Newsletter

Auguston Traditional Elementary School

Nov 3, 2026

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auguston.abbyschools.ca

Principal's Message

Hello wonderful Auguston Traditional Families!



We hope that you are enjoying the beautiful fall leaves as much as we are! As you know, at Auguston Traditional this year we are trying to focus on one aspect of positive social responsibility each month. This is part of our traditional school mandate to help students strengthen their sense of social responsibility. As a school, we explore the monthly virtue through classroom lessons, stories, and by encouraging students who demonstrate these qualities with our appreciation. It is our hope that by making social responsibility something that we learn about together, we can demonstrate how important these aspects are, and that their importance will help our students navigate their peers in a positive way. Having regular conversations about the importance of social responsibility help students build a collection of skills and qualities that will guide them as they navigate friendships, challenges, and disagreements with kindness and consideration for others.

Last month's virtue: Thankfulness



Throughout October, our school community focused on Thankfulness. With Thanksgiving falling during the month, October provided a natural opportunity to think about the people, experiences, and everyday moments for which we are grateful.

Learning to be thankful helps children recognize the good around them and appreciate the kindness of others. Expressing gratitude can also strengthen relationships, encourage empathy, and help children develop a greater sense of belonging. We hope our focus on Thankfulness encouraged students not only to notice what they appreciate, but also to express that appreciation to the people around them.



This month's virtue: Peacefulness

As we begin November, Remembrance Day is a great reason to shift our focus to Peacefulness.

ABBOTSFORD SCHOOL DISTRICT

Peacefulness is more than simply being quiet or avoiding disagreements. It means learning to approach ourselves and others with calmness, patience, and respect. For children, this can include learning how to manage strong emotions, listen to another person's perspective, respond thoughtfully when something goes wrong, and work through disagreements in constructive ways.

These skills help us build a school environment where students feel safe, welcomed, and respected. Just as importantly, they give children tools they can carry with them when friendships experience challenges or conflicts arise.

As our educational partners, families can help reinforce Peacefulness at home in many simple ways:

1. **Use "I feel" statements.** Encourage children to explain how they are feeling rather than placing blame on someone else.
2. **Make time for quiet reflection.** Create opportunities to slow down, reflect, or have a calm family conversation.
3. **Pause before reacting.** Taking a breath and giving ourselves a moment to think can change how we respond to a difficult situation.
4. **Use calm and respectful language.** Model speaking kindly and respectfully, even when people disagree.
5. **Practise active listening.** Give others an opportunity to explain their perspective without immediately judging or interrupting.
6. **Create peaceful spaces and routines.** Provide opportunities at home to slow down, reset, and recharge.
7. **Model forgiveness/working it out.** Help children understand that resolving a disagreement also means allowing everyone involved the opportunity to move forward rather than repeatedly returning to the original conflict.
8. **Practise 'the pause' when emotions feel big.** Strong emotions are a normal part of growing up, but learning not to react immediately is an important skill. Encourage pausing, breathing, and taking a moment to think before responding when upset. Creating that small space between a feeling and a reaction can help children make calmer choices, communicate more respectfully, and solve problems without making the situation bigger.

Our partnership with families is an important part of helping students grow into thoughtful and socially responsible young people. Each element of what it means to be socially responsible that we explore together adds another tool students can draw upon when they encounter challenges, make decisions, and navigate their peers.

Thank you for continuing these conversations at home and for partnering with us as we help our students grow in both character and confidence.

Darker Mornings Are Coming: A Few Important Safety Reminders



You may have noticed something different about this first weekend of November: for the first time, our clocks did ***not*** "fall back." Earlier this year, British Columbia moved to permanent daylight saving time, meaning March 8, 2026, was our final seasonal clock change.

While this means we will enjoy more daylight later in the afternoon, it also means that as we move further into November and the winter months, our mornings will become noticeably darker. Fraser Health has advised schools that between late November and early February, many students may be travelling to school before sunrise.

The darker mornings can have an impact beyond visibility. Reduced morning light can affect sleep, alertness, and mood, making healthy sleep routines particularly important during the winter months. More importantly for us as a school community, students may be walking, cycling, or arriving at school during much lower light conditions than we have been accustomed to in previous years.

As we adjust to this change, we are asking all Auguston families to take a little extra care during the morning commute.

