

Ms. Coughlan's Library Corner

Last week on 'I Read Canadian Books' day, we had the pleasure of (virtually) welcoming local author, illustrator, animator, and uncle to two of our Renfrew students, Benson Shum, to read aloud one of his latest books, Alex's Good Fortune.

It was a timely read, as we were in the midst of celebrating Lunar New Year; and this book tells the story of Alex and Ethan, two best friends, who share in celebrating many Lunar New Year traditions together.

The students were excited to hear the author read his book live. But even more exciting, was what happened following the read aloud. Benson invited students to ask questions about the book and his life as an author, illustrator and animator. Renfrew students asked so many great questions and Benson answered them all! The students were enthralled with so many aspects of his life: his journey to how his books are made, what Disney movies he has worked on as an animator, what his own favourite children's books are, how long it takes for a book to be written, illustrated, published and out on the shelves (by the way, about 2 years!), and oh so much more!

On behalf of Renfrew school, we give a HUGE heartfelt shout out to Mr. Benson Shum for helping to inspire a new league of readers, writers, illustrators and animators in this world!

SPRING BREAK

The last day of attendance prior to our two-week break is FRIDAY, MARCH 12th.

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.



MOVING? CHANGING SCHOOLS?

If your child will not be returning to Renfrew in September 2021, please notify the office as soon as possible.

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.

RENFREW NEIGHBORHOOD KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FOR SEPTEMBER 2021

We may have spaces left in our neighborhood Kindergarten classes for September 2021. If you have a child born in 2016, 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

Student Learning Survey 2020/2021

The Provincial Student Learning Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents/guardians/caregivers, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

In March and April **2021**, the Student Learning Survey will be administered to students in Grades 4 and 7, their parents/guardians/caregivers, and all school staff. We encourage parents/guardians/caregivers to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province – in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

The survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey. Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The survey can be accessed through the link with or without an anonymous logon code by selecting the school district and school name where your child attends school. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site under the *Results* section.

The e-survey site will be open until April 30th.

If you have any questions, please contact the school at 604-713-4851

LEGO TO SPARE?

Do you have Lego at home collecting dust? If so, we would happily take it off your hands. Staff at Renfrew are trying to build a 'Lego Bank' to use in the FuturePLAY lab. In addition, we would like to build a 'Lego Wall' for student use in the library, with a target date for completion in the fall of 2021. These goals add up to us needing a lot of Lego! If you have Lego that you no longer need, please consider donating it to the school. Please contact Janine at jlamb@vsb.bc.ca if you are able to donate, or if you have any questions!

School Photos

Due to Covid-19, the Vancouver School District has postponed elementary school photo days until further notice.

STUDENT SHOWCASE



Division 10

As part of our Jan Brett author study, Div. 10 students created shoebox dioramas for many of the animals and habitats found in her books. The students enjoyed upcycling their boring shoeboxes into mini worlds where their clay animals find shelter.

