



4070 Oak Street, Vancouver, B.C. V6H 2M8
 Telephone 604-713-4941

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/emily-carr>

VSB Trustee School Liaison	Ms. Janet Fraser
Director of Instruction	Ms. Alison Ogden
Principal	Ms. Erin Gibbs
Office Administrative Assistant	Ms. Liz Perry
PAC Chair	Roy Quinones email: emilycarrpac@gmail.com

Upcoming Dates		
Thurs. – Tues Mar. 3-8	Rapid test kit dispersal	3:00 – 3:25 p.m. undercover area
Friday, March 4	Lockdown Drill	1:30 p.m.
Wed. Mar. 9, Thurs. Mar. 10	Early dismissal dates	2:03 p.m. student dismissal
March 14-March 25	Spring Break	School is closed
March 28	School reopens	Back to school
March 29 – April 7	Jess Dance lessons	K - 7

March 3, 2022

Dear Emily Carr Community,

This newsletter includes news about:

- student conferences
- Learning Commons news from our new teacher librarian
- upcoming dance classes for K-7
- the dispersal of Rapid Test kits
- resources to help in talking to children about the invasion of Ukraine
- district information about ventilation in schools
- lockdown drill this Friday
- student artwork

Students and teachers have been busy preparing for the upcoming conferences. You will have received information from your classroom teacher describing how the conferences will work for their division. These conferences are part of the annual communication about your child’s learning and are meant to give you insight to your child’s performance, strengths, and accomplishments at this point in the year.

Given the new events gathering guidelines, we have finally been able to book **Jess Dance**. Students in K – 7 will each have two lessons with another division in the gym with a dance instructor, over a two week period right after Spring Break. Please check on [School Cash Online](#) to see if you have a balance owing for this event (some parents had already paid their fee for Jess Dance last time we had booked). As always, if this poses a financial challenge, please contact me.

Library Update:

To encourage students to read during Spring Break, the Library will be running an optional Reading Challenge. Students who choose to participate will bring home a reading log to record their daily reading and will return the completed reading log to the library after Spring Break.

All completed reading logs will be entered in a draw to win a prize!

Literacy is everywhere!

Reading might include a recipe, an instruction manual, rules for a game, or even a menu.

It includes reading to self, reading to a sibling, friend or pet, or family members reading to the student.

Happy Reading!

On Monday we sent home a letter about the **dispersal of Covid Rapid test kits** for students. On the following dates, we will have a table set up in the undercover area near Building A (closest to Oak Street) for this purpose, facilitated by two staff members. Parents/guardians are invited to pick up 1 box containing 5 test kits for each child enrolled at Carr.

- Thursday, March 3rd: 3:00 – 3:25 p.m.
- Friday, March 4th: 3:00 – 3:25 p.m.
- Monday, March 7th: 3:00 – 3:25 p.m.
- Tuesday, March 8th: 3:00 – 3:25 p.m.

Please note that the instructions for the Rapid Test Kits are included in the package. The information on how to administer the tests can also be found here: http://www.bccdc.ca/Health-Info-Site/Documents/COVID-19_Tests/POC_screening/RapidTestInstructions_Artron.pdf

It is important to note that test kits should be stored in a secure location out of reach of children and pets.

Resources for supporting students with conversations about the invasion of Ukraine:

The Ministry of Education has provided districts with the following resources and tips for staff and parents in supporting students:

- [How to Talk to Kids About Violence, Crime, and War](#): Common Sense Media gathers tips and conversation starters to help you talk to kids of different ages about the toughest topics.
- [Resilience in a time of war: Tips for parents and teachers of elementary school children](#): This article from the American Psychological Association can help adults guide their young children beyond fear and to resilience.
- [Resilience in a time of war: Tips for parents and teachers of middle school children](#): The American Psychological Association breaks out tips and strategies for parents and teachers of middle school-aged children.
- [National Child Traumatic Stress Network](#): Provides resources that can be filtered by topic or keyword and by audience with a focus on how adults can identify traumatic responses in young people and how to support them.

School Ventilation Improvements

From the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic the District has prioritized the health and safety of students, staff and families. Several layers of protection were implemented in all schools, in compliance with public health guidelines, including the requirement for daily self-health checks, increased hand hygiene, enhanced cleaning, and the wearing of masks. The District also undertook several large initiatives to enhance and improve ventilation at all schools and to upgrade faucets and install additional sinks in schools. All mechanical ventilation systems were adjusted to run for longer and to maximize the intake of outdoor air into classrooms. In addition, the District upgraded systems with MERV-13 filters which provide for greater air filtration.

Information on school ventilation systems was posted to the District website in November of 2021 and was recently updated to reflect ongoing improvements. School by school information can be found at:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/COVID-19/Ventilation/Documents/VSB_Ventilation_System_Overview_Feb2022.pdf

We will be having a Lockdown drill this Friday at 1:30 p.m. The Vancouver School District conducts lockdown drills with guidance provided to us through the BC Ministry of Education. The MoE recommends that schools conduct a minimum of two lockdown drills per school year to ensure that staff and students are familiar with the process. The BC Ministry of Education states in *Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools: A Guide*, that schools plan for things to 'go right' and are ready to respond appropriately if things 'go wrong'. Drills are not meant to instill fear, but to build awareness and preparation for unexpected situations. Staff prepare students for the drills in age-appropriate ways, being mindful of students' social emotional development and well-being. Training and drills are part of the personal safety aspects of the curriculum, are known to support successful emergency responses, and are integral to our commitment to student safety.

Thank you for reading this newsletter. I hope everyone has a wonderful Spring Break and comes back refreshed and ready for the final term of the school year. Please continue to take good care of yourselves!

Erin Gibbs

Principal, Emily Carr Elementary

Honoured to be working together on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations

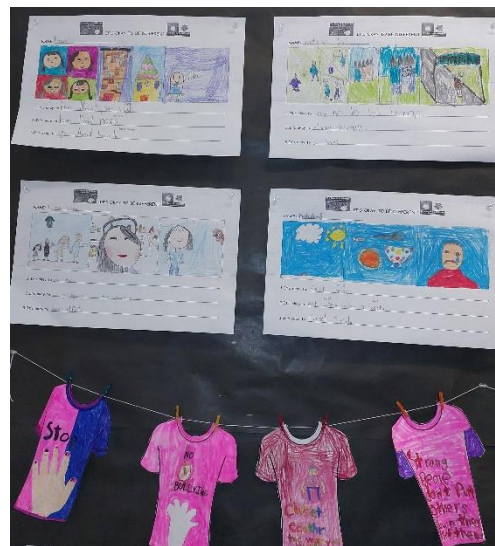
Div. 7: Kindness is the Heartbeat of Carr



Carr's Kindness, Gratitude and Welcoming Tree – March 2022



Div. 11: It's Okay to be Different



Div. 12: Bear Art



Div. 8: Spring has Sprung!