Families can help by:

- Making students easier to see. Consider reflective or high visibility clothing, backpack reflectors, lights, or a flashlight for children walking or cycling in darker conditions.
- Choosing safe routes. Wherever possible, encourage children to use well lit routes, sidewalks, designated crosswalks, and familiar pathways.
- Reinforcing safe crossing habits. Remind children to stop, look carefully, and make sure vehicles have come to a complete stop before entering a roadway or crosswalk. In darker conditions, we should never assume a driver has seen us.
- Taking extra care when driving. Please slow down around our school, crosswalks, intersections, and areas where students are entering or exiting vehicles. Darker mornings make it even more important to drive without distractions and to carefully check for pedestrians and cyclists before turning.
- Protecting healthy sleep routines. Consistent bedtimes and wake times can help children adjust to darker mornings. Fraser Health also recommends turning screens off at least one hour before bedtime and making opportunities for children to spend time outdoors during daylight hours.
- Allowing a little extra time. Rushing can lead both pedestrians and drivers to make quick decisions. Leaving home a few minutes earlier can make for a calmer and safer trip to school.

There is a positive side to this change as well. More afternoon daylight provides additional opportunities for children to be outdoors, participate in activities, connect with friends, and travel home from school in better light. This will be a new winter experience for all of us. With a little extra awareness and care, particularly during those busy morning arrival times, we can work together to help ensure our students arrive at Auguston safely and ready for their day.

Reminder about School Supervision



With darker mornings ahead, this is also a natural segway to revisit an important reminder that we shared with families earlier this year regarding supervision before and after school.

Staff supervision on our school grounds begins 10-15 minutes before the morning bell, and finishes 10-15 minutes after the bell at the end of the day. Outside of these times, students need to remain in the care and supervision of a parent or guardian because our educational staff will not be outside.

We are sharing this reminder again because we have still noticed several students arriving at school well before morning supervision begins. We certainly understand that family schedules can sometimes make mornings complicated, but unless students are enrolled in a before or after school care program, please ensure they are not left unattended on school grounds outside the supervision window above. This is for safety reasons. We have many before and after school care programs connected to our school, and several more starting in January, so if you are interested in learning more and taking advantage of one, please reach out!
Thank you for your continued attention to this and for working with us to ensure our students are safe and appropriately supervised before and after the school day.

Dressing for the weather



You may have noticed that things are starting to get a little rainy, windy, and even cold outside in the mornings! As we barrel toward Winter, we ask that you carefully consider the weather as students get ready in the morning. Weather appropriate clothing like coats, boots, and eventually hand ware and head ware, help to keep the children dry and comfortable during their day at school. Umbrellas are great too, but please remind you children about appropriate use of these, as they can break easily if not used as intended.

Happy Diwali!



This weekend, many families in our community will celebrate Diwali, the Festival of Lights.

Diwali is celebrated in a variety of ways across many communities, with traditions that may look different from one family to another. The celebration is often connected with themes of light overcoming darkness, new beginnings, hope, and spending time with family and community.

To all of our Auguston Traditional students and families who will be celebrating, we wish you a very Happy Diwali! May this special time bring you joy, connection, and wonderful moments with family and friends.

For those who do not celebrate Diwali, occasions such as this also provide a wonderful opportunity for our students to learn about and appreciate the traditions that are meaningful to others in our diverse community. On Friday, November 6th, students are welcome to wear either their special Diwali suits/outfits, or choose something colorful to wear instead of their uniforms.

Remembrance Day at Auguston Traditional



As November begins, our attention turns from the excitement of Halloween toward a very different and important occasion in our school community: Remembrance Day. Students and

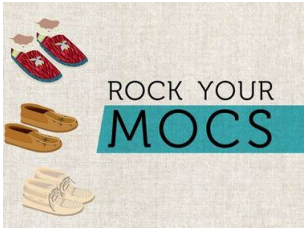
staff are already preparing for our school Remembrance Day ceremony, which will take place on November 10th at 11:15am. This will be a thoughtful and respectful gathering as we come together to remember and honour those who have served and sacrificed.

Classes throughout the school will contribute to the ceremony through songs, poems, readings, and other presentations. Each class is also creating a handmade wreath, with student wreath bearers selected to present it during the ceremony. These contributions provide meaningful opportunities for our students to learn about remembrance while taking an active role in helping our school mark this important day.

Families are very welcome to join us for the ceremony. Please be aware that seating will be limited, as our students and staff fill much of our gym.

We are proud of the care and effort our students and staff are putting into preparing a ceremony that reflects the respect and significance Remembrance Day deserves.

Rock Your Mocs!



November is Rock Your Mocs month, a celebration that invites people around the world to wear their moccasins and celebrate Indigenous culture, identity, and pride. Moccasins are much more than footwear. Their materials, designs, and purposes can reflect heritage, community, personal stories, and traditions. To celebrate at Auguston Traditional, we invite students, staff, and families to feel free to wear moccasins (or other comfy footwear) to school on Friday, November 13th! If you don't have Mocs, that is ok! It is still a wonderful opportunity to learn more about their significance and the diverse Indigenous cultures, histories, and traditions they represent.

