



ACSS Totem Times

Dream, Believe, Achieve

April 16th 2021

Please visit our website www.acsstotems.ca for more information.

PRINCIPALS MESSAGE



Good afternoon students and families of Aldergrove Community Secondary School,

The arrival of warmer days and bright sunshine has been wholeheartedly welcomed by all of us at ACSS. The blue skies remind us that bright days still happen during a pandemic and that our efforts to stay strong together are worthwhile. Our students and staff approach every new day as an opportunity to continue learning, maintaining a positive attitude, progressing in our studies and managing our health well. We are very sensitive to the wellbeing of all those in our community (and in the world, for that matter) and we want to do our very best to help each other maintain good physical and mental health. Thank you for your understanding and assistance as we continue to teach and learn in these COVID affected times.

Here is a view across the fields toward our younger siblings at Betty Gilbert Middle School last sunny Thursday morning.





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One of the wonderful aspects of the ACSS building is the courtyard in the centre of the school. On sunny days especially, students and staff are able to go outside and get some fresh air and sunshine while traveling from one area of the school to another. It is also wonderful to know that we are able to grow plants and herbs that are useful not only for improving our landscape, but also for cooking and home economics. Ms. Cheon knows the importance of healthy food in our lives and regularly emphasizes the benefits of growing our own food!





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Next week is the final week of Quarter 3. Students are reminded to finish their classes strongly as they begin to look ahead to their Quarter 4 classes. With four days remaining in Q3 classes we really want to encourage students to take advantage of the learning opportunities left and to complete their unfinished activities/projects well. Monday, April 19th is an especially important day for Career Life Connections students in classes taught by Mr. Gordon, Mr. Hunter and Mr. Probert. These students will be engaging in career presentations with staff in the school. During these "Capstone Conversations" the students will explain their own personal learning journey and communicate their passions and intentions for the future. Thank you to the CLC teachers, Ms. Luteijn, Ms. Smith, Mr. Orchard, Mr. Silzer and all others who facilitate these wonderful learning experiences for the students.

Friday, April 23rd is a Design and Assessment/Report Card Prep Day for staff, so students will not be attendance on that day.

Key upcoming April Dates:

Friday, April 23 –Design and Assessment/Report Card Prep Day (students not in session)

Monday, April 26 – First day of classes in Quarter 4

Tuesday, April 27–Friday, April 30: Grade 9 & 11 students complete Citizenship Surveys

Wednesday, April 28 – Earthquake & Fire Drill

Friday, April 30 – Quarter 3 report cards published to the MyEd Portal.

Please see the information included in this newsletter regarding activities, events and initiatives happening around the school and, as always, please contact us if you have any comments, questions or concerns. Have a wonderful weekend.

Mr. M. Palichuk
Principal
Aldergrove Community Secondary School



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UPCOMING EVENTS

Thursday April 22nd - Last Day of Quarter 3

Friday April 23rd - Report Card Prep Day (No School)

Monday April 26th - First day of Quarter 4

Wednesday April 28th - Earthquake and Fire Drill 10AM

Friday April 30th - Report Cards Published

Friday May 21st - Pro D Day (No School)

Monday May 24th - Victoria Day (No School)

Tuesday May 25th - Mid Quarter 4 Report Cards Issued



Quarter 4 Fees

Quarter 4 fees have been added to students accounts, please check school cash online to see if your student needs to pay for a workbook or PHE Clothing depending on their Q4 courses. Once paid for please send your student to school with a receipt or proof of purchase and they can pick up their items from the necessary person; PHE Clothing will be picked up from their teacher, workbooks will be brought to their classroom on the first day of Q4 or can be picked up from Ms. Bezanson in the office. If you have any questions please contact Marie Bezanson at mbezanson@sd35.bc.ca or 604-856-2521 ext. 230

Understanding our Children's Digital World - Parent Info Evening

The digital world brings with it potential for many positive experiences but can also have negative impacts. Join us on Tuesday, April 27th for Understanding Our Children's Digital World – A Parent Information Evening. This session will help parents understand the considerations of various digital tools and proactive strategies to help your child and your family use these tools. Presenter and District Teacher, Sandra Averill is a parent, educator, and has been supporting students and parents with internet safety and digital citizenship for the past 14 years. This presentation is suitable for parents with children of all ages. To watch online click on

