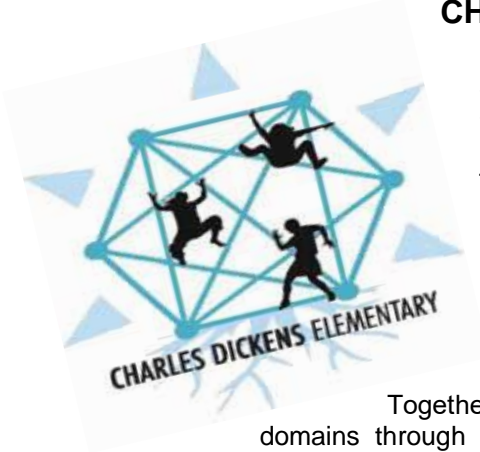


CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



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Secretary: Anne Canning
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PAC Co-Chairs: Daniela Forde, Sara Getz,
Laura Poree, Tiffany Searchfield
Director of Instruction: Aaron Davis
Trustee: Carmen Cho

MISSION STATEMENT

Together we bring alive our commitment to develop each child's potential in all domains through a long-established philosophy built on mutual respect, continuous learning and opportunities for leadership within a child-centred, multi-aged framework.

January 2021

We acknowledge that we *learn*, work together, and play on the unceded and traditional territory of the x'məθk'əyəm (Musqueam), seɪl'wɪtʌh (Tsleil Waututh) and sḵwəxwú7mesh (Squamish Coast Salish) peoples.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Thursday, February 11th: Spirit Day – Wear Red for Lunar New Year and Valentine's Day

Friday, February 12th: Pro-D Day – No school for students

Monday, February 15th: Family Day – Schools are closed

Wednesday, February 24th: Pink Shirt Day – Wear Pink for Anti-Bullying

Dear Dickens Community: **REPORT CARDS**

Quiet and calm were the words most people used to describe their Winter Break. Most of us had household-only celebrations with a lot of Zoom calls to connect with those who would normally have joined us for turkey and festivities any other year. In spite of these restrictions I hope you all had an enjoyable and restful break.

January has been a busy month at school. Teachers were writing report cards using the new Communicating Student Learning online tool, which Dickens staff has been working hard to master since November (see the November newsletter for more information about the new reports). Report cards now look the same across the district and are meant to align with the Redesigned Curriculum. Teachers focus on Student Strengths, Areas for Growth and Ways to Support Learning. While this is not too different from the previous report cards, the intent is to focus most on what an individual student is able to do.

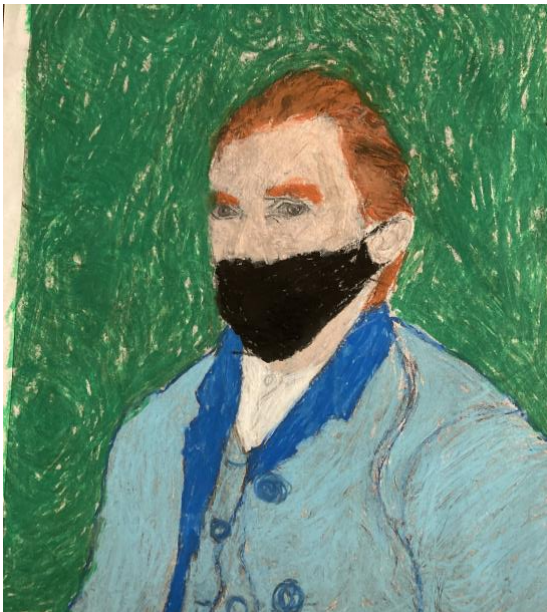
Parents who want to know how to support their children's learning can follow the suggestions in Ways to Support Learning which are connected to the Areas of Growth. As always, you can also help your child experience school success by:

- Ensuring they get enough sleep.
- Sending them to school with a nutritious lunch and snacks plus a water bottle.

- Fostering a healthy balanced lifestyle with lots of fresh air and exercise.
- Limiting screen time – this includes television, video games and use of cell phones (in the case of older students).
- Strict monitoring of digital devices – please ensure your children leave computers, tablets and phones outside of their bedrooms when they go to bed.
- Enjoying Daily Home Reading with your children – they can read to you – you can read to them – you can read together – and then discuss the story/content.
- Talk with your children about what they did at school, trying to get past the standard answer of ‘nothing’. Connecting their worlds of home and school is an excellent strategy.
- Set up a place which is quiet and free of distractions for school work to be done.
- When there is no assigned homework you can always do home writing, math games and passion projects as well as home reading.
- Have fun and enjoy play time and bonding time with your children – especially with COVID, mental health is so important.

