

ÉCOLE WESTRIDGE ELEMENTARY

WE ACKNOWLEDGE AND THANK THE COAST SALISH NATIONS OF MUSQUEAM, TSLEIL-WAUTUTH AND SQUAMISH ON WHOSE TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES WE TEACH, LEARN AND LIVE.

BE SAFE. BE KIND. BE THE BESTRIDGE WE CAN BE

SEPTEMBER 2023



A NOTE FROM MS. WONG

Well, we. made it. And by we, I mean the grown ups (parent/guardians and staff)! It's so hard to believe that September is gone and October is upon us. Time sure goes quick when you're having fun.

I want to thank you, the families, students and staff for the warm welcome. It is NOT easy being the "new kid" but I already feel like I've been here for years. Is that a good thing or a bad thing? =)

I'm sure I speak for all of our staff in saying that it has been our pleasure to get to know your children. Even our returning students, it's amazing to see the growth and maturity that has taken place over the summer. I want to recognize ALL of our staff. They are strong advocates for your children. I am continuously blown away by their commitment to make sure that each student has a successful year. We love your kids and want the best for them!

I know it is said often, but it truly takes a village. So please consider the Westridge community (families, staff, students) your village. My door is always open for you. Please never hesitate to come see me with any questions, concerns, or chocolate you have.

-Jenny-

UPCOMING DATES

OCT 2 - TRUTH & RECONCILIATION - NO SCHOOL

OCT 4, 11, 18, 25 - HOT LUNCH

OCT 5 + 12 - CROSS COUNTRY MEET

OCT 9 - THANKSGIVING - NO SCHOOL

OCT 12 - PICTURE DAY

OCT 17, 24, 31 - BOYS VOLLEYBALL GAME

OCT 19, 26 - GIRLS VOLLEYBALL GAME

OCT 19 - BC SHAKE OUT DRILL @ 1020AM

OCT 31 - HALLOWEEN PARADE / SPIRIT DAY



BOOKS TO BEGIN THE CONVERSATION OF TRUTH & RECONCILIATION WITH YOUR CHILDREN

- "WHEN I WAS EIGHT" - CHRISTY JORDAN-FENTON
- "SHI-SHI-ETKO" - NICOLA CAMPBELL
- "WEHN WE WERE ALONE" - DAVID ROBERTSON
- "THE ORANGE SHIRT STORY" - PHYLLIS WEBSTAD
- "AMIK LOVES SCHOOL: A STORY OF WISDOM" - KATHERENA VERMETTE



10 Truth & Reconciliation Day Events in Metro Vancouver (see website below)

<https://dailyhive.com/vancouver/truth-reconciliation-day-events-metro-vancouver-2023>

September 30th is National Day for Truth & Reconciliation. It is a day to spend a moment remembering Residential School Survivors. We say a moment because, that moment should be a weekly, even daily, regular practice when we look at our own kids that sit across the dinner table from us or when we drop off our children at school knowing we'll be seeing them in 6 short hours.

Even for us as educators, when we look at our students looking back at us with trust and eagerness that they're safe here and loved and cared for. Orange Shirt Day and the story of our residential school survivors was shared this past week with your children, and we encourage you to keep that conversation open throughout this weekend.



Inclusion is intentional. It is about identifying and removing barriers so that everyone can participate to the best of their ability.

www.theinclusiveclass.com



At Westridge we use our WITS.

W - Walk away
I - Ignore
T - Talk it out
S - Seek help

For more information on the WITS program please visit www.witsprogram.ca

At our Welcome Back Gathering this year, I shared the book "Be A Bridge" by Irene Latham and Charles Waters. This book was also dedicated to Mrs. Brown last year upon her retirement. The book talks about the importance and the bravery it takes to be a bridge in a world where opposing view can clash. I read it to our Westridge students to encourage them to be a bridge.

"When someone else is speaking, pay attention to their words. Listening takes courage. Let every voice be heard. Be a bridge from fear to trust. Be a bridge from others to us."



SCHOOL CASH ONLINE

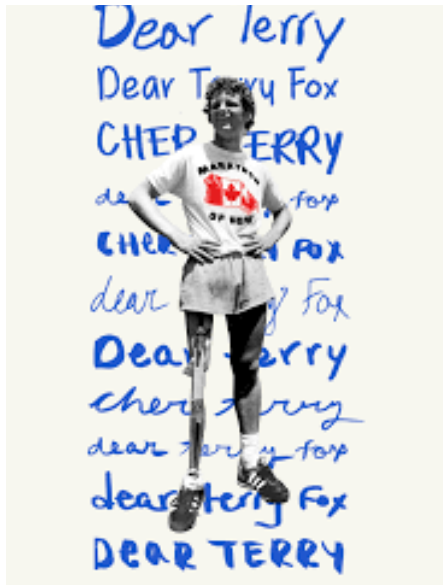
We are pleased to bring back school cash online this year again. Please access your school cash online for school forms, pay your school fees and any extra curricular or special event fees. If you have trouble logging in please reach out to the office.

WE LOVE DOGS! BUT...

we ask that you keep them on leash at all times. Some children are allergic to pets, and some do fear them. We also kindly ask that you please also pick up after them as our children are playing outside often on the ground.

LATES + ABSENCES

Please call the office if your child will be away. If your child is late please send them through the office. If you will be picking up your child early for appointments, please communicate with both your classroom teacher and the office. We thank you in advance for your cooperation.



Thank you to our Westridge families for participating in our Toonies for Terry fundraiser this year! We raised \$380! Terry's dream was to raise \$1 per Canadian. Way to go Westridge! Some awesome running out there.

We are one of the few schools in the district that support an outdoor education program! We go outside rain or shine at recess and lunch! This means that children need to be all-weather ready!


