

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: Ms. Krista Sigurdson

School Trustee Liason: Barb Parrott

MAY / JUNE NEWSLETTER

Dear Strathcona Families,

As we wrap up the final few weeks of the school year, students and staff are excited about summer, better weather, and a break from school! All of this is coinciding with lower Covid-19 numbers which will make for a much better summer vacation!

One of this month's primary showcases is on the school garden! It is in prime shape, and I am so impressed by the teaching, learning, and engagement of students throughout the year. They have literally been rolling up their sleeves and getting to work!

Student voice at Strathcona is a vital part of this school community. Many of you would have seen through the media the campaign that three of our grade 7 students (Chen, Soji, and Matt) put together proposing a name change to Strathcona Elementary, with the idea of having it renamed after former teacher Barbara Howard. We are all so impressed with their work, and while there are a variety of opinions that exist on the topic, it is great that students can have an open, constructive, and respectful dialogue to express their views. Please take the time to read a couple of student writeups later in the newsletter.

This is also the time of the year where we celebrate our grade 7 class as they finish off their final few days in elementary school. We look forward to seeing them and families this Friday for a remote leaving ceremony!

Our Indigenous Education Enhancement Team did a wonderful job putting together a student centered National Indigenous Peoples Day celebration this past Monday that had whole school participation! As a school community, we celebrated this in quite a few ways. Classes participated in a virtual school assembly where our Red Fox Drumming group played and taught us drumming protocols, and kids had the opportunity to sing and learn how to play a drum. We also attended a Pow Wow Dancing performance in the courtyard. Finally, to finish off the day of celebrations, all students and staff got to enjoy some bannock together.

This will be the final newsletter of the school year, but please look for emails in the next week or so that have updates connected to year end.

Take care and stay safe everyone!

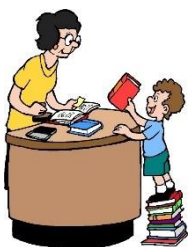
Jason Eng
Principal Strathcona

MS. HONG'S LIBRARY CORNER

Thank you to all the families who participated in the BIPOC Book Drive. Many thanks to the PAC for organizing this. This is such an incredible gift to the school community.

Thank you to the 110 library monitors who do an amazing job checking out books and shelving.

All library books are now overdue. Please help your children search for their library books and return them as soon as possible. Thank you for your help.



Have a wonderful summer! Check out the Vancouver Public Library's Summer Reading Club and register starting June 14: <https://www.vpl.ca/program/summer-reading-club-2021-crack-case>

SCHOOL ORGANIZATION FOR 2021-2022

We are in the process of establishing our enrolment projections for the 2021 – 2022 school year. If you know that your child will not be returning to Strathcona in September 2021, please email our office at strathcona@vsb.bc.ca or call our office at 604-713-4630 to notify us.



GRADE 7 GRADUATION CEREMONY

The grade 7 graduation will take place on **Friday, June 25 at 11AM**. This will be a live ceremony for the students, and the grads will receive their diplomas. A link has been sent to the parents to watch the ceremony virtually. Due to COVID restrictions, we cannot have parents in the building during the ceremony.

At 1PM, we invite parents and guardians to come to specific locations at the school for picture taking. Due to COVID, each class will have a separate location. The link for the ceremony and exact locations for pictures has been sent via email.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Friday, June 25	Grade 7 graduation ceremony
Tuesday, June 29	Last day of school for students

STUDENT SHOWCASE



Star Wars Day

Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's May the Fourth Star Wars Day. We had fun dressing up, reading Star Wars books, making comics, and doing paper activities!



**Division 10 – Ms. Fischer's Class
Building Pasta Bridges**



Letter from Students – School Name Change

Lord Strathcona is our home. When I hear the name Lord Strathcona I get the sense of being at home, I feel safe, I feel as if I belong. But when I truly think about who Lord Strathcona was, a colonist, is who our school is named after. The question that really started this project was, “Is this man really the best representation for our school and what it stands for?” and we determined that he wasn’t.

However, Barbara Howard, a trailblazing runner, a teacher and a community orientated woman who gets no recognition for what she did, she deserves a lot of recognition for breaking the record for the 100 yard dash doing it in 11.2 seconds and then giving back to her community, which is why we want to change our schools name to Barbara Howard.

We appreciate all the support we have been getting from the community and our peers, we are going to continue pursuing this project.

- Chenesayi Kagande, Sojchana Swatton, and Matt Bogdanovic-Milosevic

Letter from Student – School Name Change

We have been Strathcona for so long. We have almost lost this neighbourhood once, city planners flattened Hogans Alley and planned to run a highway through this neighbourhood and through downtown. We should not come close to it again.

The word Strathcona, to me, means The Strathcona Dragons. The word Strathcona has so many memories to it. It has the legacy of when the school first opened. Strathcona is a bright fun and accepting neighbourhood full of people that want to be here and want to live in the community of Strathcona.

