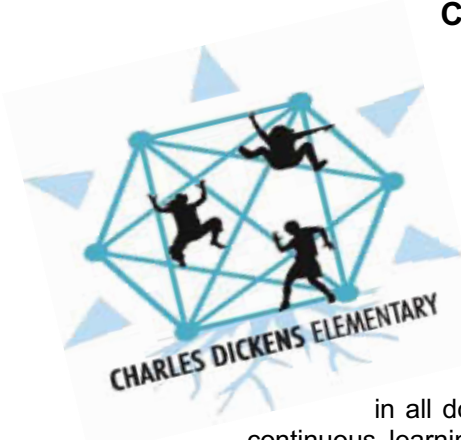


## CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Telephone: (604) 713-4978  
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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



### 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 framework.

# February 2022

We acknowledge that we *learn*, work together, and play on the unceded and traditional territory of the x'məθk'əyəm (Musqueam), selfiwitlh (Tsleil Waututh) and s̓kwxwú7mesh (Squamish Coast Salish) peoples.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Tuesday, February 15<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, February 17<sup>th</sup>: Saleema Noon 30-minute Q & A sessions in classes (grades 1 – 7).**

**Friday, February 18<sup>th</sup>: Pro-D Day – no school for students**

**Monday, February 21<sup>st</sup>: Family Day – school is not in session**

**Tuesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> – Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup>: Jess Dance Sessions in the gym**

**Wednesday, February 23<sup>rd</sup>: Pink Shirt Day – Anti-Bullying Day**

**Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>: 2:00 pm school-wide Early Dismissal – Conferences for some classes**

**Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>: Last day before Spring Break**

**Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>: School reopens after Spring Break**

*Dear Dickens Community:*



### An apple a day...

These days we are so used to hearing about COVID protocols when we talk about keeping healthy that we may have forgotten about good old-fashioned health tips. Fortunately, this year the Healthy Fruit and Vegetable Program is back with bimonthly deliveries of fresh local produce. The program encourages students to develop healthy eating habits and introduces some fruits and vegetables which may be new to students. Since our parent volunteers are not currently able to come into the school, Shelley found a couple of keen helpers to deliver the latest shipment – nothing exotic this time – just a good old-fashioned BC grown apple.

## Gung Hey Fat Choi – Happy Lunar New Year



**This year the first day of Lunar New Year was February 1<sup>st</sup>. At Dickens, classes celebrated by doing a number of different activities ranging from art projects depicting tigers for the Year of the Tiger, paper lanterns and paintings of cherry blossoms; performing a ribbon dance; creating Power Points about Lunar New Year to teach their Kindergarten buddies; cooking chow mein; and making dragons and listening to and rewriting the story of Nian. We wish everyone good luck, good health, and happiness this year. How great to have so many new starts to the year. (New Year's Resolutions, take 2, anyone?)**



**Tigers by Division 7**

The Attack of Nian by Grayon, Division 6

A long time ago, in China, there was Nian and a dragon. They were rivals. The dragon trusted humans. Nian did not. One day, Nian was planning something evil. The day came. Nian terrorized the whole town when the dragon was hibernating. Then, the old emperor who summoned the dragon came with some more animals. There was a horse, hare, pig, sheep, ox, snake, monkey, rooster, dog, rat, and a tiger. They fought Nian and they won.

## SNOW = SNOW PEOPLE – BOTH INSIDE AND OUT THIS JANUARY!



### SNOW PEOPLE

My snowman would go to the water park with me. (Audrey)

My snowman would go to (get) ice cream. (Vanilla)

My snowman would play with me. (Jordan)

**Division 2 Kindergarten**

## STEM ACTIVITIES: Science, Technology, Engineering and Math



Teams of grade 1 and 2 students in Divisions 4, 5 and 7 worked together to see who could build the tallest snowperson using 10 sheets of paper and 1 meter of masking tape. What a great way to practice communication, collaboration, and teamwork – the most important qualities companies are looking for when hiring new employees according to NACE (National Association of Colleges and Employers).



