

## CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1010 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C  
V5N 3S5

Telephone: (604) 713-4723

Fax: (604) 713-4725

Website: <http://dickens.vsb.bc.ca>

Principal: Julie Weatherall

Vice Principal: Shelley Sunner

Secretary: Anne Canning

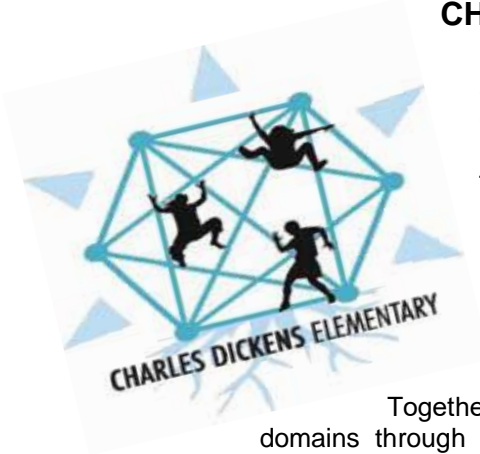
Secretary: Michelle Ventresca

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.

# March 2021

We acknowledge that we *learn*, work together, and play on the unceded and traditional territory of the x̓m̓əθk̓əy̓əm (Musqueam), seɬwɪtulh (Tseil Waututh) and s̓k̓w̓x̓w̓ú7mesh (Squamish Coast Salish) peoples.

### IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH & APRIL:

**March 15<sup>th</sup> – March 26<sup>th</sup>: SPRING BREAK**

**Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>: First day back after Spring Break**

**Wednesday, March 31<sup>st</sup>: Paul Nicholls' last day – Happy Retirement!**

**Wednesday, April 14: Early Dismissal for all students (at 1:55 or 2:00 pm)**

**Monday, April 26<sup>th</sup>: Pro-D Day – No school for students**

Dear Dickens Community:

**It's been a year – an entire year – since COVID-19 turned our whole world upside down.**



I think that this student's Mask Map of the World sums up our new reality. No matter where on Earth we live and who we are, COVID has impacted our lives and the way we do things. Schools have definitely been affected by the health and safety protocols that we are following to keep everyone safe. Here at Dickens many things are different: how we move around, where students can play, how often we wash or sanitize our hands, and how staff can meet and collaborate. In spite of the restrictions however, I think we have adapted very well, and the proof is seeing how happy our

students are – whether they’re running around in their pajamas, doing French plays, or making crafts that connect to the curriculum, they are engaged at school. The feedback I have received is that parents are so grateful that their children are safe and happy at school. Teachers – a huge thanks to you for making school a great place to be – in spite of COVID. (Mask Map by Rivers in Div. 10).

Some classes had conferences on March 10<sup>th</sup> while others will have theirs on April 14<sup>th</sup>. This year conferences look vastly different as parents cannot come into the building. Teachers used a variety of approaches to have students share their work with parents and offered the opportunity to connect virtually or by phone to discuss successes and areas for growth. Since parents were not able to come into the school, I have taken some pictures of student work so that you can see the range of topics being covered in classes.