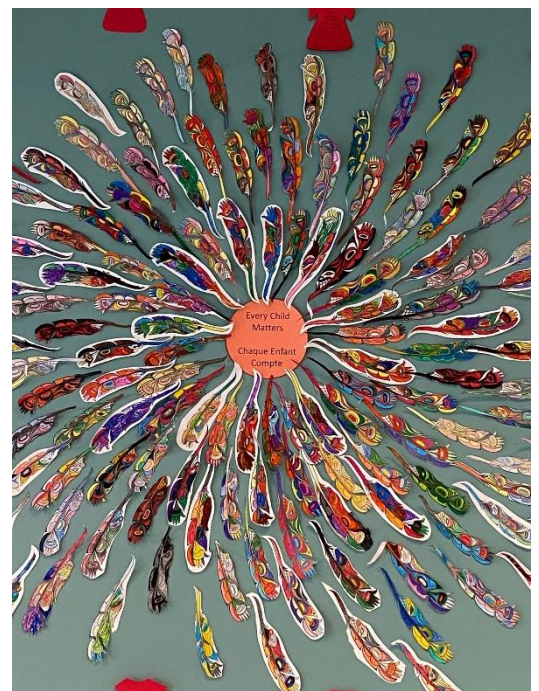
Barbara Howard was a strong female athlete who once was a teacher here at Strathcona school. She was a kind open-hearted woman who was the first ever visible minority hired by the Vancouver School Board. She was a trail blazer and was a big step in history and we should honour that.

But changing the name of our school I think would be like trying to change the spirit of our Neighbourhood. The school was named for the community and that to me is special. Not a lot of schools have the history or the opportunity to have a name as strong as Strathcona. I believe “Strathcona” represents strength and resiliency, and that to me is this neighbourhood. “We Take Care of Each Other” is what the mural on the Community Center reads, that’s what Strath is to me. But just also having the same name as our community, not a lot of people have that and we should honour it. Strathcona is not a bad word. I am proud to live in Strathcona, I am proud to go Strathcona Elementary and I am proud to say that I am from Strathcona.

With respect,

Ruby Coleman
Grade 5 – Division 7F
Lord Strathcona Elementary School

Every Child Matters



Division 18 – Ms. Scheper’s Class
Charlotte’s Web Dioramas



School Garden Update

Having a garden that grows food and flowers is not just about learning how to grow those particular plants. Outdoor learning is a context where students have more room to move their bodies and make abstract concepts into real-world tangible learning. The garden hosts learning about plants, but also becomes a green classroom that is calming and intriguing for our community. The courtyard garden has been the backdrop for many community events this year: the Lion Dance at Lunar New Year, the carving of the welcome crest with Xwalactun, and the regular pick up and drop off everyday!



CALENDAR 2021 – 2022

Lord Strathcona Elementary School

School Operation Overview

Number of Days of Instruction	178
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	6 Non Instructional Days 1 In-Service Day (September 7) 1 Administrative Day (June 30)

Important Dates

Administrative/Anti-Racism Inservice Day	Tuesday, September 7, 2021
School Opening Day	Wednesday, September 8, 2021
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 11, 2021
Remembrance Day Holiday	Thursday, November 11, 2021
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 17, 2021
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 20, 2021 – Monday, January 3, 2022
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Tuesday, January 4, 2022
Family Day	Monday, February 21, 2022
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 11, 2022
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 14 – Friday, March 25, 2022
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Monday, March 28, 2022
Good Friday	Friday, April 15, 2022
Easter Monday	Monday, April 18, 2022
Victoria Day	Monday, May 23, 2022
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Wednesday, June 29, 2022
Administrative/School Closing Day	Thursday, June 30, 2022

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

Friday, September 24, 2021	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, October 22, 2021	Professional Development Day (Province Wide)
Friday, November 26, 2021	Indigenous Focus Professional Day (District Wide)
Monday, January 17, 2022	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, February 18, 2022	Professional Development Day (District Wide)
Monday, April 25, 2022	Professional Development Day (District Wide)

Parent Conference Dates

Early Dismissal Times

Wednesday, October 20, 2021	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM
Thursday, October 21, 2021	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM
Wednesday, February 16, 2022	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM
Thursday, February 17, 2022	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM



Dear Strathcona Parents/Guardians,

We held our final PAC meeting of the year on June 16th. Next year's board members will be elected at our AGM in September (date/time TBA. Join listserv for meeting information).

This year (2020-21) was my last year as PAC chair and the board is working on recruiting a new chair (or co-chairs) for next year. We have fantastic continuing board members, including treasurer (Dawn Brennan) and secretary (Megan McKinney) who will support new chair(s). I will remain as vice-chair and DPAC rep and assist with transitioning new board members and chair(s). If you are interested in joining PAC board or would like to nominate another parent/guardian, please contact strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com or come to the AGM in September!

Thank you to our hard-working strathcona PAC board for your time and commitment this year! You rock!

