

LORD STRATHCONA ELEMENTARY

592 East Pender Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1V5

Tel: 604-713-4630

Principal: Mr. Jason Eng

Vice Principal: Mr. Dominic Maggiolo

PAC Chairperson: Ms. Krista Sigurdson

School Trustee Liason: Barb Parrott

APRIL NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Strathcona Families,

In what has been the most unique school year I've ever been a part of, it is hard to believe that there are only two months left! With all the ongoing developments with Covid-19 and additional health and safety measures in place, it is definitely going to be a different Spring. Large gatherings, field trips (other than local walking excursions), Spring concerts, the PAC Spring Fair, and a traditional grade 7 farewell and leaving ceremony cannot happen.

Strathcona staff are working very hard to pivot and find alternate ways of doing things. There is a tremendous amount of outdoor learning taking place throughout many classes. There is also great excitement surrounding the carving project taking place in the courtyard every Friday. Read on for more information!

May/June is also the time where we start to plan for the 2021-22 school year. As we find ways to celebrate our grade 7 leaving class, we are also excited to welcome in our incoming kindergarten cohort...stay tuned for information about the Welcome to K event.

Take care everyone as we prepare for the final stretch!

Jason Eng
Principal Strathcona

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

Just a reminder that if you have changed your address or telephone number, you must contact the school office with this new information. Please provide a copy of your lease/rental/purchase agreement for the student's record. For safety and enrolment purposes, it is vital that the school office has this information.

DAILY ATTENDANCE

Daily school attendance is important for all students. Students who attend school regularly are more engaged in learning, have a greater sense of belonging to the community and are more likely to graduate high school. Perfect attendance should be a goal because even missing two days of school a month works out to a student missing the equivalent of one month of school a year. Research shows that 18 school days missed can lead to one grade lost. Your child should attend school every day unless there is an unavoidable cause like illness. If you have questions around when to keep your child home from school due to illness, please see information at the end of this newsletter, or follow this link:



<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/lord-strathcona/Families/Frequently-Asked-Questions/Pages/default.aspx>

When children arrive at school on time they start the day off more positively. When children attend school consistently, they are able to build stronger relationships with their teachers and classmates. It is difficult to 'catch children up' when they miss a significant amount of teacher instruction because of late arrivals. In some cases, valuable teacher time can also be compromised and these late arrivals/absences impact the learning not only of the child who is absent/late but also of his/her classmates.

Please let us know if there is any way we can support you in getting your child to school. Please contact us in the office 604-713-4630 to discuss your ideas or concerns.

ENGLISH KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

We may have spaces left in our English Kindergarten classes for September 2021. If you have a child born in 2016, please register them ASAP in order to help secure your child’s placement in their home school. Once classes are full, new Kindergarten registrants will be placed on a waitlist. Please follow this link for information and to begin the registration process: https://www.vsb.bc.ca/School/School-Registration/Kindergarten_Registration/Pages/Default.aspx



STRATHCONA WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN EVENT

If you have a child entering Kindergarten at Strathcona in September 2021, please join us virtually in mid-May for our Welcome to Kindergarten event. You and your child will have an opportunity to meet Strathcona staff, learn more about Strathcona Elementary, and participate in some fun learning activities. At the end of the event, you will receive a ‘Welcome to Kindergarten’ bag filled with supplies, such as books, crayons, paper, and scissors. More details to come, please check your email and junk mail folder regularly!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WHAT’S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Friday, May 14 th	Last day to order school photos
Monday, May 24 th	Victoria Day, school not in session
Tuesday, June 29 th	Last day of school for students

