



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

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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

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Dear Renfrew Families,

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope that families and students enjoyed their time away from school and have come back rested and recharged. Now more than ever, students seem happy to be back at school, connecting with friends and engaging in learning.

Following our Loonie Drive for the Foodbank in December, we were able to donate \$900 to the Food Bank of Greater Vancouver! This was a wonderful way to end the year, we here at Renfrew are so proud of this amazing community.

One of the reasons for the early January newsletter is to keep you updated on important events and dates coming up in the next couple months, so please take time to read the newsletter.

As mentioned in previous newsletters, staff at Renfrew are undertaking important work around equity and anti-racism. One of the resources many intermediate teachers will be using is called “Woke: A Young Poet’s Call to Justice” by Mahogany L. Browne with Elizabeth Acevedo and Olivia Gatwood. Another resource that we are using in our work with students is “This Book is Anti-Racist – 20 lessons on how to wake up, take action and do the work” by Tiffany Jewell.

We are hopeful that 2021 is a better year and look forward to the time we can resume many of the traditions that help to make Renfrew such a special place!

Kind regards,

Janine Lamb

Principal

Ms. Coughlan’s Library Corner

Happy New Year Renfrew Friends and Families!

What a beautiful and enriching start to the new year we have had here at Renfrew.

On Wednesday, the library and Ms. Pizzolato’s classroom was a-buzz with drum-making as we learned about the Indigenous protocols, ceremonies and deep meanings around drum-making and the animal spirits that the drums came from.

Over the Teams platform Ms. Hoang’s class and Ms. Pizzolato’s class learned from and worked with, our indigenous leader Davita Marsden and Elder Amanda, about how to honour the deer, the animal from which the hides came, the traditional meaning behind why the drum is round and how the sound represents the heartbeat of our mothers, the deer’s heartbeat, as well as the heartbeat of our ancestors. We learned that once you beat the drum for the first time, you are calling upon and honouring your ancestors, and that the spirit of your ancestors comes through the drum. We also learned the importance of taking care of the drum and the importance of feeding the drum and its spirit with sage and some traditional food items.

Here are some photos of Ms. Hoang’s students as they worked happily and collaboratively to create these beautiful drums.



“We loved making the drum!” “We really liked making the handle.”



“I enjoyed weaving the sinew through the deer skin holes and hearing the sound.”



Stay tuned as we will continue with this project to make the dowels (beaters) and paint the drums in the upcoming weeks!

A huge thank you to Ms. Davita, Elder Amanda, Ms. Hoang, Ms. Rosario, Ms. April, Ms. Pizzolato, Ms. Elsa, Ms. Lamb and all the students who participated in this meaningful and collaborative work. Haitchka!

STUDENT ABSENCES

Student safety is of paramount importance in the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. If your child is going to be absent from school, please call the dedicated Safe Arrival line at **604-713-5159 extension 70** as early as possible. Please **do not** call the school number to report an absence unless it is after 9:15am. When reporting a student absence, please provide the following information:

- First and last name of your child – please spell the last name;
- Grade and division number;
- Reason for the absence;
- Date of the absence and the length of the absence if your child will be away for more than one day.



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

FEBRUARY COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING CONFERENCES

The first Communicating Student Learning report card will be coming home on January 29, 2021. I hope that all families will have time to review this important document with their children and speak to them about the importance of continuing to put forth a great effort to achieve their best in school. Thank you again for continuing to support your child’s learning by communicating with the teacher and monitoring studies at home (home reading, spelling, writing programs and projects). When the school and home-work together, children benefit.

On February 24th and 25th, students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm so that families can once again spend some time meeting virtually with their child’s teacher to review progress, adjust goals or set new ones. Children learn best when the significant adults in their lives -- parents, teachers, and other family and community members -- work together to encourage and support them. Schools alone cannot address all of a child’s developmental needs. The meaningful involvement of parents and

support from the community are essential. Conference booking information will be sent out in early February.

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 RADIO (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



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2016 began on November 1st, 2020.

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.

K Choice Online Application

The K choice online application <https://kchoice.vsb.bc.ca/> will open on Monday January 11 at 9 am.

Draw Priorities for All Choice Programs (EFI, Montessori, Mandarin Bilingual, Fine Arts, Aboriginal Focus)

1. Has a sibling currently attending the same program at the same location, who will be attending concurrently in 2021
2. Resident of Vancouver and University Endowment Lands
3. Out of district resident.

Note – As in the past, for the 2021 draw process the district **will not be using** Priority Registrations Zones (Early French Immersion Catchments) to determine priority for placement. This means that parents can choose to apply for Kindergarten to any of the 12 VSB elementary schools offering Early French Immersion.

