



We Care for Self, for Others, and for our Surroundings

3315 E. 22nd Ave. · Vancouver, BC · V5M 2Z2 · 604-713-4851 · 604-713-4854

Director of Instruction: Mr. Chris Stanger
Principal: Ms. Janine Lamb
Vice Principal: Ms. Kamala Coughlan
PAC Chairpersons: Ms. Maya Toews
School Liaison Trustee: Mr. Alan Wong

DECEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Renfrew families,

November was another busy month here at Renfrew. All students and staff participated in a Remembrance Day assembly on November 11. School staff completed class reviews last month. The purpose of class reviews is to discuss overall classroom strengths and stretches and devise goals and action plans for the year for individual classes. On November 18 and 19 classroom teachers held November Communicating Student Learning Conferences. If you did not have an opportunity to connect with your child’s teacher, please reach out to arrange a conversation. Last month we also held a virtual Montessori Information Session for the parents of incoming Kindergarten students. There will be another session on January 8th, information regarding the session can be found later in the newsletter. This past Friday, all VSB staff engaged in an Indigenous Education Professional Development day. This was a day of powerful learning, with a focus on anti-racism. Our staff has decided to form an Anti-racism Committee. Committee members will determine the shape and scope of the work undertaken. As a school leader, I am deeply committed to actively creating spaces for equity, fairness and dignity for racialized students and families, and I have a great deal of hope for the change that lies ahead this year, and in the years to come.

This newsletter is full of information and upcoming dates to mark on your calendar, so please take note!

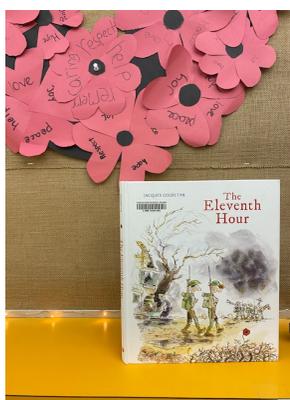
We are 18 days from the last day of school. I would like to wish everyone a happy and safe holiday season, when it arrives!

Kind regards,

Janine Lamb

Principal

Ms. Coughlan’s Library Corner



Celebrating November

November was a busy month here at Renfrew school.

We honoured Remembrance Day on November 10th with a virtual school assembly on Teams, where we invited one of our intermediate Indigenous students to lead the Indigenous Land Acknowledgment. A big shout out to Jayden Page-McCarthy for doing a wonderful job leading us in his heartfelt acknowledgment which was made even more powerful, as it was also Indigenous Veterans Day.

In the photo above, you may notice a collage cross made with pictures of Indigenous soldiers that gave their lives in the two World Wars. This cross and many other wreaths, poems and artwork decorated the library and hallways to honour all the men, women and children that sacrificed their time, families, and sadly in many cases, their lives, so that we could continue to live, work and play on these unceded traditional territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh Coast Salish Peoples here in Canada. Haitchka. Thank you.

The photo beside it is one of the books we were exploring that tells the story of two friends who went to war together. It details their lives before, during and after the war. I highly recommend it to anyone looking for a picture book that beautifully outlines the reality of how war can affect us, even long after it is over.



Above, is a display with the uniform of Ms. Salter's grandfather, along with pictures of Ms. Barts father, who both fought in the world wars. This impactful display has been a focal point in our front hallway, with many students somberly awed that two important women they know are so closely connected to historical events that they are learning about.

The next honouring that took place was Diwali. In this case, it was a celebratory feeling that was felt throughout the school as staff and students celebrated by reading books and creating detailed Rangoli artworks. This festival of lights was a beautiful reminder that following tragedy and death, comes life and celebration. Thank you to all the classes who shared their connections through story and art.



A big thank you to Division 17 who were fantastic Library leaders for the month of November!

I'm looking forward to next month where there will be a new class taking on this important leadership role and to celebrating all the upcoming winter festivals that will be taking place before our Winter Break.

Wishing you all a lovely winter season!

Warmly,

Ms. Coughlan

Covid-19 Safety

Please refer to the email sent November 12 for reminders regarding the safety protocols and practices all Renfrew students and staff are being asked to follow.

- Maximize physical distancing.
- Minimize physical contact.
- Practice frequent and proper hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette.
- Wear masks as appropriate and required.
- Conscientiously complete the daily self-health check prior to arriving at Hastings.

When announcing the Public Health Orders on Nov 19th, Dr Henry specifically indicated that parents socializing with each other outside schools at student drop off and pick up is not permitted under the current orders and is the type of social contact we need to curtail at this time. While the orders do not apply to schools, please help us support and model the orders and keep 2 m away from others and avoid gathering before and after school. Remember we are all in this together and this is for now, not forever! Thank you!