### The Walls of the Halls

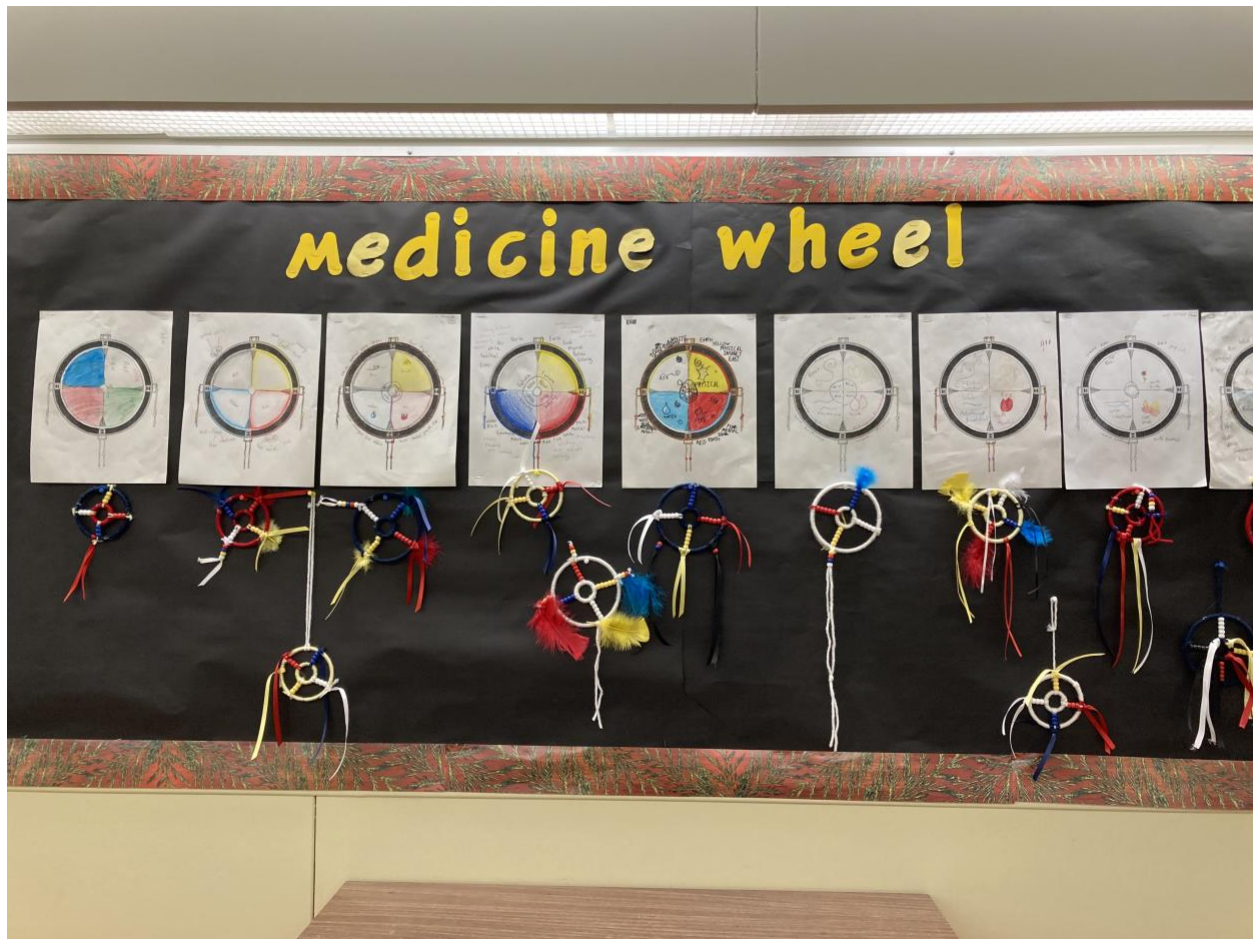


**Van Gogh Sunflowers by Division 8**



**Landform Collages by Division 10**





## Medicine Wheels by Division 16

### Movement Inside and Out

#### **Painted Blacktop Games:**

In the Fall we received a \$6000 grant for games to be painted on the pavement. The VSB painters recently came by to help figure out the best placement for games such as hopscotch and four-square for safety and aesthetic reasons. The work is scheduled to be done by the end of June. It will be wonderful for our students to have these games to add to their outside play routines.

#### **Inside Sensory Pathways:**

Our resource team has been working with teaching and support staff to design a 'Ready Bodies Learning Minds' sensory pathway for inside the building. Studies by Athena Oden and Dr. Denise Kern have shown that a "prescriptive motor development program that focuses on helping children to integrate tactile, proprioceptive, reflexive and vestibular input" improves student learning. "The program hypothesis is centered on the idea that reflex and sensory integration are keys to academic success." (Ready Bodies Learning Minds Website). After Spring Break, we will be installing floor decals and setting up equipment which will guide students who would benefit from body breaks to follow a number of specific routines and activities.

\*NEW BOOKS!\* - a Message from the library.

Our "**New Books Display**" has just-in materials from the district – they are a great selection of diverse books with a focus "on IBPOC communities and SOGI content with an emphasis on Canadian works". Jaze Thind: Wednesday – Thursday Teacher Librarian at Dickens.



Spring Break is here – a time to rest and recoup for all members of our community. We look forward to seeing staff and students back on Monday, March 29<sup>th</sup>.

Julie Weatherall,  
Principal, Dickens Elementary