



# OPPENHEIMER NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2023

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## 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 writing fluency so that by the final term more students from K-7 meet or exceed expectations as measured by writing assessments and Language Arts report card marks.

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Here we are already at the end of October, and everyone has settled into the routines of the new school year. Hallowe'en is tomorrow, and I'd like to take this opportunity to let every family know what is happening at Oppenheimer. Students are allowed to wear costumes but please be mindful of no weapons, messy makeup, or vision impairing masks. Small parts of costumes are best left at home as well so they don't get lost before trick-or-treat time. Our primary classes will be doing a parade in the morning to view the classroom decorations around the school. This is a chance to visit the intermediate divisions and for everyone to show costumes to each other. We will encourage students to take off delicate or fragile costume pieces, so they don't get dirty or broken on the playground at recess or lunch. Please refer to notices from your child's classroom teacher for additional information about classroom celebrations and read the "Hallowe'en Reminders" in this newsletter for details about costume choices and safety.

Any information sent home from the school administration will be distributed by teachers or emailed/messaged to parents directly. Please check your child's agenda and your email regularly for any information that may be updated by the school. **We have a parent bulletin board and messages from PAC that are occasionally sent home via our school-wide email.** Materials sent to us from outside sources and agencies that may interest you will be kept outside the office waiting area. We do not send home information advertising private business or fundraising with our students, nor do we evaluate or endorse any private tutoring or services. We will at times send information about studies, presentations, or opportunities that may be of interest to families.

If you phone the school between 8:00 AM and 3:30 PM and do not receive an answer it may be that our office administrator Debbie has stepped out of the office or is busy doing safe arrival for absent students. Please leave us a message and we will return your call as soon as possible.

Thank you to all parents who have been submitting payments for fees and other expenses using School Cash Online. It makes bookkeeping so much safer, easier, and faster. We are thrilled to announce that our first fundraiser for the year – the Terry Fox Run raised \$1028.30 in donations for cancer research!!

Thank you all,  
Ms. Shannon Burke

## VICE-PRINCIPAL'S CORNER

I have sincerely appreciated getting to know the students and families so far in the Oppenheimer community. It is wonderful to work in a neighbourhood where the students arrive at school ready to learn, are respectful and responsible, and demonstrate such a wide diversity of skills and abilities. Parents and grandparents so willingly share their time and skills allowing us to provide many more opportunities and resources for our students.

Thank you,  
Ms. Jesseca Eng

# HALLOWE'EN REMINDERS FOR ALL

The autumn season is upon us, and tomorrow is Hallowe'en. This exciting time brings with it many costume decisions. While dressing up is meant to be fun and inclusive, we risk offending others if costumes are offensive to other cultures. Hallowe'en offers the opportunity to discuss costume choices with both parents and students. It is important not to inadvertently mimic culture by culturally appropriating racial or ethnic groups. Culture is not a costume.

From time to time, a few students "in character" push the boundaries of what is socially acceptable or what is appropriate for school. With that in mind, for student safety and school climate reasons, to ensure that every student and adult in our community enjoys the time around Hallowe'en, we would like your assistance in reinforcing these guidelines with your children:

- Students in costume should be easily recognizable and/or identify themselves to any staff member. Please recognize that there are very young children at the school and that overly scary costumes can result in a negative experience for all involved.
- Replica weapons (guns, knives, lightsabers, etc.) should be left at home.
- It is also important to note that costumes that portray individuals of a marginalized race, which are stereotypical and/or condescending, or that demean any group of people and make fun of anyone's suffering are not acceptable.
- A costume is not funny when it is making light of someone's religious, cultural, ethnic, or racial group, or is a caricature of this group.
- Students "in character" are to conduct themselves appropriately. Behaviours that intimidate, harass, or humiliate members of the community, or other behaviours which are inappropriate at the expense of others, do not contribute to a fun, festive, and safe environment.
- As a reminder, by law, the use and possession of firecrackers or fireworks at school is strictly prohibited. This pertains to students before, during, or after school, on or offsite.

## NOVEMBER HAPPENINGS

Important Dates:

- Remembrance Day assembly – Friday, November 10th, 11:15 – 12 (families welcome)
- Remembrance Day (day in Lieu, no school) – Monday, November 13th
- Grade 7 PAC meeting- Wednesday, November 15th 5:30 in the library
- Photo retake day – Thursday, November 16th
- PAC meeting – Wednesday, November 22nd 6:45 in the library
- Indigenous Focus Day – Friday, November 24th (no school for students)

We will have an assembly for Remembrance Day on Friday, November 10th between recess and lunch. All classes will participate in this event. We will have seating for parents on a first come first served basis. Our gym fills quickly. If your children belong to a service club such as Beavers, Cubs, Cadets, or Brownies, please encourage them to wear their uniforms on November 10th. School will be closed on November 13th in observance of Remembrance Day (Saturday, November 11th).

## VSB: AFTER THE BELL PODCAST

Season 2 dropped last week!

Kicking off season 2 of [VSB: After the Bell](#), we take a deep dive into VSB's first Literacy Framework – what literacy is, what the framework does and what it means for student learning. In our matter-of-the-month segment, we turn our attention to Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (SOGI) in the wake of recent anti-SOGI protests and talk about why SOGI education is still important today. Podcast episodes are released at the end of every month. Subscribe to **VSB: After the Bell** on [Apple Podcasts](#), [Spotify](#) or wherever you listen to podcasts!