Families are also reminded that access to the school continues to be limited at this time. All adults wishing to access the school, including parents accompanying late students, please call 604-713-4851 before entering the school and our office staff will assist you.



Daily Health Assessment – 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.

Do not return this assessment to your school. Keep this at home for your daily reference.

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).

Last updated: September 15, 2020

Challenges with School Attendance Webinar Series for Parents

This 3-part series is aimed to give parents some practical strategies to support their children. Please see the attached link.

<https://keltymentalhealth.ca/VSBWebinarSeries>

BEFORE AND AFTER SCHOOL SUPERVISION

A reminder that students are supervised by staff before school from 8:40AM until 9:00AM and from 3:00PM to 3:20PM in the afternoon. Children should not arrive before 8:40AM or leave after 3:20PM unless they are part of the daycare, or an organized/supervised activity, otherwise, they will be unsupervised outside.

WINTER HOLIDAYS

The last day of school before the holidays is Friday, December 18th, 2020. Students will be dismissed at their regular dismissal time of 3:00 PM. Winter holidays are from Monday, December 21st until Friday, January 4th. School reopens on Monday, January 4th, 2020.



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. Please do not call the stations directly:

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 on-line at www.vsb.bc.ca



Dear Renfrew families,

In Renfrew tradition, we have been exploring, experiencing, and creating music within our own class communities. These have been in the forms of rhythm; body percussion; and technology-based melodies. Please look for some Winter Sharing in our class Teams this December.

BREAKFAST WITH SANTA

Unfortunately, due to current Phase 2 restrictions, this event will not be taking place this year.

SAVE THE DATE

Friday, January 8, 2020 at 10am is our second virtual Information Session for Kindergarten Montessori. This session is intended for any family interested in having their child attend Montessori in Kindergarten at Renfrew. Please join us on Zoom using the following information (also posted on our website)

Topic: Renfrew's Virtual Information Session for Montessori Kindergarten

Time: Jan 8, 2021 10:00 AM Vancouver

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us04web.zoom.us/j/4070492048?pwd=VlpzUTRPRHNjaXJBdEpoK0hFQUN3UT09>

Meeting ID: 407 049 2048

Passcode: 154884

Information Session is for parents and guardians only.

COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING

Vancouver public schools, along with schools throughout British Columbia, have moved from a model of 'reporting to parents' on a regular and pre-determined schedule to 'communicating student learning with parents' on an on-going basis throughout the school year. This year all teachers at Renfrew are using this Communicating Student Learning (CSL) approach. Parents will receive five communications from teachers within a school year:

- a written progress report at the end of January
- a written summative report at the end of June

The written reports will include descriptive comments and a summary of student progress in relation to the learning standards from the BC Curriculum. In addition, there will be a minimum of three ongoing communications of student learning in various subject areas. One of these communications already occurred



in the November at Communicating Student Learning Virtual Parent-Teacher conferences, and another will take place in February.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

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

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 (French Immersion, Montessori, etc.) and/or a cross boundary placement.

The priority registration period for Kindergarten opened on November 1st and closes at 4 pm on Friday, January 31st. 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: Bringing supporting documentation, along with your child, to your neighbourhood English catchment school.

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 Choice program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice 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 1st and January 31st

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 31st and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31st

In-catchment Kindergarten students who apply after January 31st 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 31st. For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

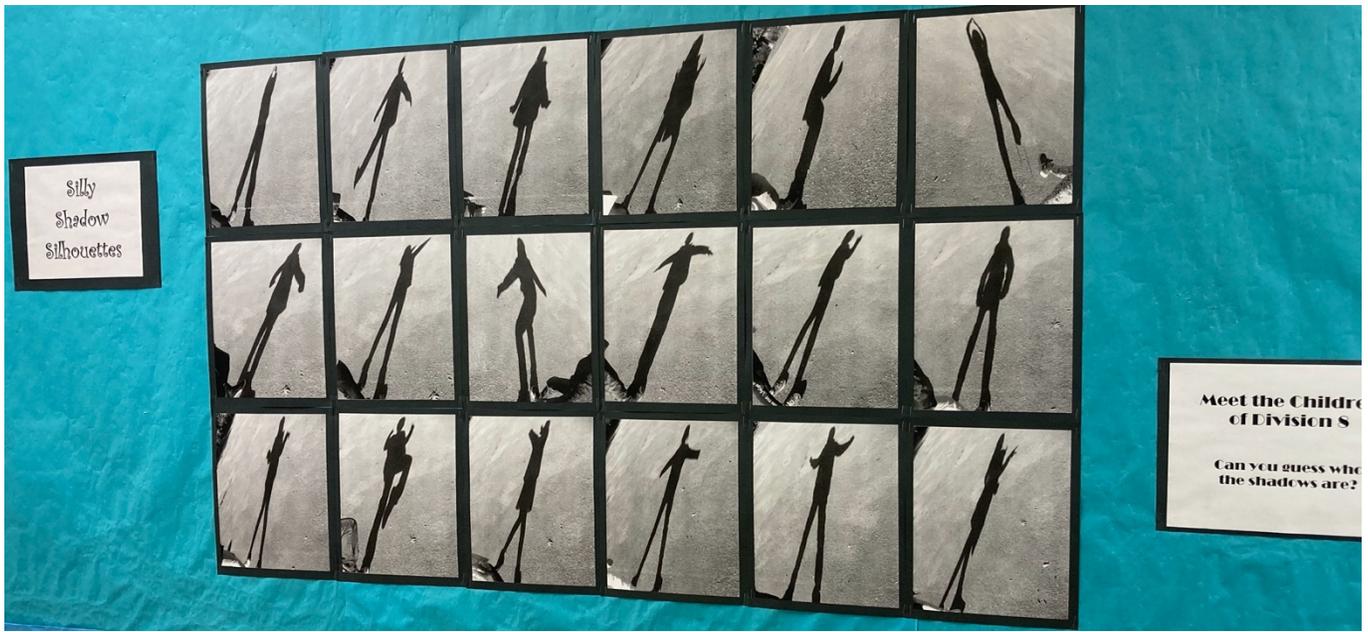
* Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the district. (Administrative Procedure 300)



