

October 1, 2021

Dear Roberts Annex Families,

We hope that you were able to take some time on Thursday to enjoy each other and also to have some important conversations about why we now have a National Day of Truth and Reconciliation. During our assembly on Wednesday, we talked about the phrase “Every Child Matters” and what it means to “matter”. Classes had conversations about how to make other people feel like they matter through our words and our actions. We wrapped up the assembly with this video from Monique Gray Smith reading her book [You hold me Up](#) in which she shares ways to make people feel they matter.

The topic of residential schools is often a difficult one to have with children, especially when we as adults may not know much about it ourselves. There are parts of this story of Canada’s history that are painful and even scary. While preparing for the assembly, I found another lovely video by Monique Gray Smith in which she offers advice and resources for adults who are looking about how to have these conversations – find the link to that video here: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ebOJ_IMCVvk



A Button Gift

Your child came home this week with a beautiful gift from our Indigenous Education Department – a button featuring the artwork of Robin Roberts – an educator for the Vancouver School Board. It was shared with students that the artwork on the button depicts a salmon egg representing birth and hope. The border contains images of an eye which is about seeing. Seeing is recognizing the past, present, and future – the ancestors, the current families and the future families that are not here yet. Please keep this gift for future Orange Shirt Days at school and in the community so that you can show your support for those impacted by the legacy of residential schools.

Safe Play

We spend a lot of time in September settling into routines in classrooms, but this also happens in play spaces like the gym and playground. Teachers teach and have conversations about how to play and move in safe ways in these spaces – avoiding hazards and being in control of our bodies. Despite these discussions, students often need reminders of how to play at school and a big topic of discussion in the last 2 weeks has been rough play. **Please remind your child that at school we do not wrestle, playfight or roughhouse.** Play needs to be and feel safe for all the members of our community.

New Mask Mandate for K-3

As stated in the letter you should have received from Board Chair Carmen Ho on Wednesday, the [Vancouver Board of Education passed a motion](#) that as of October 4, 2021 **all students in kindergarten through grade 3 will be required to wear a mask while indoors.** This is in addition to the mandate which requires all staff and students in Gr 4-12 to wear masks while indoors. At a press conference this morning, the Province expanded the mask mandate to all staff and students from K-12 while indoors. Many of our students (K-3) are already wearing masks so this change will be minimal at our school. Please assist us by sending your child to school each day with a clean mask labelled clearly with their name on the inside. You should have received a mask on the first day of school to add to your collection. As always, students will not be required to



wear a mask if they do not tolerate it for health or behavioral reasons. A full list of exemptions can be found on govsb.ca/covid.

Picture Day

October 4 (this Monday) is picture day at school. Photographers will adhere to COVID-safety protocols. Families should expect communication from the photographer in a few weeks which will inform you of your option to order pictures of your child(ren).

School Fees

Please take the time if you have not already to complete and return your forms – we only have a few left to receive and it would be great to get this off our list of to-dos.

Please also remember to submit your \$35 school fees. Divisions 1,2 and 4 are using planners this year, and there is an additional \$7 fee in your account. The Vancouver School Board uses [School Cash Online](#) as its preferred method of payment for all school fees, including everything from field trips to agendas. This secure system helps parents/guardians and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly and easily online. (For translations go to <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/online-payment>). You will need your child's usual first name, last name and birth date to register.

Should you encounter any difficulties, you can use the parent help desk at 1(866) 961-1803 or by visiting schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support.

Have a safe weekend and enjoy each other!

Elyssa

Upcoming Dates of Note:

October 4 - Photo day; school supplies fees due

October 11 – Thanksgiving (no school)

October 20 – PAC meeting @ 6:30 on ZOOM

October 22 – ProD Day (no school for students)

October 29 – Hallowe'en parade