

December 2021 Issue

# DICKENS ANNEX NEWSLETTER

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Vice Principal: Atsuko Ishihara  
Director of Instruction: Julie Pearce



## Important Dates:

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Nov. 28 Chanukah begins

Dec. 6- Chanukah ends

Dec. 15- Gingerbread  
Houses

Dec. 17- Virtual Winter  
Assembly

Dec. 18-Jan. 3- Winter Break

Hello families,

November provided us with an opportunity to reflect, as a community, on where we have been and where we want to go. Students engaged in conversations around peace, freedom, and the continued systemic inequities. One class even wrote their questions and suggestions to a member of Parliament!

The staff participated in the District wide Indigenous Focus Day on Nov. 26 where conversations were rich and inspiring. All of us here at Dickens Annex are committed to supporting the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action.

As we quickly approach the holidays, I wish each and every one of you and your families a wonderful winter break. From Covid to the natural disasters, British Columbians continue to be under immense pressure. I hope you are able to take this time to get some rest and snuggle your kids a little tighter and longer.

Wishing your family peace and light this holiday season.

See you soon,

Atsuko Ishihara

## Health and Safety Updates

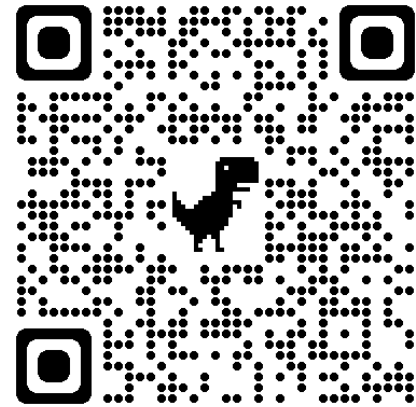
The health and safety of our students is a priority at Dickens Annex. We will continue to follow and update Health and Safety protocols.

### International Travel

Students who are not fully vaccinated and have traveled outside of Canada **cannot attend school for 14 days after arrival.**

This applies to students who have taken a Covid test and results come back negative.

### Daily Health Assessment



**If your child is away from school, please let Ms. Patti know via email.**

### From the PAC:

It's that time of year again!

In the spirit of the season, the Charles Dickens PAC is asking for your support in helping to create holiday hampers for the families and individuals living in our community who could use a little extra boost at this time of year.

Since the pandemic is not yet entirely behind us, we are once again requesting donations of gift cards and cash to help us assemble fun, useful, meaningful and impactful holiday hampers.

There are two ways to support Holiday Hampers:

1. **Donate gift cards!** Visit your local grocer or retailer and purchase your gift card(s) and then send the card(s) to school with your kids. Teachers will collect the gift cards on our behalf. Gift card ideas include:
  - ☛ Grocery gift cards - Save On Foods, Buy Low, Safeway, Superstore, Walmart, Nesters or other local grocers
  - ☛ Clothing gift cards - Old Navy, Gap, Walmart, Joe Fresh, Carters, Mark's Work Warehouse, etc.
  - ☛ Gift cards for toys - Amazon, Indigo, Toys R Us, Walmart,
  - ☛ Flexible gift cards - Indigo, Amazon, Best Buy, The Bay, Walmart, Sephora, London Drugs, Shoppers Drug Mart, etc.
2. **Donate cash!** through [schoolcashionline](#).
  - ☛ The link above is a direct link to the Charles Dickens PAC donation page. If you sign into your schoolcashionline account first, once you've selected the make a donation option, please be sure to select **E-Charles Dickens PAC** as your Fund Destination.
  - ☛ When you make your gift, please let us know that it is for the Holiday Hampers by making a note in the Message box. Cash gifts of \$10 or more are eligible for charitable receipts, which are issued automatically by the VSB.

This year's hampers will be distributed beginning the week of December 6<sup>th</sup>, so please be sure to **drop off your donations by Friday, December 3, 2021**. If you have any questions, please email us at [charlesdickensholidayhampers@gmail.com](mailto:charlesdickensholidayhampers@gmail.com).

