

Emily Carr Elementary School

4070 Oak Street

Vancouver B.C.

V6H 2M8

Telephone (604) 713-4941

Sept. 10, 2021

Friday Sept. 17	Terry Fox Run	Staggered times throughout day
Wednesday Sept. 22	Individual Photo Day	
Friday Sept. 24	Professional Development Day	Students do not attend
Thursday Sept. 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation	Statutory holiday (NEW). No school for staff & students

Dear Emily Carr Community,

We hope you have all had a very restful summer full of adventures, fun and family time. We welcome all our new families to the Carr community. This newsletter contains information and updates regarding covid protocols and school organization.

New classes: Staff and students are eagerly anticipating moving to their new classes. Thank you for your patience as we work through our school start up period! This week the entire district has been working as quickly as it can to verify student numbers. It seems we have many new families who are registered and are still registering across the district. We are also working on determining which families have moved and which will be returning in the next few days. All this movement is affecting many schools; some schools may be dealing with declining numbers while other schools may be needing to add a class, however all VSB schools are asked to wait while the large number of student movement over the summer and late August are placed. I would like to thank the community for their understanding and patience. We do anticipate moving students to their new classes next Monday!

Class Placement: Placement of students in classes is a very time-consuming process and much thought, time and effort go into these decisions by ALL staff. Ultimately, we work on placing students in the best learning environment to suit their specific needs. Some students will be in combined grade classes. Please understand that in every grade there is a wide range of abilities. Teachers are well qualified to teach both grades in a combined class. We understand the impact that the pandemic has had on students. We are going to be especially vigilant with emotional health and wellness as students come back to school this year. If you feel your child is struggling emotionally, please reach out to the teacher so the school can help. With the trust and support of home, we are confident that all children have been placed in classes that will allow them to have a productive, rewarding, and exciting 2021/2022 school year.

New staff members who have also started this September: Ms Kirkland will join our Office Administrative Assistant Ms. Ainslie Kwan on Tuesdays; Ms. Jody Wallace is this year's Gr. 4/5 teacher; Ms. Surbjit Bains has joined our Learning Support Team; Ms Caelen Campbell who was our Option 4

teacher last year is now Ms Greening's job share partner on Wednesdays in Div. 14 (Kindergarten). We say goodbyes to Mr. Hartman who has accepted a position as a music teacher at Dickens, Ms Sidoropoulos, Ms Hawkes and Ms MacKenzie. Please check out [our staff page here](#).

COVID-19 Related Health and Safety Protocols for Students

- The Daily Health Check is to be completed at home before entering the school. Please refer to the [Provincial K-12 Daily Health Check](#)
- Students exhibiting any potential symptoms of COVID-19 will be brought to the first aid room/isolation room immediately (the office will phone home for student to be picked up)
- Once again parents are responsible for doing a daily health check on your child. We will be sending any students who are ill home without exception. When a child comes to school ill, we have a whole procedure we need to follow including masking up, isolation, cleaning classrooms, cleaning the medical room. Please help us by having your child stay home at the first hint of illness.
- Please note – there is no role for school staff in notifying families, students or staff about potential or confirmed COVID-19 cases. Vancouver Coastal Health public health officials will determine a plan for notification.
- Students in Grades 4 to 7, and visitors are **required to wear a face mask** while indoors. Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are **strongly encouraged** to wear a mask indoors in school. Each student received one VSB issued mask. The mask requirement does not apply to a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioral reasons or to a person who is unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person. A note from a health-care provider is not required.

Student Handwashing: Students are expected to wash their hands at the following times:

- When they arrive at school
- Before and after recess
- Before and after lunch playtime
- Before and after eating and drinking (except drinks kept at students' desk)
- Before/after using indoor learning space used by multiple classes with shared equipment (e.g., library, gym)
- After using the toilet
- After sneezing or coughing into hands
- Whenever hands are visibly dirty

Soap and water are the preferred method of handwashing. There are hand sanitizer stations in the school hallways All teachers/classes have hand sanitizer spray bottles.

Students will eat lunch in their classrooms during instructional time at the teacher's discretion. There are no provisions for indoor lunch playtime; students will be asked to dress appropriately for the weather.

Cleaning and Disinfecting of the School:

Schools will be cleaned and disinfected as per [BCCDC \(BC Communicable Disease Control\)](#) guidance for public schools. VSB Operations staff will clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and conduct general cleaning of the premise (e.g., school flooring, garbage removal, cleaning visibly dirty surfaces, etc.) once a day.

BELL SCHEDULE: There is a new school bell schedule across the district this year as follows:

8:55 warning bell

9:00 School Starts

10:50 recess starts

11:10 recess ends

12:05 lunch starts*

12:52 end of lunch

3:03 dismissal

*Lunch meals and recess snacks will continue to be eaten within the classrooms during instructional time. This is an opportunity to practice social skills while also following Ministry and PHO Covid-19 protocols.

Recess Snacks/Lunch

Please remember to send a snack and lunch each day with your child. Please note that we are a 'nut aware' school. There are students and staff with serious nut allergies, and we ask that no nut products are sent to school. We appreciate your support of this important school wide issue.

Please remember to send a labelled water bottle to school so your child can fill it up at our water fill station.

This year we are continuing to ask students to bring a litter less lunch. We ask students to take home any food leftover and all packaging when a litter less lunch is not possible.

Terry Fox Run: will be at Douglas Park on September 17th throughout the day. Unfortunately, parents are not invited to join us, as we aim to reduce any potential exposure risks. Please read attached memo with details about the Terry Fox run.

Safe Arrival program: the school will continue to use the Safe Arrival Program. Please ensure you let the school know if your child will be absent or late by phoning 604-713-5159 Ext 23.

VISITORS: Unfortunately, because we are still in the grips of the pandemic, the VSB is continuing to request that anyone wishing to visit the building do so by appointment only. We will be happy to meet with you at any time, however, **please respect that the building is closed** except for students and staff. If you have an appointment at school you will be informed where to enter and will use the hand sanitizer, wear a mask, and sign in outside the office.

The Emily Carr PAC is a very active group and generates its own newsletters and updates. If you are not yet on the newsletter distribution list, please email PAC at emilycarrpac@gmail.com. There is no need to update your information if you received the newsletter last year and your contact email address has not changed.

We are looking forward to a great year of learning and friendships.

Yours truly,

Erin Gibbs, Principal
Emily Carr Elementary