## YOUNG ACTORS PROJECT



The Arts abound at Dickens! A number of classes had the opportunity to work with actor Hayden Clewes of The Young Actors Project and they are having so much fun. Hayden's commanding theatrical voice and entertaining physical comedy have the students riveted and very responsive to the various games and activities he is teaching. And the feeling is mutual: below is a note from Hayden, who has really enjoyed working with Dickens students.

Thank you so much for welcoming me into your wonderful school. From the moment I arrived, I was greeted by an incredibly friendly body of staff, students and parents. The immense talent, kindness and strong sense of community are all incredible attributes to a fine school. I've had so much fun working with the staff and students and am blown away by the willingness to participate, support one another and of course, the obvious talent which ruminates within these school walls. Thank you again and I hope to see you next year!!

All of the best,  
Hayden C.

## Body Science Online

Many parents were able to attend Saleema Noon's Body Science workshop on February 1<sup>st</sup>. She outlined why it is important to teach sexual health at a young age: to introduce the topic when children are receptive and not embarrassed; to make sure trusted adults are the source of their information; to learn the scientific words for body parts; and to understand the basics of consent. Teachers are showing grade/age-appropriate videos this week and Saleema will be here on February 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> to spend 30 minutes in each class (from grades 1 to 7) answering questions.

**DIVISION 15 DETECTIVES:** Division 15 staged a crime scene in Sunny Side Park and then wrote stories. See Detective Dom below with magnifying glass in hand. You can also read the first paragraph of Joanna's story inspired by the crime scene.



# The Angel Of Devils

**By: Joanna**

The soft fiery leaves traced the sky and gracefully flowed onto the amber ground. No one will find the body...it's for sure.

The waiter carefully placed the forest green drink on the polished oak table. The sweet serenade of jazz consumed my eardrums as I whispered a 'Thank you.' to the waiter. My fingertips ghosted and tapped the clacking keyboard deliberately. I may have only been 21 but I flew through law school quicker than a bullet. Law was easy if you could understand human rights. I didn't need the money, but I appreciated it. The money flowed into my bank account like flowers blooming in the spring. I ended my document, softly put my laptop to sleep, gathered my things and left a miniscule puddle of matcha in the prestige ceramic mug. The shiny golden bell let out a small cry as I opened and closed the door. The dry and icy Canadian air froze my lungs and cheeks as I held a deep breath in and slowly let go of it. Warmth was let out of my mouth and a puff of steam floated in the air. I stared under the celestial sheet of silk clouds that gracefully laid over the atmosphere. The dark crept and poisoned the sunset while I checked my security cameras with my phone. He was still in my basement, safe and sound...but not for long.

### **Thanks to PAC!**

Even during the pandemic when the Spring Fling – the biggest fundraiser of the year – has had to be cancelled for the third year running, Dickens parents have managed to come up with ways to fundraise to help provide enrichment for our students. They have supported individual classes and whole school initiatives and we are so grateful. Eric, one of our Music teachers, thanks the PAC for the money he requested for instruments (see his letter below). This month we are having Jess Dance come in to provide 5 lessons per student for a total of 45 lessons over 7 days from February 21 to March 4<sup>th</sup>. Thanks to Kim Frehlick for taking the lead on booking and organizing the dance program and to PAC for funding this special opportunity.

Dear PAC,

I want to thank the Charles Dickens PAC for the funds you generously gave to the music program at Dickens. With the money I was able to purchase 3 Baritone ukuleles, including two left-handed ones. The baritone ukes are smaller than guitars but are tuned like 4-stringed guitars, which make them easier to play for smaller people. With this purchase I have been able to assemble a working set of guitars and baritone ukuleles for a whole class to use. Thank you SO much for your support. I truly appreciate it.

Sincerely, Eric Hartman  
Music teacher

# BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Shelley has been teaching students about Black History this month in the library. She read a number of books to grade 3 and 4 students in Divisions 8 and 9 and as a follow-up activity asked them to answer these questions: 1) Can we fix the past? 2) Should the truth be taught? Here are some of their answers:

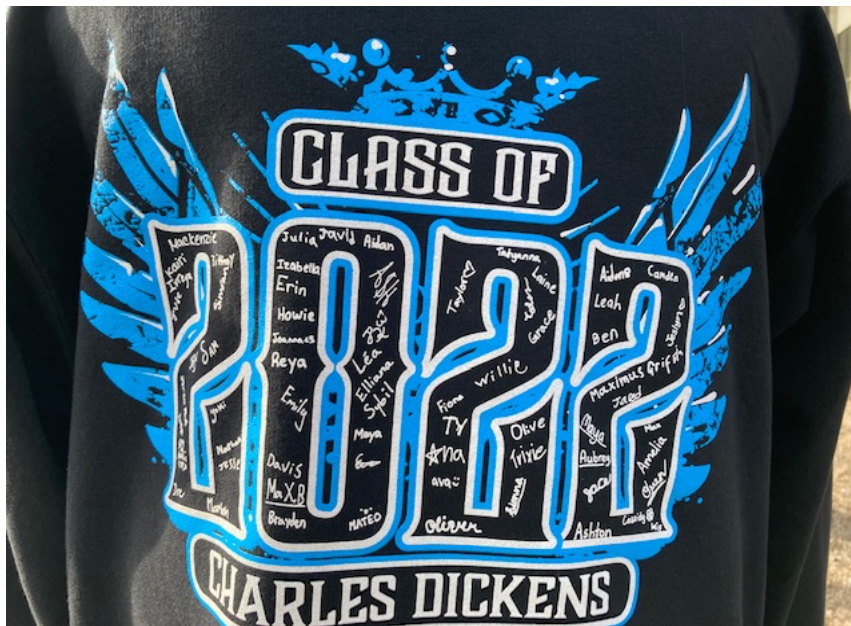
1. I don't think the past can be fixed but you can make up for it in the future by acknowledging what they have done. If people don't realize what is going on there could be big problems in the future. For example, a war could break out and lots of people could get offended.
  2. I think the truth should be taught because some people don't realize what's going on. Ruby Div. 8
- 
1. I believe the truth should be taught because then instead of hiding it we know to never do it again. And if we hide it we will probably do it again. For example, in Canada Indigenous children had to go to a residential school. It was the law. Parents might say no but they would go to jail and their children would get sent without permission. The residential schools were terrible and now Canada knows to not do it any more because the truth was taught. Aymara Div. 8
- 
1. I don't think the past can be fixed but we should acknowledge what we have done.
  2. I think the truth should be shared because if it was not the bad thing might still be happening. Lachlan Div. 8
- 
1. We cannot fix the past, but we can help the future.
  2. Even though we cannot fix the past the truth should be taught because everybody has the right to know what the past means to their life. Mary Lu Div. 8
- 
1. You cannot fix the past.
  2. The truth must be taught because it shouldn't happen again. Noah Div. 8
- 
1. The past cannot be fixed. But if an apology is the best people can do then people should do better.
  2. Yes, but not to kids under the age of 5 years. Lila Div. 9
- 
1. No one can fix it or erase the past, but we can apologize. For example, the government should apologize with words AND actions. Not just send the news a message and call it done. They should take this more seriously and do it properly. Makayla Div. 9
- 
1. You can apologize if you need to, but you can't fix the past.
  2. Yes (the truth should be taught) because some people like Martin Luther – he was trying to make things fair and all people should know to be fair and know Martin Luther is like a hero like other people who were fighting for fair things. Rebecca Div. 9



## HOODIE ALERT!



It's back again – Hoodie Season! It's the time of year when grade 7 students don't have to think about what to wear because what could be more spectacular than a comfortable and fashionable piece of clothing you helped design? Hey, it's got your name on it – and everyone else's too, so PLEASE make sure you write your name INSIDE it as well 'cuz if you lose it there are 68 other ones out there!



Many thanks to Shelley, our VP, for coordinating the ordering and signing of the hoodies, to Carm, our secretary, for dealing with the payments, and for the grade 7 teachers, who were behind the scenes throughout the process. Now that's teamwork!

From Lunar New Year on February 1<sup>st</sup> to Valentine's Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>, Family Day on the 21<sup>st</sup> and Anti-Bullying Day on

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, this is a month with a focus on love, family, kindness and community. In spite of ongoing restrictions due to COVID, individual classes and student council will be finding creative ways to acknowledge these days. It is more important than ever to be kind, empathetic and support one another during the pandemic.

*Julie Weatherall,*

Principal, Dickens Elementary