

LORD STRATHCONA ELEMENTARY

592 East Pender Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1V5

Tel: 604-713-4630

Principal: Mr. Jason Eng Vice Principal: Ms. Janine Lamb

PAC Chairperson: Mr. Alec Smecher

MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER

Dear Strathcona Families,

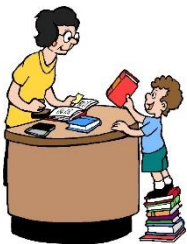
As we head into spring, it is nice to see more daylight, warmer temperatures, better weather, and a two week break just around the corner! Strathcona is a very busy place. It was great to see a student led Pink Day assembly this past Wednesday, spreading the word of acceptance and standing up against bullying. A colleague of mine reminded us of the origin of Pink Shirt Day: The true origin of the day which was homophobic bullying of a student in Cambridge, Nova Scotia in 2007. He wore a pink shirt to school on the first day of Grade 8. Other students in Grade 12 who didn't know him stood up for him by wearing pink to school the next day to show solidarity for the student and let the bullies know that homophobia was not okay. Students started the Day of Pink.

At the school level, we continue to emphasize key messages around the school code of conduct which also connect to a zero tolerance policy towards bullying. Specific topics that continue to receive focus are valuing diversity, use of appropriate language, respect for adults and each other, appropriate conduct online and with social media. A key message for our senior students is to take on leadership and step up to create a culture at Strathcona they can be proud of.

Over the next couple of weeks, please be aware of some key events taking place:

French Immersion Consolidation Proposals Open House on March 7th 3:30-7:00, PAC Meeting on March 13th, and the Multicultural Fair on March 14th. Hope to see a great turnout!

Jason Eng
Principal



MS. HONG'S LIBRARY CORNER

Reading at home with your children is fun and helps their literacy development. If you have internet access, try this website: <http://www.storybookscanada.ca/>.

The books are from many cultures and are available in many languages, including English, Cantonese, Mandarin, Spanish, Tagalog, and Punjabi. You can read the words or have the book read aloud to you.

SPRING BREAK

The last day of attendance prior to our two-week break is FRIDAY, MARCH 15th.

School is not in session the week of MARCH 18 or MARCH 25

The first day back to school following our two-week break is MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019.



MULTICULTURAL FAIR

The multicultural celebration is coming up soon on Thursday, March 14, 2019. This is one of the annual school events that brings together students, staff, parents and community members to celebrate diversity and multiculturalism. Families and community members are welcome to join and celebrate this tradition with us. Below is an outline of the day:

In the Morning - Multicultural Fair

More than 25 tables representing various cultures will be set up in the gymnasium from 9 am to 12:10 pm. There'll be activities such as games, crafts, food tasting, music, dance and much more. Also, don't miss out on Division 18's dance performance!

In the Afternoon - Multicultural Assembly

The Multicultural Assembly will be in the gymnasium from 1:10 pm to 2pm, featuring multicultural performances.

In the evening – Multicultural food tasting

The multicultural food tasting will be in the cafeteria from 5pm to 6pm.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?

Just a reminder that if you have changed your address or telephone number, you must contact the school office with this new information. Please provide a copy of your lease/rental/purchase agreement for the student's record. For safety and enrolment purposes, it is vital that the school office has this information.

DAILY ATTENDANCE

Daily school attendance is important for all students. Students who attend school regularly are more engaged in learning, have a greater sense of belonging to the community and are more likely to graduate high school. Perfect attendance should be a goal because even missing two days of school a month works out to a student missing the equivalent of one month of school a year. Research shows that 18



school days missed can lead to one grade lost. Your child should attend school every day unless there is an unavoidable cause like illness. If you have questions around when to keep your child home from school due to illness, please see information at the end of this newsletter, or follow this link:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/lord-strathcona/Families/Frequently-Asked-Questions/Pages/default.aspx>

When children arrive at school on time they start the day off more positively. When children attend school consistently, they are able to build stronger relationships with their teachers and classmates. It is difficult to 'catch children up' when they miss a significant amount of teacher instruction because of late arrivals. In some cases, valuable teacher time can also be compromised and these late arrivals/absences impact the learning not only of the child who is absent/late but also of his/her classmates.

