

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: Ms. Krista Sigurdson

School Trustee Liason: Barb Parrott

MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Strathcona Families,

February has been a fantastic month at Strathcona! Basketball season was a success with many students participating, and the grade 6/7 outdoor education trip was a tremendous success for all those who participated. It will be a memory that our senior students won't soon forget! Our school staff are busy putting preparations together for this year's Multicultural Fair. Further details about the event later in the newsletter.

February was a great month to emphasize the values of kindness and friendship, connecting it to the themes around Valentine's Day and Pink Shirt Day, and tying it into "Dragon Training" and how Strathcona Dragon's conduct themselves at school! Our Dragon Training Day 2.0 and student led assemblies further emphasized the focus areas around respectful behavior and conduct in the lunchroom, in hallways, during assemblies, and outside at recess and lunch.

Strathcona students and staff recognized the importance of February's Black History Month in a variety of ways, from work in classrooms, to displays in the library and classes being engaged in presentations from the African Descent Society.

I also want to take a moment to thank the PAC for all their work supporting our school community. Their work supporting outdoor education, field studies, grade 7 grad, advocacy for students, families, and an improved school ground hasn't gone unnoticed! We also appreciate PAC volunteers taking on community events like movie night and Bingo...Keep up the great work!

See you all at the Multicultural Fair in a couple of weeks.

Jason Eng
Principal Strathcona

SPRING BREAK

The last day of attendance prior to our two-week break is FRIDAY, MARCH 13th.

School is not in session the week of MARCH 16 or MARCH 23

The first day back to school following our two-week break is MONDAY, MARCH 30, 2020.



MULTICULTURAL FAIR

The multicultural celebration is coming up soon on Wednesday, March 11, 2020. 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 30 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.

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 for families will be in the cafeteria from 5pm to 6pm.

STRATHCONA DRAGONS

At Strathcona, we have continued to focus on Positive Behavioural Interventions & Supports (PBIS), or Strathcona Dragon training, as a way of building a calm, peaceful school community. We are also focussing on different themes every month to encourage positive community building. February and March are focussed on kindness, having a plan at recess and lunch and positive behaviour in the lunchroom. In February, all students participated in a second Strathcona Dragon training day and student-led assemblies focussed on our themes. Students also enjoyed an extended recess as a result of collecting so many dragons for doing the right thing! In April, the focus will be on taking care of the earth, and positive behaviour in the hallways.



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 2020

We may have spaces left in our English Kindergarten classes for September 2020. If you have a child born in 2015, 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 2020, please join us on Wednesday, May 13 at 10:30AM in the auditorium. You and your child will have an opportunity to meet Strathcona staff, 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.

COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING (CSL)

The Vancouver School Board District website has been updated to include information for parents about CSL: https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Learning/Assessment_Reporting/Pages/default.aspx

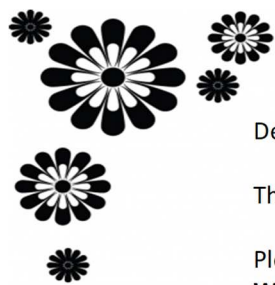
It includes:

- What is CSL? video
- Description of new format of written report (strengths-based language) and subject area proficiency scales
- FAQs for parents



WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Wednesday, March 11 th	Multicultural Fair – Activities for students during the day; 5-6pm event for families including a variety of snacks
Monday, March 16 th - 27 th	Spring Break, school not in session
Monday, March 30 th	School re-opens
Friday, April 3 rd	Class/Team/Club Photos
Friday, April 10 th	No School – Public Holiday
Monday April 13 th	No School – Public Holiday
Wednesday, April 15 th	PAC meeting 6-8pm
Wednesday, April 29 th	Spring Concert (Evening Performance)
Thursday, April 30 th	Spring Concert (Daytime Performance)
Thursday, May 7 th	PAC Bingo Night
Thursday, May 14 th	Sports Day
Friday, May 15 th	Pro-D Day, school not in session
Monday, May 18 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 29th, 2020 at 6:00 PM in the Auditorium

