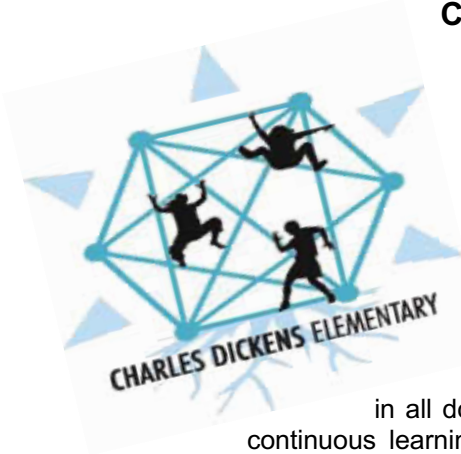


CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1010 East 17th Avenue
Vancouver, B.C
V5N 3S5
Telephone: (604) 713-4978
Fax: (604) 713-4980
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

January 2022

We acknowledge that we *learn*, work together, and play on the unceded and traditional territory of the x'məθk'əyəm (Musqueam), sełłwítulh (Tsleil Waututh) and s̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish Coast Salish) peoples.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Monday, January 17th: Pro-D Day – No school for students
Friday, January 28th: Report cards go home
Friday, February 18th: Pro-D Day – No school for students
Monday, February 21st: Family Day – School is not in session

Dear Dickens Community:

HAPPY NEW YEAR!?!

We had a delayed arrival back to school due to the Omicron variant. We have revised and reinstated protocols to keep our community safe. We have planned for the event of a Functional School Closure with a pivot to online learning in case of absences due to the virus. On top of that, we have had all kinds of extreme weather – high winds cancelled my ferry, then we had freezing temperatures and record-breaking snowfall with a snow day on January 6th. We have experienced a rainfall warning with flash floods and water pooling. And this following last year's heat dome, Atmospheric River, and flooding. Yikes!

Yet in the midst of these challenges the Dickens community, once again, shines through. So many parents have emailed to let us know how grateful they are to our staff 'for everything you have done to help make our school feel as safe as it can be.' As one parent wrote: 'We wanted to again thank you, Shelley and the lovely Dickens staff for helping all of the families feel somewhat calmer during these anxious times. It is only because we know you are all doing your 100% best efforts to keep everyone safe that gave us the confidence in sending our littles to school this week. We know it is an anxious time for teachers and their families as well...and we appreciate that so much!!'

I also received a beautiful handmade card in my inbox from a retired VSB administrator which I would like to share with you.

As the husband of someone who has been in long term care for 5 ½ years at St. Jude's Anglican Home and as a retired administrator from the Vancouver School Board whose wife is also a retired Vancouver teacher, I wanted to thank you, your staff and the students of Dickens for the most appreciated gesture of sending Christmas cards to the residents of St. Jude's. In our case, thanks to Ellie for her card which was given to my wife but thanks also on behalf of all the residents for the cards and messages contained therein. These things do matter, especially at times like these, to those for whom long term care has become a necessary way of life. Your efforts could not, and should not, go unacknowledged. Thank you all.'

Another thank you was forwarded to me by Karen, Friday teacher in Division 4, who sponsors Student Council with Cathy, Monday – Wednesday teacher in Division 16. As you know, Student Council ran a very successful Food Bank Drive with thanks to all of our Dickens families who sent in much-needed food for the community. Please see the thank you below.

'Happy New Year! I hope you enjoyed the holidays.

I thought I would let you know how much you raised through your food drive 😊

Thank you so much for raising 800 pounds of food donations! Food Banks Canada values food donations at \$2.62/lb. So, you provided **\$2,096** in support of your community.

That is an incredible amount of support, and we are so appreciative of the commitment, time, and energy that has gone into making that happen.

