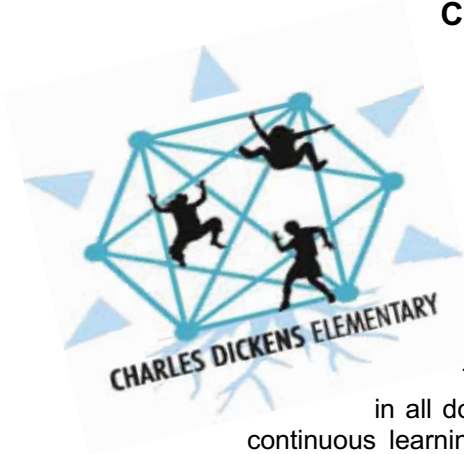


CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1010 East 17th Avenue
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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: Sara Getz, Jessie Mok,
Kate Shapiro
Director of Instruction: Shannon Burton
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

June 2022

We acknowledge that we *learn*, work together, and play on the unceded and traditional territory of the x'məθk'əyəm (Musqueam), sełl'wítulh (Tsleil Waututh) and s'kw'wú7mesh (Squamish Coast Salish) peoples.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Thursday, June 9th: Music Concert for Parents – 1:00 – Even Divs.; 2:00 – Odd Divs.

Wednesday, June 15th: SPORTS DAY

Friday, June 17th: Volunteer Tea – 10:15 – 11:30 in the library

Tuesday, June 21st: National Indigenous Peoples Day

Thursday, June 23rd: Grade 7 Leaving Assembly – 11:00 – 12:00

Friday, June 24th: Grade 7 Celebration for students – 12:05 – 2:30

Wednesday, June 29th: Final Assembly at 11:00; Last day for students – report cards go home

Dear Dickens Community:



Goodbye and good luck to four fabulous long-time Dickens teachers. We wish them well as they venture into their next exciting adventure of retirement. Heartfelt congratulations to Peggy, Sheila, Karen and Kim! Read their farewell messages below.

Peggy: After 32 glorious years in the teaching profession, all amazingly at Dickens with the exception of 1 in England, I have made the decision (not an easy one I guarantee) to retire from my full-time teaching position in the classroom. Although I will miss the children, the families and the staff of course, it is the right time for me to step away from teaching full time anyways. It has been an honor and privilege to have started out as a student teacher at Dickens in 1990 and to teach all grades and students throughout this time. It was an exciting time to begin my profession and collectively build and develop a philosophy that the school is built upon today.

I adore the students and the families more than you can ever imagine. Throughout the most difficult period of time during Covid, I have often shared stories of how tremendously supportive and caring you all have been. I want you to know that I have endless stories, anecdotes, successes and so much more to fill me up with memories for all the days of my retirement. I will not forget any of you and thank you all for everything you have been. I will hopefully still see all of you sometime next year when I TTOC in the school, so you're not finished with me yet! Thank you all and so long for now, Peggy MacKinnon.

Sheila: It is with mixed feelings that I am letting you know I will be retiring at the end of this school year. While I am looking forward to new adventures, I know that I will miss working with the children and being part of this wonderful community. I feel very lucky to have spent 29 out of my 40 years teaching at Charles Dickens School. It has been such a great experience and I thank you all for your support. Best wishes, Sheila Stouten.

Karen: Dear Dickens Families, It is with mixed emotions that I announce my retirement this June. After 32 years teaching for the Vancouver School Board, with 23 of those years teaching at Dickens, it is time to close this wonderful chapter. As I say goodbye to my colleagues, families and students I will take all I have learned to my position at UBC. I will continue teaching my Teacher Candidates to emulate the best practices at this amazing school. This community will always hold a special place in my heart. I will now have time to take my dream trip and travel to Rwanda to sit with the Silver Back Gorillas. I look forward to coming back to Dickens and sharing this experience. My sincere thanks to this wonderful community for allowing me to share time and space with all of you. Kindly, Karen

Kim: Dear Dickens Community, After a lot of thought and soul searching, I have made the decision to retire at the end of June. To say my decision is "bittersweet" is an understatement. Other than some substitute teaching at the very beginning, I have spent my entire teaching career at Dickens - 34 years. That's a long time to stay at one school, but I have done so without a single regret. I have been extremely fortunate to work in an incredibly collaborative and supportive environment over the years with so many wonderful colleagues, many who have become life-long friends, and I've been blessed to have worked with such amazing children and families. Some of you I have known for years as I've had the privilege of teaching all your children. Some I've only known for one or two. All of you have impacted me greatly and I can't thank you enough for your kindness and support. The children I've had the privilege of teaching have filled my heart and made me happy to come to work each and every day.