[LINK to Understanding Our Children's Digital World Session](#)

For more info: <https://bit.ly/3mJ1sqx>



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PHE Students

Don't forget you can purchase PHE Strip on your school cash online account! Shirts and Shorts are \$10 each or both for \$20. They are great quality and a great way to represent your school! If you have any questions please email Ms. Bezanson at mbezanson@sd35.bc.ca

Breakfast Club

Grab and Go Breakfast Club 8:20-9:00 daily. Thank you to all of our partners, staff and students for their continued support. A huge thank you to Langley Sources for their weekly baked goods, breads, cheese and extras. Langley School Foundation also supports with yogurt, apple sauce and eggs. Also a thank you to the Township of Langley Firefighters Charitable Society for a supply of granola bars. Sincerely yours; The Breakfast Club Team.

Student Safety Around Schools

With the days growing shorter and the weather changing to rain, fog, and frost, Aldergrove Community Secondary is reminding all our students to take extra precaution when walking to and from school. Please be aware of your surroundings, walk on the sidewalk and with someone whenever possible, and avoid wearing headphones. We also ask drivers in our school community to be vigilant on our roads. Student safety is our priority. Thank you for your cooperation and support in keeping everyone safe.

Information About School Status During Inclement Weather

Snow closures and power outages are an annual occurrence in Langley School District. So, where do you go to get information about the status of schools during periods of inclement weather? If you are able to access the internet via computer or smartphone, current information about Langley schools can be accessed on all school websites or www.sd35.bc.ca. Updates are also posted to Twitter @LangleySchools and Facebook at www.facebook.com/langleyschooldistrict. If you don't have internet connectivity but your phone is working, call a relative or friend in an area that has not been affected by the storm and ask them to check the district website for you. Local radio stations are also informed of school status in Langley. Tune in to CKWX 1130AM, CKNW 980AM, Country Radio 107.1FM, Pulse 107.7 or CBC 690AM or 88.1FM for updates.

Please note that Langley District schools are all considered 'open' until a decision to close is required. Decisions on school closures are usually made by 6:30am. As always, it is a parent's decision whether to send their child to 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.



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West Fine Art Show

The Langley School District Foundation has had to pivot once again and cannot hold its planned West Art Show at the Glass House Winery in South Langley. Of course, we are disappointed, but totally understand and we are adapting to the circumstances, in that it will now be hosting a virtual gallery at westart.ca. I have attached a write-up about the show at the end of this newsletter. 25% of all art sales will go to support our food programs for hungry students.



the art of Winning



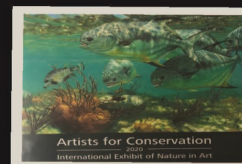
FIRST PRIZE:
The Captains.
Framed print by
Richard Brodeur



SECOND PRIZE:
Theatre Row -1965
Framed limited edition print by Brian Croft



THIRD PRIZE:
Fly Me to the Moon.
Mixed Media framed
by Rosemary Wallace



BONUS PRIZE:
Artists for Conservation
Coffee Table Book

For each donation of \$10 you are entered to win one of four prizes.
All proceeds go to support Food for Thought Programs.
Winners will be announced on May 1, 2021.



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Brian Croft



Bryan Coombes



Ken Nash



Joyce Trygg



Brent Cooke



Richard Brodeur



Jodie Blaney



Serge Dube



Lynn Sykes



Drew Keilback



Alison Philpott



Patricia Falck



Jim Pescott



Heidi Lambert



Judy Vanderveen



Emily Lozeron



Jan Rankin



Victor Gligor



Lizette Dureault



Joanne Finlay



Ron Straight



Lorn Currie



Graham McKenzie



Felicity Holmes



Michael Jorden



Partial proceeds of all art sales
to be donated to
Langley School District Foundation



John Ferrie



Terresa Tetar



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Grade 11/12 Hybrid Schedule

Grade 11/12 Hybrid Schedule for the Second Half of Quarter 3 (March 9 – April 22, 2021)

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
AM Period 1 (A2) 9:10 - 11:20 AM	Group A arrives for in-person instruction Group B stays at home for remote instruction	Group B arrives for in-person instruction Group A stays at home for remote instruction	Online/Remote Instruction (Groups A & B)	Group A arrives for in-person instruction Group B stays at home for remote instruction	Group B arrives for in-person instruction Group A stays at home for remote instruction
Lunch					
PM Period 2 (B2) 12:00 – 2:10 PM	Full Class Instruction	Full Class Instruction	Full Class Instruction	Full Class Instruction	Full Class Instruction