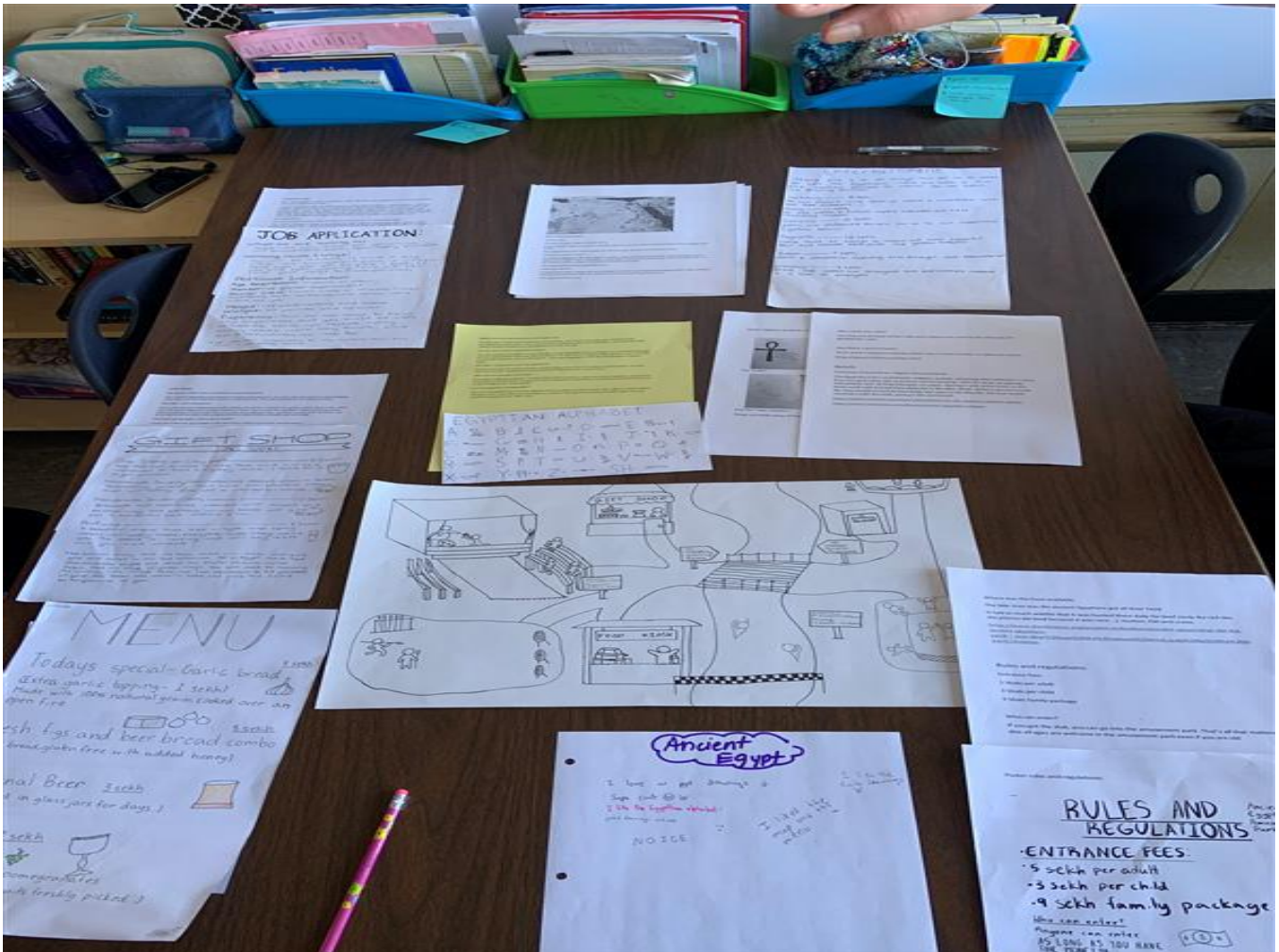


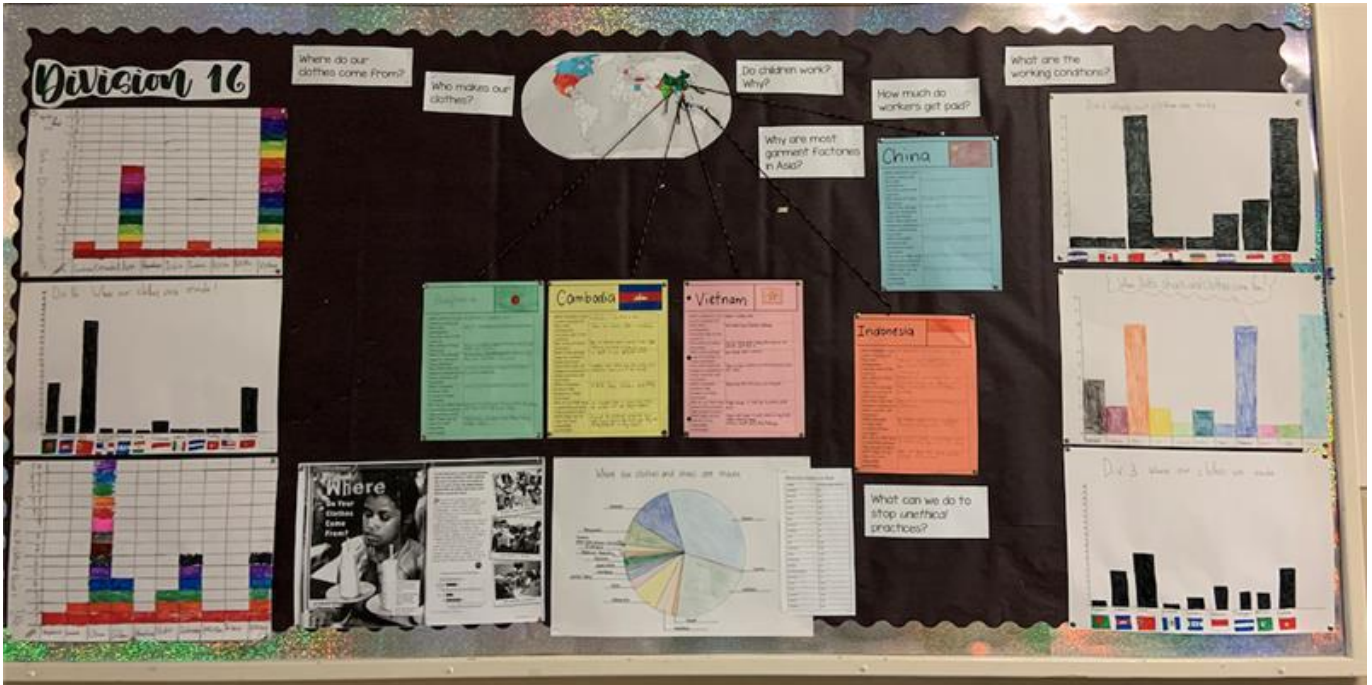
