



JOHN OLIVER SECONDARY SCHOOL

JO News
16 May 2025



SCHOOL UPDATES

Why?

The Philippine nation regards Çi-lapulapu as the first Filipino national hero due to his leading role in resistance to Spanish colonization 500 years ago. Ci-lapulapu's name was first mentioned in a diary of one of Spanish captain Magellan's crew when Çi-lapulapu was identified as a leader of the citizens of Mactan island, today one of the islands that make up the Philippines. In the morning of April 27, 1521, at the Battle of Mactan, Çi-lapulapu and his forces defeated the Spanish invaders. Though not a public or national holiday, 27 April is honored in the Philippines as a day of great importance, respect, and national pride. In Vancouver, with many Filipino settlers, and at JO, with many Filipino students, we are proud to be part of this important celebration of community pride, resilience, and resurgence.

Saturday 26 April 2025 was the day of the Second Lapulapu day celebration in Vancouver. Organized by [Filipino BC](#), about 90,000 people from across the lower mainland joined our community celebrating the day with street vendors and organizations along 43rd and in the parking areas behind Fraser from 43rd to 48th. Our school's gravel field hosted the mainstage, with a film screening and jazz concert by our students in the auditorium, a club

basketball tournament in the gym, and the cafeteria the parade marshal point and volunteer's rest area. Fantastic dance, drag, and music on the mainstage, a visit by a national politician (the 2025 elections occurred on the upcoming Monday), and the headliner act by Apl.de.Ap and J-Rey entertained about 9,000 people on our gravel and south fields. The event was an exceptional day of community pride and resurgence. About 20 minutes after the festival ended, while many families were still picnicking on our field, street vendors were starting to pack up and barriers had been removed, a person drove his SUV into people walking home along 43rd. Eleven people died, including one of our parents, Jenn Darbellay. Over 40 people were injured. JO students and staff were witnesses and were among the first to call 911 and help the injured.

For many this was our first experience of death and of a seemingly uncaring, senseless universe.

But your actions- of care and respect for each other and strangers- remind us of the sanctity and beauty of life, and of the

run by John Oliver students, for the community.

Fundraiser walk for Lapu Lapu day tragedy

Scan QR code for more info on donating, all donations go towards the United Way Lapu Lapu Fundraising Initiative.



Pledge forms can be collected in John Oliver Secondary administration office.

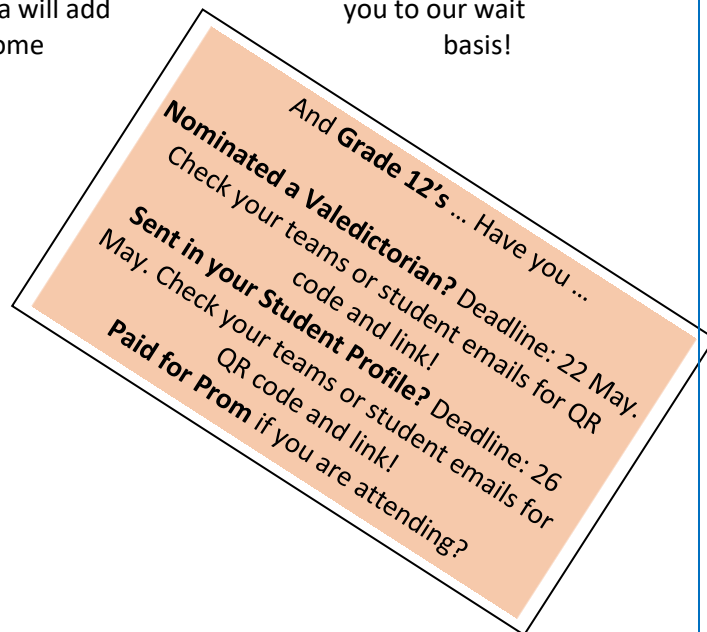
Memorial Park
June 2nd
4:45pm - 7pm (Walk starts at 5pm)

On unceded shared territories of the Tsleil Waututh and Musqueam nations

existence of care, compassion and love in the universe. Your response to violence undermined violence and helped to make JO stronger. Thank-you to all members of the community who offered support; who made support cards for students; who brought therapy dogs through our halls; who arranged quiet spaces and therapy rooms; who worked tirelessly to link students with counsellors ... your response to tragedy defines us.