Mindful Monday and Fact Friday from Jaime Arthurs at PCRS

Virtual Mindful Mondays


BODY SCAN BENEFITS

improve sleep
reduce stress
reduce pain
better self awareness

FACT FRIDAY

Frequent cannabis use can lead to substance dependency. This means that when the user is not actively using the substance they experience withdrawal symptoms such as:

- Irritability
- Mood and sleep difficulties
- Decreased appetite
- Headaches
- Restlessness
- Various forms of physical discomfort





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GRAD GOSSIP

Grad hoodies are **HERE!** Did you order a grad hoodie before Spring Break? Please come pick them up in the library.

We had an all-grads meeting today on Teams. The video will be posted soon to the Teams Space.

Mr. Palichuk will be sending out an email to all grads this weekend about grad events. Please watch your email.

Make good choices! We want to see all of you 'cross the stage' in June. Don't do anything that could jeopardize this.



This is a busy time for grade 12 students to be applying for scholarships. These are only a few highlights. Other scholarships can be found on the SD35 Scholarship Database found at <https://www.sd35.bc.ca/students-parents/scholarship-information/scholarships-awards/>

The Langley Teachers' Association Scholarship – The LTA is offering 12 - \$1,000 scholarships to students who are going on to study at post-secondary. Deadline **April 23rd, 2021.**





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Mask Guidelines Update—March 31st 2021



March 31, 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians, Students and Staff:

Re: Mask Guidelines Update

In follow up to yesterday's Information Bulletin, the District is sharing an update on guidelines regarding mask wearing in schools. The Ministry of Education, Provincial Health Office, and BC Centre for Disease Control have provided school districts with amendments to the K-12 health and safety guidelines which are found in these two documents:

BCCDC Public Health Guidance for K-12 Schools

Provincial COVID-19 Health and Safety Guidelines for K-12 Settings

Here's What You Need To Know

Effective immediately all K-12 staff, students in Grades 4 to 12, and visitors to schools will be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are at their workstations (desks), and on school buses - both within and outside of their learning group.

Exceptions include:

- A person who is unable to wear a mask because they do not tolerate it (for health or behavioural reasons)
- A person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask (e.g. actively playing a wind instrument, high-intensity physical activity, etc.)
- If a person is eating or drinking
- If a person is behind a barrier
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (including but not limited to a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are strongly encouraged to wear a mask indoors in schools and on school buses – both within and outside of their learning group – though mask wearing ultimately remains a personal or family/caregiver choice for these students, and their choices must be respected.

Students will be able to remove their masks while outside, including at recess, lunchtime and while learning outside. As weather improves, teachers will continue to look for opportunities to move their classes outside.

School District #35 (Langley) | 4875 222 St., Langley, BC V3A3Z7 | (604) 534-7891
www.sd35.bc.ca | www.facebook.com/LangleySchoolDistrict | @LangleySchools



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Parents/Guardians and Students
March 31, 2021
Page 2

Here Is What You Need To Know To Help Your Child

- Please send your child with a clean mask and a spare mask to school daily
- Schools are able to provide students a cloth mask or disposable mask if they forget but it is not intended to be daily in frequency
- Watch this Health Canada [video](#) with your child or view this [poster](#) for guidance on mask wearing

Moving Forward

Our administrators, teachers and school-based staff will spend this week helping students get comfortable and adapt to these new guidelines. The District will continue to work with the Ministry of Education and public health and will provide the community with updates to health and safety changes as they become available.

As we continue to adapt to these challenging circumstances, we appreciate everyone's efforts to work together and follow health and safety guidelines. These measures are intended to keep all of us as safe as possible during these difficult times. Thank you for your ongoing patience and support in this evolving situation.

Sincerely,

Gord Stewart
Superintendent of Schools

New Daily Health Check Form – Digital and Print Version

Thank you for continuing to conduct a daily health check with your child. It is an important measure to help keep our school community healthy and safe. To better assist families, the Ministry of Education has developed an online K to 12 Health Check which can be found here: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck>

A mobile phone app version can also be downloaded, called K to 12 Health Checker.

