

Dear parent/guardian,

Welcome to the new 2025-2026 school year at Unsworth Elementary School! We are Mrs. Solomon and Mrs. Litshauer and we will be jointly running choir over the coming school year. Choir will be open to grades 3-5 with grade 2s invited to join on a trial basis as choir can feel like a big commitment for some of them. Currently, we are planning to rehearse Mondays at lunchtime with Mrs. Litshauer and Wednesdays with Mrs. Solomon. For weeks with a Pro-D on a Monday, Mrs. Solomon may have choir on the odd Friday at lunch instead. Your child(ren) has elected to join choir this term and I am thrilled to have them as part of the group!

Choir is a yearlong commitment; however, we do give the students the option of stopping or joining the choir at the beginning of each term throughout the school year (September, January and March). As choir is a team effort, we expect that students will attend all rehearsals unless they are away from school for either illness, appointments, or field trips. With regards to sports team practices scheduled during choir practices, this will be coordinated by the sports coach and I to find the best possible compromise ensuring that the students have access to both sports and choir. I hope to instill a sense of dedication and commitment to choir and therefore only allow the students to miss choir twice in the year (whether it is because they forget to come or chose not to). It is also important that students attend choir regularly because they need to be present to learn the songs that we perform throughout the year. Each rehearsal we work on something different/new, so it is difficult for students to catch up if they consistently miss a practice.

I will also be regularly uploading links on the choir section of the Unsworth Elementary webpage for choir members to practice at home to better learn the music that will be performed throughout the year. Please support your child(ren) with providing them opportunities to practice at home as we typically may not have enough time to sufficiently learn all the music during short lunch time rehearsals.

Our performances are during the different assemblies held throughout the year and the students get a lot of performance opportunities to sing for the entire school. We also have various community performances throughout the year that the students are strongly encouraged to attend. For most performances, the choir uniform is all black. Please send your child(ren) dressed in black for assembly and performance days unless otherwise specified (i.e. Pink for Pink Shirt Day etc.)

Emails will be sent home with reminders of when the choir is to perform.

### **UPCOMING PERFORMANCES:**

**Remembrance Day Assembly-** November 7th 10:10am

**Cascadia Remembers:** A collaborative project between Unsworth, Leary IAT, Promontory Elementary and the Cascadia Wind Ensemble.

**FRIDAY, October 17** “Choir Connection” 3 - 4pm @ Unsworth Elementary. We will rehearse our songs with Promontory and Leary IAT Choirs for our upcoming concerts together.

**Thursday, October, 23<sup>rd</sup>** 7:15 - 8 pm @ Abbotsford at 33911 Hazelwood Ave, Abbotsford. Cascadia Remembers combined rehearsal with Cascadia

**Friday, Nov 7<sup>th</sup>** Performance 7:30pm @ Chilliwack Culture Center (call time TBA). Cascadia Remembers: a collaborative project between Leary IAT, Promontory Heights, and Unsworth elementary choirs with Cascadia Wind Ensemble.

**Sunday, Nov 9<sup>th</sup>** Performance Matsqui Centennial Hall in Abbotsford 2pm (call time TBA). Cascadia Remembers: a collaborative project between Leary IAT, Promontory Heights, and Unsworth elementary choirs with Cascadia Wind Ensemble.

**Winter Concert for Parents-** December TBA

**Pink Shirt Day-** February 26th

Further performance dates will be sent out later.

We are very much looking forward to working with the choir this year as we hope your child(ren) will have as much fun singing with their peers as we do teaching them!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email Mrs. Solomon directly at [lauren\\_solomon@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:lauren_solomon@sd33.bc.ca) or Mrs. Litshauer at [Chelsea\\_litshauer@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:Chelsea_litshauer@sd33.bc.ca)

Sincerely,

Mrs. Solomon (MMus, MMus, BEd.)  
Unsworth Music Teacher (Wed-Fri)