COVID UPDATES – We continue to follow COVID protocols

- Do the Daily Health Check before sending your child to school.
- Keep your child home when sick and limit contact with others.
- Wash your hands with either soap and water or alcohol-based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your face with unwashed hands.
- Cough and sneeze into a tissue or the bend of your arm.
- Wear masks when possible in order to protect others.
- Practice physical distancing (2 metres when possible; 1 metre when possible in cohorts).
- No physical contact.
- Drop children off and pick them up at exact times.
- Please do not play after school as we are working hard to keep students in cohorts.
- Thank you for always wearing masks and keeping your distance at drop off/pick up.



Van Gogh wears a mask too! Art work by Div. 19.

SAFE PLAYGROUNDS

Please help the Dickens community keep our playground and Sunnyside Park safe. Unfortunately, needles and condoms are sometimes found in the park. Vigilant parents are helping Dickens staff by reporting such dangerous litter to the school and by calling 311 to request parks board clean-up and 778-927-3415 for needle pick-up. Teachers have and will continue to warn students not to pick up any litter – especially needles and condoms and especially during COVID. Please reinforce this message at home. Thank you!

STUDENT WRITING

New Year's Resolutions by Division 4 (Grades 1 and 2)

This year I will try to:

- Take care of my baby brother. Bosco
- Read lots of books and make my bed. This year I will keep my room tidy. Nathan
- Get along with my brother. And I will read even more even though I read so much already, and I will FOR ONCE clean my room. Mary Lu
- Get along with X. Lila
- Remember to do my job which is to set the table. Shae
- Ride my bike that will be my exercise. Jimmy
- Learn as much as I can at my new school and get along with my sister. Brandon
- Take care of my little sister and keep an eye on her. Olivia
- Help my brother more. Charlie
- Read a book every day and eat more fruit. Isaac
- Do my chores and I will help my family and I will help my sister learn how to read and I will play with my sister. Precious
- Take care of my puppy because I love him. Anna
- Clean my toys and clean the floor. Andy
- Make my bed every day. Henry
- Always listen to my mom and dad when I do my homework and keep my room clean. Ethan

What in the World is Going on? (December 10, 2020) Reflections on 2020

A poem by EC in Div. 14

Australian bushfires are killing trees
now animals flee,
time to rescue, but there's strong heat
animals have nothing to eat,
fires everywhere
but no trees are left to spare.
We come to animal's aid
but nowhere left to stay and houses burn,
people are now concerned.

It is horrible that so many animals died even the ones that can fly
did not even make it through the sky.
If we do not stop climate change
the earth will experience extreme temperature range.

COVID-19 is a highly contagious virus that spreads like wildfire
and one of the symptoms is that you get tired.
People are losing jobs because of this virus
and to some seniors it can be high risk.
More and more lives have been taken
and some families might say “what no you’re mistaken”
but no sadly it’s true,
I am also sad too.
You must be thinking, “when will COVID-19 go away
I just want to go outside and play.”
However, while you are staying inside
you’re also saving lives.
Let’s say thank you to the nurses and the doctors,
so, I just give you this one simple offer
please give thanks to all the essential workers
and help people in need and just remember kindness is key.

2020 might be crazy but maybe next year there will not be COVID-19 anymore,
and in the future, we will look at what happened before.
2020 might be a bad year
and some of us were in tears
but maybe some of the things that happened this year were not so bad
and part of me is glad.
There is no more pollution and greenhouse gas
and although this year might not last
or was not such a blast,
this year gave me a way to look at things,
like to cherish and take in what the year brings,
so, I say thanks to this year
and I spread all my cheer.

Students in Division 13 did research projects on endangered species; here is some important information about Orcas.

ENDANGERED ORCAS

Orcas are endangered. Here are some reasons why.

Threats: An orcas three main threats are:

1. Lack of food - They suffer mainly from lack of food because of overfishing, and the techniques used for fishing. The food that they eat is often poisoned by oil and liquid gas.

2. Acoustic pollution – Acoustic pollution is sound pollution mainly from boats. It interferes with their echolocation.

3. Exposure to contaminants through prey

How to help:

We need to help the orcas because if an animal goes extinct, it is not coming back. You should eat ocean wise to help the orcas. Bottom Trawling kills thousands of miles of chinook salmon habitat which orcas eat. They throw back the stuff they don't want but it's already dead.