Print versions are available in multiple languages on our District website [here](#).



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Enhanced Safety Measures for K-12 Schools

The District appreciates all the hard work from students, staff, and families in helping keep our community safe. We continue to work closely with the Ministry of Education and Provincial Health Office. This week the province announced changes to COVID-19 health and safety guidelines for schools. Mask requirements for middle and secondary school students and K-12 staff have been amended. Guidelines have also been strengthened for physical education and music classes.

It is important to note, our schools will need some time to implement these new changes; all changes will be in effect as of February 26, 2021. Your continued patience and support are appreciated. If you have any questions, please contact the school.

Please read below and full details found in the province's news release located on the District website [here](#).

Changes to Mask Wearing

All middle and secondary students and K-12 staff will now be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are with their learning groups. The only exceptions are when:

- sitting or standing at their seat or workstation in a classroom;*
- there is a barrier in place; or*
- they are eating or drinking.*

For elementary students, wearing masks indoors remain a personal choice.

It is important to note, as advised by the province, these changes above do not apply to grade 6 and 7 students attending an elementary school.

Changes to Physical Education and Music Classes

High-intensity physical activities are to be held outside as much as possible. Shared equipment or items, such as weight machines, treadmills or musical instruments, can be used only if they are cleaned between use, according to strict school sanitization guidelines. Students using equipment or playing instruments should also be spaced at least two metres apart and masks are to be used when singing.



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Calling parents and youth in BC!



COVID-19 and Youth Mental Health

Since COVID-19 was declared a pandemic, many public health responses have been implemented including social distancing measures and school closures.

These measures may have an impact on the mental health of children and teens, and we need to adjust the type and amount of resources being offered our children.

The MyHEARTSMAP team needs your help to measure how much and in what ways the changes in our lives during the pandemic have affected the social and psychological wellness of our children and youth.

Using the MyHEARTSMAP online psychosocial self-screening tool, children, youth, and (or) their parents, can learn about which aspects of their mental health may be of concern and might benefit from support resources, and where to find them in BC.

Learning about our children's needs will **help guide our provincial mental health resource planning.**

Who can participate in this study?

- Children and youth aged 10-17 in BC
- Parents with a child aged 6-17 in BC

What is involved?

- Answer questions about how COVID-19 has affected you
- Complete the MyHEARTSMAP Self-Screening Tool after enrolling, and again in 3 months



If you are interested in learning more and participating, please visit our website at:

MyHEARTSMAP-Pandemic.bcchr.ca





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Earth Day Community Clean Up Opportunity

Bertrand Creek Enhancement Society & Cleaning up Aldergrove
present

EARTH DAY'21

4 DAY CLEANUP EVENT
APRIL 22, 23, 24, 25

YOUR HOUSEHOLD MISSION
(IF YOU CHOOSE TO ACCEPT IT)

"CLEAN UP ALDERGROVE"

COLLECT AS MUCH LITTER AS YOU CAN
FROM DITCHES, STREETS & PARKS

ENTER TO WIN BY TAKING PHOTOS OF YOUR
CLEAN UP, POST PHOTOS ON FACEBOOK, USE
#CLEANUPALDERGROVE2021 OR BY EMAIL.

IN HONOUR OF DAVE BRETT PLEASE DONATE TO
EXPRESS RETURN-IT DEPOT ENTER 151-000-0000
CHARITY:PLASTIC OCEAN CANADA

Email for more info & getting involved stewardship@leps.bc.ca



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Careers Information



Announcement

The April 2021 Career Ed Newsletter has now been posted! Visit careered.sd35.bc.ca for all of the latest news and information from the Career Ed Department.

If you have any questions, please contact Mrs. Smith at mismith@sd35.bc.ca

Youth Train in Trades

The first round of applications have now been submitted on behalf of the ACSS students that applied to attend one of the seven Youth TRAIN in Trades programs in the Langley School District for the 2021/2022 school year. If you were not able to submit an application but are still interested in attending one of these amazing programs for next year, please contact Mrs. Smith for an application. There may still be spaces available for some of the programs, so please consider submitting your application soon!



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Career Information



OTTER STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Hey Grade 12 students! Do your parents or grandparents shop at Otter Co-op? If they do, you could be eligible for one of eight \$1000 scholarships!

