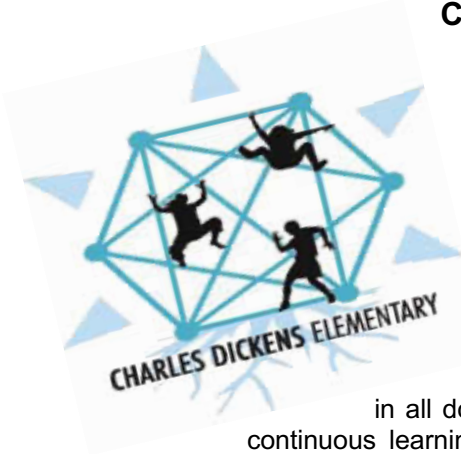


## CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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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



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

# March 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:

**Wednesday, March 9<sup>th</sup>:** Conferences for some classes; 2:00 pm dismissal for all students

**Friday, March 11<sup>th</sup>:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Trial Hot Lunch

**Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> – Friday, March 25<sup>th</sup>:** Spring Break

**Monday, March 28<sup>th</sup>:** School re-opens after Spring Break

**Wednesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>:** Conferences for some classes; 2:00 pm dismissal for all students

**Friday, April 15<sup>th</sup>:** Good Friday

**Monday, April 18<sup>th</sup>:** Easter Monday

**Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>:** Pro-D Day – no school for students

*Dear Dickens Community:*



### READY TO DANCE!

Today was the grand finale of our Jess Dance Residency with master hip-hopper, Kyle. Students have loved learning cool moves and dance routines over the past two weeks, and we loved watching how much they learned in such a short

time at Friday afternoon's performance. We hope to be able to send families from each class their taped performance. A huge shout out to PAC for funding the program and to Kim F. for booking, organizing, and scheduling the lessons and final event. For a live performance, ask your children to show you their moves at home!

## **PINK SHIRT DAY AND A FOCUS ON ANTI-BULLYING: IT STARTS IN OUR LIBRARY**

In February, Shelley and Jaze read many books on kindness and anti-bullying which sparked rich discussions. Read more about the library from Shelley as COVID protocols are allowing us greater flexibility.



Now that school gatherings can bring together multiple groups of students in the building, the library has become a more flexible space. This is exciting news as open book exchange is back on 5 days per week with the addition of a morning drop-in from 8:50-9:00 am and after school drop-in from 3:00 – 3:15 pm. The best news of all is that Student Monitors are back on during their assigned shifts starting March 4<sup>th</sup>. Excitement was in the air during our monitor meeting on Thursday this week. We are so

glad to be opening our doors to more and more groups of students on a regular basis. Thank-you to those of you who supported our Virtual Book Fair this year. It has been heart-warming. Shelley

## **LEARNING KINDNESS FROM A YOUNG AGE**

I got this email from Kim H., Division 1's Kindergarten teacher. Apparently, these students heard the message about respecting our school grounds and Sunny Side Park and responded by picking up litter on our last Pro-D Day.

"I just spotted 2 wonderful kiddos in my class (Heath and Lee) in the playground area with their dad. They are here on their day off to pick up garbage after hearing your announcement the other day about all the extra litter that's been piling up. A special shout-out for their efforts!" Kim H.

## **WHAT'S IN OUR HEARTS BY DIVISION 9**

### **Rebeca's Heart**

Watching the waves

Eating pizza

I like being at school – My teacher's the best.

### **Isaac's Heart**

Videogames are in my heart because they are fun to play.

Biking is in my heart because I can do jumps.

Soccer is in my heart because I can kick the ball as hard as I want.



**Makayla's Heart**

The cat in the heart represents my cat Gilley. I love her because she's so kind and gentle. The ice cream is my sweet tooth. I will devour any flavour in about 30 seconds.  
 Last but not least, my family. They are always there for me.

**Otis's Heart**

I love sports especially soccer because I enjoy finding new tricks in them.  
 I love my family. I love my country. I love the world.

**Shae's Heart**

I love nature because it helps us and it's amazing.  
 I love my friends because I love to play with them and they're awesome.  
 I love Canada because I'm proud to be Canadian.  
 I love laughing because it feels good.