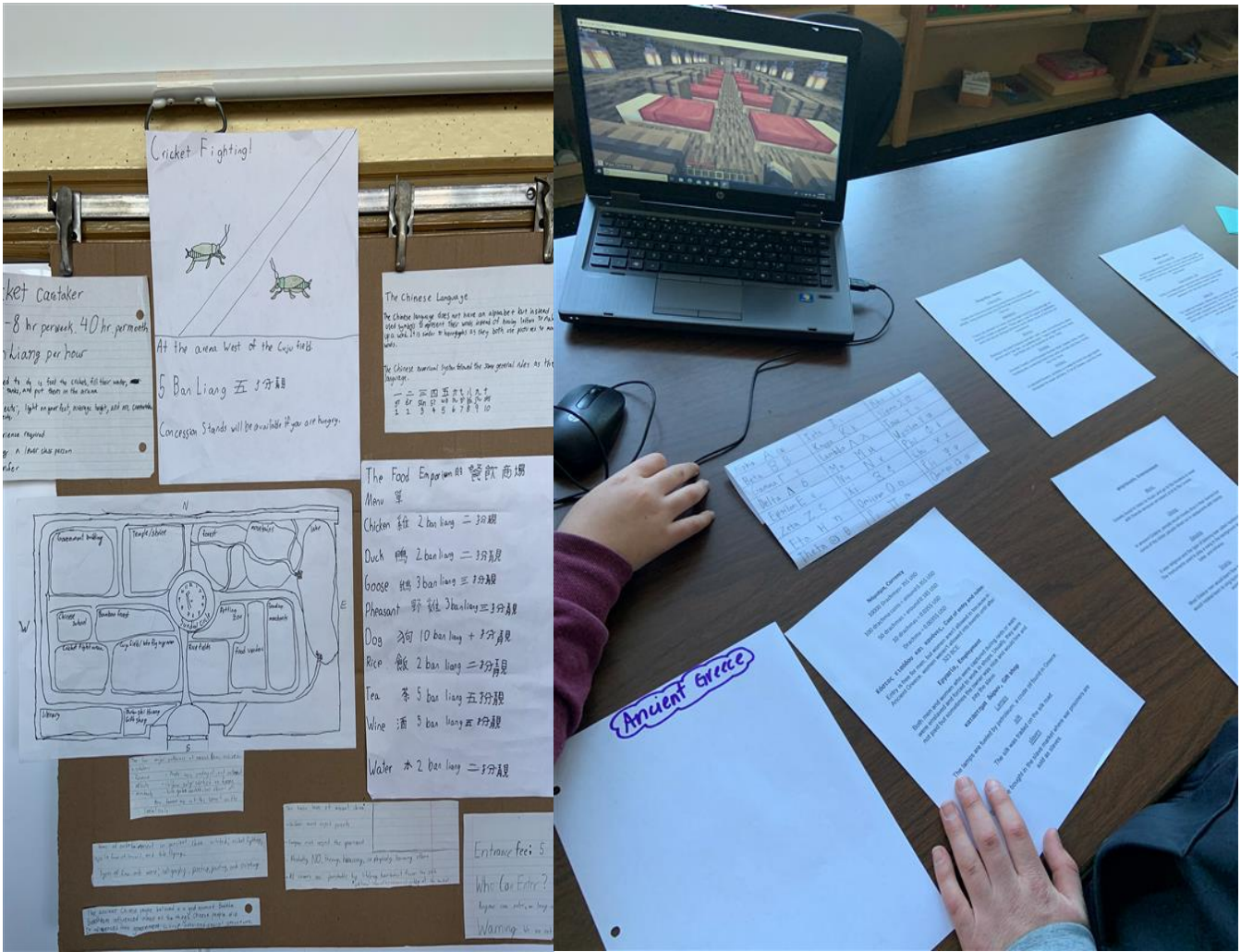
Division 22 Celebrating Lunar New Year