Thursday, April 30th, 2020 at 1:00 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 1	Grade 6/7	Doug Sherret / Scott Kanou
Div 2	Grade 6/7	Anna Chudnovsky / Sarah Cordingley
Div 3	Grade 6/7	Craig Larson
Div 4	Grade 6/7	Steve Asdrubale
Div 9	Grade 4/5	Melissa Anema
Div 11	Grade 3/4	Judah Kong
Div 13	Grade 2/3	Hayley Enns
Div 14	Grade 2/3	Claire Bunton
Div 16	Grade 2/3	Pamela Buis
Div 17	Grade 1	Natalie Mirolo
Div 19	Grade 1	Caitlin Beattie

Please mark your calendars. Hope to see you there!



STUDENT SHOWCASE



Division 18



Division 18 at the VCC Dental Clinic



In Division 18 we have been learning about the importance of healthy foods and good dental hygiene. Here are some important things to remember:

- Brush your teeth for 2 minutes. Do this twice a day.
- Use a pea sized amount of toothpaste.
- Floss your teeth.



Division 15

Here is Division 15, working hard making posters for Chinese New Year!



Divisions 4, 5, 7, and 10

Spring is almost here and divisions 4,5, 7, and 10 have chicks hatching in their classrooms! After a few weeks of incubating, the chicks have been hatching all week, much to the excitement of the students! One of the chicks even had some help from our engineer Nazim to come into the world, as she was born late at night.



#build2learn

Public Engagement Begins

The Board is engaging parents to ask how we can use VSB buildings across the city for the learning of students today and in the future. Our priorities are to create modern learning spaces and ensure all our students are in seismically safe schools.

If we plan and act now, the ongoing seismic program provides us with an opportunity to continue to build modern classrooms that meet the needs of school communities and Vancouverites now and in the years to come. Right now, half of our buildings are older than 70 years. The Province is providing money to upgrade or build seismically safe schools for every student in Vancouver and across BC.

While we will continue to advocate for more provincial funding and the Province will cover seismic safety, this may not cover all the costs associated with building the modern learning spaces we'd like to create at VSB. If we combine VSB money with the provincial funds, this could allow us to build more modern classrooms for the future. To do so, we'll have to raise money.

We'd like to understand your thoughts about envisioning modern classrooms and community spaces, and how we can raise money to build them.

VSB will host two phases of engagement – one online and one through in-person events. Our online engagement is open between February 19, 2020, and March 11, 2020. Please go to <https://build2learn.ethelo.net/> to provide your feedback.

This is part of the engagement process that we started in fall 2019. Through this process, we will develop recommendations for how we can use our buildings to serve the learning needs of students today and in the future within seismically safe schools. We will report back on what we've heard throughout the process by the end of June 2020.



PAC CORNER

Dear Strathcona Families,

Thank you parents/guardians for coming out to winter movie night in February and volunteering your valuable time. Thank you Save-on-foods and The Backpack Program for donating delicious food for the evening.

We're starting to organize **BINGO night 2020**. Please save the date: Thursday May 7th 5-7pm. Like last year, we'll have a low-cost BBQ and low-cost food trucks. We'll also have free BINGO all evening, and a raffle/silent auction. Grade 7s will be asked to run the BINGO game again!

Do you have any prizes you could donate? Holiday gifts that you don't want/need or gift cards that you won't use!? A service that you could provide? Please drop off prize donations to the office to the attention of the PAC or let Krista know what you can offer!

Stay tuned for our electronic survey on school re-imagining and funding priorities for 2020-21.

Our next PAC meeting is Wednesday April 15th, 6:30-8pm and we look forward to seeing you there.