*Students are invited to wear **moccasins** (or other comfy footwear) along with their **school uniform** while inside the school (please wear outside shoes during recess/lunch) on Friday, November 13. This is NOT a "No Uni for a Toonie" day.*



Toy Drive

Coming in December: Auguston Toy Drive! As we look ahead to December, we are excited to share an early preview of one of the ways we will bring our next social responsibility virtue, Generosity, to life! In partnership with UBC and BC Children's Hospital, Auguston will be holding a toy drive to help bring some extra joy to children and families during the holiday season.

The drive will officially begin in December, so there is nothing to send in just yet. For now, we simply wanted to give families an early heads up and an opportunity to begin thinking about participating. More details about how and when to donate will be coming in December!



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Coming Up

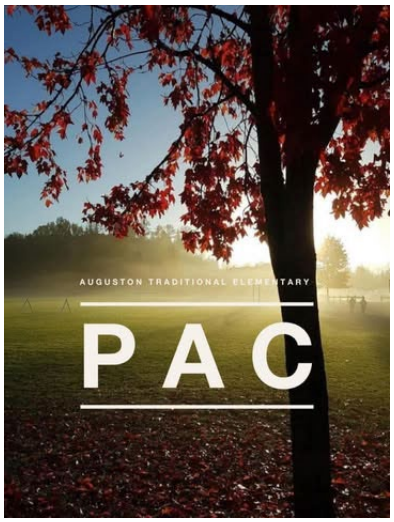
Fri, Nov 6	Diwali Celebration Donut Orders Due 6pm
Tues, Nov 10	Auguston's Remembrance Day Ceremony at 11:15am
Wed, Nov 11	**Actual Remembrance Day, flags at half mast – NO SCHOOL**
Thurs, Nov 12	Popcorn Orders Due 6pm
Fri, Nov 13	Rock your Mocs Day Doughnut Day
Wed, Nov 18	Tri-Traditional Soccer Cup
Thurs, Nov 19	**No Uni for a Toonie: "Dress Like Me" Day** Popcorn Day
Fri, Nov 20	Non-instructional Day #3 – NO CLASSES FOR STUDENTS Pizza & Sushi Orders Due 6pm
Mon, Nov 23	Book fair week begins *(at lunch and afterschool, depending on volunteers)*
Wed, Nov 25	PAC Meeting 7pm
Thurs, Nov 26	DPAC Meeting 7pm
Fri, Nov 27	Pizza & Sushi Day

School Calendar

See https://auguston.abbyschools.ca/events/list or https://auguston.abbyschools.ca/events/calendar

- **2026-2027 Local School Calendar - Month-by-Month**
- **2026-2027 Local School Calendar - Chronological**

Auguston PAC



Auguston Parents/Guardians are invited to join the next PAC Meeting on **Wednesday, November 25, at 7:00pm** in the Library Learning Commons.

PAC page on the website:
https://auguston.abbyschools.ca/parentsstudents/pac/auguston
Email: augustonpac@gmail.com

Join the PAC Facebook Page for reminders & updates!
Auguston Traditional Elementary School PAC

School Photos



See **school photos** on the website at:
https://auguston.abbyschools.ca/blog
Thank you, **Tina Howe**, (parent and teacher) for taking many of our school photos!

More Cross Country pics have been added along with more Costume Day and Soccer pics coming soon!




Able Cresting
School Outfitters
DRESS PANTS
CLEARANCE
SALE
Navy dress pants only. While supplies last.
Our new school uniform website
Same team. Same store location. New website.
schooloutfitters.ca
School Outfitters is the school uniform division of Able Cresting.



Pay for School Activities and Give Consent Online

Consent forms are ONLINE in SchoolCash. Consent includes Request for Email Address Consent, Photograph/Video and Media, Permission for off Grounds and for Field Trips.

We would like to encourage ALL families at our school to utilize the online option for consent & payments EVERY time! We are currently at **100%** who have signed up! **PLEASE USE the online option every time**!

**** Tri-Traditional Soccer Cup consent coming soon!***

Email Consent * Permission for Off Grounds * School Planners

**** Kindergarten School Supplies * Photo/Media Consent * Damaged or Lost Library Books***

**** No Uni for a Toonie * Extracurricular School Sports Programs***

Thank you to parents who have set up your schoolcash account and utilize this option. You will be receiving reminders and messages about new items being added to your child's 'cart' when field trips and other items arise. A suggestion is to purchase a **prepaid credit card** to make purchases if you are concerned about online shopping. The district site is a secure site which does not hold account information.

SchoolCashOnline limits the amount of cash/cheques handled in schools, reduces paperwork, and results in more focused instructional time in the classroom. *The Abbotsford School District now uses SchoolCashOnline for all schools. With SchoolCashOnline, parents have the convenient and secure option of paying for school items using their credit card online, 24/7. You can pay for school items such as trips, club/athletic fees, and spirit wear. It will save you time too!* ***Register for Schoolcashonline in 4 simple steps! If you haven't yet done so, please click on the link below to sign up TODAY!***

