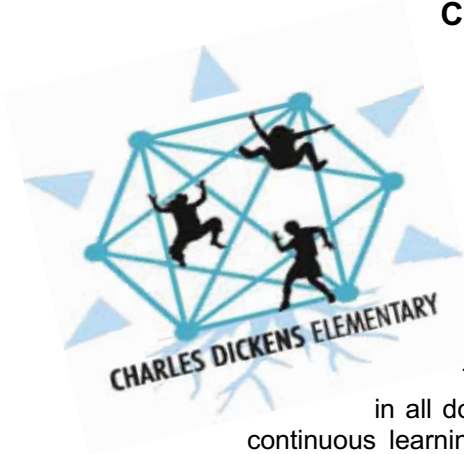


CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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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

May 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 s̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish Coast Salish) peoples.

IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY AND JUNE:

Monday, May 9th: PAC sponsored Storytelling Presentation for all students

Monday, May 23rd: Victoria Day – School is not in session

Thursday, May 26th: Annex Grade 3s visit Dickens from recess through lunch

Friday, May 27th: Talent Show in the afternoon

Wednesday, June 1st: Welcome to Kindergarten – 10:50 – 12:00

Friday, June 3rd: SPORTS DAY

Wednesday, June 8th: Music Concert for Students

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

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 – 12:00 – 2:30

Wednesday, June 29th: Last day for students – report cards go home

Dear Dickens Community:



On May 5th Dickens staff, students and parents participated in 'The Big 1 @ 2:00' (AKA the Earthquake Drill) so we would be ready in the event of an earthquake. Thanks parent volunteers!

Earthquake Bin



The large container by the basketball courts contains everything we would need in the event of an earthquake: food, water, blankets, radio equipment etc. It also contains tables which can be set up as stations: Command Centre, First Aid, Parent Check-in, & Student Reunification. Dickens, like all VSB schools, has an Emergency Plan which is updated annually and includes staff roles and instructions. Some of the roles are Radio Operator, staff trained in search and rescue, staff with First Aid training, staff to check parent ID and help them sign in, and runners to get the students from their line-up spots and bring them to the Student Reunification Centre, etc.



Every time we do a drill, we learn more about what we need to improve – from signage and directions to numbers of staff required at each station. Thanks to our parent volunteers who help us with the most important part of the process – getting your children safely back to you!

Pre-COVID, PAC members took on the task of painting the Earthquake Bin. Here are BEFORE and AFTER images of the bin from the summer of 2019. The whole story and the full **TRANSFORMATION** of the Earthquake Bin in photos can be seen on the [Dickens PAC Blog](#).

Our First Assembly!



Imagine a school where every Monday morning students gathered in the gym for messages, announcements, and small informal presentations. Imagine that the connections built among divisions and students of all ages helped create a close and caring culture. Imagine the feeling

of belonging, and the opportunity for students from kindergarten to grade 7 to be part of a cooperative community. Then imagine that, as a principal of the school, you had only heard about these assemblies but had never experienced them because of COVID and the restrictions on gatherings. On Monday, May 2nd I was finally able to experience the magic of the Dickens Monday Morning Assembly. Run with amazing poise and confidence by grade 5 students from Division 15, it was everything I had been told and more. From the student leadership to the quiet respectful audience, and the students who proudly presented their work and spoke about projects being done in their classrooms, it defined what Dickens is all about. Thanks to Karim for working with our first student leaders and helping them bring back the Monday Morning Assembly with aplomb!

Here are three poems by students in Division 11 which were read at our first assembly.

If you're not from Vancouver, you don't know the rain.
You can't know the rain.
The soft drizzle of the wet rain.
The soft sound of the rain hitting the ground.
The plain, cold and dry smell of the rain.
The rain making you very wet.
When the rain hits the floor it is like jello exploding.
The texture of rain is wet, cold and fragile.
The rain colour is a thousand colours together making a shifting world in one drop.
If you're not from Vancouver, you can't know the rain.

By Thimath

If you're not from Vancouver, you don't know the clouds,
You can't know the clouds.

They're so bouncy,
But yet so chunky.
I think we can eat them but it is unknown
When you figure it out, your mind will be blown.

It shines so bright it makes people blind. They're visible but you can't touch them.

They shine,
They thunder,
They rain,
They make great photo shoots,
They control the rain,
They move like a person moving metal,
They grow brilliant shapes and yet grow however
They want.

If you're not from Vancouver, you don't know the clouds.

By Cameron

Pink

Pink looks like the little pretty cherry blossoms from Japan.

Pink is like pigs oinking.

Pink is like sweet cotton candy.

Pink feels like falling down into pink daffodils.

