

# SIMONDS & U-CONNECT

October 21st, 2024

## UPDATES

Our school year is really moving along, that's for sure! The past few weeks we've been very busy with different learning and projects around the school. Our bulletin boards are starting to fill up and it's been wonderful to see some great learning happening in our classrooms. This newsletter will highlight a few programs and activities that we do on a regular basis around the school, so that you can ask your student about them at the dinner table. A reminder that we have Halloween celebrations happening next week (October 29th for U-Connect AND October 31st for Simonds) as well as a couple of trips to the pumpkin patch for both sides of the school, and a Grade 12 trip to Fright Night!

## What's all this SEL stuff?

SEL stands for "Social-Emotional Learning," and it is embedded in our BC Curriculum to help support the social and emotional development of our students, especially around the development of positive personal identity! Without the jargon, it's teaching our students to name their emotions, and understand how to process and manage them. One way that we teach this to our students is with the Zones of Regulation, which you might have heard your student mention! There are 4 zones: Red, Green, Yellow and Blue. When our students are in the Green zone, we know they are ready to learn but we also know that there will be many times where they will be in the other zones. Together, we are learning strategies to help us be calm, happy and focussed.

### The ZONES of Regulation

Blue Zone	Green Zone	Yellow Zone	Red Zone
Sad Bored Tired Sick	Happy Focused Calm Proud	Worried Frustrated Silly Excited	overjoyed/Elated Panicked Angry Terrified

## Important Dates



**Oct. 21-25: Informal Student Learning Updates**

**Oct. 21: PAC meeting 7:00 PM**

**Oct. 22/23: U-Connect (Gr. 8-12) Parent-Teacher Interviews**

**Oct. 23: Grade 5 WildPlay (Simonds)**

**Oct. 23: Pumpkin Patch OWL (U-Connect)**

**Oct. 25: Provincial Pro-D (School not in session)**

**Oct. 29: U-Connect Halloween Celebrations**

**Oct. 29: Pumpkin Patch (Simonds-ALL)**

**Oct. 30: Photo Retakes (Simonds/U-Connect) (9-10 AM)**

**Oct. 31: Halloween**

**Oct. 31-Nov. 1: Diwali**

**Nov. 1: Pajama Day (Simonds)**

**Nov. 1: Hot Lunch (Simonds)**

**Nov. 8: Design & Assessment Day (School not in Session)**



**CHECK YOUR**

**CALENDAR**

# ALL IN THE DETAILS

## PAC (SIMONDS):

Next PAC meeting will be Oct. 21st at 7:00 PM in the library.

To learn more about PAC, visit their website:

<https://simonds-uconnect.sd35.bc.ca/simonds/simonds-pac/>

## NEW\*\*AFTER SCHOOL READERS CLUB\*\*NEW

One of our school's goals for students is to support LITERACY, specifically with READING. Starting Oct. 22nd in the library, students are invited to come and work with staff on their reading skills or to hang out and read! Reading club will be from 2:33-3:10. If your child will be attending reading club, please email their teacher so that we can ensure they are there. Please pick-up promptly at 3:10 pm. If your student is in Buttons and Bows, we will take them to care afterwards.

## Teachers may contact home with recommendations for students who would benefit from attending.

### READERS CLUB SCHEDULE:

GRADE 1 & 2: TUESDAY/THURSDAY

GRADE 3, 4 & 5: WEDNESDAY/FRIDAY



### Road Safety & Parking Lot Reminders:

Some important reminders about driving--Under no circumstances should any driver enter the ongoing traffic lane in front of the school. We understand that traffic is backing up westbound and eastbound, but we would ask that you exercise patience while waiting and **not pass in the school zone.** We ask that parents look to park in neighbouring areas if there are no available spaces in our school parking lot. We would encourage any families that can walk to school do so. RCMP have been notified of unsafe driving. While traffic is not ideal, patience and extra time will need to be taken to ensure that our students and families are safe.

## SIMONDS PUMPKIN PATCH

ALL SIMONDS STUDENTS SHOULD HAVE THEIR OCTOBER 29TH PUMPKIN PATCH FORMS IN TO THEIR TEACHERS ASAP!  
**PLEASE PAY ONLINE THROUGH SCHOOL CASH.**



### Halloween at Simonds & U-Connect

Both Simonds and U-Connect will be celebrating Halloween through various activities and dress-up opportunities.

### Some KEY REMINDERS for costumes:

- No masks of any kind are allowed at school; full or partial face coverings are both included. Make-up is allowed.
- No references to drugs, gangs or alcohol remains as a part of our school code of conduct and is still in place for Oct. 29/31
- Please be aware that our school is K-12. Scary costumes should be mindful that some of our younger students may be frightened; and we do need to keep everyone feeling safe at school. Keep the blood and gore for evening celebrations.
- No props should be brought to school; this includes weapons or other costume elements. We want everyone to be safe, and to keep costume pieces from being lost or mis-used while at school. **Hats are okay!**



### NEW SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING RESOURCE

The Langley School District has provided Simonds and U-Connect with the opportunity to use a new resource for our school-wide goal of social-emotional learning and well-being called Open Parachute. We will be using Open Parachute along with Zones of Regulation to help our students continue to learn about mental health and SEL. Students will participate in school-wide assemblies as well as in-class lessons that support learning about well-being, as aligned in our K-12 curriculum.

Open Parachute also offers parent and caregiver resources, which can be found here:

[Open Parachute Caregiver Introduction](#)



## DID YOU KNOW THAT WE COMMUNICATE LOTS OF DIFFERENT WAYS WITH OUR U-CONNECT 8-12 PROGRAM?

*We use the following for communication:*

Grade Teams, Class Teams, Post Secondary and Scholarship Team, Grade 8/9/10 (NEW!) Homework Snap, School Newsletter, OWL Bulletin Notices, Open Tutorial Notices, Hallway PowerPoint AND Direct Emails. If you feel that we aren't connecting with both students and home; please let us know how we can better support--we are always open to new ideas.