



# SIR JOHN FRANKLIN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## THE HE FRANKLIN EXPRESS – April 2023

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PRINCIPAL: Dan Knibbs	DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION: Shannon Burton
SCHOOL TRUSTEE: Louis Chan-Pedley	PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR: Selina Tribe



- Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> - Hot lunch at noon
- Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> - Purdy Chocolate pick-up @ 3:00 (South Side)
- Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> - Purdy Chocolate pick-up @ 3:00 (South Side)
- Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> - Art Contest
- Monday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> - Used Book Sale begins...
- Tuesday, April 4<sup>th</sup> - Lunch orders due by midnight
- Wednesday, April 5<sup>th</sup> - PAC meeting @ 6:00 p.m. via Zoom
- Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> - Hot Lunch at noon
- Thursday, April 6<sup>th</sup> - Last day for Used Book Sale
- Friday, April 7<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday – school is not in session
- Monday, April 10<sup>th</sup> - Easter Monday – school is not in session
- Friday, April 14<sup>th</sup> - PAC Family Portrait Night
- Monday, April 24<sup>th</sup> - Professional Development Day – students do not attend school

### MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

Welcome back from Spring Break everyone! The months of February and March were exciting and although short, we packed a great deal of activities into that time, beginning with Black History Month, our Lunar New Year celebration, Valentine's Day, 100s day, a Professional Day followed by the Family Day long weekend, our Pink Shirt Day on February 22 exceeded our expectations with the number of students wearing pink shirts to support anti-bullying day! March roared in in like a "Lion" and, true to form, it seems like we will be experiencing some great "Lamb" like weather this week as the month comes to an end. It's hard to believe we're heading into April and two thirds of the school year is behind us already!

In the lead up to Valentine's Day our students each wrote or drew a positive message for our Valentine's Kindness display. Their thoughts and words are truly heartwarming! You can read these messages in our front hallway display cabinet. The kindness theme complimented the lead

up to Pink day on February 22. At the Pink Day Assembly our student leaders discussed the history of the day and the importance of not being a bystander when you witness bullying. It culminated in a beautiful song performed by our youngest students in Division 9 and 10. After the assembly the Student Council representatives all served pink lemonade to the rest of the student body. The drinks were served in recyclable cups (of course!) which were decorated with a kind compliment. Thanks to all the students and staff who proudly wore their pink and made the day a tremendous success!

Our Senior Basketball Team had a successful season which culminated near the end of February. Through league play our Team was 4-0 but, unfortunately, were eliminated in their first playoff game. Their final match was a closely contested battle with the leads changing many times throughout the course of the game. Our student athletes played hard and represented Franklin Elementary with a great deal of pride. Congratulations to all the Sr. Players on an impressive season! Many thanks to Ms. Balzarini for all her hard work coaching the team!

As a culmination to Black History month Franklin students had the opportunity to receive instruction through an Artist in Residence program facilitated by Jacky Essombe. The entire week was filled with drumming, dancing and singing and truly immersed our students in the African culture. The week came to an end with an incredible performance by "Aunt Jacky" and friends. It also included appearances by the students in Division 8 and Division 1 as well as our staff and the parents who were in attendance! It was a great way to end the week!

Our Parent/Student Conferences took place on Wednesday March 8 and Thursday March 9. I hope that you all had an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher during Conferences, as it is always a wonderful opportunity to connect with the teacher and discuss all aspects of your child's progress. It truly means a great deal to your children and our staff when you take the time to visit the classroom and see the things that happen here at school.

Finally, it is with mixed emotion that relay the next bit of information. After 35 years of service with the Vancouver School Board, 22 of those years being spent at Franklin Elementary, Mrs. Switzer (Madelyn) has decided to retire from the VSB as of April 26. Although we will miss her sunny demeanor and infectious laugh in the office, we are very excited for Madelyn and her transition into retired life and new adventures. Whether these new adventures be with family and grandchildren, traveling or the opportunity to spend more time with her husband at the lake, we hope she'll be thinking back fondly of her time spent with her Franklin family over the years. Please join me in wishing her all the best in her retirement!

We hope you have had an opportunity to relax with family and friends over the last two weeks and feel rejuvenated as we begin the push towards the final months of the school.

