

CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Vice Principal: Shelley Sunner

Secretary: Anne Canning

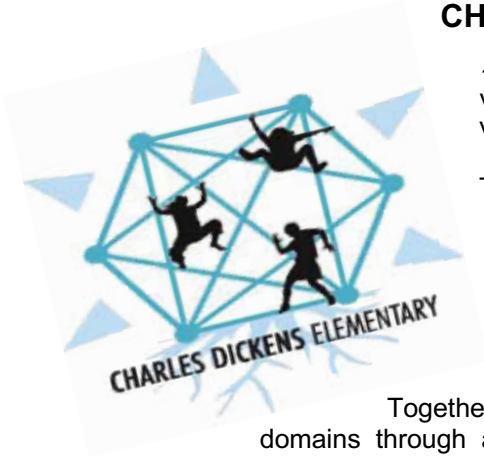
Secretary: Michelle Ventresca

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.

June 2021

We acknowledge that we *learn*, work together, and play on the unceded and traditional territory of the x̱m̱əθḵəy̱əm (Musqueam), seɬwɪtulh (Tsleil Waututh) and s̱kw̱x̱w̱7mesh (Squamish Coast Salish) peoples.

IMPORTANT DATES:

Thursday, June 17th: PAC AGM at 7:30 pm

Friday, June 18th: Beach Day

Thursday, June 24th: Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony – 12:50 – 2:50 pm

Monday, June 28th: PAC Coffee and Pastry Cart – 7:30 – 9:30 am – THANK YOU, PARENTS!

Tuesday, June 29th: Last Day for Students – Reports go home with a surprise for Dickens Parents in the report card envelope of the oldest child in the family

Dear Dickens Community:



On May 26th we had our COVID style Welcome to Kindergarten with new Kindergarten students arriving at staggered times to pick up their bags and meet Kindergarten teachers Kim Hassard and job-share partners Kim Doherty and Maria Morais. The centres portion of the WTK event happened online with some suggested activities to help families prepare their child for that important first year at school. We will have three Kindergarten classes next year

and the third class will be taught by Bernadett Askey (Berni) who taught Intermediate grades this year but did her practicum in Primary grades. The K team is wonderfully collaborative and is working together to plan for the 2021-2022 school year.

STAFFING CHANGES



As I'm sure you all know by now, we are saying goodbye to our beloved secretary, Anne, who is retiring at the end of June and moving on to the Gulf Island life where she will dedicate her life to gardening, family and leisure pursuits. We will miss Anne's wonderful sunny personality, her unflappable calm, her quick, efficient organizational skills, and her delightful way of dealing with everyone who passes by or through the office. **CONGRATULATIONS, Anne!**

Also leaving us is Michelle, Anne's Thursday-Friday job-share partner. Michelle has been a calm, efficient and highly professional addition to our office staff.

Denise, one of our resource teachers, will sadly be moving to another school. We have been so lucky to have her on our team this year. She is flexible, collaborative

and very skilled at finding engaging ways to work with students.

We are also saying goodbye and good luck to three teachers who have been filling long-term absences: Sydney in Division 17 will be moving to the Interior of BC; Anita in Division 8 is going to another VSB school; and Jennifer, Chloe's job-share partner in Division 9, is moving to a different district. They have all fit in beautifully at Dickens and we wish them well. Tamara, one of our amazing support workers has worked at Dickens for several years and is leaving us to move to Alberta. We wish her all the best. Finally, Leane, a temporary student support worker, will also be missed as she moves to a different position next year.

INCOMING STAFF

We have hired two teachers who will be teaching Music next year – Eric Hartman (Monday – Thursday) and Elaine Der (Thursday). We are so lucky to have these experienced music specialists join our staff.

Bicycle Safety Program – 3 Divisions learned all about bike safety May 25th and 26th.



Dickens Staff Walk-in



The tragic announcement of the remains of 215 children found at former Residential School in Kamloops, British Columbia saddened us all. Our hearts were with the *Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc* First Nations.