Fill out our application, along with your transcripts, reference letters and a 200-300 word essay on "What the Co-op means to me" for your opportunity to be selected!

Applications will be accepted until April 30th, so act quick!

Full details are available at www.otterco-op.crs

One Season Restaurant

Every spring, the students in the Professional Cook 1 Youth TRAIN in Trades program work hard to run a pop-up restaurant called 'One Season'. This year, they are offering take out and meal kits for purchase. Please visit <https://www.wgss.ca/programs-courses/one-season-restaurant/> and if you are able to, please support this program that currently has 2 students from ACSS in attendance!



TAKE-OUT MENU



TAKE HOME MEAL KITS

(SERVES 2)

// Week of April 27th to 29th //

3 Course Meal

Greek Salad
tomatoes, cucumber, red onions, red pepper, romaine lettuce, kalamata olives, feta dressing

Roasted Chicken Ballotine*
chicken leg, caramelized onion bread stuffing, roasted seasonal vegetables, steamed nugget potatoes, grainy mustard chicken jus

Carrot Cake Parfait Cup
carrot cake, cream cheese mousse, graham crumble, ginger caramel.

*vegetarian alternate available
Roasted tofu, soy glaze

ORDER TODAY





Spicy Black Pepper Tofu
with broccoli, red pepper, mushrooms on rice



Turkey Taco Bowls
Crispy wontons, cherry tomato salsa, sour cream, cheddar cheese,

In Partnership with


CLICK HERE TO ORDER



ORDER TODAY







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Career Exploration Conversations

Save the date! WorkBC.ca is facilitating a one-hour interactive webinar to help parents and caregivers support youth as they explore career options. This virtual event is designed for parents of grade 9-12 students wanting to enhance their career coaching skills and gain exposure to WorkBC.ca tools to help with their youth's career path. Thank you to the CES Board Members who are participating: Dawn Anderson, Lisa Chapieski, Michelle Myers, Allisson Bader, Reid Findlay, Shelly Mckay, Erin Thomas, and Brian Campbell

The webinar for the Fraser Valley region will be on **April 29, 2021 from 7 - 8pm PST**.



CAREER EXPLORATION CONVERSATIONS

A CAREER DEVELOPMENT WORKSHOP
FOR PARENTS TO SUPPORT YOUTH

Powered by



WorkBC



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Please visit our website www.acsstotems.ca for more information.

PARENTS: ARE YOU A QUALIFIED TRADESPERSON?

We are always looking for ways to connect students with learning or apprenticeship opportunities. For more info or to get involved, please email mismith@sd35.bc.ca.





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MyEducationBC



Family Portal



Haven't
logged in
for over
90 days?

Passwords are good for 90 days to protect your child's data.
You will be prompted to change your password.

Invalid Login
after changing
your password?

Forgot
your
password?

Click "I forgot
my password" on
the Log on screen.

The recovery
process asks for your current
Login ID, Email address, and
your security question.
They are **Case Sensitive**.

Invalid
Login?

☒ Both Login ID and Password
are **Case Sensitive**.

☒ Pop-ups are **Enabled**.

☒ **Close your browser
completely*** and try again
or try with **another
browser**. (Chrome, Firefox,
Microsoft Edge etc)

* Closing browser completely
on Mobile/Tablet, click [here](#).



Login ID: sd35-xxxxxxx
both logins and passwords are case sensitive.
Logins should be all lower case.



One login ID
should give parents access to all their
children's information.



Published Report Cards

It is recommended that you save the PDF documents as the report card is only posted on the Family Portal for a limited time.



How to use the Family Portal
Please visit our website [here](#).



Need Help?

Please submit a request through our website
<https://www.sd35.bc.ca/students-parents/myedbc-family-portal-help/myedbc-request-for-assistance-form/>