It is very hard to say goodbye to your children, to all of you, and to this place, my second home, but I know it's the right time to head in a different direction. I will look forward to some travelling, some golf (although I'm terrible so that will be a work in progress...), biking trips, getting back into reading, reconnecting with friends, less driving, and more sleep! But Dickens can't get rid of me that easily because I will also make myself available as a Teacher on Call from time to time. Hopefully I will get to reconnect with some of your children and with you when that time comes.

Dickens has truly been such an important, fulfilling part of my life and I leave knowing that I couldn't have asked for a better place to spend more than half of it. Thank you for your part in my journey and for entrusting me with your children this year, last year, and throughout the years! I will miss this place and this wonderful Dickens community more than words can say! Best, Kim Frehlick 😊

MOVING ON - Goodbye and Good Luck!



It is with mixed emotions that I announce my departure from Dickens Elementary to my new role as Vice Principal at Tillicum Annex at the end of this school year. I am deeply grateful for the wonderful connections I have made with staff, families, and students during my two and half years of leadership at Dickens. It's truly a remarkable place and I will fondly remember my time here.

While at Dickens, I was able to honour and highlight diverse and authentic voices through books and guest speakers in the library; promote a shared leadership model; and give students the opportunity to be heard and to rise up.

I know that you will welcome our new VP with the same enthusiasm, as you did me, when I first began at Dickens. I am pleased to announce, Dana Aweida, as Dickens' new VP.

I wish you all well as I say goodbye.
With gratitude, Shelley Sunner, Vice-Principal

Shelley with local author, Nathan Fairbairn (Check out page 10 of *PAWS*.)



Resource Teacher, Jenn Chobotiuk

I am so grateful to have spent the last seven years as a Resource Teacher at Dickens. I have thoroughly enjoyed working with and learning from the many staff, students, and families in this unique school community. I am looking forward to furthering my studies full time at the University of British Columbia as I work towards a Masters of Education in Special Education. I am excited to deepen my knowledge in current educational research and practices so I can return to better advocate for and support students in the District.

Jenn



With mixed feelings I am announcing that I will be moving from Dickens to Moberly for next school year. It's been a pleasure participating in the Dickens community these past five years. While I will miss this school, it will spare me significant commuting time which will improve my quality of life and will be easier on the environment. Jacqueline Allen is the arriving counsellor. She is an experienced Area counsellor and a kind soul.

Glen Manery, Area Counsellor



I've had a wonderful, action packed experience at Dickens over the past two years. I'd like to give a huge thank you to all the students and the staff that I've been so lucky to work with! I hope everyone has an excellent summer!

Kyle Paterson, SSA



Hello and goodbye, Dickens!

My name is Alisha and I had the privilege of working with both Division 8 and Division 10 this school year. I have loved getting to be a part of this community but due to a move to Victoria I will not be returning next year. I will miss this school and I am so grateful to have gotten to know you all!

Alisha Ward



We are so thankful and grateful to have been a part of the Dickens community for the past year. Our experiences and memories will be cherished and are unforgettable. We are excited for our next steps in our journey and to become great teachers because of all the support, guidance, and mentorship we received at Dickens!

Teacher candidates from Division 15 and 18,

Katarina and Dominika

Indigenous Beading by Division 14

Student Reflection on Beading Dragonflies with Indigenous Worker, Kim Kondra, in Division 14.



Dragonflies fly way up
to the sky,
Starts from an egg,
Then turns to a nymph
And learns to swim.

Kim taught us to bead
dragonflies,
It left me mesmerized.
They transform and
teach us adaptability.
I watch them in such
glee.

Dragonflies have
beautiful colours,
Quite like no other,
They mean a lot to
people who are
Indigenous

If dragonflies are ever gone, they will be greatly missed.

Starts from water, then goes to land,
and shows us that we can adapt to changes
when we go different places.

June 21st is the first day of summer and it is **National Indigenous Peoples Day**. This is a day for all Canadians to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit and Metis peoples. Classes at Dickens and across the district will be doing many things to honour the day. We can wear orange. We can read Indigenous stories. We can learn more about Indigenous history. We can reflect. And we can remember. We are grateful to have Kim at Dickens every Tuesday to support our learning about Indigenous culture, art, literature, and history.