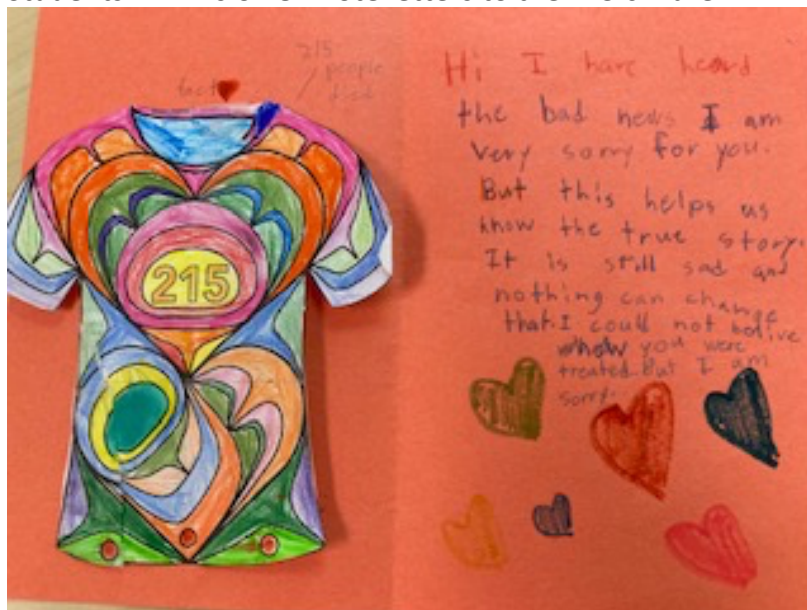
"That this situation exists is sadly not a surprise and illustrates the damaging and lasting impacts that the residential school system continues to have on First Nations people, their families and communities", said First Nations Health Authority CEO Richard Jock. Across the

province, the country and throughout the world respect was paid to honour these children.

Vancouver students and staff participated in many activities including a special ceremony of singing,

drumming and speeches that some of our classes attended virtually. At Dickens we did many activities to show respect and help students gain understanding of the tragedy. Many staff members and students wore orange throughout the week after first learning the news. Our flag was lowered and is still at half-mast. Staff did a 'Walk-In' on Thursday, June 3rd. We wore orange, left the building as a group, and walked around the school in solemn contemplation before leading students into the building. This was a simple, yet immensely profound experience of solidarity. Classes each planted an orange marigold in the Indigenous Garden and at the front of the school. Students were quiet and thoughtful as they respectfully planted the flowers. Teachers addressed student questions and facilitated important discussions in class. In some classes, students wrote letters to the children. Almost everyone on the second floor has carefully coloured a feather which has been affixed in a frieze pattern along the top of the wall. 215 orange ribbons are being tied to our fence. We have found so many beautiful ways to acknowledge this tragic event.

Students in Division 8 wrote letters to the 215 children



And read their letters in a sharing circle.



5-Paragraph Argumentative Essays – Introduction Paragraphs by Div. 17 Grade 5/6/7

Ava:

Harvard makes over four billion dollars per year, yet they charge nearly 70,000 dollars for one semester of school. Do you really want to support a school that would value money over their students? In my opinion, a strong education is as beneficial to someone as a house and food. If you think about it, a proper education could lead you to a job and even a house later in life. An education doesn't just benefit you, but the people who will employ you once you get a job. We all deserve an education and it's not someone's fault if they can't access or afford it.

Erin:

Traditional school is better because you learn more about the subjects in school. In school most of your supplies are provided to you, but when you are at home you waste a lot of money on ink for your printer and black ink is expensive for some families that don't have much money. Traditional schools also have more teachers or adults helping you while you do your work. Students can be happier when they are at school playing with other students and classmates

Tya:

The topic of whether our species are morally and/or ethically good has been around for an exceptionally long time. Many people have different opinions, and I am here to tell you mine. While there are many people that do not fit society's view of "good," the key word of my claim is "most". It is rare when an individual goes out of their way to harm others, property, the environment, etc. When told terrible news about loved ones, friends, or strangers, most people react in the same way, with concern or sorrow. Instant empathy is a common trait in humans, and this shows in common day to day life, media, and much more. One may say that people's decisions are what shapes a person, especially bad ones. I disagree with that claim and believe that a person's point of view varies.

