

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

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Strathcona Families,

We made it! What a whirlwind first four months of school at Strathcona. I thank you for your patience and understanding as we navigate teaching and learning during a pandemic. It is safe to say that we all need a break...students, staff, and families. While the holiday season will look different this year, I hope that you all take time to recharge the batteries, connect with those closest to you, and relax, all while being safe.

There are a number of staffing changes that will be taking place in January. We thank Mr. Steve Coffin for his work with Division 19 the past several months and look forward to Ms. Jacqueline Andre transitioning into the new class. The district will be placing a new teacher to work with Division 10 and Division 24 in the new year. Finally, we wish Ms. Lourdes Friess all the best during her upcoming maternity leave.

I am proud of what students and staff have accomplished this past term and look forward to what 2021 brings!

Families, please keep an eye on your email during the break for up to date information about January start up.

Happy Holidays!

Jason Eng
Principal Strathcona

DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT REMINDER

As a reminder, all parents, guardians, and/or caregivers have the responsibility to conduct a Daily Health Assessment of the student each day before sending them to school to ensure the health of all students, staff, and community members.

WINTER HOLIDAYS

The last day of school before the holidays is Friday, December 18th. Students will be dismissed at their regular dismissal time of 3:00 PM. Winter holidays are from Monday, December 21st until Friday, January 1st. School reopens on Monday, January 4th.

SNOW CLOSURE

In the event that schools are closed due to weather conditions, the Vancouver School Board will contact the following radio and television stations to make an announcement by 6 am:

CKNW (980 AM)
CKWX (NEWS 1130 AM)
FAIRCHILD RADIO CJVB AM 1470
CBC RAIDO (690 AM, 105.7 FM)
BCTV/ GLOBAL (CABLE CHANNEL 11)
CITY TV (CABLE CHANNEL 13)

In addition, information on snow closures will be available online at www.vsb.bc.ca



SAVE THE DATE

Thursday, January 7, 2021 is our Information Session for Early French Immersion. This session is intended for any family interested in having their child attend French Immersion in Kindergarten at Strathcona. Please join us virtually at 7:00 pm. This Information Session is for parents and guardians, and an invite link will be sent out in early January.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2016 begins on November 1.

All Kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (Early French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Focus School, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Nootka Fine Arts) and/or a cross boundary placement.

The priority registration period for Kindergarten opens on **November 1 and closes at 4 pm on January 29**. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants. Applying for Kindergarten is a 2-Step process:

Step 1: Completion of an [online application form](#).

Step 2: Contact your English Catchment School Office to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation. Bring supporting documentation to your English catchment school office during your scheduled appointment

Supporting Documents Needed:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records
5. Court Orders/Documents (if applicable)

If you want to apply for a District program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for District programs and cross boundary placements will begin to be accepted in early 2021.

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than available space* at the school, the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1 and January 29

1. **In-catchment** Kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a **random draw** for the remaining Kindergarten spaces.
3. Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name was drawn.
4. Between January 29 and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 29

In-catchment Kindergarten students who apply **after** January 29 will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist.

Note: There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 29.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/School/School-Registration/Pages/default.aspx>

* Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the District (Administrative Procedure 300).

LATE FRENCH IMMERSION INFORMATION FOR GRADE 5 STUDENTS

Laura Secord is hosting a Grade 6 Late French Immersion information session online for current Grade 5 students on January 14, 2021, from 7-8PM. If interested, please email secord@vsb.bc.ca and they will contact you with an invite link.

MINI-SCHOOL REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR GRADE 7 STUDENTS

REGISTRATION FOR MINI SCHOOLS FOR 2021 ENTRANCE FOR GRADE 7S ONLY.

VSBS's Mini School programs provide enrichment opportunities for highly motivated students who are Vancouver residents, consistently work at an Applying level and have excellent work habits. **Students must apply to each program separately as per each program's process.**





Each year over 1,400 students apply for approximately 500 grade 8 spaces in the Mini School programs.

As a result of the COVID-19 Health and Safety protocols for schools, there have been changes made to the application process for VSB Mini School Programs for 2020-2021.

This year there will **not** be a District-wide Assessment/Test for Grade 7 students as part of the Mini School application process.

Program information nights will be held online or through digital platforms. Information about each information night will be posted on the program websites.

All Vancouver School District secondary schools have a variety of challenging and exciting programs and courses. Many schools have also developed their own school-based enrichment program for a wide variety of interests and abilities.

Mini-school programs begin at grade 8. See 2021-2022 Secondary Programs Brochure for a synopsis of each Mini-school program:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Learning/Secondary/Mini_Schools/Documents/sbfile/201014/Secondary-Program-Oct-2020%20rev%201.pdf

Contact the programs directly for information, contact information, and application forms.

Visit for more information:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Learning/Secondary/Mini_Schools/Pages/Default.aspx

STRATHCONA COMMUNITY DENTAL CLINIC



Did you know there is a dental clinic at the Strathcona Elementary School?

