

SIMONDS & U-CONNECT

September 9, 2024



Welcome

Myself (Mrs. Allen, Principal) and Mrs. Beukers, our new Vice-Principal are so excited to start this school year at Simonds and U-Connect. We know that there will be lots of learning, exploration and discovery for all our students, kindergarten through Grade 12!



Meet the Teacher BBQ: Simonds SEPTEMBER 19: 5:00-6:30 PM

Join your teachers & fellow Simonds families at the Meet the Teacher BBQ! Food and fun will be served, including carnival games and a BBQ hosted by our school PAC. There is no cost to families, come and meet our teachers and staff as we wrap up school start-up with a big celebration!



A note about school support:

WE WANT TO WORK WITH ALL OUR FAMILIES TO ENSURE THAT YOU HAVE EVERY OPPORTUNITY AND SUPPORT YOUR STUDENTS NEEDS. IF YOU NEED SUPPORT FOR FEES OR FIELD TRIPS, OR WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OUR FOOD PROGRAMS FOR STUDENTS, PLEASE CONTACT MS. JASMINE, OUR YOUTH CARE WORKER: JJOYCE@SD35.BC.CA OR CALL THE MAIN OFFICE. THIS INCLUDES SUBSIDIES FOR MUNCHALUNCH AND LUNCH LADY PROGRAMS.

Important Dates

Sept. 16: Full day K starts/U-Connect K-7 starts

Sept. 18: Bard on the Beach (8-12)

Sept. 18: Meet the Teacher BBQ (Simonds)

Sept. 23: PAC Meeting (7:00 pm)

Sept. 24: Photo Day (am)

Sept. 24: Terry Fox Run (pm)

Sept. 27: Orange Shirt Day

Sept. 30:

National Truth & Reconciliation Day (School Closed)

Calendars & Communications

Please be sure to check the district and school websites for important dates throughout the year to ensure that your family can plan for professional development days, early dismissals and other scheduled breaks from school. Our school website calendar is also updated with school information (special days & events) specific to our school.

Newsletters will be sent out to keep the community informed of important information and dates, including PAC events. This will likely be the longest newsletter we send out!

ALL IN THE DETAILS

ATTENDANCE:

Please call the office or email BOTH Sue Goss-Klecker (sgoss@sd35.bc.ca) AND Cynthia Dobbs Cox (cdobbscox@sd35.bc.ca) if your child is ever away from school. This way, one will be able to mark the absence as excused. There is an auto dial system that will call out if your child is absent without being "Excused". Our school answering machine is always on. Please feel free to leave the school your message at any time of day or night – 604-530-2361 if your child will be absent.

MUNCHALUNCH (Hot Lunch):

If you are interested, we have a program called MunchALunch which is led by our PAC (Parent Advisory Council) Executive team. This is not mandatory to participate in however, any lunches that you order, partial proceeds go to raise funds for our school. You will need to create an account to place orders: <https://munchalunch.com/login>

MORNING SUPERVISION

- Supervision starts in the morning at 8:30 a.m.
- Students should not be arriving at school before supervision begins.
- Students should be waiting outside of the school building and should not be entering hallways
- before the day begins.
- Students K-3 should have supervision by a parent/guardian/older sibling/daycare provider until
- they enter their classrooms at the 8:45 a.m. bell.

STAY IN THE KNOW!

Please use the following Calendar link to subscribe:

[simonds-uconnect](#)

Please note that the subscribing application (Outlook, Mac Calendar, Google Calendar, etc.) must support the iCalendar protocol. Here are a couple useful links for more information:

[Subscribing to Internet Calendars in Outlook](#)

[Adding a subscribed calendar to a Google Calendar](#)

[Adding a subscribed calendar to iCal for Mac](#)



SCHOOL GROUNDS: INFORMATION

Traffic:

- Please follow the signs that are directing traffic in the parking lot.
- Please pay close attention to the crosswalk attendants and to pedestrian traffic.
- Please only park in designated parking spots. There is additional street parking available if the lot is full. Please do not block the driveways of our neighbours or park in no-parking zones or accessible spots if you do not have a SPARC permit.

Smoking/Vaping on School Grounds:

Please remember that all BC Schools are SMOKE and VAPE free, including parking lots. This applies to staff, families and students.

Pets:

We do love your pets, but please keep them off school grounds between 8:00 am and 3:30 pm, as well as at school events.

SCHOOL FEES & OTHER PAYMENTS

School cash online is used for all payments for things like field trips, donations, fundraising – Cash and checks will not be received at the school office or given to teachers.

This will open up 24-48hrs after your child's first day of attending.

<https://sd35.schoolcashionline.com/>

PAC (SIMONDS):

This year, Simonds PAC meetings will be the 3rd Monday of the month, starting September 23rd from 7:00 to 8:00 pm at the school. To learn more about PAC, visit their website:

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

ALL IN THE DETAILS

SCHOOL MESSENGER – NOTIFICATION SYSTEM

The Langley School District uses a notification system called SchoolMessenger to communicate information to families. As we welcome our new families to our schools, some parents/guardians may receive a text message notifying them about SchoolMessenger. For more information about the system and how to opt-in to receive text messages, visit the District webpage [here](#).

VOLUNTEERS

We have many opportunities for parent volunteers at Simonds and U-Connect. All volunteers (INCLUDING DRIVERS) must be approved by administration and must follow school guidelines. All casual volunteers must fill out a Volunteer Safety Check form; which will be given out by our teachers as volunteers are required in classrooms.

Volunteers who will regularly be working with a small group or individual students (ex. Coaching a team or being a parent reader) must provide a Criminal Record Check.

New this year, volunteers are required to complete online training if they are regularly volunteering in schools.

Volunteers must have their CRC and online training complete before they begin volunteering.

Online Training Link (password: SD35volunteer)

<https://www.sd35.bc.ca/our-district/volunteer-at-the-langley-school-district/>

PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES:

Grades K-7: No personal digital devices to be allowed at school. Students with these devices should keep them at home or they stay 100% of the day from arrival to departure in backpack.

Grades 8-12: No personal digital devices during instructional time. Exceptions for medical reasons can be made with consultation between admin and counseling.

Save the Date

September 16:

FIRST FULL DAY OF KINDERGARTEN

Please meet your kindergarten teacher at our regular bell time (8:45 am) outside of your assigned classroom (you will have information about which division you have been assigned to). Pick-up is at 2:33 pm.

FIRST FULL DAY OF U-CONNECT K-7

Please meet your teacher at our regular bell time (8:45 am) outside of your assigned classroom. Please line-up outside the exterior doors. Pick-up is at 2:33 pm.

September 18:

SIMONDS MEET THE TEACHER

We are hosting a BBQ open house in our back field from 5:00-6:30 pm for our Simonds families to meet each other and staff from the school. This fun-night atmosphere will have food and fun activities to participate in! Hope to see you there.

September 24:

SIMONDS AND U-CONNECT PHOTO DAY

Bring your brightest smiles to school! Individual and class photos will be taken in the morning for both Simonds and U-Connect.

SIMONDS AND U-CONNECT TERRY FOX RUN

In the afternoon, our schools will be participating in the Terry Fox Run after a school-wide assembly.

September 27:

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Please send your student, if possible, wearing an orange shirt to school on Friday, September 27th to commemorate National Truth and Reconciliation Day which is September 30th. . We will be learning together as a community about Truth and Reconciliation Day.