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/60332/podcast>

## 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.

## WEATHER AND RAINY DAYS

After a beautiful two-month stretch, our weather has finally started to turn to the mud and rain that is familiar to Vancouver. At Oppenheimer, we practice West Coast recess and lunch. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and has appropriate footwear for wet conditions. Please send a full change of clothes in a plastic bag so if your children get wet or dirty, they can easily change. This will avoid a call home for clean clothes and an upset child sitting in dirty clothes waiting for replacements. Even for older students, a change of clothes remains a good idea. Students slip and fall and get wet, especially when the slopes on our playground are slick with mud. To avoid loss or confusion please put your child's name on each item.

We do not have inside supervision for students who do not wear weather appropriate clothing, and all students need to be accounted for at recess and lunch by having someone outside to actively supervise them.

## PARENT VOLUNTEERS AND LUNCH

Thank you so much to all the parents who have offered their time and expertise to volunteer again this year. Our school provides a wide variety of opportunities to students only because of the wonderful support of our parents. Without your help milk distribution, hot lunch, and our fruit and vegetable snack program at recess would not be possible. The children enjoy the milk, fruit and vegetable snacks, and the PAC hot lunch/snack program. We have an additional Food 4 Schools program to supplement students who are not able to bring their lunch every day. Please note that plastic milk containers need to have the foil lids still attached to be fully recyclable in our blue bins. The foil on its own is not a recycling-friendly item. Please check in with us at the office or if your child's classroom teacher has any questions or needs about hot lunch or the additional/supplemental Food 4 Schools program.

## PEANUT/NUT AWARE SCHOOL

We have been advised by Vancouver Coastal Health that we cannot guarantee a nut-free building or environment for students. However, we strive to reduce the potential for allergic reactions. We encourage all parents to continue to avoid nut products in the food you send to school. Currently, we have students who are at great personal risk if exposed to these products. Please take the time to read the labels and carefully monitor what you send with your child for snack and lunch. Also, please alert the school to any allergies or other health issues so that we can make all staff aware and help keep your child safe. Here are some reminders about Hallowe'en and allergies that are relevant for all of our school families:

### **#ShineATealLight on food allergy**

Did you know that teal is the recognized colour for food allergy awareness? This year, have your school light up in teal to pledge support and drive awareness for the almost 500,000 kids with food allergies. Find tips, tools, and other free resources your school can use to #ShineATealLight and promote food allergy awareness and education at [foodallergyca.ca/Halloween](http://foodallergyca.ca/Halloween).

## Kindergarten registration for children born in 2019 begins 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 opens 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:

- **Come Read with Me, Wednesday, November 8, 7pm PST:** Virtual parent reading workshop  
<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/virtual-come-read-with-me-tickets-722984615447?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>
- **VSB IPALS: Immigrant Parents as Literacy Supporters**

# SAVE THE DATE: NOVEMBER

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
<p><b>30</b></p> <p>Jr. Boys' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>31</b></p> <p>Hallowe'en</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p><b>12:10</b> Student Council  <b>3:05-4:15</b> Young Rembrandts (Rm 111A)            Sr. Boys' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>Sr. Girls' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>3</b></p> <p>PAC LUNCH: Papa John's</p>
<p><b>6</b></p> <p>PAC LUNCH: Freshii            Jr. Boys' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>7</b></p> <p><b>12:10</b> Glee Club            Jr. Girls' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>8</b></p> <p><b>12:10</b> Student Council            Sr. Boys' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>9</b></p> <p>Sr. Girls' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>10</b></p> <p>PAC LUNCH: Papa John's  <b>11:15-12pm</b> Remembrance Day Assembly</p>
<p><b>13</b></p> <p>Remembrance Day (day in Lieu)  <b>NO SCHOOL</b></p>	<p><b>14</b></p> <p><b>12:10</b> Glee Club            Jr. Girls' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>15</b></p> <p>PAC LUNCH: Kernels  <b>12:10</b> Student Council  <b>5:30pm</b> Grade 7 PAC meeting (library)            Sr. Boys' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>16</b></p> <p>Photo Retakes            Sr. Girls' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>17</b></p> <p>PAC LUNCH: Papa John's</p>
<p><b>20</b></p> <p>PAC LUNCH: Sushi            Jr. Boys' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>21</b></p> <p><b>12:10</b> Glee Club            Jr. Girls' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>22</b></p> <p>PAC LUNCH: Bittersweet &amp; TCBY  <b>12:10</b> Student Council  <b>6:45pm</b> PAC meeting (library)            Sr. Boys' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>23</b></p> <p>PAC LUNCH: Cheese Bread            Sr. Girls' Volleyball Game</p>	<p><b>24</b></p> <p>Indigenous Focus Day- <b>NO SCHOOL for students</b></p>
<p><b>27</b></p>	<p><b>28</b></p> <p><b>12:10</b> Glee Club</p>	<p><b>29</b></p> <p><b>12:10</b> Student Council</p>	<p><b>30</b></p> <p><b>6:00</b> Grade 7 Camp Info Meeting</p>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>PAC LUNCH: Papa John's            Report Cards go home</p>