For more information

<https://www.sd35.bc.ca/students-parents/myedbc-family-portal-help/>

SD35 Family Portal 2020

26850—29th Avenue, Aldergrove, BC V4W 3C1 Phone: 604-856-2521 Fax: 604-856-9648



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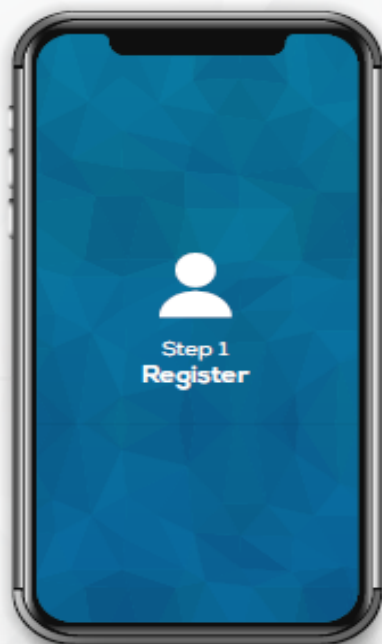
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Welcome to SchoolCashOnline

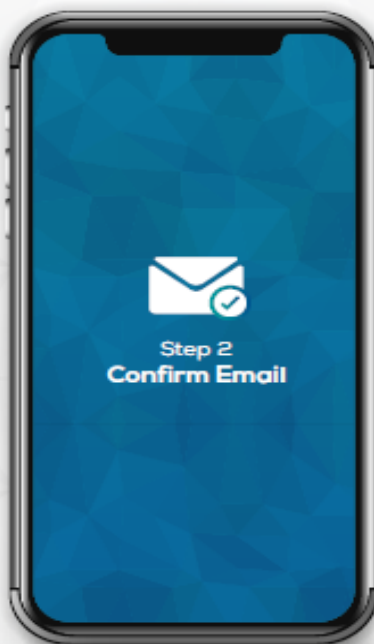
Fast. Safe. Convenient.

For safety and efficiency reasons, Langley School District would like to reduce the amount of cash & cheques coming into our schools. Please join the thousands of parents who have already registered and are enjoying the convenience of paying ONLINE!
It takes less than 5 minutes to register. Please follow these step-by-step instructions so you will begin to receive email notifications regarding upcoming events involving your child.



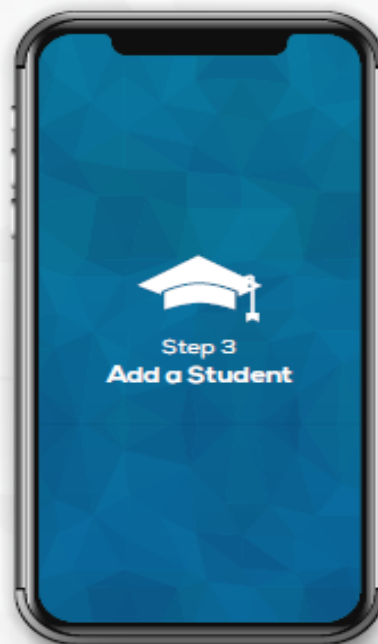
Go to
<https://sd35.schoolcashionline.com>
and click on **Register**.

- ✓ Enter in your first name, last name, email and create a password.
- ✓ Select a security question.
- ✓ Check YES to receive email notifications



A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and School Cash Online account (check spam).

The confirmation link will open the School Cash Online site, prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password to log in.



This step will connect your child to your account.

- a) Enter the School Board Name.
- b) Enter the School Name.
- c) Enter Your Child's **Student Number, Last Name, Date of Birth**.
- d) Select Continue.
- e) On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select Continue.
- f) Your child has been added to your account.

If you require assistance, select the **SUPPORT** option in the bottom right hand corner of the screen or go to helpdesk.supportschoolcashionline.com

 **KEV GROUP**
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FAQs

I've forgotten my password

Click on the "Forgot your password?" link to reset your password. A temporary password will be sent to the email address registered with your account.

How secure are my purchases?

KEV Group's top priority is to keep your personal information safe. Go to <https://helpdesk.supportschoolcashonline.com> and see Security for Security Policy and Privacy Policy.

What if I can't find my student?

Contact your school to confirm your student's details (sign up criteria) to ensure it matches exactly with what was entered in your school's records.

What if I can't see any items?

Each school creates their own items for purchase and assigns them to students. Once assigned, they will appear online under the student tab.

Need Help?

Go to helpdesk.supportschoolcashonline.com



Langley School District #35 - Langley



Contact your school office directly for the following issues:

- ✓ You require a refund for items purchased on School Cash Online
- ✓ When adding to the cart, the item displayed prevents you from completing your purchase correctly
- ✓ You made a purchase on an item incorrectly and want to change your order
- ✓ You are missing items that you thought were available to purchase. Items are created by the school and School Cash Online displays those items for parents to purchase

How To Make Online Payments for Your Student Fees using

SchoolCashOnline

Powered by KEVGROUP

Fast, safe, convenient.

