



## Strathcona Elementary School September 2025 Newsletter



Dear Strathcona School Parents,

We hope this newsletter finds you well, and we extend our heartfelt gratitude for your tremendous support during the first two weeks of the school year. It has been an exciting start, and we have several important updates, reminders and events to share with you. We recognize that success at school depends on the support of both home and school. A strong relationship is between you, and your classroom teacher makes a difference in your child's education. Remember school staff have up to 30 children to help coordinate, support and develop academic and social skills. School is not like home, we will see different sides of your child than you will. We do our best to help students learn in all areas at school.

Please keep in mind:

- 1) Attending school every day and arriving for the start of the day will help ensure your child receives all the academic instruction.
- 2) Please pay attention to emails sent home. They often have time sensitive information.
- 3) Share with your child that school is important to you and their future.
- 4) Just like all people, your child may not get along with everyone. It is important to work with students to understand how to be respectful, even if they are not your child's friend.
- 5) Your child's teacher is the point of contact for the school and any questions or concerns.

### **CODE OF CONDUCT**

The Strathcona School Code of Conduct sets out how we operate and interact in this space. This applies to students and adults. Please look at the [Strathcona Website](#) for a complete Code of Conduct. We use simplified language with students which is:

**At Strathcona while we learn, work and play we:**

**Care for Ourselves**

**Care for Others**

**Care for our Community**

### **Welcome To Our New Classroom Teaching Staff**

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| • Gurshabad Singhera – Gr. 6/7                          | • Sally Green – Resource Teacher           |
| • Ashley Kuzma – Gr. 4/5                                | • Sarah Ireland – Gr. 3/4 French Immersion |
| • Ivana Pavlovic – CET – Curriculum Enhancement Teacher | • David English – YFW                      |
| • Emily Chow – Gr. 3/4 French Immersion                 |  |

## UPCOMING EVENTS IN SEPTEMBER

### **Open House - Thursday, September 18 - 5:00PM - 7:00pm**

We invite all parents and guardians to join us for our Open House event on Thursday September 18th. This is a wonderful opportunity to connect with your child's teachers and learn more about the exciting year ahead. This is a social event for you to meet the teacher, find out about classroom process and schedule, and connect with other parents of children in your class.



Students must go home or to their program until 5:00 PM when they return with their parent or guardian. Classrooms will open from 5:00 PM– 6:00 PM.

From 6:00 PM (NOT EARLIER) we will serve pizza in the courtyard for our families. Please help to ensure that everyone gets one piece of pizza prior to coming for seconds.

### **Professional Development Day - Monday, September 22. NO SCHOOL.**

Please be aware that there will be no school for students on September 22nd due to a professional development day for our teachers. This day is essential for our educators to enhance their skills and knowledge.

### **Terry Fox Run - Thursday, September 25 - 1:15PM**

On September 25th, we will host our annual Terry Fox Run at 1:15 pm. Parents who are available are welcome to come and cheer on our students as they participate in this meaningful event, promoting a great cause. We will be running around McLean Park. Below is a link to the school's page to support cancer research:

[Lord Strathcona Elementary - Vancouver, BC | Terry Fox School Run](#)

### **Truth and Reconciliation Assembly – Monday, September 29 - 1:15PM**

We invite families to join us for an assembly to recognize and mark our learning for Canada's Day of Reconciliation. We have invited some honoured guests, with our students leading this work and holding up their learning.

### **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - Tuesday, September 30. NO SCHOOL.**

On September 30th our country observes Canada's Day of Reconciliation. In the next two weeks our school will hold assemblies and in-class activities to educate our students about Canada's difficult history of residential schools and the importance of reconciliation with Indigenous peoples. Vancouver schools will be closed on Tuesday, September 30th. We encourage you to learn more about this important day and look for ways to honour it with you and your family.



