



Connaught Heights Elementary

Weekly Newsletter – October 24, 2025

Important Dates

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 Costume Parade at 11:05am in the gym
Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day (School closed)
Nov. 14	Papa John's Pizza Fun Lunch

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,

It has been such a busy and exciting week here at school with all the work that has gone in to preparing students for their 3-way conferences on Wednesday and Thursday. It is always so enjoyable to witness the engagement and to hear about all the successes and further goals for the students as they continue to settle into their class routines. Please do not hesitate to connect with your child's classroom teacher if you were not able to attend on either of these two days, and they would be happy to find a time that works for everyone to talk about your child's learning.

Wishing everyone an enjoyable long weekend as well as a Happy Halloween next week!

With gratitude, Mr. Elves



Learning Engagement

To learn more about the Diwali celebration this past week, the students in Ms. Blackburn's class, Division 8, had the opportunity to create Rangoli, a traditional Indian Art Form. They used rice powder and stencils to create a beautiful pattern on the ground outside of the classroom door.

A huge thank you to the wonderful class parent who led the students in this creative experience.



PAC News

Save the Date

Winter Fundraising Event
Friday, November 28, 2025
In the evening at the school

Thank you to everyone that completed the Winter Fundraising Event Survey.
Planning is underway so watch for more information soon!

Stofer's Annual Holiday Art Fundraiser

Students are now creating art that can be turned into notecards, magnets, coasters, etc. in time for the holidays (product samples will be at the office next week). Artwork and order forms will be sent home with students next week and School Cash Online will then be open to take orders and payment.

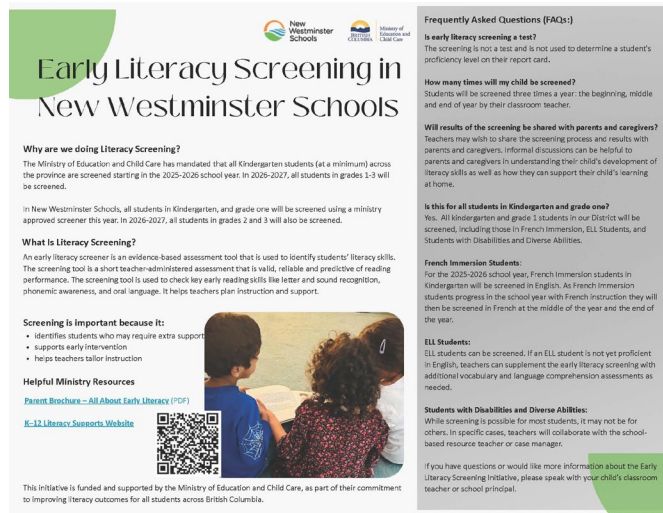
Screenagers

New West DPAC is hosting a screening of the award-winning documentary film [Screenagers](#) on Tuesday November 4th, at 6pm in the NWSS theater. Screenagers is the first feature documentary to explore the impact of screen technology on kids and offer parents and families proven solutions that work. Please note: *While the film is intended for Grade 6 and above, it is still relevant for younger children at the discretion of their parent/caregiver.* [Tickets for this free event are available here.](#)

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

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.

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](#)

This initiative is funded and supported by the Ministry of Education and Child Care, as part of their commitment to improving literacy outcomes for all students across British Columbia.

Halloween at Connaught

A few reminders about Halloween this year:

1. You are welcome to **join us for the Halloween Parade** of costumes on Friday Oct. 31st at 11:05am in the gym.
2. Please note that **costumes must not have masks that completely cover a student's face.**
3. **Weapons of any kind are not permitted** at school as part of costumes.



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 tomosewtsm 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/>