The Strathcona Community Dental Clinic has been a part of the neighbourhood for 18 years and is currently open and accepting new patients.

The clinic is for children and their families.

Call 604-713-4485 to organize an appointment.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

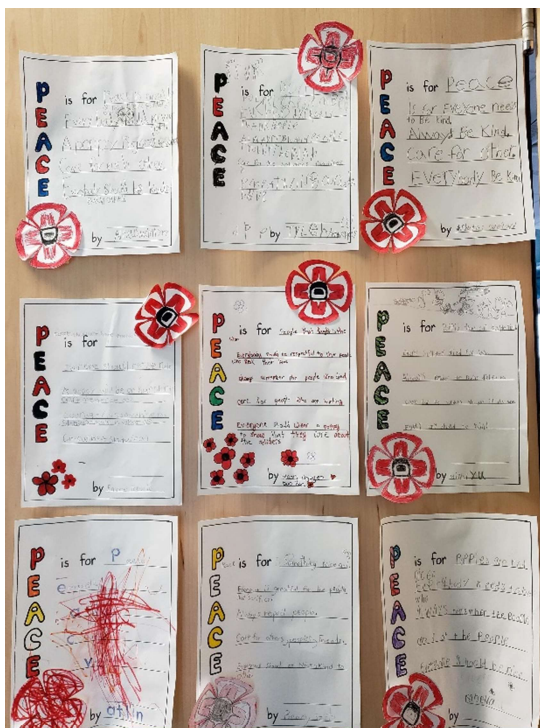
Friday, December 18	Last day before winter break
Monday, January 4	School re-opens after winter break
Thursday, January 7	Kindergarten French Immersion Information Night at 7:00 PM virtually (for incoming 2020 Kindergartens only)
Monday, January 18	Pro-D Day, school not in session
Friday, January 29	Report cards go home

STUDENT SHOWCASE



Div. 20 – Ms. Federico’s class

Our class has been talking about how many people in our world right now might be feeling worried, sad, and maybe lonely due to Covid-19. We wanted to spread some positivity around our school and neighbourhood, so we brainstormed some encouraging words and made signs for our community. We wanted to walk around the school and surprise some of our staff and peers!



Div. 13 – Ms. Lee’s class

Division 13 made poems about peace for Remembrance Day.



Holiday Festivities at Strathcona

At Strathcona, we are an inclusive school and celebrate all the special holiday moments of this season. Many students participated in the lighting of the daily Hanukkah candles.

Winter Festival at Strathcona



PAC CORNER

Dear Strathcona Parents,

Last year around this time, we were all together for the infamous holiday pancake breakfast! I look forward to when we can gather again in person for music and food! In the meantime, our PAC meetings are a great opportunity to check in with other parents and get an update from and ask questions to Principal Eng.

The PAC wants to let teachers and staff know how grateful we are for all your hard work this year. You are amazing and we are so grateful to have you teach our kids at this incredibly difficult time.

A few short announcements:

COVID relief fund

Our PAC recently voted to contribute \$10,000 to the school for Covid relief. Strathcona teachers and Principal Eng have provided a proposal and will be following up with a report in the new year. Thank you teachers and staff for your work on this!

PAC School Grounds Safety Committee

The PAC school grounds safety committee, co-chaired by Carla Frenkel and Drew Stewart, are continuing to work with the landscape architect hired by the PAC to develop plans we can use for re-envisioning our grounds. The landscape architect's workshop last year as well as survey data collected by the PAC helped guide her work.

Meanwhile, the school has received funding from the Federal Government to develop an outdoor classroom on site! The staff committee responsible for planning this work, is incorporating feedback from the PAC school grounds safety committee. Thank you volunteer teachers, staff and parents!

If you want to join the committee, let us know!

Masks!



An extremely generous Vancouver resident, Sam Scholefield, has sewn 110 reusable cloth masks to be distributed to Strathcona Elementary students! Sam received a [Neighborhood Small Grant](#) (a program of the Vancouver Foundation) to fund materials and I am currently finishing up the elastics. The masks will be delivered to the school in time for back to school in January. Here's what Sam wrote about the project:

"We set out to sew 100 masks for students at Strathcona Elementary School. We succeeded in making 110 out of top-quality cotton with filter pockets so that anyone interested in adding the third/filter layer can do so. Each has slightly adjustable straps for kids with slightly different needs and fits. We used a range of fabrics so that many tastes could be accounted for. We hope that the kids will like the fabric enough to try not to lose them. We were able to support two small businesses (The Cloth Shop on Granville Island and the family owned Atex Fabric store on Hastings) and Fabricland with our purchases.

The biggest challenge was the health orders making it that we felt we needed to make the team even smaller. One person did all the cutting and sewing and one person the elastics.

Given that masks are now mandatory in indoors public spaces, the timing of this project is nearly perfect. We look forward to handing out the masks to kids after the Christmas break."

