

## Unsworth Elementary Choir Newsletter



Dear parent/guardian,

Welcome to the new 2024-2025 school year at Unsworth Elementary School! I am Mrs. Lauren Solomon, one of the new music teachers here at the school. I am scheduled on Wednesdays-Fridays, and I am so excited to continue to build and shape the music program here at Unsworth. With that in mind, I plan to run a school choir for grades 3-5. Grade 2s will be invited to join on a trial basis as choir can feel like a big commitment for that age. Currently, I am planning to rehearse Wednesdays and Fridays at lunchtime and occasionally on Thursday afternoons at the end of the day for 30 minutes (depending on whether we have a performance coming up). 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 year long commitment however, I 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, I expect that students attend all rehearsals unless they are away from the school for either illness, appointments, or fieldtrips. 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 sending home links 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.

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. For most performances, the choir uniform is all black. Please send your child(ren) dressed in black for assembly days unless otherwise specified (i.e. Orange for Orange Shirt Day, Pink for Pink Shirt Day etc.) I am also considering participating in the Chilliwack Music Festival in March as I believe that will be an enriching experience for the choir students (TBD).

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

Our currently scheduled upcoming performances are as follows:

Orange Shirt Day Assembly- September 26<sup>th</sup>

\*\*Howl Masquerade (Cultural Centre)- October 29<sup>th</sup>

Remembrance Day Assembly- November 7<sup>th</sup>

Winter Concert for Parents- December TBA

Pink Shirt Day- February 26<sup>th</sup>

Further performance dates will be sent out later.

I am very much looking forward to working with the choir this year and I hope your child(ren) have as much fun singing with their peers as I do teaching them!

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me directly at [lauren\\_solomon@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:lauren_solomon@sd33.bc.ca)

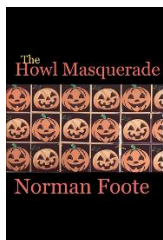
Sincerely,

Mrs. Solomon (MMus, MMus, BEd.)

Unsworth Music Teacher (Wed-Fri)

\*\*\*\* This year, the choir has been invited to perform with two other local elementary school choirs at the Norman Foote concert at the Cultural Centre on Oct. 29<sup>th</sup> at 7pm. The children can wear their Halloween costumes (without masks blocking their faces or extra props that will limit their ability to perform) if they so choose. Parents are to drop their children off at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre at 6:30pm. The performance runs from 7:00- 8:00pm. I am going to facilitate discounted tickets for parents of choir members so that you can come and watch the students perform. I will provide more information closer to the performance date. Please refrain from buying tickets until I send out the discount code.

More information below:



This concert is a Musical Masquerade with Juno award winner Norman Foote and an extra-large local youth costumed choir. Where music, laughter, and the creative spirit of Halloween all come together. Community connections make this concert a true family event.

<https://www.chilliwackculturalcentre.ca/cc-event/howl-masquerade-2024/>

Below are the links of the songs that the students will be performing in. Please encourage your child(ren) to practice these songs at home as much as possible so that they can get familiar with the songs that they will be performing with Norman Foote.

Song recordings: <https://normanfoote.bandcamp.com/album/im-a-book-15-songs>