Changes to School Locator

The School Locator has been changed to reflect the removal of Priority Registrations Zones for EFI programs. Early French Immersion program location is no longer indicated when an address is searched
Obtaining Kindergarten PENs and Sibling PEN's



There are three ways for parents to access their child's PEN which is required for the online K-choice Application Process:

1. Contact the school where the child is registered – schools are encouraged to provide PENs upon parent request provided the identity of the parent can be verified
2. **Parents can retrieve their child's PEN as well as the PEN for an older sibling during the online application process** – using the available PEN retrieval function
3. During the application window – Monday January 11 to Wednesday February 3 – there will be telephone support available between 8:30 am and 3:00 pm at tel: 604-713-5688. Parents also have the option of e-mailing vsbkchoiceapply@vsb.bc.ca.

Other Useful Information

- The online application can be completed using a mobile device
- During the application window parents can complete the online application as many times as they wish – new information will overwrite old information
- After completing the online application process parents will receive an e-mail receipt verifying their application information
- PEN field for older siblings is a required field.

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)

CHOICE PROGRAMS FOR GRADES 1 TO 7

VSB is proud to offer a wide range of educational options for different types of learners. Our Choice programs include French Immersion, Mandarin Bilingual, Indigenous Focus, Montessori and Fine Arts.

Before applying for Choice programs students must first register at their neighbourhood school.

Applying to Choice Programs in Grades 1 to 7 currently requires a paper form submission. Download the [Choice Program Application Form](#). Choice Programs are available according to space.

Vancouver Firefighter Charities Snacks for Kids Program

Vancouver Firefighters believe that no child should go hungry in a Vancouver School. With this in mind, VFC partners with the Vancouver School Board (VSB) to provide nutritional support to kids and families who need our help. For more information and or to make a donation, please visit snacksforkids.ca.

Challenges with School Attendance Webinar Series

This webinar series was held in November 2020 and was a collaboration between BC Children's Hospital, the Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Child and Youth Mental Health and Kelty Mental Health Resource Centre.

Getting to school or managing a whole day at school can be really hard for some children and teens, and it can be challenging for parents and caregivers to know how best to move forward. In this 2-part webinar series, our team of experts talk about anxiety and related challenges that can be a barrier to attending school, as well as practical strategies to help things go more smoothly. These webinars were designed to complement each other so it is recommended to watch both Part 1 and Part 2 (a or b).

Part 1: Challenges with School Attendance: Introduction for Parents and Caregivers

Part 2(a): Practical Strategies to Support Elementary School-Aged Children with School

Part 2(b): Practical Strategies to Support High School-Aged Youth with School Attendance

Recordings can be viewed on the following link:

https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLERqxy_UqhB47QdxL6SCbHMMfRRc8YmbD



SEEN IN THE HALLS:

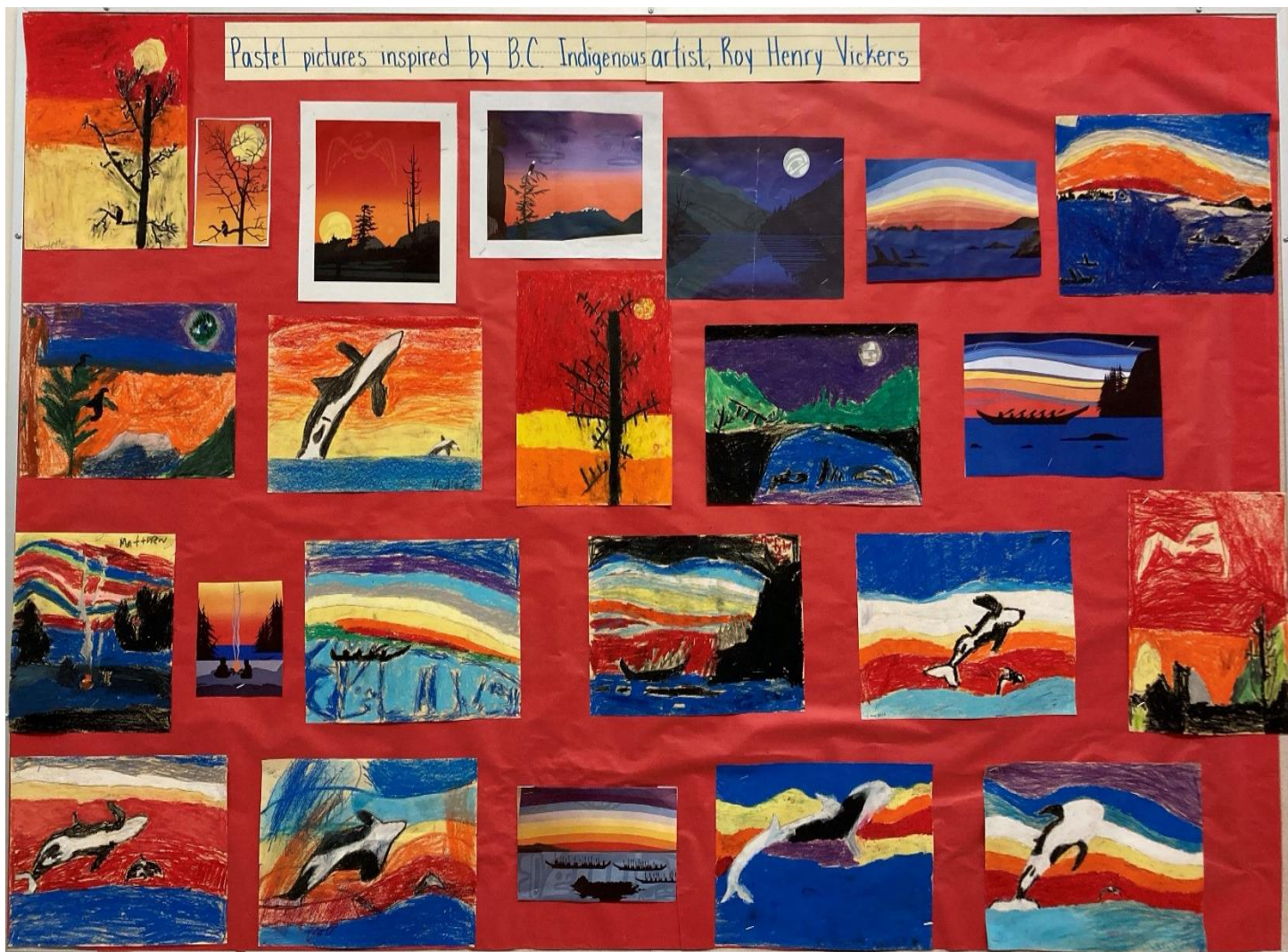


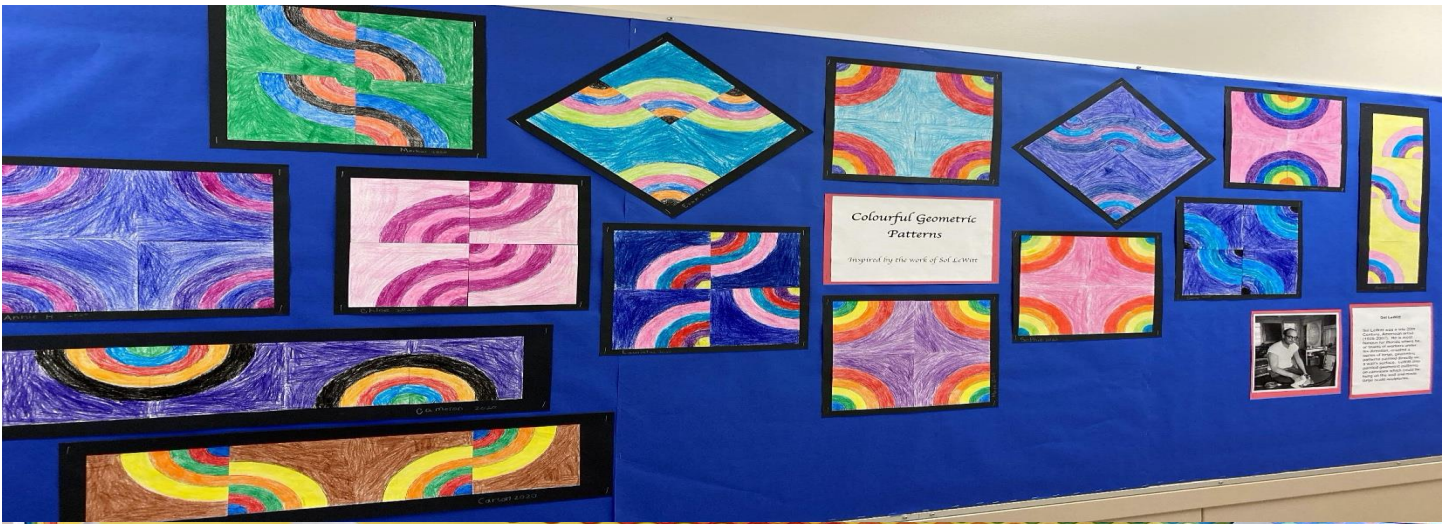
Animals in Winter





Sunset
 We used curved, wavy and straight lines to make these sunset pictures.
 Can you find different lines?
 By Kindergarten





MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WHAT'S GOING ON AT RENFREW

| | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Friday, January 15 th | School assembly |
| Monday, January 18 th | Professional Day. School not in session for students. |
| Friday, January 29 th | Report cards home |
| Friday, February 5 th | School assembly |
| Friday, February 12 th | Professional Day. School not in session for students |
| Monday, February 15 th | Family Day. School not in session. |
| Wednesday, February 24 th | Early dismissal, 2 PM. CSL Conferences. |
| Thursday, Friday 25 th | Early dismissal, 2 PM. CSL Conferences |



PAC CORNER

The PAC wishes Renfrew families a Happy New Year! There will not be a PAC meeting in January. Please look for an email in the near future with dates for PAC meetings until the end of the year.

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