

**DR. GEORGE M. WEIR ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**

2900 East 44<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, BC V5R 3A8

Telephone: 604-713-4771 Fax: 604-713-4773

Principal: Heather Gascoigne  
Vice-Principal: Ashwin Prasad  
PAC Chair: Hailey Wong  
Director of Instruction: M. Kassis

Secretary: Coral Priest - Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri / Sandy Keenan – Wed  
Extra-Clerical: Ms. Donna Kerr - Fri.  
[weirpac@gmail.com](mailto:weirpac@gmail.com) [www.weirpac.weebly.com](http://www.weirpac.weebly.com)  
604-713-5000

**MISSION STATEMENT**

To create a safe, accepting and challenging learning environment that provides all students with opportunities to build self- confidence to reach their potential and to value learning.

Dear Weir Families,

September 5, 2017

*Welcome to the 2017 - 2018 School Year at Weir!*

I hope this letter finds you well and rested after the summer holidays. Weir staff have been busy during the last few weeks preparing for the return of our students. We look forward to a successful school year!

Working together our combined efforts will result in good progress toward meeting our 2017-2018 school goals:

To create a learning environment that engages the learner by:

Becoming a personally and socially responsible citizen.

Developing skills in mathematical language, concepts and applications for computation and problem solving with inquires enhanced by technology and physical manipulatives.

To increase knowledge, awareness, appreciation of and respect for Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.

We will continue to strive for excellence in all aspects of student learning.

Regular school hours for Grades One to Seven will begin on Wednesday, September 6.  
(Kindergarten students have received a gradual entry schedule.)

**PLEASE NOTE BELL SCHEDULE**

8:55	Entry Bell
9:00	Instruction Begins
10:30- 10:50	Recess
<b>12:10</b>	<b>Lunch</b>
12:57	Warning Bell
1:00	Instruction Begins
<b>3:00</b>	<b>Dismissal</b>

**PEANUT/ NUT/ SCENT ALLERGIES**

Please be aware that our school is nut and scent free. Some individuals have severe allergic reaction to scents and various nuts and in order to ensure their safety we must observe these protocols.

Thank you.

## **CALENDAR**

Tuesday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> – Welcome Back – School in session 9:00 – 10:00 am  
Wednesday, Sept. 6<sup>th</sup> – Regular School Hours – 9:00 am – 3:00 pm  
Monday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> – PAC Meet and Greet – 6:30 – 7:30 pm in the Staffroom  
Thursday, Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> – “Welcome To The New School Year” – 6:30 – 7:30 pm  
Friday, Sept. 22<sup>nd</sup> – Professional Day – No School For Students  
Monday, Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> – Thanksgiving Day Holiday  
Thursday, Oct. 12<sup>th</sup> – Individual Photos

## **MOVING TO NEW CLASSES**

Opening week will be a time for students to get to know their schoolmates, review safety procedures and to review their academic subjects. Students will be assigned to classes as soon as our registration and organization are confirmed.

**PLEASE HAVE A MEETING PLACE (example “Undercover Area by the Gym) ARRANGED WITH YOUR CHILD SO YOU WILL KNOW WHERE TO FIND ONE ANOTHER ON THE DAY WHEN CLASSES DO CHANGE**

## **TRAFFIC SAFETY**

Student safety is a vital aspect of school life. Please respect the traffic signs around the school:

**No Stopping** means you cannot stop to drop off your children.

**No Parking** means the driver cannot get out of the car. You can stop to drop your children off in these areas.

**Three Minute Parking** means the driver can get out of the car to quickly escort children to school.

Please set a good example for our students by only crossing streets at corners. Crossing in the middle of the street is illegal. *I appreciate everyone's cooperation in keeping our children safe.*

Please do not drive into the driveway or parking lot to pick up or drop off students.

## **SCHOOL CALENDAR**

The school calendar which was approved by staff and the PAC in May is attached. Calendar updates will be in each monthly newsletter.

## **WEBSITE**

Our website is up and running. Please go to <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/weir> and check it out. All this year's Holidays, Non-Instructional Days, Newsletters, etc. are on it.