Please let us know if there is any way we can support you in getting your child to school. Please contact us in the office 604-713-4630 to discuss your ideas or concerns.

ENGLISH KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

We may have spaces left in our English Kindergarten classes for September 2019. If you have a child born in 2014, please register them ASAP in order to help secure your child's placement in their home school. Once classes are full, new Kindergarten registrants will be placed on a waitlist. Please follow this link for information and to begin the registration process: https://www.vsb.bc.ca/School/School-Registration/Kindergarten_Registration/Pages/Default.aspx



STRATHCONA WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN EVENT

If you have a child entering Kindergarten at Strathcona in September 2019, please join us on Tuesday, April 16th at 10:15 AM in the Auditorium. You and your child will have an opportunity to meet the Kindergarten teachers, learn more about Strathcona Elementary, and participate in some fun learning activities. At the end of the event, you will take home a 'Welcome to Kindergarten' bag filled with supplies, for example, books, crayons, paper and scissors.

KINDERGARTEN SEPTEMBER 2019

Kindergarten can be an exciting and stressful time for you and your child.

Support for School Success invites families who have a child entering kindergarten to join in fun activities to provide support for learning, behaviour and physical health.

With fun activities, your child will have eyes, hearing, talking, health, behavior, and dental checks.

Location:

Ray-Cam Co-operative Centre
920 East Hastings Street

Dates:

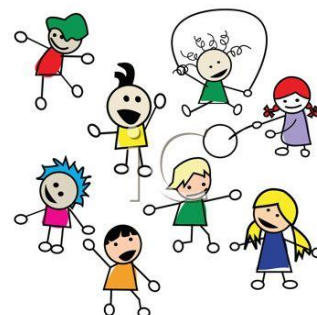
March 6, April 10
May 1 and 29, and June 29

Call Harinder at 604-675-3980 to sign up for a 2 hour appointment.

For more information:

Ray-Cam staff - Carin @ 604-257-6949;

BC Children's Hospital RICHER NPs @ 604-875-2246



OR Drop in to check things out!
 You can bring a friend or family member with you for support.
 There will be a snack, lunch and a small gift bag for your child.



You are invited to drop in to a public information session at:

HUDSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 1551 Cypress St.
 Tuesday March 5, 2019
 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm (LIBRARY)

or

STRATHCONA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
 592 East Pender
 Thursday March 7, 2019
 3:30 pm - 7:00 pm (AUDITORIUM)

PUBLIC INFORMATION SESSION
French Immersion Program Review
Hudson Elementary School Focus

The Vancouver School District is proposing to relocate the District Early French Immersion Program at Hudson Elementary to Strathcona Elementary in Sept 2020.

District staff will be in attendance to:

- provide information about the proposal and potential options,
- answer questions, and
- receive your feedback

For more information, please visit the district's website:

govsb.ca/FI-Hudson



MEASLES VACCINATIONS

Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) and the school district encourages everyone to take this current set of measles cases as a reminder to ensure their vaccinations are up-to-date and to report student vaccination records to Vancouver Coastal Health via the school's Public Health Nurse.

If you have documentation of your child's vaccination records and wish to get them to VCH, please feel free to drop a copy of them off at the school office and we will provide them to our school's VCH Public Health Nurse.

