. Jan. 30	❖ Expos Rotation #4 Starts
Mon. Feb. 3	❖ Grade 8 Parent Meeting 5-6pm @ ACSS (talking about Gr. 9)
Tues. Feb. 4	❖ Div. 73/74 Skating
Thurs. Feb. 6	❖ Div. 75/76 Skating



**THE MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (MDI) IS
COMING TO BGMS IN JANUARY/MID-MARCH 2025**

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 Years 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 6 & 8 students are invited to complete the MDI during class time between:
January 14th and March 14th, 2025.

For more information and to view the questionnaires:

<https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/mdi-overview/>

Parent FAQs:

<https://earlylearning.ubc.ca/monitoring-system/mdi/parent-caregiver-info/>

Information and Informed Passive Consent letters were shared via email to families on **Wed. Dec. 11th 2024**. 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 MIDDLE YEARS WHY YEARS MATTER

A time of risk, a time of opportunity

The **people** children spend their time with have the power to teach children the skills they need to be successful.

The **places** where children live, play and learn have a lot to do with health and happiness later in life.

The **experiences** children have in their middle years have lasting effects on brain development.

The Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at UBC is using the Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) to understand more about children's thoughts, feelings and experiences inside and outside of school. The MDI is a questionnaire that gives schools and communities valuable information about the strengths and needs of their children.

HUMAN
EARLY LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP



To find out more, read on about the MDI or visit earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi

MIDDLE YEARS RESEARCH SHOWS:



INCREASED

Poverty
Stress
Bullying
Mental Illness



DECREASED

Self-confidence
Empathy
Optimism
Overall Health



WHAT MATTERS MOST?

Caring Adults
Happiness
Sleep
Friendships
Nutrition
Out-of-School Activities

SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

teaches children how to:

- Control their emotions
- Manage their behaviour
- Feel self-confident
- Express their needs
- Show empathy
- Adapt to change
- Set goals
- Build strong friendships
- Cope with stress



The Middle Years Development Instrument

Hello Parents!

The Middle Years Development Instrument (MDI) is a questionnaire that asks children about their thoughts, feelings and experiences inside and outside of school. It is not a test for reading, writing or math. The MDI looks at children’s points of view on:

- Social and Emotional Development**  Optimism, happiness, self-esteem, self-regulation, absence of sadness
- Connectedness**  Presence of supportive adults, sense of belonging with peers
- School Experiences**  Academic self-concept, school environment, bullying
- Physical Health and Well-being**  Health, nutrition, sleep
- Use of Out-of-School Time**  Time spent playing sports, video games and watching TV

The MDI is:

A questionnaire filled out by Grade 4 to Grade 8 students.

The MDI is not:

A tool for comparing individual children, teachers, classrooms or schools.

HOW DOES THE MDI WORK?



Participation is voluntary. Parents or students may withdraw at any time.



Students fill out the MDI during class time. Surveys are sent to a secure lab at the University of British Columbia.



Reports and maps are produced to help families, schools and communities understand what students have said.

HOW THE DATA ARE USED?



- The MDI helps us understand the “whole child” not just how they are doing in school.
- Schools and communities have information about the strengths, needs and wishes of children in their neighbourhoods and school districts.
- People can see neighbourhood differences in the number of children who are healthy and happy.
- Adults can start thinking about ways to build more and stronger relationships with the children in their homes, schools and communities.
- Better plans can be made about the kinds of out-of-school activities that should be offered to children.
- Better decisions can be made about how organizations provide services, spend money and share resources.
- Schools and communities can set goals for the future and can learn about how children are doing over time.

The MDI is administered by the Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP) at the University of British Columbia. For more information please contact:

The MDI Team
mdi@help.ubc.ca
1-888-908-4050 | 604-822-1310
earlylearning.ubc.ca/mdi

**HUMAN
EARLY LEARNING
PARTNERSHIP**



RAPTOR REPORT

Langley Children's Choir is looking for singers!

Openings are now available for singers in grades 3 to 7

What are we looking for?

- ✓ School choir members (if your school has one)
- ✓ Good attitude and enthusiasm!
- ✓ Advanced vocal skills, and the ability to focus
- ✓ A firm commitment to the group
- ✓ Desire to develop as a singer and choir member

What do you get out of this?

- ✓ Make new friends who like to sing, too
- ✓ Learn about how to sing better and learn lots of music
- ✓ Perform at other schools (a day off school!)
- ✓ Sing at festivals and hear other great choirs

Rehearsals? Langley Secondary School, 21405 – 56 Ave on Tuesdays,
Sept – April from 4:30 – 6 pm

Fees? \$175 Jan - May (reduced rate for multiple children in the same family)

Directors? Kim Hardy, Tanya DeVido and Patti Thorpe (Langley music teachers) plus accompanist Heather Hicks

How Do I Join?

Contact us via email for an audition time before Jan 5, 2024. Auditions will be Tuesday Jan 7.

Please include singer's name, phone number, school and grade.

Patti Thorpe

langleychildrenschoir2022@gmail.com



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