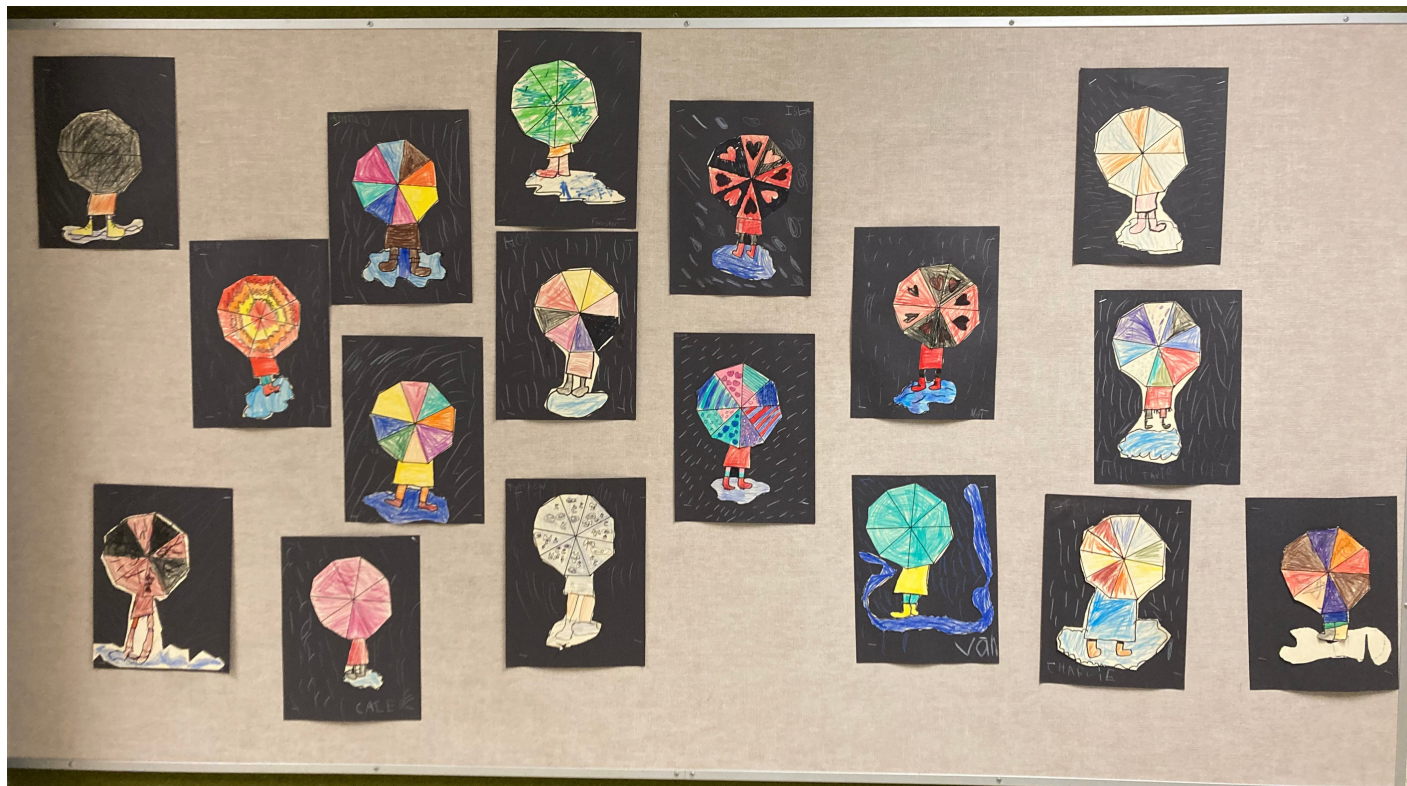
**Your support is deeply appreciated!**

**DO YOUR BEST, HELP EACH OTHER, FIND JOY**



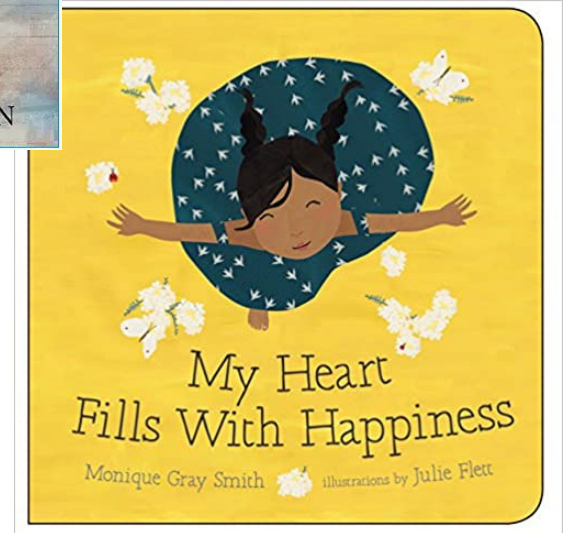
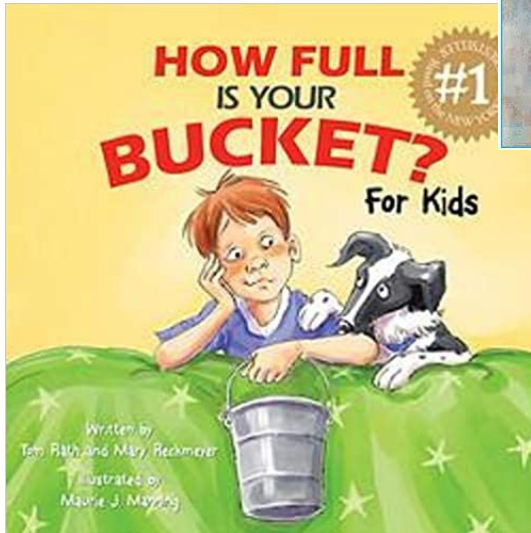
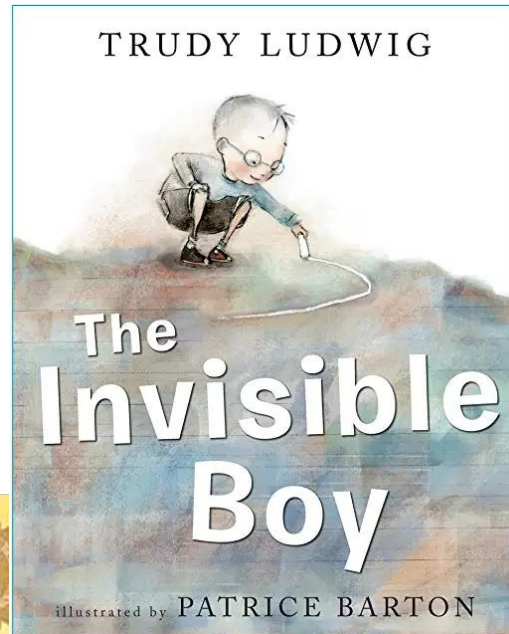
Div. 3

# Dickens Annex Gallery



# What are you reading?

*Sharing titles that spark meaningful conversations.*



Kindness matters. We, at the Annex, have been having a lot of conversations around "filling buckets" or being a "bucket filler". The idea stems from the fact that our actions have either a positive or negative impact on those around us and we want to increase the positive while becoming more aware of the negative. We have noticed that students are more empathetic towards each other when a negative behaviour takes place; understanding that perhaps their peer's "bucket is empty". Students are more mindful of those around them as well as being bucket fillers through their small acts of kindness.