Pink smells like a bouquet of pink roses.

Pink is love on Valentine's Day.

Pink is Spring in Japan.

Pink is the youngest sister in the red family.

By Hannah

Building: A model of Charles Dickens Elementary School



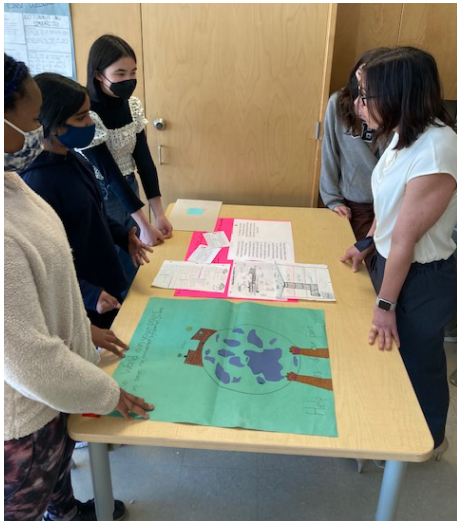
It's in the details. Ryan from Division 13 decided to build a model of our school using cardboard, plastic, and other materials. This photo does not do justice to the careful thought that went into the project in terms of detail and accuracy. Ryan has made the main wing, the multipurpose room and gym to relative scale and used a transparency sheet for the windows in the multipurpose room. He even represented the large granite spheres in the red courtyard.

Ryan's project is indicative of how the BC Redesigned Curriculum allows students to pursue their personal interests to develop skills in different subject areas and to practice the Core Competencies of Communication, Critical and Creative Thinking and Personal and Social Identity. ADST (Applied Design, Skills, and Technologies) embraces everything from design, DIY, Home Economics, Technology, and myriad new and emerging fields. With its focus on 'designing thinking principles', the ADST curriculum allows for flexible teaching and learning opportunities to support the diverse needs and interests of students.

A New Director of Instruction and Another Fabulous Tour of Dickens



Director of Instruction, Shannon Burton with Tour Guides, Joanna and Aubrey from Division 15 in front of a display of water colour art from their class.



Students from Division 16 presented their research on the cistern rainwater collection system at Dickens.

Ms. Burton was very impressed by the thorough research the students had done around the rainwater system at Dickens and recognized how connected to their school and how passionate about the environment they were. Since coming to Dickens Ms. Burton has already gotten in contact with the VSB Director of Facilities who informed her that a proper investigation into the rainwater system is currently underway. Once that investigation has concluded and findings have been analyzed they will be shared with the class.

Audrey and Division 16 students are encouraged by the board's decision to further investigate the system and remain hopeful that careful consideration will guide and inform the environmental impact this decision will have. The vision for the rainwater system at Dickens is in keeping with the Seven Generation philosophy held by the Haudenosaunee Indigenous Elders' decision making based on the next seven generations forward.

"The Peacemaker taught us about the Seven Generations. He said, when you sit in council for the welfare of the people, you must not think of yourself or of your family, not even of your generation. He said, make your decisions on behalf of the seven generations coming, so that they may enjoy what you have today."

Oren Lyons (Seneca)
Faithkeeper, Onondaga Nation

CLASSROOM PLACEMENTS 2022-2023

At this time, schools are in the beginning stages of planning for the 2020-21 school year. This process involves working to best support our students in having a smooth transition to the next school year. As a staff, we know our students in the school context and engage in a rigorous class placement process. This involves thoughtful collaboration and consideration of a number of factors including:

- social connections
- learning styles and strengths
- social connections
- English language learning needs
- special learning needs
- leadership abilities
- previous classroom/family history
- class size composition (Ministry / VSB)

We approach placement decisions carefully. Each student's social, emotional, and academic needs are considered. Please note that parent letters about class placement are not being accepted at the office. If you have some additional information regarding your child's learning, please share this directly with your child's teachers. Thank you in advance for your attention to this matter.

Storyteller Naomi Steinberg entertaining Dickens' students at a PAC-sponsored event.



On Monday, May 9th storyteller Naomi Steinberg gave two presentations to Dickens' students at Primary and Intermediate assemblies. She connected the telling of traditional and cultural stories to the themes of Antiracism and Diversity which our school has been working on throughout the year. Students had the opportunity to participate with actions as well as echo responses. It was wonderful to see that oral storytelling can still captivate an audience of 21st century learners. And it was amazing to be able to gather in the gym once again to enjoy an activity as a group. We are looking forward to having a number of important school events in person in June – from a concert, the Talent Show, Welcome to Kindergarten, Sports Day and our Grade 7 Leaving Event. Stay tuned for details 😊.

Julie Weatherall,

Principal, Dickens Elementary