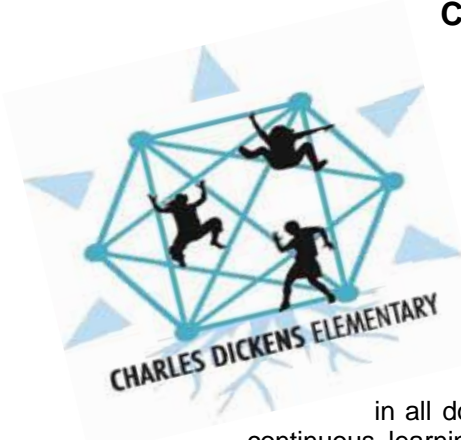


## CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1010 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C  
V5N 3S5  
Telephone: (604) 713-4978  
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Website: <http://dickens.vsb.bc.ca>

Principal: Julie Weatherall  
Vice Principal: Shelley Sunner  
Secretary: Carmelina Spirli  
PAC Co-Chairs: Daniela Forde, Sara Getz,  
Laura Poree, Tiffany Searchfield  
Director of Instruction: Aaron Davis  
Trustee: Carmen Cho



framework.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Together we bring alive our commitment to develop each child's potential in all domains through a long-established philosophy built on mutual respect, continuous learning and opportunities for leadership within a child-centred, multi-aged

# September 2021

We acknowledge that we *learn*, work together, and play on the unceded and traditional territory of the x̱m̱əθḵəy̱əm (Musqueam), seɬɬwɪtulh (Tseil Waututh) and s̱ḵw̱x̱w̱7mesh (Squamish Coast Salish) peoples.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Monday, September 20<sup>th</sup>: Election Day with voting in the Dickens Gym**

**Monday, September 27<sup>th</sup>: Pro-D Day – no school for students**

**Wednesday, September 29<sup>th</sup>: Orange Shirt Day**

**Tuesday, September 28<sup>th</sup>: PAC Meeting – 7:30 on Zoom**

**Thursday, September 30<sup>th</sup>: National Day for Truth and Reconciliation – school not in session**

**Thursday, October 7<sup>th</sup>: PHOTO DAY (Retakes on Nov. 5<sup>th</sup>)**

**Monday, October 11<sup>th</sup>: Thanksgiving Day – school not in session**

**Friday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>: Pro-D Day – no school for students**

Dear Dickens Community:

**Moving at the speed of trust 😊**



### WELCOME BACK!

It's hard to believe we have already finished the second week of school and our first week with students in their classes. It has been a busy time for Dickens staff as they have prepared for the new school year. Our building engineers and custodial staff worked hard all summer cleaning the school, teachers have come in to set up their classrooms, and administration and office staff have worked on school organization and scheduling for prep, gym and supervision. Meanwhile, we know you have been busy at home getting your children prepared for the

switch from summer to fall; from home to school; and from sleeping in to getting up early! We appreciate the important work parents do in sending us children who are happy, well-rested, and ready to learn.

**Our bell schedule is slightly different this year:**

9:00: School starts  
10:30 – 10:50: Recess  
12:05 – 12:52: Lunch  
3:03: School dismissal

‘Moving at the speed of trust’. Once again, our school start-up has required adherence to health and safety protocols to keep everyone safe during the ongoing COVID pandemic. The VSB has provided regulations and guidelines in the September 2<sup>nd</sup> *Communicable Disease Prevention Plan* and has advised us to ‘move at the speed of trust’. We had hoped to be back to ‘nearly normal’ by September, and while we are not quite there, we are certainly feeling the freedom of fewer COVID protocols. We no longer have Learning Cohorts and Playground Zones or staggered recess and lunch breaks. This means students can all go out for recess and lunch breaks at the same time and go anywhere on the school grounds as well as to Sunny Side Park. This freedom of student movement and choice of where to play and whom to play with has brought with it a new lightness. Only our Kindergarten students have the restriction of staying in the playground so that they can be supervised in a more protected area.

We will continue to have a ‘West Coast Recess and Lunch’ which means playing outside rain or shine. Thank you for remembering to have your children dress for the weather and have a set of dry clothes at school. Some teachers have also requested inside shoes, which helps to keep feet dry as well as classrooms clean. Once again A.A. Milne says it best in this poem:

**John had great big waterproof boots on  
John had a great big waterproof hat  
John had a great big waterproof mackintosh  
And that said John is that.**

Thank you for your help with keeping everyone warm and dry!