Grade 12 and Grad Update

If you need **additional tickets for our Chan Centre Graduation Ceremony** on Tuesday 17 June at 2:00pm ... please give Katerina Papoutsis a call at 604 713 8938 ... Katerina will add you to our wait list: if tickets become available, we will contact you on a first come basis!



Community Resource and supports

Free Webinar: Ministry of Children and Families

Responding to Children & Youth After Unforeseen Frightening Events A Webinar for Parents, Caregivers & Community Members

Date: Friday, May 23 2025; 6:30 – 7:30pm PST (ASL Translator will be present)

Location: Online – ZOOM (see below for links)

Overview: This informative webinar is designed for parents, caregivers, and community members to provide them with tools and information to help children and youth after frightening events.

Session Highlights:

- Define and differentiate stress, grief, and trauma
- Discuss brain and stress responses to frightening events
- Outline what to expect from young people in the days and weeks post-event

- Provide practical tools and responses for supporting children and youth
- Identify when to seek professional help and share valuable resources

How to Join: No registration required. Attend by joining the link below:

Link: <https://ca01web.zoom.us/j/62858834582?pwd=oivaOy81SjzQMXh1RAXjI5BnMlhWqi.1>
 Passcode: 350801

About the Facilitators:

Miguel Godau, M.A., CCC, (he, him, his) Team Leader, e-CYMH Team Miguel joined Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) in 2016 and has held roles as clinician and team leader across rural BC. Prior to this he worked with different non-profits and community agencies. He has provided crisis response and grief support in different settings throughout his career.

Kali Love, M.A., RCC, (she, her) Clinician, e-CYMH Team Kali joined Child and Youth Mental Health (CYMH) in 2015 and has held several roles within MCFD, including clinician, team leader, and mental health policy consultant.

Respite Care Services:

In partnership with other Filipino Behavior Consultants and Behavior Interventionists within and outside of KUBO, we are offering free respite care for children and youth of affected families (this includes anyone who was there that day and/or had to witness the event take place).

This allows families to access counselling, recovery appointments, group support, or take time for themselves, knowing their children are safe and cared for.

Availability of our respite providers will be based on the availability of our volunteer behavior consultants and BIs (including myself) and our individual ability to match the requested respite dates and times.

There is no deadline/expiry to these community support offerings as we know that recovery and healing does not happen on a fixed timeline.

To join a support group, access respite care, or simply ask for more information,

You can contact us at:

Email: info@kubocentre.com

Text: 236-708-5660

Private Message on Instagram: @kubocentre

Please contact Miguel.Godau@bc.gov.ca if you have any questions.

This session will be recorded and made available to the public after May 23 2025.

Monthly Free Support Groups | Duyog: Healing in Community:

Led by our Registered Clinical Counsellor, Dionne Chan, fluent in Tagalog and Bisaya/Cebuano, we are offering:

- A free Youth Support Group (6 weekly sessions + optional monthly check-ins)
- A free Adult Support Group (6 weekly sessions + optional monthly check-ins)

These groups are safe spaces to share stories, feelings, grief, and healing in community.

**Start Dates, Times, and Location TBD based on requests to access this service. Our two pending locations are our centre and a community space in Holy Family Parish.*

JO Music

May 29th, 7:00pm, Auditorium... Alumni and Music student's combined choir concert ... follow [this link](#) for tickets, or scan the QR code!



PAC UPDATES

Our next **PAC Meeting** is on May 21st at 7:00pm in the library and online!

