



# Dr. George M. Weir Elementary

## School News

2900 East 44th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5R 3A8  
 Tel: 604-713-4771  
<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/dr-george-m-weir>

**November**  
**2020**

***IMPORTANT REMINDER:***  
**Professional Development Day for school staff is**  
**Friday, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>.**  
**SCHOOL IS NOT IN SESSION FOR STUDENTS/SCHOOL BUSES NOT RUNNING**

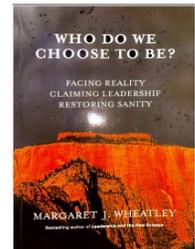
### Who Do We Choose To Be?

As we move forward together with this unique school year, we continue to face uncertainty, dilemmas, and complex challenges. As school leaders, we continue to reflect on possibilities to support the connection and resilience of all members of our community. The ways we have typically done familiar activities, routines, and experiences aren't possible right now. While this may be temporarily disappointing, it also poses opportunities to model flexibility, creativity, and innovation for our children.

Both families and educators displayed perseverance and problem-solving to connect in a new way during parent-teacher conferences. After the initial frustration of scheduling them through Microsoft TEAMS, many of our educators walked away describing how families expressed a deep sense of gratitude to them for the teaching and learning that is happening despite this challenging context. This is one example of how resilience and creativity can support us in doing good work together.

In her book, *Who Do We Choose to Be?*, Margaret Wheatley asks the question:

“Who do you choose to be for this time? Are you willing to use whatever power and influence you have to create islands of sanity that evoke and rely on our best human qualities to create, produce, and persevere?”



Going forward, what skills and strengths are required of all of us? I'm going to venture that bravery will likely be one of them. Being brave doesn't mean we're not afraid. In order to be brave, we need to acknowledge there is fear. Our well-being is supported when we can recognize our range of emotions and then consider the strategies possible to help us manage them. Being brave is not about jumping into the deep end of the ocean before you've learned how to swim. It's about standing on the beach, wading in, holding another person's hand and being brave together. Most of all, it asks that we lean on each other. -Riley McMitchell



***Congratulations*** to Ms Eva Perez (Kindergarten, Division 17) who has been appointed to the Vice Principal position at Mackenzie Elementary as of January 1, 2021! We are very happy for her, but sorry that we are losing her from our Weir School Community. In her time with us, she has been a wonderful Kindergarten teacher and staff member. She will be greatly missed and we wish her all the best as she assumes her new position as a school administrator.



We welcome Ms Hanna Severson who will be joining us and assuming the role of the Kindergarten teacher for Division 17 as of January 2021. She is looking forward to joining the Weir learning community and we look forward to getting to know her in the new year.

Principal:	Heather Gascoigne	604-713-4771
Vice-Principal:	Riley McMitchell	604-713-4771
Administrative Assistant:	Svetlana Ivezic	604-713-4771
Extra Clerical:	Vail Thomas (Fri)	604-713-4771
Director of Instruction:	Chris Stanger	604-713-5000
Trustee Liaison:	Oliver Hanson	604-713-5000
Pac Chair	Hailey Wong	weirpac@gmail.com www.weirpac.weebly.com

IMPORTANT NOTICE - PLEASE TRANSLATE!

ĐÂY LÀ ĐIỀU QUAN TRỌNG, XIN NHỚ NGƯỜI THÔNG DỊCH DỪM

AVISO IMPORTANTE! POR FAVOR PIDA QUE SE LO TRADUZCAN

這是重要的通告，希請人譯讀。

## **WEIR SEISMIC PROJECT (INFORMATION)**



The Weir seismic project is ready to commence construction gradually, beginning in December, with full construction scheduled to begin in January. Interior removal of materials will be the first part of construction. The Weir seismic project team will continue to provide ongoing updates to the Weir Seismic Advisory Group as they become available.

### **Read our Newsletters On-line!**

Each edition of our newsletter will be sent to you via email. If you miss an edition, it is posted on our school website at: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/dr-george-m-weir>. Make sure to let the office staff know if you change your email address.



### **Rain or Snow, Weir Goes Outside**

Be prepared for the weather. Students should be ready to go outside at recess and lunch every day. Students need to get some fresh air and be physically active to keep their mind and body in a learning state all day.

## **REPORTING FOR STUDENT ABSENCES**

Student safety is of paramount importance in the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences before 9:00 am. If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on the school line 604-713-5159 Ext 92. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.



**To Report Your Child's Absence – Please Call 604-713-5159 Ext 92.**

### **DISTRICT HEALTH PROTOCOL REMINDERS:**

We wish to take this opportunity to thank families for continuing to follow all of our District health and safety protocols! Thank you for continuing your conversations at home with your child(ren) around proper hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette, keeping hands to self, respecting physical distancing and the appropriate and hygienic use of face coverings.

Thank you for continuing to complete the Daily Health Assessment prior to sending your child(ren) to school each day. Thank you for keeping your children at home if they are ill and for picking them up promptly if they fall ill during the school day. We have attached a copy of the Daily Health Assessment checklist for your continued reference.

Also, we would like to thank families for continuing to follow our District protocol around remaining outside of school buildings during drop-off and pick-up each day. Your continued support around this is much appreciated. Respectfully, I would like to remind families that accessing the inside of school buildings is only for VSB Staff, Essential Services (ex. Delivery/Postal Services) and VSB students. For matters that require assistance, please contact our school office at 604 713 4771.

When dropping off and picking up your child(ren) at school, we strongly encourage that all adult family members wear a face covering when walking through and being on school grounds. We also want to remind adult family members of maintaining physical distancing of two meters between one another during these drop-off and pick-up times.