**Ashton's Heart**

Pets, family, food, water, snow, camping, skiing, Earth, sun, rainbows, swimming, fires, travelling, reading, sushi, pizza, hiking, baking, Grandma, Grandpa, hockey, the sky and clouds, stars, mountains, people, colours, the wild, pencils, erasers, ice cream and bubble tea

**Sofia's Heart**

Travelling is in my heart because I like the different foods and traditions.  
 Weather like sunsets, rain, snow and rainbows.  
 Camping is in my heart because I like being with my family around an open campfire.  
 Home is in my heart because it is home. Nothing can replace it.

### **Jocelyn's Heart**

My heart is filled with stuff and I will tell you.  
Sunsets, skiing, snow, Luna (my dog), stuffies.  
Drawing, flowers, my cottage, family, friends, nature.

### **Peter's Heart**

I love pickles, watermelon, Mom, Dad, Beyblades, Hallowe'en, family, ice cream, sunshine,  
soccer, burgers.

### **Lily's Heart**

Sleeping is in my heart because I love sleeping. What I have in my heart is the moon. The moon is beautiful. I also love stars. Their pure beauty makes me so happy. I love my family. Skating makes my ankles hurts but it's still fun! I love my teacher, Laura. She makes me safe and happy.

### **Isabella's Heart**

Cuddles because that's sometimes how I show love.  
Art because it is peaceful.  
Rollerblades. I love rollerblading around my house

### **Jeremiah's Heart**

My house because it is fancy and warm.  
Ice cream because it is sweet and can help me cool off on a hot summer's day  
Earth because it is our home.  
Writing because it can help me express myself and I like to imagine while I write fiction stories.

### **Lila's Heart**

My cute puppy Willow.  
Animals. I love animals.  
Pink is my favourite colour.  
My family but Isaac can be annoying.  
Doodling because it's fun.

### **Lucas's Heart**

Some of the stuff in my heart is food because it makes me feel really happy.  
Something else in my heart is friends because they make me feel like I am having fun.  
My favourite thing in my heart is my family.

### **Precious's Heart**

In my heart is my teacher because she teaches me good things and she is helpful.  
In my heart is my family because my sister helps me and my Mom and Dad help me when I can't get something.

### **Nixon's Heart**

The pizza means how much I like it.  
The piano means that I play piano.  
The house means that I like staying indoors.  
The stars mean that I like starwatching.

### **Danielle's Heart**

These are the things that are in my heart.  
There is a microphone in my heart because I love to sing.  
My family and friends are in my heart because they make me happy.  
The music notes are in my heart because I love music.

### **Jessie's Heart**

I love trees because they give us air.  
I also love the earth because we live on the Earth and if it didn't exist, we would not be alive.  
I love snow and it's fluffy and cold.  
I love Canada because it's where I live.

### **Lexy's Heart**

Pizza is in my heart because it's one of my favourite foods. Especially pizza with cheese when it's warm because it melts in my mouth.  
Rain is in my heart because it makes plants grow such as grass, flowers and trees.  
Music is in my heart because it makes me want to dance and sing.  
A sunset is in my heart because it looks wonderful with all those pretty colours.

### **Lawrence's Heart**

I love my family  
Dancing  
Oreos  
KFC

### **Josie's Heart**

These are all the things and people that are in my heart.  
My younger brothers are in my heart because they like to play with me and they are cute.  
Soccer is in my heart because it's a fun sport.  
My friends are in my heart because I can depend on them and they play with me.