If you are wanting to receive vaccinations, you can access such services via:

- One of the VCH Community Health Centres (North, South, Three Bridges, Evergreen, Ravensong, and Pacific Spirit Community Health Centers)
- Certain pharmacies which offer vaccination services
- Certain family/general physicians' offices

If you have questions regarding measles or vaccinations, please call 811 or Vancouver Coastal Health.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Tuesday, March 5 th	Safer Schools Cyber Information Sessions for intermediate students
Thursday, March 7 th	Public Information Session French Immersion Program Review Hudson/Strathcona 3:30 – 7pm, auditorium
Wednesday, March 13 th	Report cards (for those not involved in the CSL Pilot Project)
Wednesday, March 13 th	PAC meeting 6-8pm

Thursday, March 14 th	Multicultural Fair – Activities for students during the day; 5-6pm event for families including a variety of snacks
Monday, March 18 th	Spring Vacation, school not in session
Monday, April 1 st	School re-opens
Wednesday, April 3 rd	Class/Team/Club Photos
Tuesday, April 16 th	Welcome to Kindergarten Event (10:15 - 12:00 PM)
Wednesday, April 17 th	PAC meeting 6-8pm
Friday, April 19 th	Good Friday; school not in session
Monday, April 22 nd	Easter Monday; school not in session
Wednesday, April 24 th	Spring Concert (Evening Performance)
Thursday, April 25 th	Spring Concert (Daytime Performance)
Monday, April 29 th	Pro-D Day, school not in session
Friday, May 17 th	Pro-D Day, school not in session
Monday, May 20 th	Victoria Day, school not in session



Dear Strathcona families,

The flowers are out, Spring has sprung, let's celebrate with the gift of music!

Please save the following dates:

Wednesday, April 24th, 2019 at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium

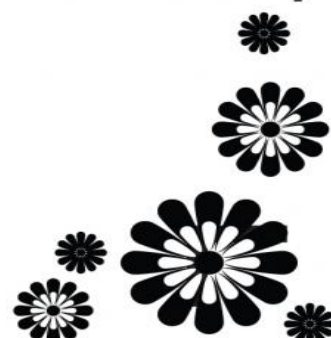
Thursday, April 25th, 2019 at 1:10 PM in the Auditorium

Come hear Strathcona students sing and play their hearts out!

The following Divisions will be performing at the Spring Concert:

Div 2	Grade 6/7	Maryann Persoon
Div 4	Grade 6/7	Craig Larson
Div 8	Grade 5/6	Eileen De Forge
Div 10	Grade 4/5	Betty Friesen
Div 12	Grade 3	Jenny Albutat
Div 14	Grade 2/3	Stella Lee
Div 16F	Grade 2	Pamela Buis
Div 17	Grade 1/2	Natalie Mirolo
Div 18	Grade 1	Evelyn Tam
Div 20K	Kindergarten	Colleen Sturrock
Div 21K	Kindergarten	Lilliana Matelich
Div 22F	Kindergarten	Helene Bouchard

Please mark your calendars. Hope to see you there!





Hello parents,

The PAC has been very active this month!

VSB French Immersion proposal

The school board proposed in January to relocate the French Immersion program at Henry Hudson Elementary in Kitsilano to Strathcona. This would double the size of the French Immersion program here. We gathered feedback from parents at the PAC General Meeting on January 30th, and met with school board staff on February 25th to give feedback. We will present this to staff and trustees on March 6th.

The PAC Board does not support the proposal. It is missing significant details, and has a short timeline for parent engagement and for the VSB to consider parent feedback. We have concerns regarding resources and equity. The proposal seems to have been prepared from a numbers perspective rather than considering actual student and family needs, and physical space, at Strathcona.

Food4Schools

After learning that funding to the VSB's hot lunch program was dramatically cut, a Strathcona PAC sub-committee was struck to fight for this program. A city counselor proposed a short term solution to restore funding to the end of the school year. Strathcona parents, teachers and other concerned community members spoke to city council to oppose this cut. This bill will be voted on at a February 26 city council meeting. To get involved monitoring this, please join the Strathcona PAC food security sub-committee by emailing pac_str@vsb.bc.ca

PAC Email List

The school has asked us to build our own email distribution list since they can't send out our emails anymore. Please sign up for this list so that we can keep in touch by going to: <http://eepurl.com/ggoJnb>

You will receive emails from the PAC about PAC meetings, school/class events, volunteer opportunities or other issues facing your kids that you may want to know about. We won't spam you with emails or share your email address.

