

Skwo:wech Newsletter

From the Office of
Skwo:wech Elementary
November 13-December 8



ANIMALS ON SCHOOL PROPERTY



The School District's policy regarding bringing pets to school is designed to ensure the safety of our students. Animals are not allowed on school property without the prior approval of the principal. Guide dogs and police dogs are allowed under the control of their owners. **We are reminding everyone; dogs or other animals are not allowed on school grounds.**



**Mark
your calendar**




November 13
Remembrance Day
(No School)

November 14
Non-Instructional Day
(No School for
Students)

November 23
PAC Meeting – 7pm In
person

November 24
Family Reading -
morning



2023 NOVEMBER/DECEMBER				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
13	14	15	16	17
Remembrance Day (No School) 	Non-Instructional Day (No School for Students)			
20	21	22	23	24
			PAC Meeting - 7pm in person	Family Reading
27	28	29	30	Dec. 1
4	5	6	7	8

Dear Skwo:wech families,

This has been a week of big excitement, grand events, and important thoughtful reflections. First, thank you so much to all our parents for joining us earlier in the week for our student learning conferences. Students were enormously proud to share their learning journeys and to work together with parents to set meaningful goals for the coming term. We also want to thank our families for your amazing support of our Scholastic book fair. It was a tremendous success with your support providing many new titles for our students to enjoy in the library.

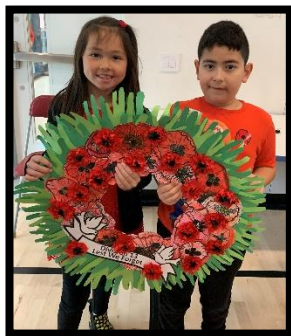
You may have heard the big, exciting news of the week, which was the Grand opening of our new playground. Students are having fun exploring the many facets of the structure. It has been designed to provide the students with multiple points of access and many ways that they can challenge themselves.

One of the most welcome features on the playground is the amazing set of eight swings which everyone is excited to try. Currently, students in grades three, four and five are scheduled to access the playground during recess and lunch, while all classes are welcome to sign up to use the playground during the day for DPA. A big thank you to Trustee Connelly, Karin Kapp and Lori Peterson from the PAC executive for joining the assembly and ribbon cutting ceremony. The playground costs were funded by the money set aside for the rebuilding of Skwo:wech Elementary. Our week concluded with a beautiful Remembrance Day Assembly with many primary classes sharing their thoughts and reflections on peace. Classes created beautiful wreathes which were laid in honor of fallen Candian Veterans. Students from our intermediate classes shared their reflections on their experience participating in the No Stone Left Alone Ceremony last week. We were honored to have our Superintendent, Mr. Hachlaf join our assembly as well as (Col) Karen Baker-MacGrotty, former Honorary Colonel of The Royal Westminster Regiment and Chair of No Stone Left Alone, New Westminster, from our PAC executive, Ms. Jen Knight and Lori Peterson, parents and grandparents.

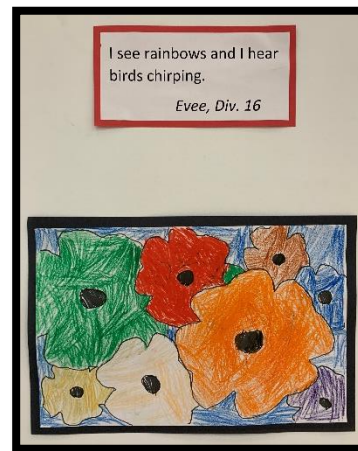
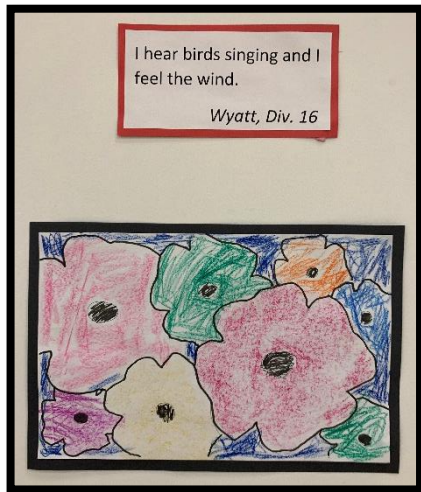


Wishing your family a peaceful weekend ahead.

With gratitude,
Kathleen









Our new
playground located
on top campus



Protect children from respiratory illnesses this winter

Respiratory illnesses tend to increase as we spend more time indoors. Common colds, the flu and COVID-19 spread through tiny droplets as people who are sick breathe, talk, cough or sneeze. When other people touch these droplets and then their eyes, mouth, or nose before washing their hands they may become sick.

There are a handful of steps both children and adults can take to protect themselves and limit the spread of respiratory illnesses:

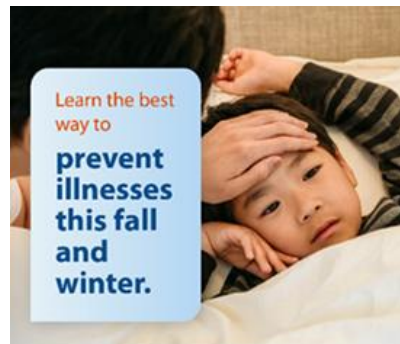
- Wash your hands often with soap and water. Use alcohol-based sanitizer if soap and water is not available.
- Avoid touching your face, especially your eyes, mouth, and nose.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- If you have symptoms, stay home, and stay away from people at higher risk of serious illness.

Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations

The best way to protect others and reduce the risk of getting sick with the flu and COVID-19 is to [get immunized](#). The flu and COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and available for free to anyone aged six months and older.

It is much safer to get the vaccines than to get the illnesses. Register your children with the Get Vaccinated system so that you can be invited to book their vaccinations when they are due.

Learn more here: <https://ow.ly/5WWe50PYIYC>



PAC Purdy's Holiday Fundraiser



Purdys Fundraising - Christmas 2023 Season

fundraising.purdys.com

Please click the link above and enter your email address and create a password to start shopping!



SAVE The DATE



Circle the date for our Winter concert!! Similar to last year, our concert will be held in the afternoon over two days. This will be on December 13th and 14th. We will have two tickets per family available. Families with last names which begin with letter A-M will be invited to join us Wednesday, December the 13th and Families with last names beginning with letters N-Z will be invited to join us on Thursday December 14th.



2024-2025 Registration

It's time to register new students for the 2024-2025 school year! Please read the following information carefully.

NOTE: You only need to register your child if they are not already attending school in the district. You can safely ignore this message if your child is a student in a district school or if they are transitioning between elementary, middle, or high school.

New registrations for the 2024-2025 school year will open on **November 6, 2024** and close on **January 26, 2024**. As long as you register before **January 26, 2024**, the day you register will not affect your chances of getting into your catchment school.

1. Although we do our best to place new students at their preferred schools, it is regrettably not always possible. Our district has significant capacity challenges because of limited space in schools and a growing student population.
2. If the number of requests for a catchment exceeds the number of available spots, the district reserves the right to use a lottery system to determine placements.
3. The district will confirm all enrollment requests by the end of **March 2024**.

For more information, [learn more about capacity status at our schools](#).

How to Register a New Student as a Parent or Legal Guardian

1. Book a 10-minute appointment with our Registration Team.
2. If you need a translator for your registration appointment, please let us know in advance and we will do our best to accommodate your request.
3. [BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT ONLINE](#)

NOTE: We do not accept bookings before November 6. Please ensure you choose appointments on days and times from November 6, 2023 until January 26, 2024.

For more information on registration, including the forms and guides, [visit the district website's Registration section](#).

What to do on the Day of Your Appointment

1. Visit our Registration Team at the Welcome Centre located in New Westminster Secondary School (enter through the south side of the building at **820 6th Street, New Westminster**).
2. Bring a completed [registration form](#) and copies of the documents outlined in the [Document Guide for Parents and Caregivers](#). **OR** Bring original versions of the documents outlined in the [Document Guide for Parents and Caregivers](#) and our team will help you print, photocopy and complete the required paperwork.
3. If you do not have the suggested documents outlined in the Document Guide, our team will be happy to speak with you confidentially to find a solution.

Key Dates

1. **November 6** – Registration opens.
2. **January 26, 2024** – Registration closes.
3. Looking for a list of other important registration dates, including Programs of Choice enrollment info? [Download a list of key dates for the 2024-2025 school year](#).

We look forward to connecting with your family.

- The New Westminster Schools team

We are always excited to welcome new families to the District. Here are the things you need to know to ensure your student is enrolled with the best placement to support their needs.

Key dates for regular registration:

	In-catchment applications	Transfer requests & Out-of-district applications
Regular registration opens	November 6, 2023	February 5, 2024
Regular registration closes	January 26, 2024	February 23, 2024
Placement offers	March 29, 2024	June 14, 2024

Please note: our District is facing significant capacity challenges, due to growing enrollment. Decisions about the 2024-25 school year are based on enrollment demands identified within the regular registration window. Enrollment applications received outside of this window will be placed within the district but may not be possible at the catchment or preferred school requested, as some schools may be deemed as being at full capacity at certain grades, or in some limited cases, for the full school. All placements follow the rules outlined in [Administrative Procedure 300](#).

Questions can be sent to: registrations@sd40.bc.ca

How to enrol:

Our Central Registration team works out of the Welcome Centre (south side of New Westminster Secondary School, via the external entrance). Information on documents required, process, how to book an appointment and more can be found on our website: <https://newwestschools.ca/our-schools/registration/registration-information-forms/>

Programs of Choice:

Applications for our Programs of Choice are accepted from Monday January 8th to Friday February 2nd, via links that will be posted on the District website. Parent information sessions are hosted online in early January. **Students applying for a Program of Choice must first be enrolled at their regular catchment school, following the above process.**

Program	Grade of intake	Location(s)
Early French Immersion	Kindergarten or Grade 1	Herbert Spencer, Qayqayt and Lord Tweedsmuir elementary schools
Late French Immersion	Grade 6	Glenbrook Middle
French Immersion	Grade 9	New Westminster Secondary
Montessori	Kindergarten or Grade 1	Skwo:wech and Connaught Heights
Home Learners Program	Kindergarten to Grade 8	Hume Park Learning Centre

Questions can be sent to: programsofchoice@sd40.bc.ca

All forms, Administrative Procedures, and information about capacity status can be found on our website.