Please pack:

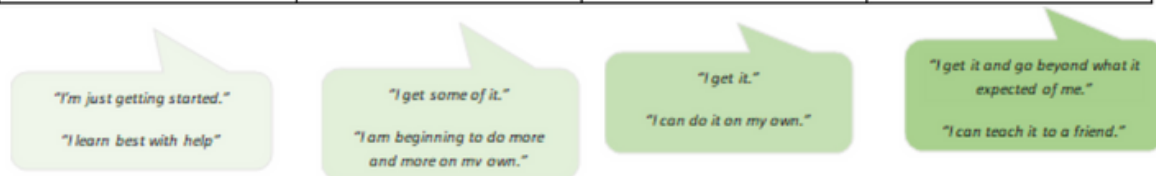
- **Rain gear**
- **Boots**
- **Extra clothes**
- **Extra socks**
- **Gloves + hats/toques**
- **Plastic bag to take wet clothes home in**

Please don't forget to label everything!

Westridge is an ALL-WEATHER SCHOOL



PROFICIENCY LEVEL 			
Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
The student is beginning to demonstrate basic knowledge in relation to the learning standards. Works with ongoing support	The student demonstrated some knowledge in relation to learning standards. Works with some support	The student demonstrated good knowledge in relation to the learning standards. Works independently	The student demonstrated knowledge beyond the learning standards. Works independent and can support the learning of others



Communicating student learning is a vital component of the learning process and fundamental to student success. It is an ongoing process that takes place throughout the school year involving the teacher, student and family. In the 2023-24 school year, there will be some shift in the traditional format.

What is new?

- Student reporting practices that align with BC curriculum and provincial assessment system
- Provincial Proficiency Scale (above) vs. grades or percentages for students in grades K-9
- Student self-assessment of Core Competencies and goal setting in all grades in all three reports

Why is this important?

Changes to student reporting are the result of many years of engagement and consultation by the Ministry of Education and Child Care with rights holders, education partners, teachers, families, students, and members of the public.

The changes will provide key benefits, including:

- Information to students and families on where the student is and how to help them move forward in their learning
- A view of learning as ongoing, and a lifelong process of competency development



TEACHING TEAM

Div. 1 Gr. 6/7 Ms. Moore
Div. 2 Gr. 6/7 Mme Venner
Div. 3 Gr. 6/7 Ms. Parmar-Holten
Div. 4 Gr. 5/6 Mme Fenger
Div. 5 Gr. 4/5 Mr. Ricker
Div. 6 Gr. 4/5 Mme Joncas
Div. 7 Gr. 3/4 Ms. Kainth
Div. 8 Gr. 3 Mme Turcios
Div. 9 Gr. 2/3 Ms. Astorino / Ms. Phillpotts
Div. 10 Gr. 2 Mme Lundgren
Div. 11 Gr. 1/2 Ms. Sheard / Ms. Dodd
Div. 12 Gr. 1 Mme May
Div. 13 Gr. 1/2 Ms. Yong
Div. 14 Kindergarten Mme Kate / Mme Rachel-Lynn
Div. 15 Kindergarten Ms. Risa

OFFICE TEAM

Principal - Jenny Wong
Head Teacher - Jay Ricker
Administrative Assistant - Carmela Pironaggi
Office Support - Sandra Knudsen

NON-ENROLLING TEAM

Library - Mme Papapanagiotou
Music - Jessi
Band - Ms. Steiger
Learning Support - Mr. Kane, Ms. Maas, Ms. Astorino
ELL - Ms. Wilson, Ms. Jaltema
Counsellor - Ms. Gibson
Speech Language - Ms. Fillippelli

SUPPORT TEAM

Educational Assistant - Ms. Chuipka
Educational Assistant - Ms. Robertson
Educational Assistant - Ms. Barrow
Educational Assistant - Ms. Camelo
Educational Assistant - Ms. Paulsen
Educational Assistant - Ms. Port
Educational Assistant - Ms. Saunders
Educational Assistant - Mme Ghougassian
Educational Assistant - Ms. Xie
Educational Assistant - Ms. Lei
Educational Assistant - Ms. Rodriguez
Custodian (Day) - Fran De Tracie
Custodian (Evening) - Jori Hillery
Custodian (Evening) - Franco Menor
Noon Hour Supervisor - Bianca Verrelli
Noon Hour Supervisor - Carol Bolognese
Crossing Guard - Teresa Lavorato



We will publish a monthly newsletter at the end of each month celebrating the past month's learning and looking ahead to the coming month.

Additionally, we will email a "Week At a Glance" (WAG) every Sunday. It is very important to read these to keep updated with the coming week's events.

Additionally, your classroom teacher may also choose to regularly communicate with you. Please make sure we have your current email and phone numbers up to date.

Staff emails are on the school website.

Co-chair
Co-Chair
Co-Vice-Chair
Co-Vice-Chair
Co-Treasurer
Co-Treasurer
Co-Secretary
Co-Secretary

Members-at-Large

Intermediate English Parent Rep
Intermediate French Parent Rep
Primary English Parent Rep
Primary French Parent Rep
Mandarin Parent Rep
Canadian Parents for French
DPAC Rep
Grade 7 Parent Reps
Hot Lunch Coordinators

Christine Lyons
Karen Gaia-Maretta
Carrie Campbell
Krista Chung
Jennifer Christensen
Roxana Taheri
Bal Purewal
Kelly Halvorsen

Ben Chhoa
Kassandra Sison

David Lim, Aleta Nelson
Kathy Zhu
Isabel Kolic
Ben Chhoa
Shemina Patni, Kathy Zhu
Janice Ho, Roxana Taheri,
Germaine Chang, Juliana Ng,
Michelle Lo

Meet our Westridge PAC Executive for 2023-24







