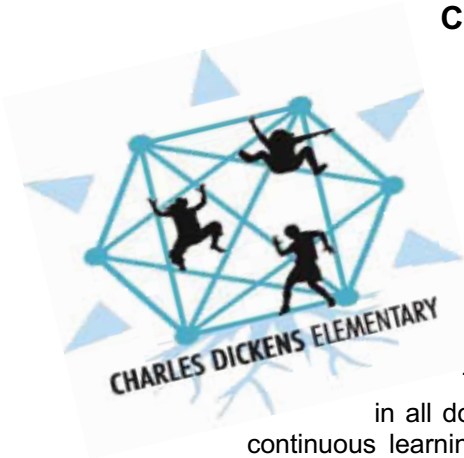


## CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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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

# April 2022

We acknowledge that we *learn*, work together, and play on the unceded and traditional territory of the x̱m̱əθḵəy̱əm (Musqueam), seɬíwíɬulh (Tsleil Waututh) and s̱ḵw̱x̱w̱ú7mesh (Squamish Coast Salish) peoples.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

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

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

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

**Wednesday, April 20<sup>th</sup>: Immunization Clinic – Ks and Grade 6 & 7s**

**Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>: Class Photo Day & Earth Day**

**Monday, April 25<sup>th</sup>: Pro-D Day – School is not in session for students**

*Dear Dickens Community:*

**Looking for Sloof Lirpas.**



On April Fools' Day students from Division 7 were busy looking for the rare Sloof Lirpa bird. Apparently, they have been seen enjoying marshmallows at Kits Beach. The grade 1 and 2 students headed to Sunny Side Park with grand hopes of catching their very own Sloof Lirpa using marshmallows on skewers as bait. Unfortunately, the rare Sloof Lirpa bird was not to be found. After all it was April Fools' Day – which spelled backwards is...

Division 16 was kind enough to call me up to their class for a special gift – a box of Tim Horton's donuts. I opened the box, imagining a delicious pink iced donut, only to find a beautiful selection of – wait for it – raw vegetables! April Fools!





**Refugees:** Students in Division 18 have been talking about refugees as they read *Refugee* by Alan Grantz and follow current events. Picture response to the left by Mateo.

Students had to define 'refugee', summarize the book, and discuss the responsibilities of the individual, of society and of Canada to fight for those being persecuted. Below are some excerpts.

**A refugee is:**

- A person who flees from their country. It is important to remember refugees can range from any age group. (Simran)
- A person who is forced to leave their country due to persecution, war and climate issues such as drought and flooding. (Yuki)
- 50% of the refugees in the world are children (Jude)
- Refugees sometimes go to a refugee camp and

can be there for their entire adulthood. (Maximus)

- They are usually not well received but it depends on the country. (Willie)

**The book, *Refugee*, by Alan Gratz:**

- The story takes place in Cuba, Germany, and Syria. The reason this all happened is because of war and revolution. (Steven)
- Explores the theme of how history repeats itself (Henry)
- Explores the theme of loss... the three characters all lose important loved family members. (Olive)
- The characters face grief, hatred, and loss. The story shows how resilient children can be. (Peter)
- Explores the theme that refugees have existed for thousands of years. (Grace)

**Our responsibility to refugees:**

- We should share our resources more and be more anti-racist (Christal)
- If we don't do anything to help, refugees will continue to struggle and go through hard times. (Jeslyn)
- Support them with free housing, jobs and help educate them about our country. (Taylor)
- I think that every country should help. (Seb)
- If Canada doesn't do anything people will die and people will suffer. (Finn)
- I think the responsibility of Canadians should be to not be racist or homophobic. (Ehra)

## **Division 9 wrote about Black People in History.**

### **Viola Desmond**

Viola Desmond stands out to me the most. She sat in the “whites only” seating. She was arrested and put in jail. If I was her, I would have given up but she kept persevering. She did not lose hope. She knew this was not right. Because of her, many black people decided to stand up for themselves. She went to court. She won her case. She inspires me to stand up for myself when people are being mean to me. She also inspires me to keep going. This is why she is my favourite Black inspirational Canadian citizen. By Jeremiah

### **The Underground Railroad**

The Underground Railroad was a network of people that inspired me. The Underground Railroad had a lot of very brave people that invented it. These people used the railroad to escape slavery. It was a huge accomplishment to make the Underground Railroad in the 1800s. It inspires me because people kept going back for others. If I were in their position, I don't think I would have done that so that is inspirational to me. Many people have escaped to Canada aka heaven looking for a better life. By Otis

### **Harriet Tubman**

Harriet Tubman was a black freedom fighter that saved thousands of slaves. These reasons are why she inspired me. Firstly, she inspired me because she travelled so far to escape but she was also dedicated to freedom and to help others. Harriet freed over 200 slaves, only by walking, even after she became free. Secondly, Harriet became a spy for the Union army which was very dangerous work. She would scout out enemy territory and make plans for invasions. Harriet was so brave in her lifetime and if I were her, I wouldn't have done anything she did. Those are the reasons Harriet Tubman inspired me. By Makelya

### **Willie O'Ree**

One of the black Canadians that inspires me is Willie O' Ree. The reasons why he inspires me are firstly he is the first black Canadian to play in the NHL despite being almost totally blind in his right eye because of a puck injury. Hockey fans would yell mean words at him, but Willie stayed calm. Secondly, he met Jackie Robinson, the baseball player, and he became known as the Jackie Robinson of hockey. Thirdly, he received the order of Canada in 2008 for his pioneering in hockey. He was inducted to the National Hockey League Hall of Fame in June 2018. These are all the reasons why Willie O'Ree inspires me. By Josie

## Story Workshop Lunch and Learn

Our Pro-D Committee invited District Literacy teachers to Dickens to give a presentation on 'Story Workshop'. Kindergarten teacher, Bernie, describes it below.