## **IMPORTANT REMINDERS**

- **Keeping your contact information and emergency contacts up to date is essential for your child's safety and well-being.** In situations where a child becomes ill, gets injured, or needs to go home unexpectedly, it's critical that the school can reach a parent or guardian quickly. When phone numbers or emergency contacts are outdated or missing, it creates unnecessary delays and stress for both the child and school staff. Please take a moment to review and update your contact details to ensure we can always reach someone you trust when your child needs you most.
- Please remind your child not to bring toys to school or keep them in their backpack during school hours. The school cannot be responsible for personal items or toys.
- As per the [government](#) requirement, cell phones should not come to school. The school cannot be responsible for the care of cell phones sent with students. Students who bring cell phones and use them during the day will have to turn them into the office until the end of the day.
- Due to numerous student food allergies, please consult your child's teacher for information on appropriate classroom snacks. As a general guideline we ask that children avoid bringing peanut products as this is a common allergen among students. There may be other allergens that need to be avoided in specific classes. Thank you for your help with keeping all children safe at school.
- Our School Code of Conduct is an important document for families to review – [Strathcona](#).
- There will be several important documents that will arrive over the next few weeks. Check your child's backpacks and ensure that we receive updated information as soon as possible.
- **School Lunch** – If you think your child would benefit from our school hot lunch program, either full time or occasionally, we NEED you to fill out the hot lunch form. Come to the office for that form.
- **School Fees** – can be paid to the office or online. They are \$40 this year, the school is covering all the school supplies for the 25/26 school year. If you are in need of financial support, we are happy to help with this, please let the school know.
- **Caller ID Information**: Please note that all Vancouver School Board telephone numbers operate with a 604-713 prefix. If you see these digits in your caller ID, this is probably the school calling regarding your child.

## **SCHOOL PROCEDURES**

### **Before School**

Classes line up outside in their designated location; teachers walk students to class. Please do not bring students into the school prior to the bell ringing. Staff are preparing for the day and there are no staff available to supervise students.

### **Recess**

Recess snacks will be eaten in the classrooms under the supervision of the classroom teachers, either before or after the outside recess playtime. We ask that students do not eat outside. This helps us reduce the mess outside the school and keeps mice populations down. Students should dress appropriately for the weather conditions, as they will be outside during break times to exercise and get some fresh air.

### **Lunch**

Lunch will be eaten in the Lunchroom under the supervision of the classroom teachers, either before or after the outside lunch playtime. Students should dress appropriately for the weather conditions, as they will be outside during break times to exercise and get some fresh air. Children going home for lunch must sign out at the office and then sign back in once they return. If students return with lunch food, they will need to take it to the office in an effort to prevent mice and other pests.

### **Dismissal**

Students will all be dismissed at the same doors they enter or to their designated location.

### **Parents Accessing the School Building**

Parents can drop things off to classes or pick up their child at their classroom doors AFTER they have checked in at the office. If you are picking up your child or dropping them off late, you or your child must check out at the office. This is a fire safety requirement in case there was an emergency.

### **Parent Pick Ups**

Students and teachers are very busy. If you will be picking up your child in the middle of the day, we ask that you send a note with your child or email the office at [strathcona@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:strathcona@vsb.bc.ca). If you come at recess or lunch breaks, students are outside and difficult to find. If we know ahead of time, we can work with the classroom teacher to have the student ready for pick up.

**ALL STUDENTS MUST BE SIGNED IN AND OUT AT THE OFFICE IF THE PICKUP OR DROP OFF happens outside of the usual start and end of the school day.**