Join our PAC email list here if you haven't already: <http://eepurl.com/ggoJnb>

Cheers,

Your Strathcona Elementary PAC board

- Chair: Krista Sigurdson krista.sigurdson@gmail.com

- Secretary: Pam Murray

- Treasurer: Laura Rioux

- Members At large:

- Andrea Glickman (Advocacy)

- Vicky Huang

- Tiffany Kindrid (Income Equity)

- Amanda Qian

- Eva Sam (Chinese Communication)

- Allan Williams (Elder Advisor)

- Erika Xu



Community Centre News

- Strathcona Community Centre is running a Spring Break Day Camp! The camp is designed for school-aged children, runs 9am-3pm Monday to Friday, and will include fun recreational activities, crafts, games, snacks and a few local outtrips. Limited space still available, registration is \$100/week and can be completed at the Community Centre Front Desk. LAP and Strathcona 25/75 subsidy can be applied, and additional support is available for families facing barriers to registration. Contact jennifer.taylor@vancouver.ca or stop by the desk if additional information is necessary.
- Supported registration for Strathcona Community Centre SUPERSHINE Summer Day Camp begins March 6th! Supported Registration applies to those families whose registration requires additional support (including those working through ministries/camperships for funding), residents of Maclean housing, and/or those facing extra challenges. Please contact jennifer.taylor@vancouver.ca if you require further information or clarification around this. Local community Daycamp registration for Strathcona students begins April 10th.
- Community Centre program suggestions or ideas? Please contact jennifer.taylor@vancouver.ca

How to Wash Your Hands

Hand Washing and Hand Sanitizers

Hand washing is the best way to prevent the spread of infection. Proper hand washing reduces the spread of colds and influenza by as much as 40%.

When you wash your hands, you wash away the germs that you may have picked up from other people, from surfaces or from animals. Teach children to wash their hands thoroughly and often, so that hand washing becomes a life-long habit.

There should be **liquid soap, water and disposable paper towels** available for hand washing.

Use plain liquid soap to wash hands. Do not use antibacterial soaps or cleaners; these can lead to antibiotic resistance. (See: Antibiotic Resistant Bacteria, page 27)

When washing their hands with soap and water, **children should wash for 20 seconds**; sing "Twinkle, Twinkle Little Star". Then rinse well.

Use disposable paper towels to dry hands and throw the towel into the garbage. "No Touch" garbage cans help reduce the spread of infection.

When soap and water are not available, children should use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer. Alcohol-based hand sanitizers are safe for children to use.

When cleaning their hands with alcohol-based hand sanitizer, **children should use enough sanitizer to keep their hands wet for 15 - 30 seconds**; follow the directions on the bottle.

Children should wash their hands:

- before and after eating
- after using the toilet
- after sneezing or coughing or wiping their noses
- when their hands are dirty
- after playing with commonly used toys
- before and after playing at a water table
- after playing outdoors or in a sandbox
- after handling animals or animal waste.

When hands are visibly dirty or if there is diarrhea, warm water and soap should be used instead of a hand sanitizer.



Posters, video and more materials that show how to wash hands and use hand sanitizer at:
sneezesdiseases.com/wash-hands

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>



UNDERSTANDING GANG AND ONLINE EXPLOITATION

Join us for two hour-long workshops designed specifically for parents / guardians to better understand how to keep youth safe from gang and online exploitation.

WHEN: MARCH 10TH, 2020

WHERE: 601 KEEFER STREET IN VANCOUVER

TIME: 6:30-8:30PM

RSVP: event@plea.bc.ca

**FREE
EVENT!
FOOD!**

Her Time provides parents/guardians with information on the dangers and effects that gangs have on youth and what to do if you suspect a young person is involved. Exiting tools and resources are provided.

Safer Space offers up-to-date knowledge to keep youth safe when using apps and social media.

Her Time was started by Detective Anisha Parhar and Detective Sandy Avelar, while active gang crime detectives and partners on the frontline. Anisha and Sandy present with women who have successfully exited lives in organized crime, their experiences and stories assist young girls and women who may be exposed to gangs.

Safer Space is presented by Children of the Street and uses real life examples of online exploitation.

Topics covered include: healthy and unhealthy relationships, sextortion, sexual exploitation, digital citizenship/foot print & permanency, and location and privacy settings on apps and social media.

This event is brought to you by: **The Vancouver Community Action Team** a network of local community service providers working together to promote awareness & prevention of the sexual exploitation of children and youth.



**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**