We really believe in our mission to provide healthy food to those in need and are proud of the many ways we have worked hard to achieve it. Some of that work includes:

- Working with local farmers to buy fresh produce
- Creating multiple nutritional programs specifically for children
- Increasing the amount of average food given per person

We love to see many of our members begin to thrive and gain new confidence through the programs we deliver. You are helping us to accomplish all of this and more!

Thank you to everyone at Charles Dickens Elementary once again for supporting our work!

Carly Lum

Community Events Coordinator

CarlyL@foodbank.bc.ca

Direct:604-834-2953



SO MANY KIND DEEDS. SO IMPORTANT – RIGHT NOW – AND ALWAYS 😊

DICKENS STAFF IN HOLIDAY MODE



- T'WAS THE SEASON - WE HOPE YOU ALL HAD A GOOD ONE!

Pinecone Fairies – Divisions 6 and 14 Buddy Classes

We took pinecones from a park. Then we waited until the next day. Then we painted our pinecones.

We went into our big buddies' classroom to finish our fairies. We got a glue gun and put the heads on. We drew the faces. We made our wings out of pipe cleaners. Then we glued the hair on. If we wanted, we put a little snowflake on.

We each had one or two big buddies. Our big buddies helped us. When we were doing the scavenger hunt with our big buddies, our big buddies read the paper.

– Amina, Ayla, and Andrei, Division 6



COVID Reminders

If you or your child has COVID please report this on the following link:

<https://reportcovidresults.bccdc.ca>

Please continue to follow posted guidelines and refer to the BCCDC site as it is the most accurate source of current information: <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

Note that Dr. Choi emphasized in her presentation to BC school leaders on January 12th that schools are not high risk for spreading COVID, and that households and close contacts are the most likely ways the virus will spread. Please continue to do the Daily Health Check and to remind your children not to touch, hug or play in close contact with their friends at school. We are being very careful with enforcing mask-wearing, hand hygiene, physical distancing, and staggered entry and exit. We continue to ask parents not to stand close to student line-ups when dropping off their children, to wear masks at drop-off and pick-up times, and not to come into the school. Your help in these matters is very much appreciated and helps to keep us all as safe as possible.

DIVISION 10'S STEM CHALLENGE



Which group can make the longest paper chain using construction paper, 2 pairs of scissors, 1 bottle of glue and a lot of cooperation?

HOUSE HUNTING? HERE ARE SOME SWEET DEALS!



DIVISIONS 15, 17 & 18 GOT CREATIVE WITH GINGERBREAD 😊

WRITING LETTERS FOR A CAUSE

Division 16 toured the rainwater system at Dickens with Peter Schmidt, our building engineer. They wrote letters to the Mayor of Vancouver and our Director of Instruction, Julie Pearce. You can see Emily's letter below as well as Julie Pearce's response to Audrey and Division 16.

Charles Dickens Elementary School
1010 E 17th Ave
Vancouver, BC V5V 0A6
December 7, 2021

Mayor Kennedy Stewart
Vancouver City Hall
453 W 12th Ave
Vancouver, BC V5Y 1V4

Dear Mayor Stewart,

I am a grade 7 student at Charles Dickens Elementary School in Vancouver BC. I am writing this letter to inform you about how I am feeling about the current climate situation.

We are proud to be students of Charles Dickens and we are learning about the reason this school was built. The purpose of building this school was to inspire and to teach about caring for the environment. It was built in 2008 to be a green, sustainable school and was awarded a L.E.E.D. Silver certificated school in 2010. Dickens is the only green school in Vancouver. As we have been researching about the school, we have learnt that the Vancouver School Board plans to decommission the rainwater collection system because they want to decommission the moment costs are involved and that is not acceptable.

In addition to being a green school, we also have a geothermal heating system that keeps us cozy in the winter and provides air conditioning as the weather gets hotter. We learned that the rainwater that runs off the roof is carried through the gutters to a cistern in the underground parking lot. The cistern can hold up to 17,000 gallons of water and on extra rainy days water can be emptied into the drain. The collected water is used to flush toilets and irrigate the field in the spring and summer.