## **STRATHCONA BELL SCHEDULE**

<b>Periods</b>	<b>Monday – Friday</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
<b>Bell - Outside Supervision Begins</b> Students wait outside until teachers pick up their classes	<b>8:45</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Bell - Warning</b>	<b>8:58</b>	
<b>Instructional Time Begins</b>	<b>9:00</b>	
<b>Bell - Recess Begins</b>	<b>10:35</b>	<b>20</b>
<b>Bell - Instructional Time Begins</b>	<b>10:55</b>	
<b>Bell - Lunch -eating for primaries, play for intermediates</b>	<b>12:10</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Bell - Lunch Eating – eating for the intermediates, play for the primary</b>	<b>12:20</b>	
<b>Bell - Instructional Time Begins</b>	<b>12:55</b>	
<b>Bell - Students Dismissed outside</b>	<b>2:58</b>	
<b>Bell - Outside Supervision Ends</b> Students must head home or be sent to the office with an SSA to be picked up	<b>3:11</b>	<b>13</b>

## **SUPPORT THE PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE!**

There are two easy ways to support our Parent Advisory Council:

1. Take part in our Apple Fundraiser - delicious Ambrosia and Honeycrisp apples are available for purchase, with proceeds going directly to student programs and activities. Connect to the link here: [https://fundraising.sunokafruit.com/seller\\_1/082863450/org-campaign/lord-strathcona-elementary-pac-harvest-2025](https://fundraising.sunokafruit.com/seller_1/082863450/org-campaign/lord-strathcona-elementary-pac-harvest-2025)
2. Consider making a direct tax-deductible donation to the PAC. These funds help us support field trips, classroom supplies, cultural events, and other opportunities that enrich our children's learning. Click to donate (and select our school PAC): [SchoolCashOnline.com: Fee Details](https://SchoolCashOnline.com: Fee Details)

## **ACCIDENT INSURANCE PLANS THROUGH THE VSB**

The VSB is once again offering parents the ability to purchase voluntary student accident insurance plans if they choose. These plans offer coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The two companies offering this coverage are Insuremykids and Industrial Alliance (The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan). These plans are ideal for supplementing costs not covered by provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Families can find more information and register online to purchase and participate in any of these insurance plans by using the URL provided here:

<https://insuremykids.com/schoolresources/>

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com>

## STRATHCONA WALKING SCHOOL BUS

Strathcona Elementary School is partnering with the Society for Children and Youth of BC to launch a new Walking School Bus.

A Walking School Bus (WSB) is an organized group of children who walk to and from school together with the support of one or more trained adult Walk Leaders. Like a traditional school bus, the group walks along a predetermined route with planned "Bus stops" along the way to pick up more children. The WSB runs rain or shine, Monday to Friday, in the morning and afternoon.

Families can either drop their child(ren) off at a WSB stop, or their child(ren) can meet the WSB on their own. From there, the WSB will continue onwards to school. In the afternoon, the children will be dropped off at their listed stops. Please note: this is not a childcare program. Participating families will be added to a group chat so that you're up to date on where the WSB is each day!

Strathcona WSB Registration Form

<https://forms.office.com/r/X6Pz5CvrKH>

## STRATHCONA COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC

### Did you know...

- There's a dental office right next to the school beside the community center.
- We welcome children with NIHB, private insurance, government plans—or no insurance at all.
- Your child might qualify for government dental benefits, and we can help with the application.
- You can even give consent for us to **pick up your child from the classroom and bring them to their appointment**, so you don't have to worry.

### ABOUT US:

Strathcona Community Dental Clinic is a **non-profit clinic with a simple mission: to help kids smile without pain.**

We believe no child should have to attend school in pain. That's why we provide care for children under 19, along with oral health education for students and their families.

💎 *"A Successful Life begins with a Healthy Smile"* 💎

The clinic is working with the school to provide an **oral care hygiene pouch for every Strathcona student**, and to offer a **free dental screening at the school** in the near future - stay tuned for details.

☎ Feel free to contact us (604-713-4485) anytime—we're here to help!



## LEARNING CELEBRATIONS



Thank you for your ongoing support and involvement in our school community. We look forward to a successful and enriching school year together. We also want to thank all our Strathcona Staff for their leadership and support which has allowed for a smooth transition into the 25/26 school year.

Warm regards,  
Jann Schmidt – Principal  
Strathcona Elementary