STUDENT SHOWCASE



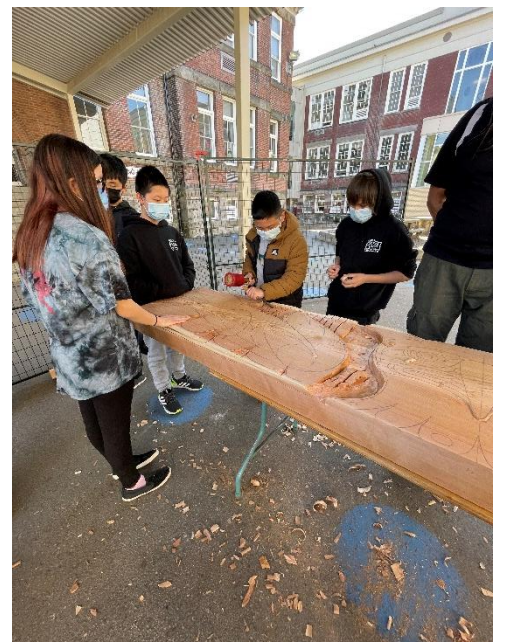
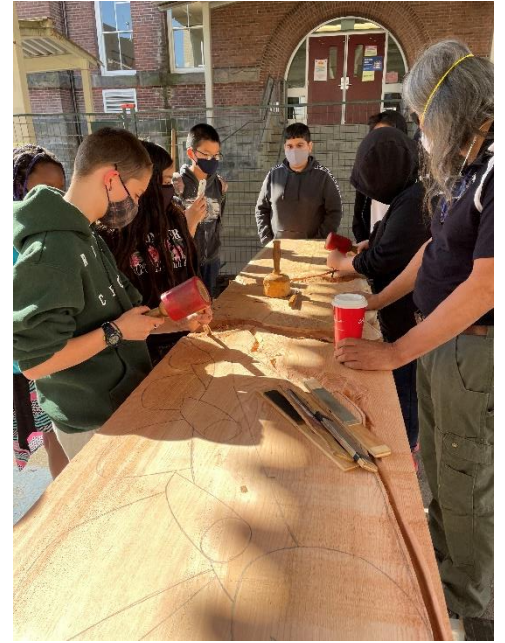
Division 16 – Mme. Pamela’s Class

Division 16F had fun practicing their group work skills while building structures with mini marshmallows and toothpicks on Friday afternoon! There was one prize for tallest structure, another prize for the structure that could hold up the most weight, and a final prize for coolest tunnel. The classroom was full of nonstop giggling as the structures kept collapsing... likely due to a few team members who couldn't help but 'sample' the building materials for quality control!



Strathcona Carving Project

Over the last few weeks, classes have had a chance to work with Xwalacktun, the carver on the project. This has been an incredible experience and we feel lucky to have Xwalacktun engaging with our youths. Both Robin Roberts (Indigenous Education Teacher) and Donna Lokhorst (Indigenous Education Worker) have been instrumental in supporting this by teaching students about the history and tools used to carve. Below are pictures of the progress on the carving project.





Dear Strathcona Parents/Guardians,

We cancelled our April PAC meeting so that our board could use the time to meet. Our next general meeting will be Wed May 19th at 6:30pm.

This year (2020-21) is going to be my last year as PAC chair. It has been so fun but it's time for me to focus on my job, family and volunteering at DPAC. Our board has not yet identified a parent/guardian interested in running for chair. I would be happy to vice-chair under a new chair to help with the transition. The PAC will have it's AGM in Sept 2021 and board members and chair will be elected at that meeting.

Thanking teachers/staff

The PAC board met and would like to spend PAC dollars on thanking teachers/staff this year. Normally, we would plan a potluck or bring in catering but neither are possible this year. Instead, this year, we'd like to purchase \$15 gift cards to Finch's for each of our 90 staff/teachers. In order for this to happen, we will vote on this budget item at our May meeting. **We will need volunteers to help make cards for each staff member so let us know if you can help.** Bring your ideas and your volunteering efforts to our May meeting! These funds will be drawn from PAC fundraised dollars, not from our gaming grant, which prohibits use on teacher/staff gifts. Hopefully, we will be able to continue thanking teachers in this way in future years by rotating support for local businesses but this depends on fundraising capacity/interest.

Rattle Making Workshop

The PAC voted at our March general meeting to fund \$1000 towards a rattle making workshop to be held at the school and facilitated by a local Indigenous elder. This workshop is being organized by Jamie Smallboy, the PAC Indigenous Rep and Donna Lokhorst, Indigenous Enhancement Worker, for which the PAC is very grateful. Two grade 6/7 classes (Mr. Larson's and Ms. Chudnovsky's classes) will be participating in this pilot program hopefully to be continued in future years. Jamie and Krista are also applying for a small neighborhood grant to continue and grow this work. These photos feature the students collecting rocks for the rattles at CRAB park and Jamie introducing them to the project. Thank you Jamie, Ms. Lokhorst, Mr. Larson and Ms. Chudnovsky!



Strathcona Elementary Book Drive

The PAC is excited to announce that we are facilitating a book drive for the school library to expand its collection of books that feature BIPOC (Black, Indigenous, People of Color) characters or are written by BIPOC authors. From now until the end of the school year, we are hoping parents can help build the library's collection of age-appropriate picture books, chapter books and novels. Ms. Hong, our fantastic school librarian has created a list of wanted books [here](#).

