



Connaught Heights Elementary

Weekly Newsletter – October 17, 2025

Important Dates

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| Oct. 22 | 3-way Conferences – Early Dismissal – students dismissed at 12:05pm |
| Oct. 23 | 3-way Conferences – Early Dismissal – students dismissed at 12:05pm |
| Oct. 24 | Pro-D Day (School closed for students) |
| Oct. 28 | Woomi Sushi Fun Lunch |
| Oct. 30 | Elementary Collaboration Day – students dismissed at 12:05 |
| Oct. 31 | Halloween |

Attendance

If your child will be absent or late, please let the office know. You can report an absence the following ways:

[Use the Report an Absence form](#)

Phone: 604-517-6010 (voicemail available 24/7)

Email: connaughtheights@sd40.bc.ca

Please remember that the morning bell rings at 8:50 am and your child's attendance is taken at that time. If your child is late for school, they MUST check in with the office before they go to class.

Principal's Message:

Dear Connaught families,

This afternoon, I was once again taken aback by the overwhelming sense of connection and community that we enjoy in our school community here at Connaught Heights.

On behalf of the staff and students, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks for organizing such a wonderful Pumpkin Patch experience! The event was filled with excitement, laughter, and a true sense of community spirit. We raise our hands in gratitude to you!

The thoughtful planning for this memorable activity made it a special day for everyone. From the festive decorations, including the popular bales of hay, to the no less than 200 pumpkins, to the exciting activities, every detail reflected the care and creativity you bring to our school events. The smiles on the students' faces said it all — they had an amazing time!

We are so grateful for your continued dedication and all that you do to make Connaught Heights a joyful place for everyone.

With appreciation and warm thanks,



Mr. Elves

PAC Pumpkin Patch 2025

Thank you to our wonderful PAC for organizing an amazing Pumpkin Patch for our students!



PAC News

Here are the [minutes](#) from last week's PAC Meeting.

Thank You!

Thanks to everyone that was involved with the Pumpkin Patch today! All of your time and effort came together in a fun-filled afternoon for the kids. Thank you also to Mr. Elves and the teachers for their support. And thank you to Tim Horton's Queensborough for their donation of hot chocolate.

Save the Date!

**Next PAC Meeting - November 12th at 6:30pm
(online)**

- We will decide at this meeting if the annual summer fundraising event will go ahead (Carnival/Summer Jam). It takes a lot of manpower to make this event fun and successful! Please come to the meeting if you're interested in being involved. And watch out for a short survey in next week's newsletter.
- In general, we vote at meetings on what activities we plan with the school, and we hope to decide on some programming at this meeting. If you have any ideas for the Artist-in-Residence (ie. last year's Bollywood Dancing workshop) or Cultural Events (ie. last year's Vaisakhi celebration and Metis Jigging) for this year please share them by November 3rd. The exec would be grateful if you could do the research and come to us with information and pricing that we can then discuss with the school.

Follow us on Instagram: @connaughtheightspac

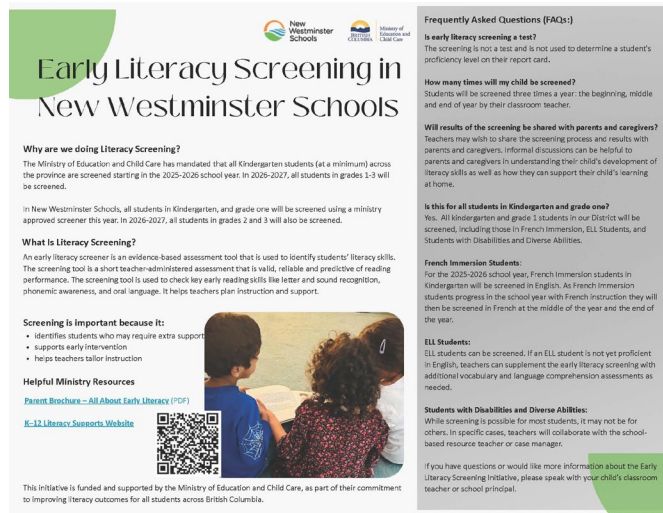
Join the [PAC WhatsApp Group](#) for general updates and reminders.

Join the [PAC Volunteer WhatsApp Community](#) to get involved with events and fundraising.