We will continue to use the FB site <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1748127745327343/> but the email list is a way to reach families not on Facebook.

Spring Event

To replace the Spring Fair, we are tentatively planning a Bingo night on May 30th. Please stay tuned for details for opportunities to help organize/run and/or reach out if you want to get involved.

Next PAC Meeting

The next PAC General Meeting will be held on March 13th in the cafeteria. We'll be talking about all these issues, plus an update on play areas and more. Free dinner starts at 6:00pm, and the meeting starts at 6:30pm. Child care is available. All parents welcome.

Playground Committee

The playground committee is currently seeking private funding to put a small play structure and a class garden space in the empty wood chipped areas in the courtyard. Please feel free to reach out to Katie via pac_str@vsb.bc.ca if you would like to contribute or have any questions.

From your PAC board -- reach us at pac_str@vsb.bc.ca!



Community Centre News

Holiday Safe Place camps:

- March 18-22, and 25– 29 (excluding weekends), 9am – 3pm
- \$150
- Referral registration until March 4 at 4:00pm, and open registration starting on March 4 at 4:00pm
- Activities TBD, but it'll be two weeks of arts and crafts, sports and games, and out-trips.
- Breakfast (8am – 9pm) and lunch is provided

Spring Registration:

- Program guides to be available the week before
- 9am on March 29 in person, on the phone and online

Food Programs at Strathcona Community Centre

Breakfast Program- Mar. 1st-15th (M-F, 7:30-8:55am)

Backpack Program- Mar. 1st, 8th, 15th (Fri. 2:00-4:00pm)

Chat and Chew food club- Mar. 5th, 7th, 12th, 14th (Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-12:55pm)

Cooking fun with families- Mar. 4th, 11th (Mondays 12—2:30pm)

Start your own seedling- Mar. 7th (Thur. 6:30-8:30pm) Must pre-register.

Backpack sharing table: Free Haircuts by local professional Cameron Martens- Mar. 15th (Fri. 2:00-3:30pm)

For April:

Breakfast Program- Apr. 1st-30th (M-F, 7:30-8:55am, except Apr. 19th Good Friday, 22th Easter Monday)

Backpack Program- Apr. 5th -26th (Fri. 2:00-4:00pm)

Chat and Chew food club- Apr. 9th-30th (Tuesdays and Thursdays 12-12:55pm)

Cooking fun with families- Apr. 8th-29th (Mondays 12—2:30pm)

Backpack presenting New Canada Food Guide- Apr. 5th (2:00-4:00pm)

Backpack Basic Knitting Tutorial with Merry Carol- Apr. 12th (2:00pm-3:50pm)



September 2016

WHEN SHOULD I KEEP MY SICK CHILD HOME FROM SCHOOL?

Things to consider if your child feels unwell:

1. The protection of your child. Without proper rest a child may have a hard time fighting an illness or be open to other illnesses.
2. The ability of your child to actively take part and learn at school.
3. The school staff cannot care for a sick child and give them the support that they may need.
4. The protection of other children.

Please keep your child home if he/she:

- Has a fever.
- Is too sick to take part in all normal school activities.



- Has a suspected or known communicable disease (i.e. strep throat, chicken pox, measles or any other undiagnosed rash).
- Keep your child home until they cannot infect others or as told by a health care provider.
- Is vomiting or has diarrhea. It is recommended that students be symptom free at least 24 hours before returning to school.

Please let the school know your child's symptoms, as per the schools call back procedures.

If the school finds it necessary to send your child home because of illness, please make sure you have arranged an emergency contact if you are not available. Inform your school of these arrangements.

Where can I find more Information?

- **Public Health school Nurse at 604-983-6700**
- Health Link BC – online www.healthlinkbc.ca or dial 811
- North Shore School Health Manual: www.vch.ca/schoolhealth
- Sneezes and Diseases <http://www.vch.ca/media/SneezesDiseases.pdf>