1 Apply Online



2 Visit your catchment school with necessary documents



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WHAT'S GOING ON AT RENFREW

Tuesday, December 15	PAC Meeting via Zoom, 5:30pm
Friday, December 18	Last day before winter break
Monday, January 4	School re-opens after winter break
Friday, January 8	Kindergarten Montessori Virtual Information Session via Zoom 10:00 am (for incoming 2021 Kindergartens)
Monday, January 18	Professional Day, school not in session

RENFREW SPIRITWEAR

Tomorrow students will be coming home with order forms for Renfrew Spiritwear. If families are interested in ordering these items, the sizing guide is available on our website:

www.renfrew.vsb.bc.ca It is recommended that you 'size up' to ensure a roomy fit.

The deadline for ordering is Wednesday, December 16. Please have your child return their completed order form with cash or a cheque made out to Renfrew Elementary School to the office. Items will be ready to come home in January.



PAC CORNER

The PAC's next meeting is Tuesday December 15th at 5:30pm via Zoom. Please email renfrewschoolpac@gmail.com if you would like to join this meeting. We will email the link & agenda the day of the meeting.

Our Direct Donation Drive is still going! Thank you to everyone who has donated so far. Donations are accepted online through your 'School Cash Online' account by donating to 'E-Renfrew PAC'. We know this school year looks different, so we understand and sympathize with families who have been impacted financially during these times. This school year we will be fundraising for a Technology fund. We would love to be able to purchase multiple Laptops and iPads for the school. We appreciate each and every donation, and we are sincerely grateful for your support during these uncertain times.

Renfrew Elementary School PAC

Direct Donation Drive 2020/2021

Renfrew Elementary School Parents & Guardians,

It's that time of year when the Renfrew PAC is initiating its Direct Donation Drive. We know that this school year looks different, so we understand and sympathize with families who have been impacted financially during these times. Because of COVID-19, our regular fundraising events have been placed on hold - i.e. popcorn days, hot lunch program, cookie dough sales - so this will be our main fundraiser. Our Direct Donation Drive has always been a huge success, bringing in funds that are crucial to the betterment to our school. This school year our primary goal is to help update the school's technology, which is especially important right now.

o Technology Fund - \$8,000 goal

With technology changing so rapidly and the school's stock of laptops & iPads getting such continual use, many of them are in need of repair or replacement. We would love to be able to purchase additional laptops & iPads for the school. The school's goal is 15 laptops and 15 iPads.

In the past, the PAC has paid for and made contributions towards:

- o Playground Equipment
- o Technology – computer lab, iPads, LCD projectors & software
- o Classroom Funds – classroom resources, guest speakers & field trips
- o Performing Arts – school performances & dance programs
- o Music and Sports Equipment

Please donate online through School Cash Online:

<https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/1869/196/false/true>

- o Register by setting up an account (name, address, email address)
- o Select amount that you would like to donate
- o Select 'fund destination' by scrolling down to 'E-Renfrew PAC'
- o Write a tribute or message (if desired)
- o Add to cart and pay by Visa or MasterCard
- o Tax receipt is printable right away by the VSB (it will also be emailed to you)

We accept donations from any individual or company that wishes to contribute, not just parents and guardians. We appreciate each and every donation, and we are sincerely grateful for your support during these uncertain times.

Thank you again for your continued support to Renfrew School!

- Renfrew PAC Executive

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