If it is ocean wise it has been harvested in a way with limited bycatch [accidentally catching other animals that are not intended]. The best way to tell if it is ocean wise is to look for the logo.

DIVISION 18'S RESEARCH PROJECTS ON GLOBAL ISSUES

By Anna

Water Scarcity

Water Interrelationships:
Water has many interrelationships such as, the long girls walk expose them to sexual abuse, which causes teen pregnancy. This leads to high maternal and child mortality rates. Education connected to dirty drinking water issues because girls miss school from the hours it takes them to collect water. Also waterborne diseases results in sickness causing children to miss school. Without a complete education, young adults chance of getting a well paying job decrease dramatically. With a low income people will most likely be in poverty, which will continue the vicious cycle all over again.

How does water affect people globally?
Clean drinking water is very important for everyone to have an healthy life. If you are forced to drink dirty water you can develop waterborne diseases. These diseases cause vomiting and diarrhea which may lead to rapid dehydration. Rapid dehydration is fatal causing more than 3.4 million deaths a year. Many women and girls have to walk to get to a water source. These women spend a lot of time walking to a water source but can't carry much water home leaving them with not enough water for drinking, cooking and hygiene. The long distances they walk gives them a high risk to sexual abuse. Young teens are very vulnerable making them easy targets. In conclusion everyone needs a clean water source that is close to home to sustain a healthy life.

Countries affected by water shortages:
In Canada, there are 174 water advisories for first nations communities. Up to 5,000 indigenous people are affected per advisory and 75% of first Nations have water that is unsafe to drink. In Africa Congo there is more than 30 million people without clean drinking water. Since only 1 in 5 people who live in Congo have toilets they have to use nearby lakes and rivers. These rivers and lakes are used for drinking water too, making waterborne disease worse.

Why is this important to care about?
It's important for everyone to recognize that clean water shortages is a problem. Every year 3.4 million people die from waterborne disease. It affects kids chance of getting a good education because they can miss school from getting waterborne diseases. Everyone should care about this issue that affects around a billion people globally.

How to fix water shortages?
If the lack of clean water supply so harmful is there a way we can solve this problem? Solar disinfection, water filters and flocculants can be donated to poor countries and used to clean water effectively. Rain water harvesting systems can be installed and wells can be built for an underground water source. There are also actions that you can take, such as donating and supporting organizations that fight for clean water supply.

Group that is trying to fix issue:
The NAOC has continued to fight clean water since the early 1970's. The federal government is being pushed by the NAOC organization to strengthen their protection for drinking water sources.

Peter's experience: "We wake up in the morning around four o'clock, because the first thing we do as the whole family is collect water" says Peter.

GENDER equality

What is gender inequality?
 Gender inequality is defined as the way the way people are treated differently or seen as less than because of their gender. UN Women explains it as "unequal rights, responsibilities and opportunities" for all genders. Usually gender inequality and sexism is against women or girls. Gender inequality is systematic in the way that our society subconsciously sees women having less value than men. Women experience inequality in many different parts of their life, for example, the workplace, home, and the legal system.

Gender based violence
 Gender based violence is strongly linked to gender inequality. Globally, 1 in every 3 women has been affected by it. 94% of sexual assaults are committed by a male perpetrator. It has a damaging effect on children. Children who witness violence in the home have twice the rate of psychiatric disorders as children from non-violent homes. More than 6,000 women and children sleep in shelters because it isn't safe at home.

How gender inequality effects people globally
 Gender inequality is a global phenomenon. All over the world men are much more likely to get an education. Globally 1/4 of girls won't finish primary school and, out of the 195 countries in the world, only 6 give women the same working rights as men. Most economies give women 25 percent of the rights men have. In Canada 2018, women earned 87 cents to every dollar a man made. This wage gap is even larger in lower paying jobs.


Gender inequality in Canada
 Though there is less gender inequality in Canada than in other countries, it is certainly not inexistant. Almost 2 million women in Canada live on a low income due to difference in pay. Canada fell from 30th place to 35th place in the 2016 Global Gender Gap rankings by the World Economic Forum. Gender inequality has even cost lives; every 6 days a woman is murdered by her partner.