## **TWITTER**

Exciting news parents! Dr. George M. Weir is now on Twitter. Please follow us on Twitter @WeirSchool. Important information will be tweeted directly to you.

## **WEIR INFORMATION SHEET**

The Weir Information Sheet will be sent home at a later date, as well as information on Student Fees, etc. Please **do not send money until you get the form**. Please check your child's backpack regularly for notices.

## **SCHOOL SUPPLIES, EMERGENCY CONTACT FORMS, CARE KITS**

Information about school supplies, student insurance, emergency contact forms and care kits will be sent home once students have been placed in their classes.

## **ADDITIONAL STAFF LEAVING**

At the end of the summer Ms. Chang, Ms. Nanda & Ms. Abdul-Zahir accepted positions at other schools. We are hoping to have these position filled by mid September. We wish them all the best in their new schools.

## **NEW STAFF**

- \* June Bennett (Gr. K Teacher), Steven Chai (Gr. 4 Teacher), Hannah Suk (Resource Teacher), Sandy Keenan (office-Wed), Donna Kerr (office-Fri).

We look forward to a positive and productive school year. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Yours sincerely,  
Heather Gascoigne, Principal

*Please help us get your child(ren) off to a good start by ensuring they are well rested and on time for school.  
Thank you*

## **REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES:**

Student safety is of paramount importance at 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. 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 a dedicated answering service by calling 604-713-5159. You will be prompted to provide the two-digit extension for Weir School - which is 92. Messages will be received before the office is open. 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 Childs Absence – Please Call 604-713-5159. You will be prompted to provide the two-digit extension for Weir School - which is 92 prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence.

## **STUDENT SIGN OUT PROCEDURE**

When you pick up your child during the school day, please ensure that you sign them out at the school office. If you do not sign out your child, they will be unaccounted for, and the school will identify your child as a 'missing' student and will commence a search of school grounds. If the school staff do not locate the child, and are unable to reach a parent promptly, the school will call the Vancouver Police Department. Therefore, clear communication is essential for ensuring the safety of your child and to prevent unnecessary searches.

Thank you for helping us keep your children safe!

**Dr. George M. Weir Elementary  
2017 - 2018**

DESIGNATION	DETAIL
<b>SCHOOL OPERATION OVERVIEW</b>	
Number of Days in Session	187
Number of Days of Instruction	179
Hours of Instruction in a School year	949
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	7 Non Instructional Days; 1 Administrative Day (June 29)
<b>Important Dates</b>	
School Opening Day	Tuesday, September 5, 2017
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9, 2017
Remembrance Day Holiday	Monday, November 13, 2017 (in lieu of Saturday, November 11)
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 22, 2017
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 25, 2017 – Friday, January 5, 2018
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 8, 2018
Family Day	Monday, February 12, 2018
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 16, 2018
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 19 – Thursday, March 29, 2017
Good Friday	Friday, March 30, 2018
Easter Monday	Monday, April 2, 2018
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Tuesday, April 3, 2018
School not in session	Friday, May 18, 2018
Victoria Day	Monday, May 21, 2018
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 28, 2018
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 29, 2018
<b>Non Instructional Days (school not in session)</b>	<b>Professional Development Focus</b>
Friday, September 22, 2017	
Friday, October 20, 2017	District wide non-instructional day
Friday, November 10, 2017	Curriculum Implementation Day
Friday, December 1, 2017	
Monday, January 29, 2018	Curriculum Implementation Day
Monday, February 19, 2018	
Friday, April 27, 2018	
<b>Parent Teacher Conference Dates:</b>	<b>Early dismissal times:</b>
Wednesday, October 18, 2017	Early Dismissal - 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, October 19, 2017	Early Dismissal - 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, February 7, 2018	Early Dismissal - 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, February 8, 2018	Early Dismissal - 2:00 p.m.
Thursday, May 17, 2018 – Sport's Day	Early Dismissal - 2:00 p.m.