Mackenzie:

Animals in zoos are dying. They are dying from unacceptable causes. Lack of food, water, both causes of animal deaths. And people should care because animals are a part of the eco- system. They are a part of life. For one, a zoo in Santiago, the Santiago Metropolitan Zoo, has had two lion deaths, due to a bad human encounter, in 2016. And in Brooklyn, Prospect Zoo, two polar bears died, and the list goes on. And there were ten thousand zoos alone just in 2020, and now, in 2021, there are fifteen thousand zoos. That is five thousand more than last year.

Division 15's Tiny Homes



Division 15 students studied measurement and Geometry by building tiny homes.

I really enjoyed building my tiny house. I was skeptical at first if it would work using area and perimeter measurements. It really came to life as I put in the furniture. It was fun to experiment with how to build the furniture, and with it being so small it

was difficult to add some of the details. Everybody's turned out very unique and personal, and I think they really reflected everyone's dream home. by Magda & Anika

Pinball Wizard!



Some members of Division 15 also made arcade games out of cardboard as part of the Applied Design, Skills and Technologies Curriculum. The Redesigned BC Curriculum's ADST has a focus on students becoming creators rather than consumers, and entrepreneurs as well as employees. The broad range of this subject includes both digital technologies and hands-on DIY.

Division 14's Beautiful Zen Tangle Drawings



These intricate drawings are actually cards to senior citizens with friendly letters inside.



Division 3 has managed to travel across Canada in spite of the COVID travel restrictions!

THE BARD MEETS CHARLES DICKENS

Division 16 is performing *A Midsummer's Night Dream* and Division 15 is performing *Macbeth*. Students also had to research William Shakespeare or one of the main characters. Below is a composite from some of Division 15's writing about Shakespeare.

William Shakespeare was born April 23, 1564, in Stratford, England. His family was wealthy but for extra money his father sold wool without a permit. His dad was a leather worker and liked to take William on some of his business trips. One day while William was working with his dad, he saw a group of actors. He was fascinated and wanted to know more! He begged his father to take him to a play. William loved it! And from that day on, William knew he wanted to be an actor.

He fell in love with a woman named Anne Hathaway. They married when William was 18 and Anne was 26. They had a daughter named Susanna and twins named Judith and Hamnet. A group of actors came to Stratford. William showed them one of his plays they loved and that was William's one way ticket to London. In 1593 a terrible disease killed thousands of people and theatres were closed. During this time William began to write poems instead of plays. He helped build a new theatre called The Globe and it opened in 1599. The theatre was round, and it had lots of space for 3,000 people inside.

He wrote comedies with happy endings, and he also wrote tragedies which had sad endings. In one of his plays, a scene was banned because it had some information about the Queen that made her look bad. After that she threw the actors in jail. The new King, James, invited William to his coronation. He told William about how much he loved his plays and that he loved witches. William took his love for witches into consideration and wrote a play about them called *Macbeth*. His plays and poetry were very popular 400 years ago and they are still very popular now.

REPORT CARDS

Report cards go home on the last day of school – Tuesday, June 29th. Reports will be in the same format as in January – beginning with Student Strengths and including Areas for Growth and Ways to Support Learning. Students themselves are also required to do a Self-Reflection on the Core Competencies – one each for Communication, Critical and Creative Thinking, and Personal Awareness and Responsibility. I think you will enjoy reading about your children's insights into their own learning. Also, look out for a small token of appreciation from Dicken's staff which will be in the report card envelope of the oldest child in your family. We couldn't celebrate with our parent volunteers this year, but we still wanted you to know that we think Dickens Parents are GREAT!

Julie Weatherall,

Principal, Dickens Elementary