Division 16 Inquiry Projects

Division 16 has been busy in the past month asking questions, researching and sharing information with their peers. Grade six students have been studying about poverty—the causes, what poverty looks like around the world, as well as what action we can take to help people suffering from poverty. Students investigated where our clothes are made, and researched what the working conditions, salaries and dangers are like in these countries. They collected data from different classes at Renfrew, collated the data and shared the data with the school community. We discussed change and how we can make other people more aware of the conditions that people who make our clothes face. Well done grade sixes! Grade seven students worked through a guided inquiry where each group was responsible for researching and presenting about different ancient civilizations. To share their findings, students created an ancient civilization amusement park where they shared the kinds of jobs, foods, entertainment, language and communication systems as well as currency! Each group created a geographically relevant map for their amusement park, some students using Minecraft to make theirs! Awesome work grade sevens!





MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WHAT'S GOING ON AT RENFREW

Monday, March 15	Spring Break, school not in session
Monday, March 29	School re-opens
Friday, April 2	No School – Public Holiday
Monday, April 5	No School – Public Holiday
Monday, April 26	Professional Day, no school for students



PAC CORNER

Hello Renfrew families,

1) We have just started our next fundraiser with Purdy's Chocolatier, just in time for Easter! If you're interested in ordering please go online to:

<https://fundraising.purdys.com/1312024-82861>

After you've signed in you can buy chocolates or invite others to join and support our fundraiser. All orders are due March 7th (Sorry, no late orders). Orders will be distributed Monday March 29th. Please email renfrewschoolpac@gmail.com if you have any questions.

2) Our next PAC meeting will be in April. Date & time to be determined. Please email us if you would like to be updated with this meeting info.

3) The City of Vancouver has started an 'adopt our block' project to help clean up our neighbourhoods. There have been increased challenges with litter attributed to the pandemic. The volume of PPE being discarded only adds to an ongoing problem of litter in our neighbourhoods. The City's Adopt-A-Block Program provides families a chance to give back to their community while participating in a fun and COVID-19-safe activity. If you're interested, participants can register on the City of Vancouver's website: vancouver.ca/adopt-a-block and they will provide the necessary cleanup supplies to get you started.

Thank you as always for your on-going support. We hope everyone has a fun and safe spring break!