As a school community, we continue to support each other and work together for the well-being of everyone. Thank you all for your continued attention and support of these important understandings.



## Daily Health Assessment – Student

This document is an updated Daily Health Assessment following BCCDC's COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings dated September 11, 2020.

All parents, guardians, and/or caregivers have the responsibility to conduct a Daily Health Assessment of the student each day before sending them to school.

Do not return this assessment to your school. Keep this at home for your daily reference.

Student Daily Health Assessment			
1. Key Symptoms of illness		Does the student have any of the following symptoms?	
Fever		YES	NO
Chills		YES	NO
Cough or worsening of chronic cough		YES	NO
Shortness of breath		YES	NO
Loss of sense of smell or taste		YES	NO
Diarrhea		YES	NO
Nausea and vomiting		YES	NO
2. International Travel	Has the student returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Is the student a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	YES	NO

If you answered "YES" to one of the questions included under 'Key Symptoms of illness' (excluding fever), the student should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptoms started. If the symptom improves, the student may return to school when they feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a health assessment.

If you answered "YES" to two or more of the questions included under 'Key Symptoms of illness' or the student has a fever, seek a health assessment. A health assessment includes calling a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner, or 8-1-1 if these options are unavailable. If a health assessment is required, the student should not return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and symptoms have improved.

If you answered "YES" to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if the student should seek testing for COVID-19.

If a COVID-19 test is not recommended by the health assessment, the student can return to school when symptoms improve and they feel well enough. Testing may not be recommended if the assessment determines that the symptoms are due to another cause (i.e. not COVID-19).

# Weir Bus Schedule Update

## Beginning November 30, 2020

### Bus service from Weir to MacCorkindale:

#### Morning:

	BUS 1
Arrives at Weir	8:25 am
Departing Weir	8:40 am
Arrives at MacCorkindale	8:48 am

#### Afternoon:

	BUS 1
Arrives at MacCorkindale	3:00 pm
Departing MacCorkindale	3:10 pm
Arrives at Weir	3:18 pm
Departs Weir	3:30 pm

### Bus Service from Weir to Champlain Heights:

#### Morning:

	BUS 2	BUS 3
Arrives at Weir	8:25 am	8:25 am
Departing Weir	8:40 am	8:40 am
Arrives at Champlain	8:55 am	8:55 am

#### Afternoon:

	BUS 2	BUS 3
Arrives at Champlain	3:00 pm	3:00 pm
Departing Champlain	3:10 pm	3:10 pm
Arrives at Weir	3:20 pm	3:20 pm
Departs Weir	3:30 pm	3:30 pm



## **Kindergarten registration for children born in 2016 begins on November 1.**

All kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (Early French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Focus School, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Nootka Fine Arts) and/or a cross boundary placement.

The priority registration period for Kindergarten opens on **November 1 and closes at 4 pm on January 29**. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

Applying for kindergarten is a **2-step process**:

**Step 1:** Completion of an online application form

**Step 2:** Verifying documentation

Contact your English catchment school office to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation  
Bring supporting documentation to your English catchment school office during your scheduled appointment

Supporting documents needed:

- Proof of residence in Vancouver
- Child's birth certificate
- Immigration documentation (if applicable)
- Immunization records
- Court orders/documents (if applicable)

If you want to apply for a District program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for District programs and cross boundary placements will begin to be accepted in early 2021.

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than available space\* at the school, the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

### **Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1 and January 31**

**In-catchment** kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.

The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a **random draw** for the remaining kindergarten spaces.

Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name was drawn.

Between January 31 and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

### **Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31<sup>st</sup>**

In-catchment kindergarten students who apply **after** January 31 will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist.

**Note:** There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31.

**For more information on kindergarten registration visit:** <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

\* Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the District (Administrative Procedure 300).

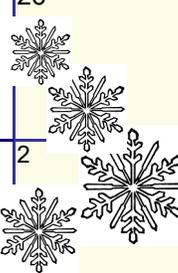
## School-wide Write

At certain points in the school year, all classrooms at Weir participate in a school-wide write. There are many benefits in participating in this process with the two main points being:



- To provide meaningful feedback to students on their writing including strengths, stretches, and goals
- To align and calibrate our expectations and understanding of our students as writers

We have developed a common primary topic and a common intermediate topic. All classroom teachers, with support of resource teachers, have been implementing the school-wide write this week. This process includes some pre-writing activities and then a set amount of time where students write independently. Teachers will be gathering in grade level groups and assessing their students' work collaboratively. Parents should expect to see their children's writing sample and feedback from their teachers in the next week or so. Please review, sign the bottom of the writing sample, and then return back to their teacher.

DECEMBER 2020						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18 Last Day of classes before Winter Break	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
	<b>WINTER BREAK</b>					
27	28	29	30	31	1	2
	<b>WINTER BREAK</b>					

Our PAC Executive has discussed the role of our PAC during these COVID-19 restrictions. While all messaging around school related updates will continue to come from the school office, **PAC is available via email to engage with parents and offer support where we can.**

PAC updates will be sent via Mailchimp when needed. If you are not currently subscribed to our *Weir PAC News*, you can do so at <https://weirpac.weebly.com/contact.html>

If you have any questions about PAC related activities or programs, please email [weirpac@gmail.com](mailto:weirpac@gmail.com)

For up-to-date information about PAC, please visit our website at [www.weirpac.weebly.com](http://www.weirpac.weebly.com)

We hope you and your family continue to stay safe, warm, and healthy. **Weir PAC**



Parent  
Communication