“Story Workshop connects and amplifies the relationship between play, art, and writing”.

Children create images using a variety of materials and tell a story through their creative play. They use this story as a base for their writing. “Children in every classroom environment feel empowered to transition from play to pencil as they add words to their stories”. Story Workshop will help create entry points for writing, and we are hoping that the children will build confidence and will be motivated to share their stories in writing.



Grade 1 and 2 students in Division 4 wrote some intriguing stories using the Story Workshop process. Here are some snippets:

Once upon a time there lived a little family of four. There were two children and two parents. One day they decided that they would go collect gems. They said, “We are poor we need some

money I think we should go get some gems". So they did. Unfortunately, they unexpectedly found a monster...that nobody had ever defeated.... By Jane

In a land far far away but not too far away there lived a wolf. The wolf was very hungry, and it didn't have any food, so it looked in its first saving spot but it didn't have any food.... By Esmee

Hundreds, thousands, millions of years ago before the humans came the animals, the seals lived in peace and then the first whale came... By Callum

Once upon a time there was a fairy fox. The fairy fox was cold and hungry and tired. It found a pond that was frozen. The fairy fox looked in the frozen reflection. All of a sudden he teleported to a cave. It had lots of food. The fox was very happy. By Harriet

Once upon a time there was a family. One night the baby Kaly walked to the ocean. The ocean was full of jewels. Kaly saw a beluga whale on the beach...so he saved him...The family decided they would live in the ocean and they lived happily ever after. By Emily I.

### **Friday Journals by Division 13**

Every Friday grade 4 and 5 students in Division 13 write to their parents about three highlights from their week. Read some examples below:

Dear parents, This week was fun!

Math: This week we had a division quiz on Wednesday. Before Kenny handed out the empty math sheets I was really nervous. Once the sheet was on my desk and I had solved the first couple of questions, I really got my groove. I quickly finished and I got 10 out of 10! I am proud of myself for learning division fast, and for doing so well on the quiz. By AJ

Music: On the ukulele we are learning how to play the theme song of Mission Impossible. I like playing it because it is easy to learn but I get blisters easily. I like playing marimbas better because you won't get blisters. By Katelyn

Dear Mom and Dad I am so happy to tell you about my week starting with math. In math we did remainders fractions like this (example provided).

Next in theme we did an immigration Japanese timeline about Vancouver. But one thing I learned was a lot of Japanese people lived in Vancouver. By Olivia

My classmate and I did a challenge area. We played with a robot called Edison. In my opinion it is like an advanced ozobot. It was really exciting because coding challenges my brain. By Kalena



READ > RETURN > REPEAT



In recognition of Earth Day on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022 this year, the Dickens Library has a display mixing themes and materials. We also reused the book jackets for our bulletin! We are showcasing new and repurchased books as well as updated sections of our library including non-fiction and fiction materials: space and exploration, comparative theologies, body health, and environmentalism as well as popular series titles in our school like *Keeper of the Lost Cities* and *The Kane Chronicles*. In addition, we are reading books about our planet and how we can be positive partners in our relationship with our world. We encourage all students and staff in our educational

ecosystem to continue to use our three “Rs” – READ, RETURN and REPEAT! ♪ Shelley & Jaze

## Coming out of COVID

The last two years have changed our lives and our world. Not only have we been through 5 (or is it 6?) waves of the pandemic, but we have also witnessed the Black Lives Matter movement, the Freedom Convoy and most recently the Russian invasion of the Ukraine. We’ve had to learn how to adjust to constantly changing health and safety protocols. We’ve had to isolate from friends and extended family, meet only with those in ‘our bubble’ and just as we thought we could finally celebrate the festive season with friends and families once again, Omicron put a kibosh on those plans.

Schools have had to pivot and reinvent how to ‘do school’ so many times, yet here we are – not just surviving, but in many cases thriving. At our latest staff meeting we were delighted to discuss returning to ‘school pre-COVID style’. Following positive and inclusive approaches, we are moving to in-person events, field trips, no more staggered breaks, and no line ups. (Primary teachers have continued to meet their classes at their usual line-up spots to ensure they are safe, but at recess and lunch our littles are making their way back to class independently.) We have been very impressed with how smoothly things have gone. In fact, during these times of unimaginably stressful world news, I get my good news fix by coming to school and spending time with your children.

*Julie Weatherall,*

Principal, Dickens Elementary