- Renfrew PAC

Neighbourhood Nature School (SPEC)

This is a **free** online learning hub for students from (K - 7) to learn about the environment, gardening, exploring nature through observations and curiosity, and sharing fresh and healthy recipes. Each week, a variety of lessons and activities will be added. Students and families can learn together while at home or school, exploring their backyard and neighbourhood. <https://spec.bc.ca/page-1863830>

GreenLearning Canada

Find resources, tips, and tools to support in-class and at-home sustainability learning. A monthly calendar provides daily prompts for sustainability activities. View the March calendar here:

<http://www.greenlearning.ca/monthlyactivities/March-2021.php>

Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver After School Mentoring

In-School Mentoring - Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver

The In-School Mentoring program matches children in grades 1-7 with an adult Mentor who acts as the child's mentor, friend, and role model, supported by a Big Brothers of Greater Vancouver Mentoring Coordinator. Traditionally, the Big Buddy mentor and Little Buddy mentee meet once a week at the child's elementary school one on one during [...]

www.bigbrothersvancouver.com

Book: Challenging Racist "British Columbia": 150 Years and Counting

The focus on local history of racism and anti-racism work makes these topics more real and tangible. You can download it for free here:

<https://www.policyalternatives.ca/challengingracistbc>

Here are the highlights:

Retrieved from: <https://globalnews.ca/news/7661459/bc-anti-racism-publication/>: "The 80-page illustrated booklet, titled *Challenging Racist "British Columbia": 150 years and counting* is a joint initiative between the Canadian Centre for Policy Alternatives and the University of Victoria research project *Asian Canadians on Vancouver Island: Race, Indigeneity, and the Transpacific*.....This engaging resource has been designed to assist anti-racist educators, teachers, scholars, policymakers and individuals doing anti-racism work to help pierce the silences that too often have let racism grow in our communities, corporations and governments."

Sharing Food, Creating Fun

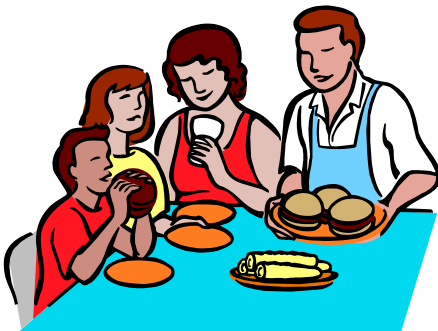
Sharing food together is a great way to connect with your family. Being busy and not having much time can make this hard to do.



“When we eat together it gives us time to share how our day went and it makes us closer.”

Nicole, 17 years old

Children who eat a meal or a snack with other family members at least once a day:



- Develop a sense of belonging, feel more secure and stable
- Have an easier time talking with their parents
- Have fewer behavior problems
- Do better at school
- Have higher self esteem
- Learn more words (have a better vocabulary)
- Try and enjoy a greater variety of foods
- Eat more fruits and vegetables and less fried foods
- Are less likely to smoke, use drugs, drink alcohol, be depressed or have disordered eating

Parents who eat with their families:

- Eat healthier
- Save money
- Strengthen family ties
- Role model healthy eating for their children
- Can share family values, traditions and culture
- Can connect with their children and find out what’s going on in their lives



Raising a Healthy Eater

- Parents decide what, when and where to eat
- Children decide how much and if they will eat

Tips for Sharing Fun Family Meals



- Make the same meal for everyone
- Plan a weekly menu with the family and put it on the fridge; have each family member choose one meal or snack they would like to have each week
- Use your weekly menu to make a shopping list
- Let children help with the grocery shopping and cooking, not just the clean up
- Keep meals simple – when pressed for time, make sandwiches, reheat leftovers, buy bagged salads or pre-chopped veggies or roasted chicken

- Turn off the TV, computer and cell phones
- Take phone calls later
- Try to make family meals a routine
- Allow children to eat slowly or fast, eat just one or many different foods. Let them have more of any food.
- Share your table manners
- Keep conversation pleasant and make sure everyone gets to speak and be heard
- Keep mealtimes fun



**Keep a jar filled with things to talk about at the table.
Here are a few ideas to get you started:**

- The best part of your day
- Ideas for family activities
- The 3 favourite things about your best friend
- If you had one wish, what would it be?
- Share something you did that made someone else feel good
- Tell jokes or share a funny story

For more information: www.bettertogetherbc.ca

Contact Dietitian Services at HealthLink BC; call 8-1-1 to speak to a dietitian or go to www.healthlinkbc.ca/dietitian to email your question. Translation services are available in 130 languages.

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