



Welcome to Renfrew!

We Care for Self, for Others, and for our Surroundings

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Director of Instruction: Mr. Chris Stanger
Principal: Ms. Janine Lamb
Vice Principal: Ms. Kamala Coughlan
PAC Chairpersons: Ms. Maya Toews
School Liaison Trustee: Mr. Alan Wong

NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

Dear Families,

As the days grow shorter, and the seasons shift, I can see that staff and students have established routines in classrooms. They look quite different than those we are used to, and it is astounding that what seemed foreign 7 weeks ago, has become part of the routine of everyday life at school. I continue to be impressed by the students at Renfrew – their kindness and caring for one another, their respect for adults and the rules that are in place. Renfrew is a wonderful place to work and learn!

October is one of the busiest months of the school year, but it is also my favorite! I cannot believe how fast it went by, and how much was accomplished. Halloween traditions, old and new, were fantastic at Renfrew last week. The school and classrooms were decorated, many students and staff dressed up and some cohorts participated in the Halloween festivities in the gym. Classes celebrated in many ways, from Historical Halloween, to STEM activities involving candy corn to Day of the Dead pumpkin painting.

In November Renfrew will welcome more returning Option 4 students to face to face learning. There will be opportunities for families to connect with teachers during the November CSL (Communicating Student Learning) Conferences on November 18 and 19th. These conferences will be held virtually through Teams; please look for an email from me detailing the process for booking a conference. If you are wanting to connect via a phone call or another virtual platform, please contact your child's teacher directly.

We are looking forward to a successful November and December of learning and engagement!

Kind regards,
Janine Lamb
Principal



Ms. Coughlan's Library Corner



Introducing ... Renfrew's Library Monitors!

I have the pleasure of working with Division 17 this month. They helped to create the magical world of Harry Potter inside the library for all our students to enjoy.

Here is a group shot of these creative geniuses as they pose in front of Platform 9 ¾ and Ollivander's wand shop, situated outside Renfrew's library doors, showing us the miraculous magic their wands and hearts have.



Here are a few words from 3 of our library monitors:

Jayan Topiwalla



Why did you choose to become a library monitor?

I want to help people and follow in the footsteps of my dad who was a library monitor. I also want to help my sister get through challenges – like finding a book for her level.

What is your favourite book to date?

I don't have a favourite book. But, I do enjoy Roblox coding books, and Diary of a Wimpy Kid.

What do you recommend to kids that can't find a book?

I recommend leveled reading books at their level.

Evan Hum



Why did you choose to become a library monitor?

To help people find a book when they don't know what to choose.

What is your favourite book to date?

Diary of a Wimpy Kid

What do you recommend to kids that can't find a book?

Comics, fiction or something that they are interested in.

Mikko Rozsnyai



Why did you choose to become a library monitor?

It is really fun and my friends are doing it.

What is your favourite book/series to date?

Case Closed

What do you recommend to kids that can't find a book?

I would ask them if they like fiction or non-fiction. I'd show them something interesting that maybe they would like.

FALL WEATHER AND RAINY DAYS



With a change in seasons comes a change in weather. Students will be going outside for recess and lunch even on rainy days, so please ensure your children are dressed appropriately for the colder, wetter weather. Also, don't forget to label your child's clothing so that it can be easily identified if it finds its way to the lost and found.

BEDTIME AND SCHOOL

Here are some quick tips for a good night's sleep:

- Have scheduled bedtimes and wake-up times, even on weekends.
- Make sure bedrooms are dark, cool, and quiet with a comfortable mattress and pillow.
- In the morning, open the curtains to let the light shine in!
- Regular physical activity during the day, to tire out the body.
- Turn off any computers, TVs, tablets and cellphones at least 30 min before bedtime. These devices produce bright lights and loud noises that keep your mind stimulated and awake.
- Avoid eating a large meal just before bedtime.
- Avoid drinks that have caffeine such as pop, energy drinks, tea or coffee at least 4 hours before bedtime.



REGISTRATION PROCESS FOR KINDERGARTEN



Kindergarten registration for children born in 2016 begins on November 1.

All kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for District programs (Early French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Focus School, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Nootka Fine Arts) and/or a cross boundary placement. The priority registration period for kindergarten opens on **November 1 and closes at 4 pm on January 31**. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

Applying for kindergarten is a **2-step process**:

Step 1: Completion of an online application form

Step 2: Verifying documentation

- Contact your English catchment school office to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation
- Bring supporting documentation to your English catchment school office during your scheduled appointment

Supporting Documents Needed:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records
5. Court orders/documents (if applicable)

If you want to apply for a District program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for District programs and cross boundary placements will begin to be accepted in early 2021.

