

## LORD STRATHCONA ELEMENTARY

592 East Pender Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1V5

Tel: 604-713-4630

Principal: Mr. Jason Eng Vice Principal: Mr. Dominic Maggiolo

PAC Chairperson: TBA

School Trustee Liaison: Barb Parrott

# JUNE NEWSLETTER

Hello Strathcona Families,

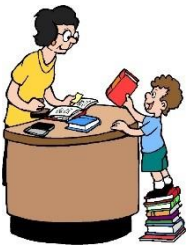
We made it! The final day of school at Strathcona for the 2021-22 school year. Field trips happening left, right, and center in glorious weather, an amazing celebration of our grade 7 leaving class, a school wide assembly to recognize National Indigenous Peoples Day, Sports Day festivities, and a spectacular schoolwide and community gathering at our 1<sup>st</sup> ever Pride Parade!

This newsletter will be packed with pictures and writeups and is a real testament to the work taking place at Strathcona. I am proud to be continuing to serve as the principal at this amazing school.

As we wrap up the school year, we are saying goodbye to more than just our grade 7's. Congratulations to Conor Murphy and Carrie Leung on their amazing careers and well-deserved retirements. Best wishes to Craig Larson and Robin Roberts as they transition into new roles as vice principals! Also wishing the best of luck to Jenny Albutat, Reeghan Carroll, Sarah McKendy, Katie Doyle, and Christine Coles as they move onto new teaching adventures.

To families...I wish you all a safe and restful summer. I look forward to reconnecting with you in September and continuing to build community!

Jason Eng  
Principal Strathcona



### **MS. HONG'S LIBRARY CORNER**

Have a wonderful summer of reading! The Vancouver Public Library's Summer Reading Club is a fun way to encourage your children to read. They also host fun events. Big thanks to everyone for returning their library books!

### **SCHOOL ORGANIZATION FOR 2022-2023**

We are in the process of establishing our enrolment projections for the 2022 – 2023 school year. If you know that your child will not be returning to Strathcona in September 2022, please email our office at [strathcona@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:strathcona@vsb.bc.ca) or call our office at 604-713-4630 to notify us.

# MARK YOUR CALENDARS



## WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Wednesday, June 29	Last day of school for students
Monday, September 5	Labour Day (school closed)
Tuesday, September 6	First day of school

# STUDENT SHOWCASE



## Sports Day

Strathcona had our annual Sports Day on a bright sunny day. The students had a fantastic time!



### Division 13 – Growing Chefs

Division 13 had the opportunity to participate in Growing Chefs this year. We had Adrianna, Maria, and Connie come in to teach us about growing and cooking vegetables.

According to Daniel Szeto and Juliette Wood, this is what they have to say about Growing Chefs:  
*“Growing Chefs was so much fun. We ate vegetables like Bok Choy, Carrots, Leek, and zucchini. It was so fun making vegetable moods. We learned how to cook and cut vegetables for stir fry and it was super yummy.”*



### Division 11 – “The Murder of Luey”

Division 11 got into Murder Mysteries this term and decided to write one of their own about Principal Luey (The Best Principal Ever) being found dead in the Old Library.... death by PAPER CUTS!! With the support of Professional Filmmakers and Sound Tech volunteers, they turned their written script into a movie. The class participated in all aspects of the film-making roles including acting, sound recording, directing, security, and eating snacks. Major thanks to some awesome Grade 6s for helping, and several other students at Strath who were part of the process. Stay tuned for an invitation to the movie premiere! - Teacher Luey



## Grade 6 & 7's – Field Trip Fun

Grade 6 & 7's in division 1, 2, 3, and 4 explored Vancouver's waterways on canoes during an atmospheric river, and enjoyed a fun trip to Victoria.



## National Indigenous Peoples Day Celebration

On June 21<sup>st</sup>, National Indigenous Peoples Day in Canada, Strathcona had a school-wide assembly in the courtyard "to recognize and celebrate the unique heritage, diverse cultures and outstanding contributions of First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples." Robin Roberts, our school's Indigenous Education Teacher, greeted the school with a Land Acknowledgement to recognize the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

To help us celebrate and bring awareness to Indigenous cultures in BC and across Canada, Strathcona invited the Sayget Kuluumgot Dancers (pronounced: Sight Guluumgot) to perform for our school. Sayget Kuluumgot translates to People of One Heart in Sm'algyax, the language the Ts'msyen speak.

Led by Laura Rudland, a retired Vancouver School Board teacher, the dance group honoured our Grade 7's as they are transitioning to Grade 8 for their next stage of life, and our Kindergarten students as they are the future leaders of our school.