If you have any questions or would like to connect with your JO PAC, please email us at: johnoliverpac@gmail.com

In light of the tragedy following Lapu-Lapu day, the **Maker Market** scheduled for **Saturday May 24, 2025** has been postponed through to next year.

It has been just under three weeks since the heartbreaking events at the end of the Lapu Lapu festival. Like all of you, we are still working to process and to heal. Our business neighbors on Fraser St between 41st and 44th were required to close their doors for more than 3 days. These businesses are small and locally owned so everyday that they can serve our community is meaningful to their bottom line. We want to support them as they are trying to maintain a livelihood for themselves and their employees while also navigating the grief and shock of it all. As such we at the John Oliver PAC are asking, if you are able, to please support the businesses listed below.

Food:	Address:	Hair Salons:	Address:	Fitness:	Address:
New Bhaia Sweets & Restaurant	5740	KC The Style Lounge	5818	Dance Co	5780
Dewan-E-Khass	5748	Sun Sun Barbers	5832	Eastside Fitness	5788
Green Leaf Bubble Tea	5756	Studio D	5890	Veloholic (road bikes)	5850
Boba Monster	5766	Sonu Hair Cut	5936	Infinity Stretching Studio	5936
Jack's Chowder	5772	Friends of Fraser Beauty Salon	5935		
Pizza Factory	5812				
L&G Bubble Tea	5816	Healthcare:	Address:	Electronics:	Address:
Tim Hortons	5896	East Vancouver Denture Clinic	5830	Sunny Electronics	5806
Vegan Fried Chick'un	5932	Active Physio & Massage	5892	Fast Cell Repair	5836
Off The Grid (chicken & waffles)	5943			Lead Tech Services	5929
Little Caesars	5927				
Dairy Queen	5907	Services:		Retail:	Address:
		Multiple Insurance	5919	Fraser Dollar Store	5989
				Fraser Shipping & Variety Store	5965

ATHLETICS:

Please follow [instagram.com/jokersathletics/](https://www.instagram.com/jokersathletics/) and our blogspot ...<https://blogs.vsb.bc.ca/jo-athletics/> for weekly updates! Or, from the toptabs on the JO school webpage, navigate to our Athletics and sports updates

MYED LOGON- STUDENT & FAMILY PORTAL

MyEd login for VSB students and parents are the same - students and parents should share the login information! Some districts in BC use a separate parent portal, but the VSB does not ... **If this is the first-time logging into MyEducationBC website, please use the following login and link:**

username: student number
password: Dist\$2025

Further information on logging into the student/parent portal can be found [here!](#)

SCHOOL AND DISTRICT INFORMATION RE GRIEF SUPPORT AND CONVERSATION

Limit exposure to news stories on traditional and social media channels

Consider how you access news and how that may impact children nearby. Young children may not know how to make sense of the news they are seeing and can quickly become overwhelmed. Encourage your older child to rely on reputable news sources, and where possible limit their consumption and exposure to upsetting coverage.

It is important to have conversations, and model with your own behaviours, the additional traumatic impact for victims and families when upsetting images are re-circulated. We are respectfully suggesting that individuals do not watch, repost or share videos of the tragedy.

Acknowledge feelings

Our children and youth will look to us for cues on how to process this upsetting information. Acknowledging our own feelings gives children a model for how to express and process their strong emotions. It is normal to experience a range of emotions in response to such unsettling news.

It is important to note that the intensity of these feelings are going to be impacted by a family's personal connections to the event, their history of loss and trauma, and degree of exposure to the traumatic stimuli on social media.

Listen more than you speak

Listen to your child's concerns before offering any explanations. Give them an opportunity to voice their fears and ask age-appropriate open-ended questions. Ask what they may have heard and what that information means to them. You may uncover misconceptions and unfounded fears that need correcting. These questions will also help you understand if your child is coming from a place of curiosity, concern or fear, and will help you gain a sense of what your child may need from adults to feel safe and supported.