### **Jacky's Heart**

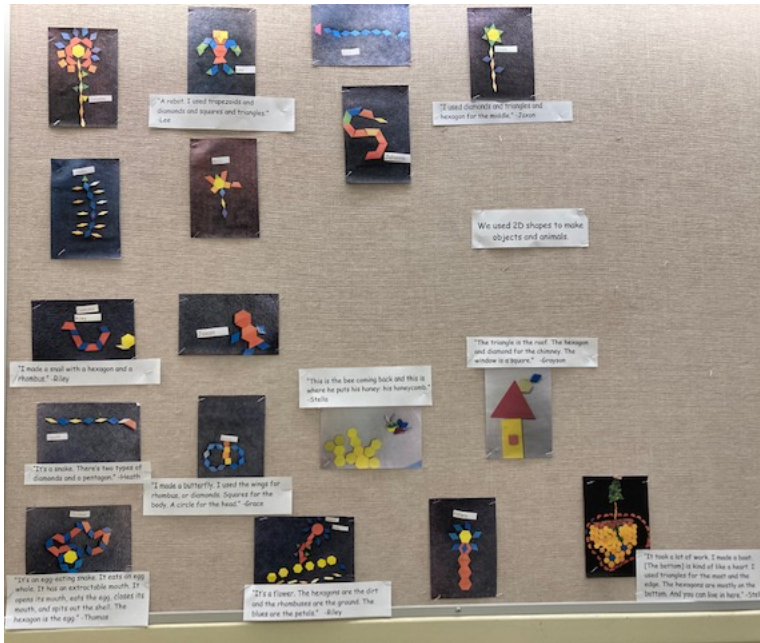
In my heart is traveling because traveling is really fun.  
In my heart is stars because they are really beautiful.  
In my heart is drawing because I love drawing.  
In my heart is the ocean because it looks really beautiful.  
In my heart is helping because we can't just watch electronics all day.  
In my heart is my family because they help me do things every day.

### **Ben's Heart**

French fries are my favourite food. I've been eating them my whole life.  
I like forests because nature helps everything. Being next to the trees feels calming.  
Books are in my heart because they can be about anything.  
Camping is in my heart because I like being with my family, fishing and being in the wilderness.  
I like rain because it can help plants grow. When it dries up and the sun comes out, it can make a rainbow.



## DIVISION 1 USED 2-D SHAPES TO MAKE OBJECTS AND ANIMALS



“A robot. I used trapezoids and diamonds and squares and triangles.” Lee

“I used diamonds and triangles and hexagon for the middle.” Jaxon

“The triangle is the roof. The hexagon and diamond for the chimney. The window is a square.” Grayson

“I made a snail with a hexagon and a rhombus.” Riley

“It’s a snake. There’s two types of diamonds and a pentagon.” Heath

“I made a butterfly. I used the wings for rhombus, or diamonds. Squares for the body. A circle for the head.” Grace

“It’s a flower. The hexagons are the dirt, and the rhombuses are the ground. The blues are the petals.” Riley

“This is the bee coming back and this is where he puts his honey: his honeycomb.” Stella

“It took a lot of work. I made a boat. (The bottom) is kind of like a heart. I used triangles for the mast and the edge. The hexagons are mostly on the bottom. And you can live in here.” Stella

“It’s an egg-eating snake. It eats an egg whole. It has an extractable mouth. It opens its mouth, eats the egg, closes its mouth, and spits out the shell. The hexagon is the egg.” Thomas

## DIVISION 13 LEARNED ABOUT WATERCOLOUR TECHNIQUES



A while ago, my class and I did watercolour, a big part of art class. It involved many different things such as practicing techniques and mapping. Practicing the techniques was the one we did the most, and it was also the start of us doing watercolour. There were many different techniques such as bleeding, which involved making the paint spread out and “bloom”. The mapping was done outside, and it was in three

parts. In each of the parts we were supposed to find something that caught our eye and then draw it with a pencil. Afterward we were supposed to colour it in with watercolour, then draw black dotted lines to make it look like a map. My class has done a lot of watercolour, and I think we'll be doing more in the future. By Avery Gr. 4

## DIVISION 7 STUDIED BATS AND BAT ABILITIES

The Stanley Park Ecology Society visited Division 7 students for a lesson on bats outside in Sunny Side Park. Afterwards students wrote about the bat ability they would choose and why. You can read a couple of examples below.

What would it look like? Draw it below!



If I had a bat ability it would be to hang upside-down while I am sleeping. I think it is cool because I could see the world upside down. I have already seen the world right-side up. Now it is time for me to see the world upside-down!

By Connor Gr. 1

If I could choose to have a bat ability I would choose flying because it would be awesome! I would always take a night fly. I'd take a fly back to Calgary. I could fly my family on a vacation without paying. If there was a night school, I would fly with my backpack every day. I would go wherever you find a...NAKED MOLE RAT! (*This is an inside joke with the teacher.*) I would also fly to space. I want to find Jupiter. If I could ever fly to Africa I would fly and adopt a pet. It has always been my dream to adopt a pet from Africa. I would have two pets because I don't want to replace my one and only favourite animal, the naked mole rat. I would fly with my bat wings with my pets of course. My name would be Winged Human. I would save people. I also have time for night school, and I would go to an airplane job. If the airplane fell, I would save the people. The ride would be free. I would let my family ride on my plane and, of course, my pets would be with me. – And Winged Human out!