The Ts'msyen have four main clan crests. Every Ts'msyen person would belong to one of those crests. These crests are: Laxsgiik (the Eagle Clan), Ganhada (the Raven Clan), Gispwudwada (the Killer Whale Clan), and Laxgibuu (the Wolf Clan). Rudland separated the assembly of students into four quadrants and gave them a crest animal they'd have to dance. The Laxsgiik would soar with their arms spread out wide. The Ganhada danced with their arms to the sides of the back and dancing their fingers like feathers like how a Raven would hop. The Gispwudwada danced with their side fins (arms) making a diving motion into the water and then separating their arms as they came out of the water and making a gesture that looked like they were shooting water out of a Killer Whale blow hole. The Laxgibuu danced with one arm bent in front of the face to show their wolf snouts, with the other arm behind them as their tail, and they would alternate arms every third beat.

The Sayget Kuluumgot Dancers then performed a leaving song as they exited the crowd. Donna Lokhorst, Indigenous Education Worker, introduced two former Strathcona students, Vanaya Jobin and MJ Lavallee, to lead our school in PowWow dance performances. For their first song, they

danced for the school. In the second song, they invited students who wanted to try dancing up to the dance area. More than half of the school got up to try PowWow dancing!



To end our day, our Indigenous Team ordered Bannock from The Bannock Queen, Teresa Mark, for the whole school. The Bannock was separated for each classroom by class composition and every student in attendance got to have some Bannock. It was an amazing day!

A special thank you to our school's PAC for this year's support of Indigenous Education and projects, and a big thank you to Krista Sigurdson for supporting National Indigenous Peoples Day by applying to a grant to help us pay for our event. Without that help, we wouldn't be able to invite our performers to celebrate the day.

### Weaving Project

Learners from our school participated in a weaving project over the past few months.

We learned from Robin Roberts and Donna Lokhorst. First, they taught us how to work with cedar bark, and we made cedar rope bracelets. Then it transformed into complete weaving.

We appreciated Robin and Donna's patience with all the students who participated in this weaving project.

Here is some feedback we collected from a few of the weavers who participated in this project:



"I liked that we got to work with the little kids." -Samaya  
"I learned a skill that isn't connected to my culture." -Elliott  
"I liked learning new techniques, and seeing everyone else's work." -Jonah  
"It was different because I was learning something new, and it was fun to learn new patterns!" -Griffin  
"I liked it because, you could do so much with just one piece of yarn."-Lee  
"It's cool that we get to learn patterns and shapes." -Ren

What an amazing experience for all of us!

Thank you, Robin and Donna!

- Charlotte, Marlow, and Lee, from Division 6



## Strathcona Pride Parade

This June was Strathcona's first ever pride parade! This was an excellent learning opportunity for every grade and for families in our community.

Some learning benefits in preparation:

- Visual Arts Colour theory, design choices
- For 3D floats, physics, tool knowledge, and constructions come into play
- Social Studies: Learning about pride history and human rights
- Social Emotional Learning: empathy for others, identity, building connection to school and community for self and others
- Communication: What is the message we want to convey? If the message doesn't align with my world view, how can I help others express themselves?

This was a whole-school initiative to tackle an intersectional barrier for our students. Being a queer, trans, or 2 spirited person can be very isolating, particularly when compounded with other facets of identity such as disability and race. By showing up for our queer, trans, and 2 Spirited students we are showing them that we celebrate and protect who they are. Time spent worrying about acceptance, identity, and safety can then be shifted to focussing on their learning and friendships. We are taking to the streets to show we are here for each other!



# CALENDAR 2022 – 2023

## Lord Strathcona Elementary School

### School Operation Overview

Number of Days of Non-Instruction	6 Non Instructional Days 1 Administrative Day (June 30)
-----------------------------------	--

### Important Dates

School Opening Day	Tuesday, September 6, 2022
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Friday, September 30, 2022
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 10, 2022
Remembrance Day Holiday	Friday, November 11, 2022
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 16, 2022
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 19, 2022 – Monday, January 2, 2023
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Tuesday, January 3, 2023
Family Day	Monday, February 20, 2023
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 10, 2023
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 13 – Friday, March 24, 2023
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Monday, March 27, 2023
Good Friday	Friday, April 7, 2023
Easter Monday	Monday, April 10, 2023
Victoria Day	Monday, May 22, 2023
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 29, 2023
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 30, 2023

### Professional Development and Curriculum Implementation Days (school not in session)

Friday, September 23, 2022	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, October 21, 2022	Professional Development Day (Province Wide)
Friday, November 25, 2022	Indigenous Focus Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)
Monday, January 16, 2023	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, February 17, 2023	Professional Development Day (District Wide)
Monday, April 24, 2023	Professional Development Day (District Wide)