Welcome to SchoolCashOnline



School Cash Online is an easy to use and safe way to pay for your children's school fees.

- ✓ Conveniently make payments for student fees online
- ✓ Stay connected and informed of all school activities
- ✓ Never miss out on field trips, school events, yearbooks and more

All you have to do is register, attach your students and in no time, you will be able to make payments online.

How to Register

1. Go to <https://sd35.schoolcashonline.com/> and click on Register

- ✓ Enter in your first name, last name, email and create a password.
- ✓ Select a security question.
- ✓ Check YES to receive email notifications

2. A confirmation email will be sent to you
 - Check spam

3. Follow the instructions in the email.
Your email is used as your username in your profile.

How to Add a Student

1. Sign In to School Cash Online
2. Go to MY ACCOUNT.
3. From the drop down menu, select My Students.
4. Click to add a student.
 - a. Type in your School Board Name
 - b. Select School Name from the list.
 - c. Enter Student Criteria (as set by your School Board)
 - d. CONFIRM

You can add up to 8 students on your profile.

How to Make a Payment

1. You will be able to view any available items attached to your students that are set up on your account.
2. Select the item that you would like to purchase and click "add to Cart".
3. Once you have finished adding items to your cart, select "Check Out" to make payment.

You can pay for multiple student's items in one Check Out.

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West Fine Art Show – A Virtual Extravaganza

The Partnership

The Langley School District Foundation has many community partners and one of its most treasured is the West Fine Art Show Society. Since 2017, the group has worked with the Foundation to host an Annual Art Show. Featuring the most talented and renowned artists in Western Canada, the show has emerged as a highly favoured fundraiser for the Foundation. Here, artists agree to donate 25% of all artwork sales to the Langley School District Foundation to support Food for Thought Programs, especially important during the coronavirus crisis.

The Age of the PIVOT

It's hard to remember those carefree days before COVID when we could gather at weddings, celebrations of life or birthday parties? We could scream ourselves hoarse at a rock concert, shop among throngs or travel to faraway lands. But we have had to adapt, and if anybody can find a creative "PIVOT" a group of artists can. So, when COVID restrictions determined that a planned live show at the Glittering Glass House Winery in Langley, was a no go Plan B kicked in. From April 9 to April 30, all art will be available to view and purchase online at both westart.ca and langleyschooldistrictfoundation.com. Raffle tickets for The Captains by Richard Brodeur, Theatre Row – 1965 by Brian Croft, Fly Me to the Moon by Rosemary Wallace and Artists for Conservation (a coffee table book) will also be available for purchase online. Tickets are just \$10.

The Line-up of Artists

Attend our 4th Annual West Fine Art Show and enter into a magical online gallery featuring the wonderfully felt works of 28 professional artists. As you explore page after page, relax in the pleasure of staring at an explosive array of creativity and visual poetry.

Each artist is featured and the range of styles move from engrossing renditions of Vancouver streets of the 1960s, proffered with smack-on-the-ground attention to detail, to illuminating episodes of Canadians' obsession with hockey, as only a former Canuck player can so whimsically render. And as you comfortably move throughout the online displays, you come across the splendour of a birch forest, the gentle solace of a west-coast landscape, and the breath-taking colour of dazzling realism. And that's not all. Award-winning sculpted metal and stone works beckon every eye telling powerful stories of our natural surroundings. Hazy paintings strike undefined emotions or conjure up crazy feelings of angst. Colours explode, shapes skew themselves into blazing configurations and characters float in virtual space. This is an online gallery, not to be missed.

Spotlight on Birds of Bronze

In the works of Brent Cooke, every area of focus, from the dramatic swoops of a heron's neck to the delicate lines of a hummingbird's beak, you can't help but find inspiration in the subtleties and mysteries of the natural world. It is in Cooke's works that you appreciate the method in the making of things and in the ultimate joy of seeing them at fruition. From conception to creation and onwards to completion, the journey is long, but filled with passion, industry, foresight, planning and exuberance, not only for the viewer, but most importantly for the artist. For without the artist's passion, brains and brawn there can be no work of art. It takes guts and perseverance to make things happen.