We have learned that this rainwater system at Dickens will soon be de-commissioned because the water is not treated for bacteria, however it has operated this way for the past 11 years. The purpose of building this school was to inspire and to teach about caring for the environment. However, we have learned that it is easier to de-commission the moment costs are involved. Our hope is that a solution can be found so that the rainwater can continue to be used in a sustainable way. We care about the impact this will have on the environment.

Sincerely,

Emily

Charles Dickens Elementary School Div. 16

Good morning, Audrey

I trust you are enjoying your last day of the 2021 school year with your class! I want to thank you for your letter and the Dicken's students in your class for their letters. My apologies for not getting back to you sooner.

First of all, I would like you to pass my compliments on to the Grade 5, 6 and 7's in your class. The letters they wrote are thoughtful, well written (nice to see students being guided in that type of letter writing) and compelling. I have met with Mr. Ron MacDonald, Director of Facilities, regarding the issue and concerns and he has informed me that he will come to Dickens in January to speak with your class.

Please pass on my best wishes to the kids and have a restful and joyful break.

All the best, Julie Pearce
Interim Director of Schools



DIVISION 12 &13 RUBE GOLDBERG SCIENCE PROJECTS

Over the past few weeks, we have been working on our Rube Goldberg science projects which requires a minimum of three simple machines and five different parts. Simple machines can be wedges, wheels and axels, pulleys, and levers. Some parts can include funnels, ramps, cups and tubes. In our project, our goal is to transfer water from a can into a cup. To achieve this goal, we dropped a marker down a tube which knocked the can over. Next, the water went into a funnel through another tube which spilled water into the cup. Finally, a pulley lifted the cup up. Rube Goldberg projects are fun to build!

By: Ella & Nourah

Learning in the Library with Shelley and Jaze

This week in the library students learned about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. who was born January 15, 1929. He was a great civil rights leader and continues to influence the ongoing struggles of anti-racism in our society and our schools. This week was a great lead-up to Black History Month

in February where students learn about the contributions, struggles and joy of Black Americans, and Black Canadians.

"I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the color of their skin but by the content of their character." Martin Luther King Jr.

DIVISION 18 WROTE ABOUT ADVANCEMENTS FROM 2021
Here are some excerpts from their writing.

Scientists have found a protein that REPELS BACTERIA!

The human immune system includes cells that fight off bacterial infections, like T-cells and B-cells. But most of your cells cannot defend you. But in July, scientists discovered a protein that could push out bacteria. If scientists research the protein, they could develop a new type of antibiotic.

An important advancement of 2021 was a new and more powerful quantum computer! Quantum computers can do what super or normal computers can't. These computers use quantum physics for incredible processing capabilities which can revolutionize meteorology, national defence, manufacturing and cyber security.

NASA made oxygen on Mars. NASA's perseverance rover converted Mars's carbon-dioxide-rich atmosphere into oxygen successfully in April. NASA said, "the move could pave the way for science fiction into science fact."

Omicron is supercharging the Covid Vaccine booster.

The Covid 19 booster provides an extra layer of protection against Covid. The Covid vaccine lowers the chance of you getting Covid or you getting sick. Months after Israel made boosters available to everyone, the daily Covid cases remain low.

It has been found that in Canada and the U.S. some bird populations in urban areas increased during the 2020 lockdown. Many animals had the chance to go to normally occupied spaces.

Slime molds can keep track of where they have eaten by changing the circumference of the tubes making up their hollow web...The diameter of tubes tells the slime mold where food is.

Malaria kills approximately half a million people yearly world-wide. An important advancement of 2021 was the malaria vaccine. Malaria is transmitted through a female anopheles mosquito. The symptoms are mainly flu and fever like but other symptoms may happen.

Little known fact: I once had malaria and am very glad to learn from Div. 18 about the vaccine!

Julie Weatherall,

Principal, Dickens Elementary