Some of the questions you can ask include the following:

- *Tell me what you have heard about this?*
- *Where did you first hear about this?*
- *How are you feeling?*
- *What questions do you have?*

Provide facts

Tell the truth but do it gently. Give your child facts as long as it is consistent with their stage of development - keep conversations age appropriate. Children need to know their concerns and questions are being taken seriously by the adults around them and that they can trust their adults to be truthful with them. If you don't know the answer to a question, don't be afraid to say so.

Importance of Routine

Maintaining daily routines can provide a sense of stability and security for children and adults. It can also be important to give children permission to continue to find and celebrate hope in their daily world.

Encourage empathy and compassion

Remind your child there may be others in their daily lives who may be impacted by this tragedy. Talk with your child about how we need to treat others with extra compassion and empathy during times like these. Tragedies and times of sadness and grief can serve as meaningful moments to teach compassion, which can help children feel empowered as they find additional ways to be kind and caring.

As school district staff, we recognize that our students may require additional support. We will continue to prioritize the mental health and well-being of our students. Be mindful of any changes in your child's typical behavioural norms. If you feel your child needs additional support, please reach out to your school and/or access the community supports identified in the following resources.

Resources

- [BC Hospice Resources](#)
- [Canadian Mental Health Association](#)
- [ERASE](#)
- [Healthlinkbc: Helping Children with Grief](#)
- [Kelty Mental Health](#)
- [Learning through Loss](#)
- [Foundry Virtual BC - Foundry BC App](#)

Supporting Children During Traumatic Events

How to help children deal with grief and stress in a supportive and compassionate way.

The following suggestions may help you understand what some children may be experiencing and give you supportive ways to respond.

- *There is no "right" way to grieve. Children, in particular, may or may not express themselves in an obvious or expected way. Be patient, observe and take cues from the child about what they may need.*
- *Acknowledge and accept that the tragedy may trigger an emotional response in you as well as your child. It's always difficult to remember and accept that there are events that can't be predicted or controlled. Recognizing your own feelings enables us to be more supportive and gives children a model to express their own feelings.*
- *If children ask questions, listen carefully to what they are saying and respond in as objective a way as possible. If you don't know an answer, don't be afraid to say so.*
- *Accept a range of children's feelings. Allow them to express their remembrances, thoughts and fears—they are not good or bad, right or wrong, they're just there. Emphasize that each person is entitled to his or her own feelings. It's important that children have an opportunity to express their concerns and to feel that adults are taking those concerns seriously.*

- *Be aware of the potential impact of "media overload"—both from traditional media and the internet. Especially in middle and secondary schools, talk to your children about the importance of limiting their exposure to this coverage.*

- *Do whatever is necessary to reassure your child:*
- *Reassure them they are in a safe place.*
- *If children express fears or concerns, respond in the most reassuring way possible. Remind them that it's natural to be sad and cry when someone you care about dies and that the hurt they feel now won't last forever.*
- *Maintain routines as much as possible but understand the need for flexibility if they need to talk or express their concerns.*

Things to consider that may compound children's response to an event:

- *experienced a recent death in the family*
- *recent divorce or family separation*
- *a history of child or family depression, anxiety disorders or other traumatic events (adverse childhood experiences)*
- *have siblings away from home at universities or colleges*

People respond in different ways to tragic events or the recollection of these events. For example, you may notice the following types of reactions in children:

- *acting out or aggression during play and/or preoccupation with violence and death*
- *physical complaints like stomach aches and headaches*
- *mood changes, anxiety, sadness, withdrawal, difficulty concentrating*
- *sensitivity to loud noises*

**If your child continues to experience significant distress—for example, preoccupation with the tragedy—you may wish to consult with your child's school counsellor for resources in the community.*

Helpful Resources:

<http://www.bcchildrens.ca/health-info/coping-support/grief-loss>

<https://www.centerforloss.com/2016/11/finding-right-words-guidelines-talk-grieving-children-death/>

Bereavement Helpline: ph: 604-738-9950 Monday-Friday 9am-5pm <https://www.bcbh.ca>