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Vancouver, BC, V5V 1XG
604-713-4985
livingstone@vsb.bc.ca

September 2023 News

At David Livingstone Elementary School we acknowledge that we live, work, learn and and unlearn on the traditional and unceded territories of the Coast Salish peoples the s̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish), seɬ̓w̓it̓ulh (Tseil-Waututh), and x̓w̓məθk̓w̓əy̓əm (Musqueam) nations.

Principal: Sharon Vieira

Director of Instruction: Janis Myers

Trustee: Suzie Mah

Superintendent: Helen McGregor

Chair - Navneet Nathoo ◦ Vice Chair - Lindsay Clayton

Orange Shirt Day

Recognizing & Remembering

Wear your Orange Shirt to School On

Friday September 29, 2023



Originally introduced in Parliament in September of 2020, Bill C-5 was signed into law in the summer of 2021. The law gives Canada a new statutory holiday. September 30 is now officially National Day for Truth and Reconciliation across the country. The kind of ceremonies taking place on September 30 will vary depending on the province. There is no standard, although orange shirts will likely remain a powerful symbol.

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

September 30 will be a day of reflection with an opportunity to honour and remember all impacted by the residential school system. It's a time to learn from our province's history and, hopefully, take steps to improve our current society. The date was chosen because it is the time of year in which children were taken from their homes to residential schools, and it also provides educators an opportunity to foster dialogue and deepen their understanding of Indigenous Peoples' histories for the coming school year.



Orange Shirt Day is also an opportunity for Indigenous and non- Indigenous people, local governments, schools and **communities to come together in the spirit of reconciliation.**

Principal's Message,

It is wonderful to have everyone back in the school. The students and staff have been busy making new connections and building relationships. Thank you for your patience as we waited to move into new classrooms.

I have had many conversations this year with families hoping to understand the process and rationalization for placing students in their classrooms and in split classes. Here is some information from the district that clearly describes our thought process:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/General_Resources/combined-class/Pages/default.aspx

“Why do Schools create combined classes?”

There are several reasons why schools create these classes. When school staff look to organize their students, that is to place the students in their classes with teachers, they have to balance the educational needs of their students with the staffing they receive from Human Resources as well as with legislated contractual considerations.

A school calculates enrolment. This is then verified by the Human Resources division of the Vancouver Board of Education. Based on this figure, teaching staff (both enrolling and nonenrolling) is allocated. The principal, working with the Staff Committee of the school, then constructs classes based on these factors and the educational interests of each student. In many instances, combined classes result.

How do Schools decide which students to place in combined classes?

In an effort to ensure all students are placed in appropriately balanced classrooms, school staff (teachers, Principals and Vice-Principals) use such criteria as age, range of ability, special learning needs, gender, social groupings, and support staff recommendation.

Also, just as they do when allocating students to non-combined classes, the Principal and Vice-Principal work together with the classroom teachers to best match the learning styles and needs of the student. In many schools parents are given the opportunity in June to submit their preference for a learning situation for their child for the next school year. All these factors are considered before allocating classes for students.

Will the teacher teach the entire curriculum to both grades?

The School Act, which governs British Columbia schools, stipulates that all teachers, including teachers of split classes, must teach the prescribed curriculum. Therefore, the teacher is obligated to teach the entire curriculum to both grades. Teaching strategies that address diversity, meet individual needs, and satisfy Ministry requirements with respect to content and processes of learning work well in both combined and single grade classrooms.

What are the challenges for teachers?

Teachers need to be familiar with the curriculum for both grades and the variety of resources available in the school and in the district. Teachers of students in combined classes, like those in single-grade classes, employ their skills and strategies so that each student is challenged at the level at which he/she can succeed. For example, a teacher might use a thematic approach to teach a unit.

This approach enables the teacher to address processes and skills requiring continuous development. This requires a sophisticated approach to integrating knowledge and skills but it can be done in ways that do not repeat or “miss out” prescribed curriculum.”

As a staff team our collective goal is to support all of our students social and emotional well-being and excitement and interest in learning and reaching their greatest potential as learners. I look forward to connecting with you soon. Thank you for all your support and encouragement our families are an essential part of our success at David Livingstone School.