There are three ways you can participate:

1. Visit [Massy Books](#), Indigenous owned bookstore, to purchase books from this [list](#) of requested books. The PAC chair will pick these up or you can deliver to school c/o Ms. Hong, librarian.
2. Donate directly to the PAC [here](#) and the board will use these funds at Massy Books, to purchase books requested by Ms. Hong. Please mark your donation "Book Drive" in the notes. All donations over \$20 will receive a charitable tax receipt.
3. Take a look at the [list](#) Ms. Hong has put together and if you happen to have any of these books that are in good condition, the school would be happy to accept them as a donation. Please note we are only looking for book donations that are on the list at this time.

Please send notice of your donation to strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com so that we can mark titles off the list.

This idea is spearheaded by Strathcona parent, Danielle Sherring, and will be facilitated by the PAC board and Ms. Hong. If you have any questions about the book drive, feel free to reach out to strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com

Joining the PAC Board

We are looking for new PAC board members to join for the 2021-22 year! If you are interested, or can help us find new members, please reach out with any questions or ways you can help! Our board always needs more representation from parents/guardians who are Indigenous, of color, or who have students in English. This year (2020-21) is going to be my last year as PAC chair so we are also looking for new chair nominations. Anyone can nominate themselves or nominate another parent/guardian. It has been so fun but it's time for me to focus on my job, family and volunteering at DPAC. You nominate yourself or another parent/guardian at any time by emailing strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com or bring names to our AGM in Sept 2021.

School Grounds Safety Committee

The PAC school grounds safety committee presented to the VSB Facilities and Planning Committee on March 10, 2020. You can watch the recording of Carla Frenkel and Drew Stewart [here](#)

At our March general meeting, the PAC voted to allocate up to \$2,000 to complete the schematic phase of school grounds design.

Our PAC board has also voted to advocate to ensure that Strathcona community continues to have access to the school field, play structure and basketball courts after school until dusk and over the weekends. At times gates to basketball court have been found locked preventing community access, which is increasingly important as weather improves and outdoor play times extend into evening.

If you are interested in getting involved with the committee, reach out to strathconapacelementary@gmail.com

PAC Meetings

We would love to get more parents/guardians at our PAC meetings. Now that they are on zoom, we're hoping you feel free to join in when you can and have your kids listening along in the background.

Our remaining 2021-22 meetings will be held on the following dates

- May 19, 2021 06:30 PM
- Jun 16, 2021 06:30 PM

Our board has voted to move our AGM to Sept 2021. All meetings are on zoom and can be joined using the same link [here](#)

Thank you to Tracy Kong, neighborhood assistant, who provides us with simultaneous verbal Chinese translation at PAC meetings and Principal Jason Eng who gives a school update and answers questions from the PAC.

How to find the PAC

Our PAC has a [website](#) where you can find meeting minutes, our constitution, PAC board member names and more. We also have a [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) page. And, you can subscribe to our listserv by clicking [here](#).

Warmly, Krista

Krista Sigurdson, chair strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com

Secretary: Megan McKinney strathconapacsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dawn Brennan strathconapactreasurer@gmail.com

Members at Large:

- Carla Frenkel (School Grounds)
- Vicky Huang
- Tiffany Kindrid (Income Equity Representative)
- Andrew Ledger
- Eva Sam (Chinese Communication)
- Jamie Smallboy (Indigenous Representative)
- Drew Stewart (School Grounds)
- Erika Xu



How to Wash Your Hands

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizers

Hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of infection. Proper hand washing reduces the spread of colds and influenza by as much as 40%.

When you wash your hands, you wash away the germs that you may have picked up from other people, from surfaces or from animals. Teach children to wash their hands thoroughly and often, so that hand washing becomes a life-long habit.

There should be **liquid soap, water and disposable paper towels** available for hand washing.

Use plain liquid soap to wash hands. Do not use antibacterial soaps or cleaners; these can lead to antibiotic resistance. (See: Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria, page 27)

When washing their hands with soap and water, **children should wash for 20 seconds**; sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star". Then rinse well.

Use disposable paper towels to dry hands and throw the towel into the garbage. "No Touch" garbage cans help reduce the spread of infection.

When soap and water are not available, children should use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are safe for children to use.

When cleaning their hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer, **children should use enough sanitizer to keep their hands wet for 15 - 30 seconds**; follow the directions on the bottle.

Children should wash their hands:

- before and after eating
- after using the toilet
- after sneezing or coughing or wiping their noses
- when their hands are dirty
- after playing with commonly used toys
- before and after playing at a water table
- after playing outdoors or in a sandbox
- after handling animals or animal waste.

When hands are visibly dirty or if there is diarrhea, warm water and soap should be used instead of a hand sanitizer.



Posters, video and more materials that show how to wash hands and use hand sanitizer at:
sneezesdiseases.com/wash-hands