This year we will also have many more opportunities for field trips and in-class guest instructors. Sports activities such as Cross Country are back. Some parent volunteers will be allowed to supervise on specific field trips. Schools continue to be closed to the public, though parents can visit by prearranged appointment. We are still not able to have large gatherings.

**Continued COVID protocols:**

- Daily Health Check – do not come to school if you are sick
- Masks – required for students in grades 4 to 7 and recommended for K to 3 students
- Hand hygiene (soap and water or hand sanitizer) required on entering school/classroom
- Spread out in a space

- Avoid crowding (teachers will continue to pick students up from their designated line-up spots)
- Parents, please keep back as possible when dropping off children
- Students are to eat lunch in their classrooms; intermediates eat outside weather permitting
- Outdoor learning is encouraged
- **The QR code for the student Health Check app**



## Dickens Library

– Jaze and Shelley will be teaching in the library this year 😊



**NEW STAFF**



We are delighted to welcome our new secretary, Carmelina Spirli, (Carm) to Dickens 😊

**Intermediate Music Teacher Eric Hartman (M-Th) and Primary Music Teacher Elaine Der (Th)**





**Elizabeth Axen** (to the left) will be with us until the end of December covering Laura's Maternity Leave in Division 9.

**Additional New Staff (photos not available)**

**Laura (Lo) Tabert** has joined our Resource Team and works Tuesday to Friday.

**Megan Perrett** teaches Division 10 Thursdays and Fridays.

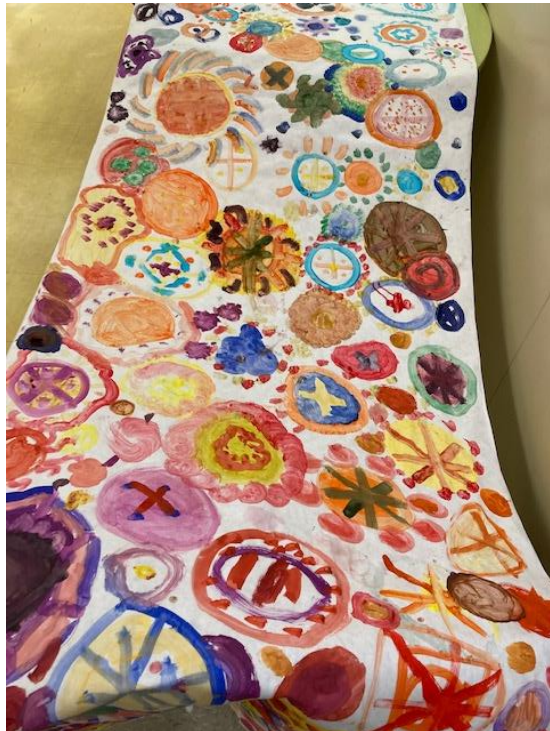
**Student Support Workers new to Dickens:**

**Ruby Cone** (Thursdays and Fridays),

**Jotinder (Jo) Sian**

**Ellen Pratt.**

## GOALS



We have been so focussed on COVID and how learning has been adapted because of the pandemic that it's easy to overlook the great 'business as usual' activities that are going on in classrooms every day. Grade 3, 4 and 5 students in Division 11 spent some time talking about The Rights and Responsibilities of the Child and then put their cooperative skills to work painting a Collaborative Circle Mural.

You have the right to:

- Choose your gender
- Talk (but not when you're not supposed to)
- Eat (but with your mouth closed, don't talk when your mouth is full and don't start food fights)
- Wear what you want
- Be yourself (but act respectfully towards others)
- Have ideas (and share them when it's your turn)

- Stand up for yourself (but not hurt someone else or make the problem worse)
- Have a say (but make sure it's respectful and appropriate)
- Take body breaks (but you need to be quiet when you do)
- Say no! (but respectfully)
- Be who you are without being judged (but be yourself in a kind way)
- Have a space and to move when you need to
- Make mistakes (try first and have faith)
- Ask questions and have an opinion

### **Dickens Virtual Tour**

Parents can make an appointment to come into the school, but we are still not at the point where non-staff and students can enter the building. Thus, I am sharing the video tour of the first floor we made last year for new parents who had never been able to come inside the school. Hopefully this will give new families an idea of what Dickens looks like. Note the password = tour.

<https://vimeo.com/531468363>

#### [Private video on Vimeo](#)

Join the web's most supportive community of creators and get high-quality tools for hosting, sharing, and streaming videos in gorgeous HD with no ads.

vimeo.com

password: tour

**Wishing you a wonderful start to the new school year!**

Julie Weatherall,  
Principal, Dickens Elementary