Sincerely,

Sharon Vieira, Principal, David Livingstone Elementary School

Introducing the Staff Team at David Livingstone School

Office Administration	Ms. Susan Stelmack
Div. 1 Grade 7	Jason Bring
Div.2 Grade 6/7	Alexis Stanton
Div.3 Grade 5/6	Mark Stewart
Div.4 Grade 4/5	Chris Young/Ushma Escobar (Ms. Sharma got married this summer!)
Div.5 Grade 4/5	Dianne Moore (covering Ms. Janze's leave this year)
Div.6 Grade 3	Josephina Kim
Div.7 Grade 2/3	Cheryl Noon
Div.8 Grade 2/3	Karen Lirenman
Div.9 Grade 2	Lavonne Liang
Div.10 Grade 1	Jennifer Korchinski
Div.11 Grade 1	Joanne Lau
Div. 12 KF	Kailee Costa
Div.13 KF	Emilie Royle
Librarian	Yvonne Toomer
Resource	Sonia Pietzsch
Resource	Ushma Escobar
Counsellor	Joanne Polukoshko
Music	Monica Presley
Student Support Staff	Gigi Taviss
Student Support Staff	Moreen Ram
Student Support staff	Janice Abad, additional SSA TBA
Speech Language Pathologist	Ruth Hanson
School Psychologist	Larissa Jackson
School Nurse	Pamela Sagert
Engineer	Darren May (temporary placement)
Custodian	TBA
Supervision aides	Yuki Tani, TBA, TBA

VSBC SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

We wish to thank the parents and guardians who are following the district-wide Safe Arrival Program.

- It is important that all parents and guardians report a child's absence or late arrival to the **school prior to 9:00 am** whenever possible **please use the phone or email system below**.
- Students who arrive late (after the 9:00 bell) must sign in at the office when they arrive at school.
- If the school is not informed of a student's absence or late arrival, they are considered '**UNACCOUNTED FOR**' and office staff will then call home, cell and/or work numbers of parents for verification.
- This procedure has been put in place for all Vancouver schools to ensure all students arrive safely at school.
- **Please report your child's absence to the Safe Arrival Program even if you have already notified your child's teacher.**

Reporting Your Child's Absence

By email at livingstone@vsb.bc.ca

Or

By Phone at **604-713-4985** *please speak slowly and clearly*

Please include:

1. Child's name
2. Division #
3. Reason for child's absence

Students Leaving School Before 3:03 pm

Please email your classroom teacher and include (cc) the office on the day in question well in advance of the time you will be picking up your child and leave a message or call the office if it is an unexpected event.

Please come to the office when you are picking up your child to touch base with us and sign your child out.

Thank you!

[Livingstone Parent Advisory Committee \(PAC\) News](#)

- All Livingstone parents play an integral role in the David Livingstone PAC. We work closely with Livingstone administration and staff to ensure our kids have a safe and enjoyable educational experience. We also organize community and school events and fundraise to support educational enrichment opportunities.

Message(s) from the Parent Advisory Council (PAC)

Welcome to the new school year! We enjoyed sharing a cup of coffee and summer stories with many parents on the first day of school. We hope this is a sign that our community is re-building after a few years of disruption.

Fall Fun

Munch-a-lunch (or Fun Lunch) is returning to Livingstone starting Wednesday, September 25! Parents will be able to order from eight (8!) different vendors twice a week (Mondays and Wednesdays) with a couple of extra Fridays to ease your lunch making burden even further. Details on how to register, order and pay will go home with your children shortly. We will also put the details in our first newsletter and post reminders on Facebook (see Communications plans below).

Meet the Teacher night will include a PAC event (similar to the BBQ we had at the end of the 2023 school year). More details to come! Ms. Vieira's calendar should include the date.



First PAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 20 at 7 p.m. at the Livingstone library (in-person). We will not be able to accommodate a hybrid meeting, but Ms. Vieira is looking into babysitters for those who wish to attend with their children. If you have feedback on the meeting times/locations/delivery mode(s) please fill out this short survey: <https://forms.gle/DeJT9eAtMxBRUUoFA>

PAC Communications

In order to stay informed about the happenings at the school, please be sure to do the following things:

- Please **sign up for the PAC Newsletter** here: [David Livingstone Elementary School \(list-manage.com\)](https://www.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=1234567890). Most of our communications will be directed through our newsletter, which you can expect to receive approximately one week following the PAC meetings. Sharon's monthly email will include the date and location of the PAC meetings, as well as an agenda link which will be updated by the Sunday evening prior to the meeting. For example, our **first meeting is Wednesday, September 20th at 7 p.m. at the school library** and the agenda will be updated by Sunday, September 17th.
- Please join the [Livingstone School Community Facebook page](#) (if you use this form of social media). This site is not specifically for the PAC and not administered by the PAC, but the PAC uses it to send reminders, updates and volunteer call-outs. You will need to answer a few short questions to be "approved." **The administrators are looking to add an additional administrator to the site from our school, please reach out to livingstonepac@gmail.com**
- Agendas and minutes from the meetings will be posted on the Livingstone PAC website [Livingstone PAC Home \(weebly.com\)](#) if you do not receive them via one of the other methods listed above.
- Other reminders and urgent messages will come from the parent/class representatives. A call-out for class reps will be made via the PAC newsletter and FaceBook once the divisions are known. You will receive an email from a parent in your class once the classes and divisions are known.

School Fee packages will be sent home soon. This year we are asking families to pay a \$35 school fee to support the range of materials students use at school. In addition, grade 1-7 students will be using an agenda \$7 and grade 7 students will be going to camp this year as well and we will be asking for a monthly payment. Each student fee package will outline what students are asked to purchase this year.

School Fees will be paid online through the KEV payment system. If you visit our school website at and then click on the pay school fees icon

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/david-livingstone/Pages/default.aspx>



DAVID LIVINGSTONE
ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Pay Fees



VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD

CONSENT FORMS and STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS.

We will be sending other important consent forms home that will require parental or guardian signatures.

The following will be paper forms.

1. Student Verification Forms (emergency contacts/medical needs)
2. Student Emergency Reunification forms
3. BC Fruit And Vegetable form, return if you don't want to participate.
4. Permission for neighbourhood walks.

The Following will be online forms found at <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca>

5. Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation (CASL), online
6. Personal Media Consent Forms -online
7. Acceptable Use of Technology - online and signed paper form to use in classrooms.

Using the online permission forms:

1. Parents/guardians go to <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca>
2. enter their student 9 digit PEN and birthdate year-month-day (2016-02-24)
3. Accept the consent for each of the forms. Not accepting or completing implies decline.
4. Once consent is given, a REVOKE button is exposed .

My Forms

Name

School

Livingstone Elementary

Form	Action
Adobe CC Acknowledgement of Use (for students)	Fill and sign my form
Adobe CC Consent Form (for parents/guardians)	Fill and sign my form
CASL Consent Form 2023-2024 (for parents and guardians)	Fill and sign my form
External Media Consent 2023-2024	Fill and sign my form
K-3 Student AUP	Fill and sign my form
VSBC Media Consent 2023-2024	Fill and sign my form

Adobe permission is not needed at this time.

Click on form, read description and sign.



STUDENTS WITH SERIOUS HEALTH CONDITIONS & ALLERGIES

The VSB requires that parents notify the school every year about their child's severe allergy or medical condition.

- For the school to provide your child with medication, the “***Request for administration of Medication at School***” form must be completed by parents and the doctor who has prescribed the medication.
- Parents are asked to provide the school with a complete **emergency care plan** with the correct dosage of any medication your child requires from their doctor.

These forms can be sent home with your child upon request.

You can email us at livingstone@vsb.bc.ca for a new form.

- Parents must provide the child (in their backpack) or school office with at least one :
 1. **epinephrine auto-injector (EpiPen)** in the case of severe allergies
 2. **Inhaler** for children who suffer with asthmatic conditions.

It is also essential that parents make note of the **expiry dates** of all **medication** kept at school to ensure it is replaced as necessary. The school is not responsible for monitoring expiry dates.

Thank you for helping us to keep all our students safe, we appreciate your support.



Exciting Partnership with the Vancouver Opera

We are fortunate to have a new partnership with the Vancouver Opera. Their 2023/2024 season includes The Magic Flute, Don Pasquale and Carmen. We have 30 tickets available for each dress rehearsal for Livingstone students and their parent(s)/guardian(s). We will open up the ticket requests for one opera per family then do another round if there are still tickets remaining.

