



OPPENHEIMER NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2023

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Oppenheimer Website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/david-oppenheimer>

OUR MISSION

We seek to foster in students their finest intellectual, physical, aesthetic, social and emotional qualities by providing a safe, stimulating and challenging educational environment, which will enable all children to become lifelong learners who are positive and effective citizens.

OUR SCHOOL GOAL

To improve Literacy with an emphasis on reading and writing fluency so that by the final term more students from K-7 develop proficiency as measured by reading and writing assessments and reporting.

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

With only two weeks until school closes for the holidays, it's time to wish all Oppenheimer families a good holiday in whatever way your family and friends celebrate it!

We have had a great deal of rainy weather these past weeks. Please send your child to school with a change of clothes and/or proper gear for the wet weather. For many reasons, students often get soaked and cold at recess and lunch and want to change out of their wet items of clothing. Providing them non-slip soled shoes is also a great idea as the hallways, pavement and stairs can get a bit slick and slippery as students move in and out of school spaces. Umbrellas are also a good idea if your child wants to stay somewhat dry throughout the day.

Health wise, together with you, our families, we have worked hard at keeping school safe and healthy for everyone. Thank you for keeping your children home when they are ill and coming to get them when they become sick at school. While major bouts of cold and flu have had an impact on our attendance, we are preparing for our winter celebrations, field trips, and activities. As you will see from the art and displays in this newsletter, our students have many talents and love to show them off!

As the annual FSA assessments have been completed for Grade 4 and 7 students, we will be sending home individual results before the winter break. In November, staff participated in our District Indigenous Focus Day. As a staff we continue to look at ways to implement the First Peoples Principles of Learning, taking on a culturally responsive and land-based pedagogies. Staff responded to the day with suggestions for actions; actions such as removing colonial language, giving voice to Indigenous leaders and educators, including Indigenous music and art making in teaching experiences, doing more with and in our environment, and focusing energies on oral and land-based teaching and learning.

Again, we say a big thank you to our PAC for all their support. Speaking of our PAC, we have a meeting tonight at 6:45 on Zoom. Please use [this link](#) if you would like to join us. We have many unfilled PAC positions and are hoping for more volunteers to spearhead fundraisers and PAC initiatives in the new year. If you have the time, please join us as we need as many hands on deck in 2024 to make our school experiences as rich and inclusive as they can be. We send PAC and school messages to keep Oppenheimer families up to date. Please read below for more specific information on what is happening at Oppenheimer over the next week or so.

Thank you all,
Ms. Shannon Burke

VICE-PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to our incredible volleyball teams for their hard work, our dedicated safety patrol members for their commitment, and the outstanding artistic and musical talent showcased in our classrooms. Moreover, the warm and friendly atmosphere fostered by our students through their simple gestures of saying hello reflects the inclusivity and kindness we cherish at Oppenheimer. Your collective efforts make our school community a truly remarkable place of learning and growth. Thank you for your ongoing support and contributions to our shared success.

Thank you,
Ms. Jesseca Eng

WINTER CONCERT- DECEMBER 15TH

The festive season is upon us, and we're thrilled to extend an invitation to our upcoming Winter Concert at Oppenheimer. It's a fantastic opportunity for us to celebrate the talents of our students, and we can't wait to share this joyous occasion with you.

Here are the essential details:

- Dress Rehearsal: Thursday, December 14 at 1:15 pm
- Family Concert: Friday, December 15 at 1:30 pm



We kindly request your presence for the entire concert (1 hour) to fully experience the fantastic performances our dedicated students have prepared. To ensure everyone's enjoyment, please remain seated throughout the performance to avoid obstructing others' views.

Doors will open promptly at 1:15 pm on Friday, operating on a first-come, first-served basis. Attached to this newsletter, you'll find the list of performers who will grace the stage with their talent and hard work. If your child is not performing at the Winter Concert, there will be future opportunities.

DECEMBER HAPPENINGS

Important Dates:

- December 15th- Winter Concert 1:30 pm
- December 22nd- Last day of school before Winter Break
- January 8th- Return to school

NOVEMBER HIGHLIGHTS

Volleyball:

The Volleyball season has come to an end with our teams having had a great time learning not just to become better players, but more importantly how to work as a team and handle the inevitable losses gracefully. A special thank you to the teachers and high school students who volunteered their time to make it all happen: Mr. Lee and Coach Anna- Jr. Girls, Ms. Werboweski - Sr. Girls, Mr. Schratte - Jr. Boys, and to the volunteer high school coaches, Alex, Cruz, and Jovan, who worked with the Sr Boys.



Glee Club:

Glee Club is off to a great start, singing and playing this term led by Ms. Gutkowski and Mr. Tweedale. These enthusiastic grade 5 and 6 singers have been learning to sing together with clarity and expression, at times with musical instruments, accompaniment, and movement. Song choices, musical arrangements, and performance ideas are all generated by the students. Glee Club sang "The Colonel's Journal" beautifully at the Remembrance Day assembly in collaboration with Div 1's band class, and they are working on another song for the winter concert. It is always joyous to hear the voices and the passion that all the Glee club members bring every Tuesday.



Safety Patrol:

We would like to recognize and express our gratitude to the Safety Patrol Team for their efforts in helping us cross the road safely. Their commitment and responsible actions contribute to the well-being of our school community.