The school administration will be handling distribution of these masks in January. Please talk to your child's teacher if your child would like one of these masks. Thank you Samantha and The Vancouver Foundation!

DPAC survey

Parents - DPAC Pulse Check survey - looking to hear from all VSB parents about the year so far to help guide our work - DPAC has extended the close date until **Friday Dec 18th** - link to the survey here, please circulate widely - https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeCE22SXPo5MCgut-nJXZNVIm2U60O22Q5A_Ba9V6Vw3vkYVg/viewform

Ideas and Plans

Parents have expressed interest in developing a room-parent list. You may have heard about this set up from other schools - parents sign up to be the room parent for their child's class and help circulate information as needed and coordinate social events (virtual for now!) for parents and families in the classroom. If you are interested in being a room parent, reach out to Krista. It's not a big job and will help develop community and communication at our school!

Recent Loss to Our Community

Many of you likely heard about former Strathcona student Adam Jalal (just 19 y/o) being killed in a recent suspected homicide in East Vancouver. I didn't know him or his family but I hear that he was MUCH loved at Strathcona Elementary and the Strathcona Community Center. I'm so very sorry about this loss to all of you who are in pain right now. This is such a tragedy and I know that many teachers, students and families are suffering right now. I send my love and support.

I'm personally contributing to a hamper that will go to his family and will send condolences from the PAC. If you have any notes that you'd like me to include, or if you want to contribute in another way, I can put you in touch with the organizer. [Here's](#) a news story from many years ago that features Adam as a generous, beloved participant and volunteer in Strathcona's basketball program.

Next PAC meeting

Our next PAC meeting will be held on January 20th at 6:30pm on zoom. We hope you can join us! Thank you to Tracy Kong, neighborhood assistant, who provides us with simultaneous verbal Chinese translation at PAC meetings.

Click here:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86377017568>

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



December 2020

WINTER SPORTS SAFETY

How can we be safe when tobogganing, skating, skiing, and snowboarding?

- ◆ Wear an approved helmet
- ◆ Use equipment that fits properly and is well maintained
- ◆ Use a neck warmer instead of a scarf to prevent strangulation
- ◆ Use sun protection (sun block and sun glasses) even on a cloudy day
- ◆ Know your ability and experience
- ◆ Go inside to get warm if shivering



STAYING HEALTHY OVER THE HOLIDAY SEASON

- ◆ Get enough sleep
- ◆ Eat well balanced meals
- ◆ Take time to relax
- ◆ Do things you enjoy
- ◆ Enjoy your family, friends and traditions



Some individuals/families experience loneliness, increased stress or depression over the holiday season. Talk to the public health nurse or your primary health care provider for help.



Where do I find more information?

- Robert and Lily Lee Family Community Health Centre, 604-675-3980
- Health Link BC - online www.healthlinkbc.ca or dial 811
- www.vch.ca/schoolhealth



Daily Health Assessment Form – Student

This document is an updated Daily Health Assessment following BCCDC’s COVID-19 Public Health Guidance for K-12 School Settings dated September 11, 2020.

All parents, guardians, and/or caregivers have the responsibility to conduct a Daily Health Assessment of the student each day before sending them to school.

Student Daily Health Assessment			
1. Key Symptoms of Illness		Does the student have any of the following symptoms?	
Fever		YES	NO
Chills		YES	NO
Cough or worsening of chronic cough		YES	NO
Shortness of breath		YES	NO
Loss of sense of smell or taste		YES	NO
Diarrhea		YES	NO
Nausea and vomiting		YES	NO
2. International Travel	Has the student returned from travel outside Canada in the last 14 days?	YES	NO
3. Confirmed Contact	Is the student a confirmed contact of a person confirmed to have COVID-19?	YES	NO

If you answered “YES” to one of the questions included under ‘Key Symptoms of Illness’ (excluding fever), the student should stay home for 24 hours from when the symptoms started. If the symptom improves, the student may return to school when they feel well enough. If the symptom persists or worsens, seek a health assessment.

If you answered “YES” to two or more of the questions included under ‘Key Symptoms of Illness’ or the student has a fever, seek a health assessment. A health assessment includes calling a primary care provider like a physician or nurse practitioner, or 8-1-1 if these options are unavailable. If a health assessment is required, the student should not return to school until COVID-19 has been excluded and symptoms have improved.

If you answered “YES” to questions 2 or 3, use the [COVID-19 Self-Assessment Tool](#) to determine if the student should seek testing for COVID-19.

If a COVID-19 test is not recommended by the health assessment, the student can return to school when symptoms improve and they feel well enough. Testing may not be recommended if the assessment determines that the symptoms are due to another cause (i.e. not COVID-19).

CONFIRMATION OF UNDERSTANDING

Please sign and return this form to the school office.

Going forward, I understand and commit to conducting a Daily Health Assessment and following the above instructions.

1. Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

2. Parent Name: _____ Parent Signature: _____

Student Name: _____ Grade: _____