P.S. I don't run into anything because I still have seeing in the dark! By Marlowe Gr. 2



## DIVISIONS 10 and 11 WROTE AN OPERA



Project Opera: What the students like most:

Painting sets

Writing Arias

Making the props

Acting, performing

Making Arias and doing the melodies

Performing in front of others

Seeing it all come together

Props which are fun to use

Making the Arias

Painting the backdrops

Full cast of two operas based on Picasso and Leonardo da Vinci



### **Aria 2 - Anything is Possible by Div. 11**

Why did we crash the flying machine? Zoro was so sad  
One mistake and you fall down  
But it wasn't so bad!

My hopes have been lifted  
Up to the sky  
I have been inspired  
Now I know how people can fly



**Anything is possible**  
**We won't give up this time It starts with an idea**  
**This mountain we can climb**

**We've found a way**  
**Never let your dreams fall Nothing is impossible**  
**So stand up tall**

Is Zoro okay?  
We need to make another one Was it too heavy?  
Maybe the next will touch the sun

We felt ashamed  
We took it without permission  
To make it even better  
Maybe we can make an addition

### **refrain**

My hopes have been lifted  
Up to the sky  
I have been inspired  
Now I know how people can fly

We feel very encouraged Now we know what to do Just add all the pieces Leonardo it's  
up to you! **refrain**

### **BEAUTIFUL MISTAKES AND DESIRABLE DIFFICULTY**



Poster by Division 17

For the past few years, particularly since the publication of *Mindset* by Carol Dweck in 2006, educators have been encouraging students to have a growth mindset rather than a fixed mindset. Because of the neuroplasticity of the brain, we can continue to learn and form new connections throughout our lives. In fact, some of our deepest learning comes after making a mistake or overcoming a challenge. While adults often want to protect children from making mistakes and to praise them for their work, the opposite is true. They can learn so much from trying, failing, and trying again. They are also better motivated by encouragement rather than praise. Specific feedback instead of general comments is infinitely more valuable in helping students move ahead in their learning. The next time your child shows you their schoolwork, try a specific comment rather than a compliment. For example, 'I like the way you used so many descriptive words in your writing: I can really make a picture in my mind.' 'At the beginning of the year, you didn't know how to do long division, but you worked hard to understand it, you practiced a lot and now you can.' 'Just two weeks ago you didn't know how to do hip hop dancing and now you can do a lot of the moves and remember a whole dance sequence.' Next time your child says, 'I can't do that', reply, 'you can't do that yet.'

Below see an excerpt from the Learning and the Brain Educational Newsletter which presents more new ideas about education that researchers have learned by applying Brain Science.

### [The Downsides of Desirable Difficulties](#)

For several years now, we've been talking about the benefits of "desirable difficulties."

For instance, we know that *spreading practice out over time* helps students learn more than does *doing all the practice at once*.

Why? Because that schedule creates greater mental challenges. Our students must think harder.

In other words: "spacing" creates "desirable difficulty."

Likewise, we know that *jumbling many topics together during practice* helps students learn more than does *practicing only one thing at a time*.

Why? Students face greater cognitive challenges as they try to figure out which strategy to use or topic to notice.

Desirable difficulty.

Wishing you the hard work, mistakes, mess, and joy of learning.  
And wishing you a wonderful Spring Break and the joy of relaxing ☺.

*Julie Weatherall,*

Principal, Dickens Elementary



## **FREE Glee Club Class**

Little Jammerz will be running a free online Glee Club Class for students that love to sing and perform in Grades 1-5  
Students will learn to sing & perform pop songs with cool dance moves.  
We focus on pitch, breathing, and performing techniques  
The class will be taught live online using Zoom. To Sign up please go to [littlejammerz.com/apr7](http://littlejammerz.com/apr7) or scan the qr code at the bottom with your phone

**DATE: Thursday April 7th, 2022**  
**TIME: 5PM-5:30PM**

**To Sign Up: Go Online to**  
**[LittleJammerz.com/apr7](http://LittleJammerz.com/apr7)**

**or**

**Scan This QR Code below to open link:**



For any questions please contact: [info@littlejammerz.com](mailto:info@littlejammerz.com)