As Brent Cooke said to me, "The worst part of the process is when the inspiration dissolves into drudgery. That is when I start to procrastinate. I walk by the half-finished blob sitting in my studio and I have to force myself to go through the next steps – never quite sure if my vision will sustain the transfer from ethereal idea to tangible product. But, I've never been disappointed," he says with a palpable sigh mixed with a charming hint of disbelief.

From Concept to Completion

Brent Cooke starts with a vision. There is no drawing.

"I would be the worst person on your team in a game of Pictionary," says Cooke.

From his vision, he creates an armature (metal structure) of his subject and after a six-month long process (once started, there is no room for mistake) of filling with wax, sculpting with clay, firing and exposing his creation to a 1000 degree furnace, he has his bronze statue. Elegant in itself. But the work is far from complete. Next comes the alchemy of patina as the bronze-made alloy slowly metamorphizes into a startling replica of life. Colours, filigree, shading and nuance are added with extreme and sweaty precision – any tiny misstep could spell disaster.

"I would have to start all over again – from square one and right through that agonizing procrastination period," says Cooke with a hearty laugh. "Luckily it has never happened."

I couldn't help but empathize. Well done Mr. Cooke! Your art is awesome.

Spotlight on Richard Brodeur

Double Talent: The merging of ice and art

Say the name Richard Brodeur and what comes to mind? Some say NHL goalie, others say artist. Richard Brodeur, in a charming French-Canadian accent says, "I am not one without the other."

The Years on the Ice

Born in 1952, Brodeur grew up in Longueuil, Quebec. Situated along the St. Lawrence River, the town was lined with quaint peak-roofed homes all overflowing with dozens of frolicsome children. Included among the throng was Richard Brodeur, the third oldest in a family of six boys and two girls.

"In the summer we swam in the St. Lawrence River and in winter we skated along her rough surface," said Brodeur with an air of pride. And in Longueuil, hockey culture dominated. "If you could skate and out-perform your friends, you were on your way to a career in the NHL", said a chuckling Brodeur. "At least that was the dream."

Of course, only a very few made the grade and Brodeur with his tenacity, grit and skill found himself skating around and around in a dangerous arena amongst athletes with super-human abilities. At only 5'7 and barely 160 pounds, Brodeur was at the mercy of a phalanx of huge foes on skates. He made his mark, but it came at a price. After ten stellar years in the WHA and NHL, including memorable stints with the New York Islanders and Vancouver Canucks, (remember King Richard in 1982), the relentless bashings on the guy from Quebec eventually took their toll.

Art is Inseparable from Childhood Recollections

"Even when I was on the bus to a game, I was sketching," said Brodeur. "My teammates would only scoff – at least that was what I feared. It was my secret. And when my career ended and my brain was a little scrambled, I turned to art. It was my salvation."

While Brodeur's arresting paintings reflect his dreamy remembrances, the festive look of these richly rendered canvases belie the difficulties he faced while producing them.

As a way to quell the vagaries of depression brought on by concussions, Brodeur hunkered back to the soothing memories of childhood, and in so doing produced a winning passel of works. Emerging as brilliant icons of Brodeur style, his paintings, skillfully articulated are both lyrical and active in their compositions. Featuring colourfully-dressed youngsters blithely skating on home-made ice rinks against back drops of charming village homes, red barns or acres of frozen fields, the paintings are like alluring invitations into a wistful past. The winter light of day or a full moon's oneiric glow of night occupy the extreme foreground, providing subtle illumination, enough to witness the shenanigans of children as they revel in the joy of hockey. Exciting the eye and lingering in the mind, the images rendered in oil, acrylic or water colour are

impressionistic swaths of gentle movement conjuring up an aching nostalgia for days gone by. The depth of visceral enjoyment explains their hypnotizing popularity and world-wide demand. Richard Brodeur is an artist that has an international audience.

To view all artists' work, visit westart.ca or www.langleyschooldistrictfoundation.com

Emerging Talent

Running at the same time, the Foundation is hosting a virtual online exhibition and adjudication of student art with cash prizes for first, second and third. Photography, paintings and 3-D sculptures follow a theme of COVID-19 and what it has wrought on our society (the positives, negatives, changes, trends). All Langley students from grade 8 to 12 were eligible to enter. See their works at www.langleyschooldistrictfoundation.com