Please contact our teacher librarian, Ms. Yvonne Toomer, in person or via email at ytoomer@vsb.bc.ca for more information or to request tickets. Please include your preferred production and number of tickets with a limit of 4 tickets per show per family. This is not a school-sponsored field study and you will need to make your own arrangements for transportation. Students need to be accompanied by an adult. The operas take place at the Queen Elizabeth Theatre.

The Magic Flute Thursday October 19, 2023 7:00pm

Don Pasquale Thursday February 8, 2024 7:00pm

Carmen Thursday April 25, 2024 7:00pm

Voluntary Student Accident Plans

The VSB is offering parents access to two voluntary student accident plans which offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical/dental expenses and critical illness. The two companies that are offering this product are the IA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP) and Study Insured.

Families can register online to purchase and participate in either of these plans by using the URL's provided below;

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com



The Terry Fox Run will be held on **Wednesday September 20th**. From 1:10 to 2:20pm we will be running around Tupper's track. Heading over from our gravel field

- Students can bring **"Toonies for Terry"** to school to help fundraise for this important cause.

We will start collecting donations in classrooms the week of September 18th. All families are welcome to watch or walk with us on our Terry Fox Run.

Join us to meet the Livingstone Staff Team:

When: Thursday September 28, 5:45pm -6:15pm

Visit your child(ren)'s Teachers will have stations outside to chat with parents and caregivers. Students can take their parents into their classroom for a quick tour.

- **4:50pm Livingstone PAC**, is inviting families to sign up for food, this will be served at the undercover area on the east side of the school food.
- **5:30 -6:00pm** visit classrooms just a brief message from teachers
- **6:10-6:30pm** join us on the black top to meet the whole Livingstone Staff Team, and Livingstone Parent Advisory Team.



September 2023

	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
				1	2	3
4 Labour Day	5 First day back Gr.1-7	6 Kindergarten gradual entry begins.	7	8	9	10
11	12	13 Kindergarten first full day	14	15	16	17
18	19	20 Terry Fox Run 1:10pm 7pm School PAC mtg library	21	22	23	24
25 Professional Development Day Students do not attend.	26	27	28 4:45 -5:30 PAC social and food Meet the staff. 5:30-6:20	29 Orange Shirt Day TRC	30 National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	



October 2023

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2 School Closed	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Thanksgiving School closed	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20 Professional Development Day Students do not attend.	21	22
23	24	25 Conferences 2pm early dismissal	26 Conferences 2pm early dismissal	27	28	29
30	31 Halloween Wear your costumes today					

CALENDAR 2023 – 2024

David Livingstone Elementary School

School Operation Overview

Number of Days in Session	188
Number of Days of Instruction	181
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	6 Non Instructional Days 1 Administrative Day (June 38)

Important Dates

First Day of School for Students	Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Day in lieu of National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (school closed)	Monday, October 2, 2023
Thanksgiving Day (school closed)	Monday, October 9, 2023
In lieu of Remembrance Day (school closed)	Monday, November 13, 2023
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 22, 2023
Winter Vacation Period	Wednesday, December 27, 2023 - Friday January 5, 2024
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 8, 2024
Family Day (school closed)	Monday, February 19, 2024
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 15, 2024
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 18 – Thursday, March 28, 2024
Good Friday (school closed)	Friday, March 29, 2024
Easter Monday (school closed)	Monday, April 1, 2024
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Tuesday, April 2, 2024
Victoria Day (school closed)	Monday, May 20, 2024
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 27, 2024
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 28, 2024

Professional Development and Non-Instructional Days (school not in session)

Monday, September 25, 2023	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, October 20, 2023	Professional Development Day (Province wide)
Friday, November 24, 2023	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Wednesday January 17, 2023	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, February 16, 2024	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Monday, April 22, 2024	Professional Development Day (District wide)

Parent Conference Dates

Early Dismissal Times

Wednesday October 25, 2023	2:00pm Early dismissal
Thursday October 26, 2023	2:00pm Early dismissal
Wednesday February 14, 2024	2:00pm Early dismissal
Thursday February 15, 2024	2:00pm Early dismissal