Gender inequality in different countries
 The country with the highest gender equality is Iceland because it has the worlds largest percentage of women with paying jobs and their government budget sets aside a good amount for childcare. One of the countries with the least gender equality is Syria. A young girl in Syria said "Growing up, I felt as though my wings were being slowly clipped against my will, and life became a cage from which there was no escape". Girls have to worry about gender based violence everywhere; streets, marketplaces, schools, and even their own homes.

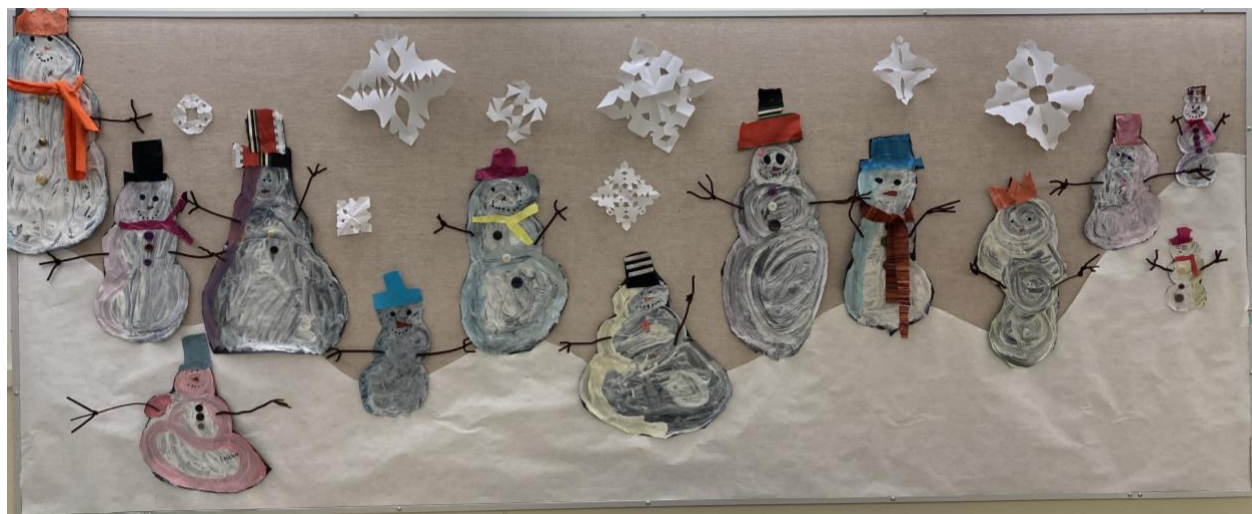
Why it's important to know about gender inequality
 It is so important for people to know and care about gender equality. Everyone deserves to be treated equally and the violence and discrimination towards someone based on their gender has to stop. It is important to know that gender equality positively impacts everybody. Even though those with more privilege might be reluctant to give up power, ultimately it will positively effect everyone. People need to work together so that we can live in a safe and equal society.

How to stop gender inequality
 So how do we stop gender inequality? One thing we can do is support and donate to organizations that support gender equality. Organizations such as UN women, Association for Women's rights in Development and Womankind Worldwide are all fighting for gender equality. Also you can spread the word about gender equality and these organizations by telling friends and family and posting about it on social media platforms.

Interrelationships
 Inequality can be illustrated like an layered cake in which identities can lie on top of each other to produce greater inequalities or greater privilege. For example if you're a white female you might encounter gender inequality, but not the same as you would if you were poor or a woman of colour. Indigenous women are killed at six times the rate of non-Indigenous women. In these cases inequities are layered, one on top of the other.



By Tova



We didn't have a snow day, but Division 3 kept in the spirit by making paper collage snow people.

REMEMBER TO PRACTICE SOCIAL DISTANCING!



VP, Shelley, gets chummy with some new French students (check the labels) by Division 15.

FEBRUARY – A MONTH TO FOCUS ON KINDNESS

This month at Dickens we will be focussing on Kindness – in classrooms through lessons on Empathy and Inclusion; in the library through lessons on Diversity; and throughout the school with a Spirit Day on February 11th (wear red!), and celebrations of Lunar New Year, Valentine’s Day, Family Day and Pink Shirt Day, all of which take place in February. I will be reading a book *Each Kindness* in some classrooms and inviting discussions around what it means to be kind, fair and inclusive. Please extend our work to your households to reinforce the important Social Emotional lessons of kindness, inclusion, diversity and acceptance – so important at school and throughout our lives. Especially during COVID.

Julie Weatherall
Principal, Dickens Elementary