LOST AND FOUND

Our **Lost and Found** is located outside of the gym around the corner from the hallway entrance doors. It is currently full of fall jackets and water bottles. Please look if you are missing any of your child's items. Parents are welcome to rifle through the lost and found at any time during the school day. Our wonderful supervision aide Mami is the staff in charge if you need any assistance. We will pack up unclaimed items to take to a goodwill society at Winter Break, Spring Break, and Summer Break. It is extremely helpful if you label all your children's belongings with your family name to help us match lost articles to their owners.



MS. MAMI- SUPERINTENDENT'S TRIBUTE AWARD

This past month, Ms. Mami was recognized at the public board meeting by Superintendent Helen McGregor as a recipient for the superintendent's tribute. Ms. Mami has been involved with the Oppenheimer community for nearly 20 years. From parent, PAC member, supervision aide, to super volunteer, Ms. Mami is the heart and soul of our school.

ANTI-RACISM LEARNING & TEACHING: CHALLENGING RACIAL SLURS

Oppenheimer is a community of learners where many students grow up and experience both in and out of school activities together. Families have lived in this neighbourhood for generations. We are proud of the connectedness and the kindness of the kids at our school. When we say Oppenheimer is like a 'big family' that statement is very true! That said, there are instances where we do hear about racial and other slurs on the playground, playing sports or in less structured settings. Teachers are working hard on anti-racism and working with our internal and external teams including the EARND (Equity, Anti-Racism and Non-Discrimination) team to provide lessons and resources that educate and enlighten students to the seriousness of their casual use of racial insults and slurs. Together with teachers, our district team are supporting classes with thought provoking lessons and discussions to shine a light on inequity and the ways that racial slurs cause harm to our community and students at large.

Our lessons focus on Calling-in Racial Slurs, The Power of Words and Stories, Active Witnessing, and How to give an Apology. Many lessons finish with activities that celebrate our diversity and pride in our race and our differences. Feel free to ask your child about what is happening in their classroom and discuss the issues that come up on racial and other slurs they are witnessing or experiencing. The focus for students is on the lasting effect their words have on others and what they can do to change the language of the playground - and society - for the better.

If you would like to dive deeper into these issues with your child at home, here are two great resources from our District Resource Teacher for Anti-Racism and Diversity:

- Here is a short read: <https://www.todayparent.com/family/parenting/how-to-talk-to-kids-about-racism-an-age-by-age-guide/>
- An accessible and hands-on approach book: <https://britthawthorne.com/raising-antiracist-children-a-practical-guide-to-parenting/>



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION DETAILS AND TIMELINES

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2019 began on November 1.

All kindergarten applicants are required to apply to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (Early French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Focus School, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Nootka Fine Arts) and/or a cross boundary placement.

The priority registration period for kindergarten opened on **November 1 and closes on January 31**. Students who apply within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

Applying for kindergarten is a **2-step process**:

Step 1: Completion of an online application form

Step 2: Verifying documentation

- Contact your English catchment school office to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation
- Bring supporting documentation to your English catchment school office during your scheduled appointment

Supporting documents needed:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records
5. Court orders/documents (if applicable)



If you want to apply for a Choice Program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice Programs and cross boundary placements will begin to be accepted in early 2023.

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than available space* at the school, the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1 and January 31

- In-catchment kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.
- The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a random draw for the remaining kindergarten spaces.
- Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name was drawn.
- Between January 31 and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31st

In-catchment kindergarten students who apply after January 31 will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist.

Note: There will be no priority given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

*Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the District (Administrative Procedure 30).

Attachments and other info:

- **YMCA winter programs**
- **Oppenheimer Winter Concert Schedule**

ART AROUND THE SCHOOL



Holiday lights by Division 18



Indigenous Cultural Value of Bella Bella: Gratitude by Division 6



Orca Chief by Division 13



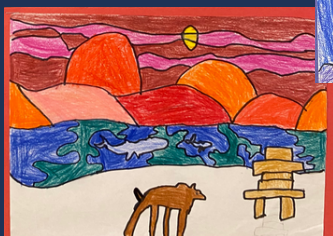
Winter Snowfall Drawings by Division 8



Paintings Inspired by Ted Harrison- By Division 5



Express Yourself by Division 2 and 3



Art Work inspired by Ted Harrison by Division 10



Bears are for Courage by Division 12

SAVE THE DATE: DECEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
4	5 12:10 Glee Club	6 PAC LUNCH: TCBY 12:10 Student Council 3:05-4:15 Young Rembrandts (Rm 111A)	7	8 PAC LUNCH: Papa John's
11	12 12:10 Glee Club	13 PAC LUNCH: Kernels 12:10 Student Council 3:05-4:15 Young Rembrandts (Rm 111A)	14 PAC LUNCH: Cheese Bread 1:15 Winter Concert Rehearsal	15 PAC LUNCH: Papa John's 1:30 Winter Concert
18	19 12:10 Glee Club	20 PAC LUNCH: Bittersweet 12:10 Student Council	21	22 PAC LUNCH: Papa John's Last Day before Winter Break
25 <i>Winter Break</i>	26 <i>Winter Break</i>	27 <i>Winter Break</i>	28 <i>Winter Break</i>	29 <i>Winter Break</i>
1 <i>Winter Break</i>	2 <i>Winter Break</i>	3 <i>Winter Break</i>	4 <i>Winter Break</i>	5 <i>Winter Break</i>