Renfrew Elementary School **may not** have space to accommodate all in-catchment kindergarten students for the 2021-22 school year. In the event that we receive more kindergarten applications than available space, the following process will be followed:

Kindergarten Registrations Completed Between November 1st and January 31st:

1. First, in-catchment kindergarten registrants who have a sibling who is currently attending and who will continue to attend Renfrew Elementary School next year **will be enrolled first**.
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered in a **random draw** for the remaining kindergarten spaces.
3. Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name is drawn.



Kindergarten Registrations Completed AFTER January 31:

All in-catchment kindergarten registrations received **after** January 31 will be added to the existing waitlist by date and time of application.

Please note: There will be no priority given to registrants with siblings already attending Renfrew Elementary School after January 31.

When will I be informed as to the status of my child's application?

Families will be contacted in the spring regarding the status of their child's kindergarten application. Students who could not be accommodated will be placed on an ordered waitlist. The District will identify an alternate school placement for all waitlisted students. Students placed at an alternate school location will be offered a space back at Renfrew Elementary when one becomes available based on their numbered order on the waitlist.

Families who wish to apply to an out of catchment school should note that the cross- boundary application process is open from **February 1 to February 28**. Please note that cross boundary applications, within equivalent priority groupings, will be accepted by draw not by date and time of application.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

Digitally Responsible Youth Guide for Families

The Digitally Responsible Youth Guide for Parents has been updated recently, so I am sharing the latest version here. This is a great resource for families as you navigate the online world with youth.

<https://saferschoolstogether.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Raising-Digitally-Responsible-Youth-Guide-2020.pdf>

Dogs on School Grounds

A reminder that VSB's policy is: accompanied canines are allowed on school grounds on weekends and on school days from 6 to 8 a.m. and after 5 p.m. until 10 p.m., unless the fields are being used for organized sports games. The policy also states that the dog handlers must pick up and remove the animals' waste.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WHAT'S GOING ON AT RENFREW

Tuesday, November 10	Remembrance Day Virtual Assembly; Option 4 students may join virtually via their calendar on Teams
Wednesday, November 11	School Closed for Remembrance Day
Friday, November 13	Virtual Montessori Information Session for Incoming Kindergarten Students
Tuesday & Wednesday November 17 & 18	Traffic Safety Sessions for all Students
Tuesday, November 17	PAC Meeting
Wednesday, Nov. 18	Parent Conferences students dismissed at 2pm
Thursday, Nov. 19	Parent Conferences students dismissed at 2pm
Tuesday, Nov. 24	Virtual Grade 7 Day at Windermere
Wednesday, Nov. 25 5-7pm Via Teams	Windermere Grade 7 Family Information Night
Friday, Nov. 27	Indigenous Focus Professional Day – District-wide – No school for students
Friday, December 18	Last day of school before winter break

