



## LORD STRATHCONA ELEMENTARY

592 East Pender Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1V5

Tel: 604-713-4630

Principal: Mr. Jason Eng

Vice Principal: Ms. Pamela Bentley Fernandes

PAC Chairperson: TBD

School Trustee Liason: Barb Parrott

# MARCH/APRIL NEWSLETTER

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Strathcona Families,

It has been a while since we put out a newsletter, but there is no shortage of excitement taking place at Strathcona! I think the past two weeks have been amazing, highlighted by the Strathcona Spring Concert and the PAC sponsored Bingo Night! Thank you to Ms. Cordingley and Mr. Butler for planning and running a full school concert and for all their leadership behind the scenes, and thank you to all who volunteered to make Bingo Night a success.

Looking forward to more community events in the coming months which include Welcome to Kindergarten, Sports Day, Pride Parade, and National Indigenous Peoples Day. Hope to see many of you at these events! Please keep an eye on key dates and mark your calendars for events you may want to attend!

Spring is the highlight of the school year for many of our students. Our senior students are looking forward to outdoor ed camp in a month, grade 7 leaving celebrations, and several action packed field trips. Many of our other classes are also preparing for a variety of field studies opportunities across the city. Please look out for permission forms and return them in a timely manner!

Hope to see many of you and connect in person in the coming weeks!

Jason Eng  
Principal Strathcona

### **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 2023**

We may have spaces left in our English Kindergarten classes for September 2023. If you have a child born in 2018, 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/page/5195>



**STRATHCONA WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN EVENT**

If you have a child entering Kindergarten at Strathcona in September 2023, please join us on May 16 from 1:15-2:45PM in the auditorium for our Welcome to Kindergarten event. 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 receive a ‘Welcome to Kindergarten’ bag filled with supplies, such as books, crayons, paper, and scissors. Please RSVP via email to [strathcona@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:strathcona@vsb.bc.ca).

**CHANGE OF ADDRESS OR PHONE NUMBER?**

Just a reminder that if you have changed your address, email, 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.

**MARK YOUR CALENDARS**



**WHAT’S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA**

Friday, May 5	Red Dress Day
Wednesday, May 10	Grade 7 Grad Photos (9AM)
Tuesday, May 16	Welcome to Kindergarten Event
Thursday, May 18	Indigenous Grade 7 Moving Forward Ceremony
Friday, May 19	Sports Day
Monday, May 22	Victoria Day, school not in session
Friday, June 9	Pride Parade (1PM)
Tuesday, June 13	Grade 6 & 7 Immunizations
Friday, June 23	Grade 7 Graduation Ceremony
Thursday, June 29	Last day of school for students

**STUDENT SHOWCASE**



Toys ‘R’ Us generously donated some gifts to our Early Acts Club to deliver to all our kindergarten students.



## Lion Dance



## Senior Boys Basketball

The Senior Boys Basketball team capped off a fantastic season with a trip to the city championship playoffs. After a thrilling victory in the first round, we battled a tough James Cook team in the top 16 round. Strathcona came up just short by 4 points in a close back and forth game. Overall, the team played with dedication, hard work and determination. They represented our community well!





## Indigenous Leaders Event

As division 1-4 prepare for their young entrepreneurs project, students are first preparing their mindset so they can embark on a new challenge. We set up an Indigenous leaders event at SFU Harbour Center, where Indigenous students from Strathcona visited with Savvy Simon a Canadian Indigenous entrepreneur. Her motivational speech combined with her life story inspired our young leaders. From there, Strathcona students learned to create a product out of craft materials and made a pitch for their mini business. It was an inspiring day to say the least!



## Strathcona Spring Music Concert



## Student Leadership

Student leadership. What is leadership? Leadership is helping others, making friends, and most importantly it's knowing when to talk and when to listen to others. The student part is a bit different, it's being responsible and helpful around the school community. Our school is especially good at helping our community. We have so many programs to help get involved with student leadership such as library monitors, lunch monitors, and last but not least...our new program peer helpers. These programs enrich our school and the student leadership in it.

- Written by Frieda and Elise (Div 4).



## Twin Day at Strathcona

On April 20<sup>th</sup>, staff and students were encouraged to dress up for Twin Day. Some of our staff dressed up as Mr. Eng!



## PAC Bingo Night



# 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](http://sneezesdiseases.com/wash-hands)