### Parent Conference Dates

### Early Dismissal Times

Wednesday, October 19, 2022	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM
Thursday, October 20, 2022	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM
Wednesday, February 15, 2023	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM
Thursday, February 16, 2023	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM



Dear Strathcona parents and guardians,

This school year has blown by - I can't believe it's already June! It was so wonderful to see so many parents and community members out for the school's first PRIDE parade. Thank you SOGI committee and teachers/staff for making it such a success. Our PAC was delighted to support the event by funding a visit from Abb'Original, a two spirit Indigenous drag performer, organized by librarian, Jen Hong.

I'm hoping PRIDE parade will be an annual Strathcona Elementary tradition and perhaps next year the PAC can organize a "float". How much fun would that be?







## PAC Executive

I'm excited that a few new PAC execs have joined the PAC board this past month: Amy Rappaport, Cinzia Jeffries and Hillary Webb! Welcome!!! We will have an AGM in September when we will elect a new executive and new officers. Secretary and chair (or co-chair) positions are open. Dawn Brennan has volunteered to act as treasurer for another year. Thank you Dawn! It's really important that we can identify a chair or co-chairs next year. Without a chair, our PAC won't exist (and we will no longer be able to apply for gaming funds).

The PAC exec was excited to meet new kindergarten parents at the welcome to K event a few weeks back. Here are Hillary, Sarah and myself (Krista) at the event.



## Gaming Funds

This year, we voted on and disbursed gaming funds directly to teacher projects. We decided to do this because field trips had been on hold and we wanted to hear directly from teachers about their exciting proposals. And boy did they deliver!!! Gaming funds went to projects like trips to the children's festival, the development of a mud kitchen, a trip to Jericho beach, etc! Thank you teachers for reaching out with your great ideas.

The PAC can decide at the AGM how to budget for incoming gaming funds in the 2022-23 year, particularly whether to put funds directly towards general "field studies" for the school to disperse, to request teacher proposals, or another idea! Dawn (PAC treasurer) has submitted our gaming grant application for the 2022-23 year. Thank you Dawn!

## Indigenous Peoples Day

This year our PAC (once again!) applied for funding from the First Nations Health Authority to support Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations at the school. Donna Lokhorst and Robin Roberts plan and ran a wonderful celebration with storytellers, pow wow dancers and bannock making. Thank you Donna and Robin and thank you First Nations Health Authority! And thank you Jamie Smallboy, PAC Indigenous rep for helping me with the grant application.



Photos courtesy of Annie Simard. Used with permission.

## School Grounds

Carla Frenkel and I met with Ron MacDonald, head of VSB facilities this week to talk about the pinch point/bottleneck (the narrow passage way between the courtyard and the playground). The school district has hired a transportation consultant from Bunt and Associates to provide a report with potential solutions. The district anticipates that this report will be complete by the end of the summer. Please get in touch with Carla if you have questions or want to get involved. We are advocating that the process be sped up as quickly as possible so as to not disrupt the school year with construction or delay construction until another school break!

## Other news

Carla Frenkel (PAC Member at Large and School Grounds Committee rep) is running for Vancouver Park Board and I (Krista Sigurdson) am running for Vancouver School Board in the Fall election. Don't forget to check out our candidacies, and, more importantly: don't forget to vote on October 15th for city council, park board and school board!!!!

Have a wonderful summer,

Krista (Strathcona PAC Vice-Chair) and the 2021-2022 Strathcona PAC board

- Chair:
- Vice Chair and DPAC Representative: Krista Sigurdson
- Secretary: Megan McKinney [strathconapacsecretary@gmail.com](mailto:strathconapacsecretary@gmail.com)
- Treasurer: Dawn Brennan [strathconapactreasurer@gmail.com](mailto:strathconapactreasurer@gmail.com)
- Members At large:
  - Carla Frankel (School Grounds)
  - Cinzia Jeffries
  - Tiffany Kindrid (Income Equity)
  - Jamie Smallboy (Indigenous Representative)
  - Erika Xu
  - Sarah Fielden
  - Amy Rappaport
  - Hannah Wagner
  - Hillary Webb

## How to find the Strathcona Elementary PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

Staying connected with the Strathcona Elementary PAC keeps you looped into activities and events that impact your family. Our PAC has a [website](#) where you can find meeting minutes, our constitution, PAC board member names and more. We also have a [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) page. And, you can subscribe to our listserv by clicking [here](#).