Chicks in Division 1

Chicks hatched in Division 1 and kindergarten students are writing and drawing about what they see. Early writing, using letter sounds to write the words (invented spelling or sound-out spelling) is the single best way for children to become confident and independent writers and good spellers. I have tried to capture the essence of the texts produced by our youngest writers as they take on the science genre by observing the chicks in their classroom. At the Kindergarten level any sound-letter correspondence – even one letter to represent each word – is a strong step towards becoming a writer. So, (unlike the chicks) our kindies are flying!



The chicks are yelo. The chicks are BLAK
The chickcs are kyot (cute)
the chickcs are FLUF
The chickz Are HAPE
Darkness and sunshine are leaving (scribed and traced)
The chicks are ceoot (cute)
and toDAY are golg hom
The chicks Are ungDr The

BrooDr AND Theoy Are Darkness Sunshine.
Thechicksare BOFOOL (beautiful).



Division 2's Town

The Burnaby Art Gallery came to Dickens and worked with our Kindergarten students to build houses. Then the class created a town as part of their Social Studies unit on Community. Young city planners!

The Talent Show on May 27th

A big shout-out to Peggy and Karen, retiring teachers, with help from Dominika and Katarina, teacher candidates, who orchestrated the first whole-school event Dickens has had since Covid changed our world two and a half years ago. What a wonderful event! The emcees from Division 11 did a stellar job and the participants shared an amazing range of talents from gymnastics, piano, violin and drums, to singing, dance routines and karate. The audience was so appreciative – silent and respectful during some acts and participating by clapping along with others. All round it was a huge success and a delightful way to end the last Friday in May.

Project Opera in Divisions 9 and 14

Project Opera was back in Divisions 9 and 14 with the amazing facilitators from Vancouver Opera, Evie, Holly and Cassie. This program, which empowers students to conceive and create original operas, never ceases to amaze me. Classes come up with the idea for their opera, write the script, compose the melodies and write lyrics for the arias. They paint backdrops, create costumes, memorize their lines, and put on an amazing performance. Division 9's opera was based on the life of Harriet Tubman and Division 14's was inspired by fairy tales and the roles we can all play. Bravo! Brava! We so enjoyed your performances.

Welcome to Kindergarten



We welcomed almost all of our 40 new families to our Welcome to Kindergarten on June 1st. Our pre-kindies enjoyed a number of centres – from building, books, art and letters, to puzzles, writing and physical literacy. Our primary staff and VPL librarian were there to answer parent questions and hand out the WTK bags at the end. It felt like a party with goodie bags full of early learning supplies. Photo Op: we saw some families taking pictures under our sign so we followed suit.

Library News

We have had a wonderful year diving into good books, listening to community voices, and engaging in youth activism in the library. Students have been inspired by true tales of

heroism, bravery, and resilience. One group turned their love of Harriet Tubman into a production for Project Opera. It was truly touching. We encourage you all to find a place to read this summer; perhaps in a park, on the beach or in a cozy nook in your home.

A note to students and families as we close the year: we need to return all books to the library by June 10th for a final inventory. If you have lost a book and have a fine, come speak to us in the library about possible solutions. Have a happy and safe summer full of your favourite characters both in a book and out! Shelley and Jaze



Host an International Student - Join Langara Homestay

Langara College invites you and your family to join our highly regarded Homestay Program by hosting a VSB international student this year. Our students come from Europe, Asia and South America - usually stay for 5 or 10 months, and are keen to experience life with a Vancouver family. Generous reimbursement is provided. Please call [604.323.5696](tel:604.323.5696) or email homestay@langara.ca for more information.

Best wishes for a wonderful summer!

As we head into the final weeks of the school year I know students will be enjoying many celebratory events and end of year field trips that have not been possible for the past two years. We continue to follow updated Covid protocols and stay safe by keeping physical distance, following excellent hand hygiene, and wearing masks if we wish. However, it has been wonderful for classes to be able to go on field trips these past few months and to participate in some of the fabulous in-school programs like Growing Chefs, Young Actors, Project Opera, and the Burnaby Art Gallery residency.

Report cards are issued on the last day of school, Wednesday, June 29th, and will include suggestions from teachers on how to support your child's learning over the summer. Consider joining the Vancouver Public Library Summer Reading Program and try to read with your child every day. Find opportunities for writing with a purpose, whether it be postcards from a vacation, a holiday journal or creative writing – comics or stories – whatever engages. Look for the Math that is all around us and review basic math facts. Most of all enjoy the time to relax with your friends and families – something we have not been able to do during the pandemic. We wish you the very best this summer and hope that you will be able to enjoy outings near or far with those you love.

Julie Weatherall,

Principal, Dickens Elementary