Email us at chpacchair@gmail.com or chpacvchair@gmail.com

School District News

Click [here](#) for information on Early Literacy Screening in New Westminster Schools.



Early Literacy Screening in New Westminster Schools

Why are we doing Literacy Screening?
The Ministry of Education and Child Care has mandated that all Kindergarten students (at a minimum) across the province are screened starting in the 2025-2026 school year. In 2026-2027, all students in grades 1-3 will be screened.

In New Westminster Schools, all students in Kindergarten, and grade one will be screened using a ministry approved screener this year. In 2026-2027, all students in grades 2 and 3 will also be screened.

What is Literacy Screening?
An early literacy screener is an evidence-based assessment tool that is used to identify students' literacy skills. The screening tool is a short teacher-administered assessment that is valid, reliable and predictive of reading performance. The screening tool is used to check key early reading skills like letter and sound recognition, phonemic awareness, and oral language. It helps teachers plan instruction and support.

Screening is important because it:

- identifies students who may require extra support
- supports early intervention
- helps teachers tailor instruction

Helpful Ministry Resources

[Parent Brochure - All About Early Literacy \(PDF\)](#)

[K-12 Literacy Supports Website](#)

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

Is early literacy screening a test?
The screening is not a test and is not used to determine a student's proficiency level on their report card.

How many times will my child be screened?
Students will be screened three times a year: the beginning, middle and end of year by their classroom teacher.

Will results of the screening be shared with parents and caregivers?
Teachers may wish to share the screening process and results with parents and caregivers. Informal discussions can be helpful to parents and caregivers in understanding their child's development of literacy skills as well as how they can support their child's learning at home.

Is this for all students in Kindergarten and grade one?
Yes. All Kindergarten and grade 1 students in our District will be screened, including those in French Immersion, ELL Students, and Students with Disabilities and Diverse Abilities.

French Immersion Students:
For the 2025-2026 school year, French Immersion students in Kindergarten will be screened in English. As French Immersion students progress in the school year with French instruction they will then be screened in French at the middle of the year and the end of the year.

ELL Students:
ELL students can be screened. If an ELL student is not yet proficient in English, teachers can supplement the early literacy screening with additional vocabulary and language comprehension assessments as needed.

Students with Disabilities and Diverse Abilities:
While screening is possible for most students, it may not be for others. In specific cases, teachers will collaborate with the school-based resource teacher or case manager.

If you have questions or would like more information about the Early Literacy Screening Initiative, please speak with your child's classroom teacher or school principal.

Next Year Kindergarten Information

Kindergarten Information Evening for Parents/Guardians of children born in 2021

New Westminster Schools cordially invites parents/guardians of children entering kindergarten in September 2026 to attend our Kindergarten Information Session. **This is an adult-only event.**

- Monday, October 20, 2025
- Location: NWSS Main Commons and Theater
- 5:30-7:00pm - Booths open and hosted by kindergarten teachers and community partners
- 7:00-8:00pm - Main presentation

Community News

Hallowe'en on the Quay – Thurs., Oct 31st - 5-7pm
Trick or Treat on the Boardwalk: stroller-friendly, car-free trick-or-treating along the Riverfront Esplanade behind Family Place (960 Quayside Dr). **Free event!**
For more information [click here](#)

New Westminster Firefighters PUMPKIN SMASH

Sunday, Nov. 2nd – 9am-1pm – Fire Hall 1



New Westminster Firefighters Charitable Society Presents

PUMPKIN SMASH!

Bring your pumpkins to the fire hall and watch New West Firefighters in action! We'll hoist them 100 feet up Tower 1 and let gravity do the rest. It's a smashing good time for the whole family!

CONTACTLESS DONATION BY CARD AVAILABLE

Sunday, November 2nd
9AM - 1PM

Fire Hall 1
1 East 6th Avenue

Parking at tomesewb™ Aquatic and Community Centre is available in the rear lot behind Fire Hall 1.

StrongStart

Ms. Laura, our wonderful StrongStart Educator, is happy to welcome new and returning families to StrongStart!

StrongStart is a free early learning program for children ages 0-5 with one adult.

Here is the [2025-2026 StrongStart Calendar](#)

For more information on the program and how to register click here:

<https://newwestschools.ca/programs-services/early-learning/strongstart/>