Rattle Making Workshop

After a very successful Indigenous rattle making workshop piloted in two grade 6/7 classes, the PAC applied for and received \$500 from Neighborhood Small Grants to put toward rattle continuing workshops for next year. Come to PAC meetings in the Fall to find out more and share your ideas.

School Grounds Safety Committee

If you are interested in getting involved with the committee or are interested in helping with gardening over the summer, reach out to strathconapacelementary@gmail.com or find Drew or Carla!

Future PAC Meetings

At our last PAC meeting, I suggested that the 2021-22 PAC board consider continuing to have meetings online and to emphasize in-person events (e.g. BINGO night, movie nights, etc.) rather than in-person meetings. If you have feedback or ideas for next year's PAC meeting/event structure, send to strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com or come to meetings next school year.

Thank you to Tracy Kong, neighborhood assistant, who has provided us with simultaneous verbal Chinese translation at PAC meetings all year! And thank you Principal Jason Eng who has given updates at all meetings and answered parent/guardian questions.

Indigenous People's Day Wellness Grant

The PAC applied on behalf of the school and received \$1000 from The First Nations Health Authority National Indigenous People's Day Wellness Grant toward programming for Indigenous People's Day (June 21). These funds are being used by Robin Roberts (Indigenous Education Teacher) and Donna Lokhorst (Indigenous Education Worker) toward a series of virtual and cohort-specific events this week. These include: a school-wide assembly to discuss the significance of National Indigenous Day with drumming from Red Fox Drummers and traditional regalia worn by Mr. Roberts and Ms. Lockhorst; Pow Wow dance lessons with facilitator; Bannock Making with an expert and orange wild flower planting. Thank you Robin, Donna and Jamie Smallboy (PAC Indigenous Rep) for bringing the grant and ideas to the PAC's attention!



Strathcona Elementary Book Drive

The PAC has wrapped up its very successful BIPOC book drive. Thank you to all parents/guardians who donated books or funds. We were able to purchase all the books on the wish list provided by librarian Jen Hong and raise additional funds. Additional funds will be used by Ms. Hong in the new year to work with teachers on buying course sets that also highlight the work of BIPOC authors or feature BIPOC characters! Thank you parent Danielle Sherring for bringing your ideas and work to the PAC!

PAC Constitution Changes

We voted at our last PAC meeting to accept these [amendments to our constitution](#). These amendments provide an explicit emphasis on Indigenous education/representation in our guiding principles, provide flexibility for us having meetings online, and provide a mechanism for board members to cease holding office when they are unable to regularly attend meetings. Thank you parent Kate Blomfield for working with the PAC to draft these amendments!

Thanking teachers/staff

This year the PAC purchased each teacher/staff a \$15 gift card to Finch's to thank them for working so hard this year. Each gift came with a homemade card from a volunteer Strathcona family. Thank you volunteer artists!! Continuing this gesture in future years will depend on PAC fundraising capacity/interest as we are unable to fund teacher gifts from gaming grant funds.



Graduation

This year PAC funding budgeted for graduation will go towards hiring a company to live-stream and record the event since parents cannot attend in-person. Thank you parent Katrina Pacey for organizing this! And thank you teachers/staff for putting together a celebratory event. Please contact your grade 7 teacher to get the login information. Congratulations grade 7s and best of luck in high school!

Student-led School Name Change

We voted at our June 16th PAC meeting to support grade 7 students Soji Swatton, Matt Bogdanovic-Milosevic and Chenesayi Kagande in their school renaming initiative with the following 4 resolutions brought forward by parent David Flemming.

- Resolution 1. The PAC supports the renaming of Lord Strathcona Elementary and directs the PAC Chair to send a letter to the VSB Secretary-Treasurer requesting the name of the school be reviewed as per Draft AP 542.
- Resolution 2. The PAC requests that Principle Eng send a letter to the VSB Secretary-Treasurer requesting the name of the school be reviewed as per Draft AP 542.
- Resolution 3: The PAC supports the renaming of Lord Strathcona Elementary to Barbara Howard Elementary should this initiative receive the assent of the Musqueam, the Tsleil-Waututh, and the Squamish Nations
- Resolution 4: The PAC directs the Chair to write a letter to the DPAC requesting that they send a letter to the VSB Secretary-Treasurer supporting the name of the school be reviewed as per Draft AP 542.

Thank you students for your work on this and to parents/guardians who came to this meeting and engaged in discussion and debate! Come to future PAC meetings if you have questions or ideas.

How to find the PAC

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](#).

Thank you teachers/staff and volunteer parents for your work this year! Have a wonderful summer!

Warmly, Krista

Krista Sigurdson, chair strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com

Secretary: Megan McKinney strathconapacsecretary@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dawn Brennan strathconapactreasurer@gmail.com

Members at Large:

- Carla Frenkel (School Grounds)
- Vicky Huang
- Tiffany Kindrid (Income Equity Representative)
- Andrew Ledger
- Eva Sam (Chinese Communication)
- Jamie Smallboy (Indigenous Representative)
- Drew Stewart (School Grounds)
- Erika Xu