Regards,

Dan Knibbs

## **Franklin Art Gallery and Contest - March 31**

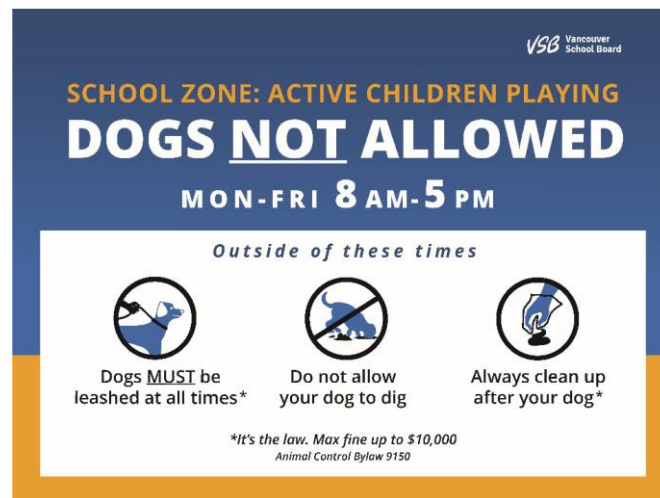
The Student Council is holding an art contest this Friday! If you would like to enter the contest, create a piece of art at home and submit it to Ms. Balzarini anytime before 9:00 a.m. this Friday, March 31. Your art can be a drawing, a painting, a craft, or even a sculpture! Student Council will be judging the art in grade groups by how creative, original, interesting, detailed, complex, and carefully done it is. All art will be displayed in our front foyer, and winners will be announced Friday afternoon. Show your creativity and make some art!

## **Dogs on School Grounds - What are the rules?**

The Vancouver Board of Education adopted a 'Dog Code' to describe the conditions for pet owners to bring their dogs onto VSB sites and our grounds are marked sites with signs indicating the rules.

The Dog Code stated:

- Dogs are permitted on school property weekdays 6-8 AM and 5-10 PM, and on weekends\*
- Dogs are not permitted on school grounds or playfields at any time while organized play is in progress.
- Dogs must be on leash at all times on school property.
- Dog owners must pick up and remove waste.
- Owners must not allow their pets to dig holes or otherwise damage property.



**New "Dog Code" signs has been posted on VSB fields as of January 2023**

## **Donations Requested for Used Book Sale**

Our Student Council is collecting donations this week for our upcoming used book sale. Please consider donating any gently used books you no longer need into the boxes outside the office. It's a great chance to clear some space and help the environment too! Our book sale will take place April 2-6 in the gym from 3:00-3:45 (while quantities last). Thanks for your support!

## **POLICE NON-EMERGENCY NUMBER**

When school is not in session (weekends or evenings), please report any suspicious activities to the non-emergency line (604)717-3321.

## **SPRING IS IN THE AIR!**

Thank you to the students of Division 2 (Mdme. Mend) and the students of Division 8 (Ms. Ruus) for their beautiful display in our main hallway. It was wonderful to come back after spring break to see our main hallway decorated!



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## **PAC** P A R E N T A D V I S O R Y C O U N C I L

**PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)** The next PAC meeting is Wednesday, April 5th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm on Zoom: PAC is a great way to get involved with your child's school, meet new people, and work together to build the vibrant Franklin community. Please contact Selina Tribe for more information ([selina.tribe@gmail.com](mailto:selina.tribe@gmail.com)). All Franklin parents are welcome to join.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89974369897?pwd=THplSU9DbnVQTlkzVXBDR1RLZWFrZz09>

**UPCOMING PURDY'S PICK UP LOCATION** - If you ordered Purdy's chocolates, they will be available for pickup on Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup> and March 31<sup>st</sup> on the South Side of the school. Thank you to everyone who helped support this fundraiser!



## ALLERGY POLICY

### Franklin School is allergy-aware!

Please note that parents are asked to avoid sending foods containing **nut or peanut products** to school with their children due to severe allergies to these particular foods. As peanut/nut butter tends to stick to surfaces, please wash your child's hands if you give them these foods for breakfast before school. If there are questions or concerns, please contact Mr. Knibbs for further information. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