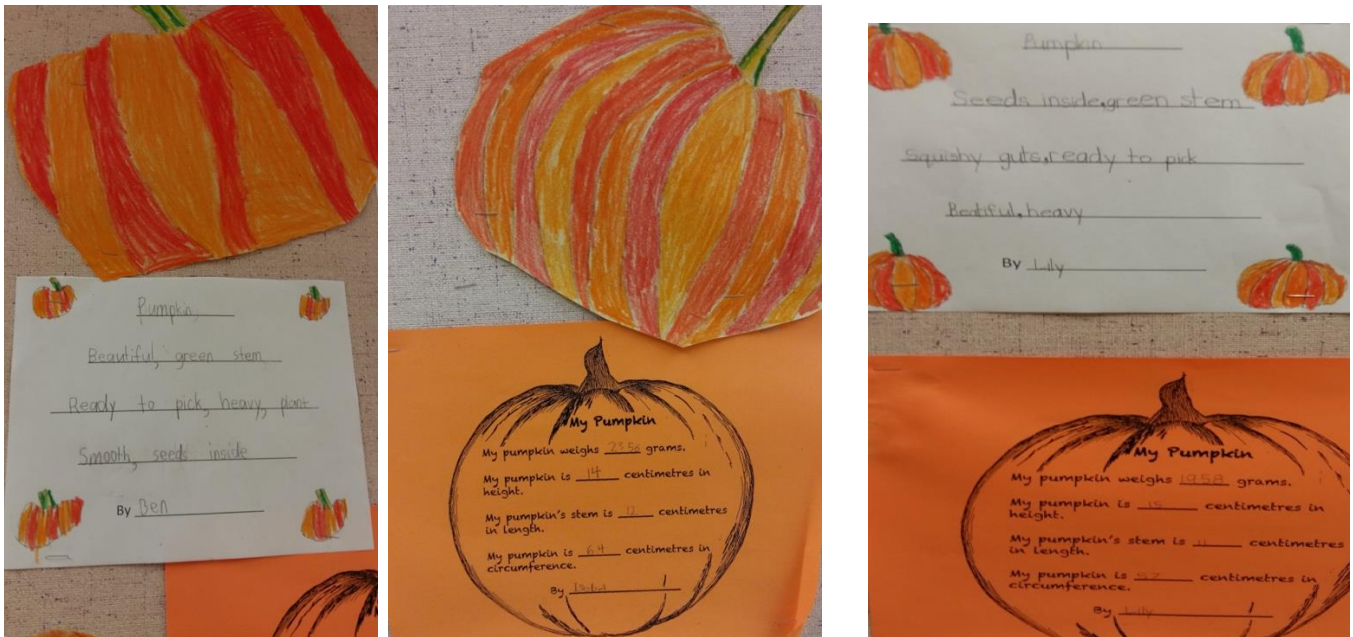
STUDENT SHOWCASE



In Div.18, each year, we celebrate many people's beloved holiday, Halloween, with an educational twist! We call it "Historical Halloween." Students are asked to choose a historical figure they think has/had made a significant (and positive!!) contribution to our world and history. They research the person's legacy and life story, then create a speech that is about 2-3 minutes long. The whole point of Historical Halloween is for students to become the historical figures they chose. On the speech day, they dress up as their historical figure and deliver their speeches. Each year, students impress the teachers and audience with their creativity and hard work. This year, students chose some of the most respected and admired figures in their own particular fields, such as Steve Jobs, Bill Gates, Coco Chanel, Stan Lee, Michael Jordan, etc. Excellent job, Div.18! Keep up the good work!!



Division 10 weighed and measured the pumpkins they got from the Renfrew Pumpkin Patch, wrote Haiku poems, and drew pictures of their pumpkins using three to four different tones of orange crayons.



Division 6 has been working on a Day of the Dead Project which include creating sugar skulls designs on our pumpkins. This project included cross-curricular elements involving math (symmetry), research on the history and art with painting. Below are pictures of Division 6 in action. Pumpkins were painted white, while students learned the traditional symmetrical designs of a sugar skull. Students then created their own design and applied it onto the pumpkin using paint pens.





PAC CORNER

The PAC's next meeting is Tuesday November 17th at 5:30pm via Zoom. Please email renfrewschoolpac@gmail.com if you would like to join this meeting. We will email the link & agenda the day of the meeting.

We will be starting our Direct Donation Drive this month (full notice details will be emailed out by the PAC). We know this school year looks different so we understand and sympathize with families who have been impacted financially during these times. This school year we will be fundraising for a Technology fund. We would love to be able to purchase multiple Laptops and iPads for the school. Donations are accepted online through your 'School Cash Online' account by donating to 'E-Renfrew PAC'. We appreciate each and every donation, and we are sincerely grateful for your support during these uncertain times.

Opportunities for Students and Families in the Community:

Prevent and prepare in advance for next time! Educate your child now on what to do and how to act when alone. **Home Alone Course Online** now available from <http://www.firstaidhero.com>

UBC GEERING UP now has online workshops filled with resources and programs for teachers and families.

SFU Aerospace is a student-run organization within SFU offering interactive workshops in Decode C++ and Decode Arduino for students in grades 4-12. More information and registration can be found [here](#).

Heart-Mind Online (Dalai Lama Center for Peace and Education) provides a collection of resources for families and teachers that promote positive social and emotional development. More information can be found [here](#).

Jeremy and Hermione Tankard's *Yorick and Bones* is a free online event for grades 3-6 on **October 22, 2020 at 11am**. More info and registration can be found [here](#).

FamilySmart is holding our FREE monthly "In the Know" webinar and discussion session for Vancouver: **Parenting When Our Kids Can't Go To School** on Monday October 26th at 5:30-7:30 pm. An optional discussion will follow the 30 minute video.

This is Our Chance is a virtual film fest open from October 6-27, 2020 about the intersection of race, education and youth empowerment. [Register](#) for access to free content.

Kids Fest will have a hybrid festival in 2021-they will be using the space in Performance Works on Granville Island to create a recording studio for local workshops and performances. Outdoor concerts will be presented on the grassy knoll of Ron Basford Park. Streaming will be available until mid-June to give teachers the opportunity to create schedules to watch performances.

Why Am I Still At Home - A Curious tale of quarantine? Created by the students in Kerrisdale Elementary - Ms. Loukas' Division 1 class the ebook can be purchased [here](#) and the paperback [here](#). All the proceeds go to helping families including through the Food Bank Canada and the Kids Help Phone.

This Beautiful Day, a 26-foot-long solar powered neon joins other [Vancouver Biennale](#) artworks in Squamish. Created in 2015 by Kristin McIver, an Australian-born New York-based artist, it bridges the divide between languages, cultures, and the land. McIver says the piece was influenced by time she spent with Squamish Nation artist Tsawaysia Spukwus (Alice Guss).

[Frisbee Rob](#) is a motivational speaker and physical literacy instructor offering assembly demos and frisbee residency programs to schools.

Love Our Seniors - An opportunity to show our elders we care. Please consider emailing a handmade or digital card to teamloveourseniors@gmail.com.