

October 2021 Issue

DICKENS ANNEX NEWSLETTER

3877 Glen Drive
Vancouver, BC V5V 4S9
604-713-5392

Vice Principal: Atsuko Ishihara
Director of Instruction: Aaron Davis



Happy Autumn

We are well on our way to a wonderful school year!

It truly is a beautiful thing to see and hear the children reestablish friendships as well as make new ones. I would like to extend a warm welcome to all our returning Annex families as well as a special welcome to new families and our Kindergarten families. I am touched by the students' and families' warm welcome and feel very much a part of this great community already. Thank you.

A big shout out to Ms. Patti who continues to keep all of us organized.

Kicking off the year with Terry Fox and Orange Shirt Day, we as a school will continue to celebrate diversity and our work with anti-racism throughout the year.

While the school doors are closed, my office door is always open to you. Please email the office or myself should you need anything.

See you soon.



Best Wishes

Our amazing counsellor, Jacklyn Delachoux, will be going on maternity leave as of Oct. 6th. She will be missed but we are excited to add a new baby to the Dickens Annex community!

Important Dates:

Oct. 7-
School Photos

Oct. 11- Thanksgiving
(No school)

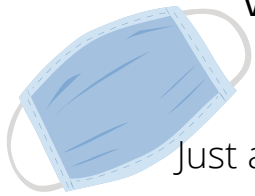
Oct. 13 & 14- **2:00pm**
Early Dismissal
Conferences 2-7pm

Oct. 22- Provincial
ProD (No school)

Oct. 27- Great Shake
Out Earthquake Drill

Health and Safety Updates

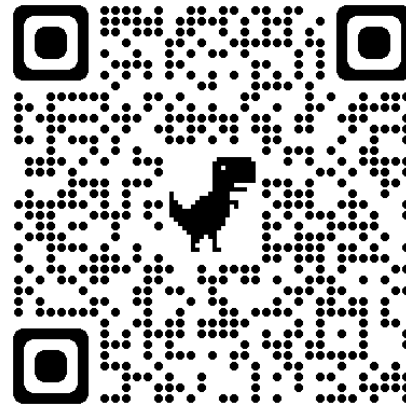
The health and safety of our students is a priority at Dickens Annex. We will continue to follow and update Health and Safety protocols.



K-3 Mask Mandate

Just a reminder that the mask mandate has been extended to students in grades K-3 as a layer of protection to schools in limiting the spread of Covid-19. As always, students will not be required to wear a mask if they do not tolerate it for health or behavioural reasons.

Daily Health Assessment



**Only students are permitted inside the school at this time.
Thank you for your understanding.**

VSB EDUCATION PLAN 2026



The Vancouver School District's Education Plan 2026 will be a roadmap that will lead the District to improve outcomes for students.

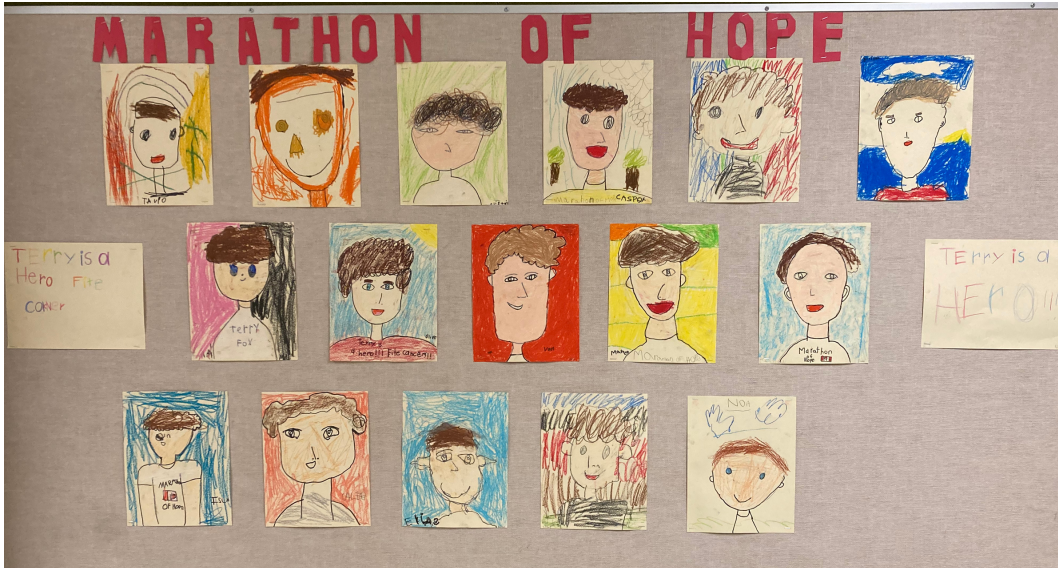
The District is asking students, families, staff, and the public to share their expectations and aspirations for Vancouver schools. For more information:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/District/Initiatives_Plans_Reports/EducationPlan2026/Pages/default.aspx

Here is the link to the survey:

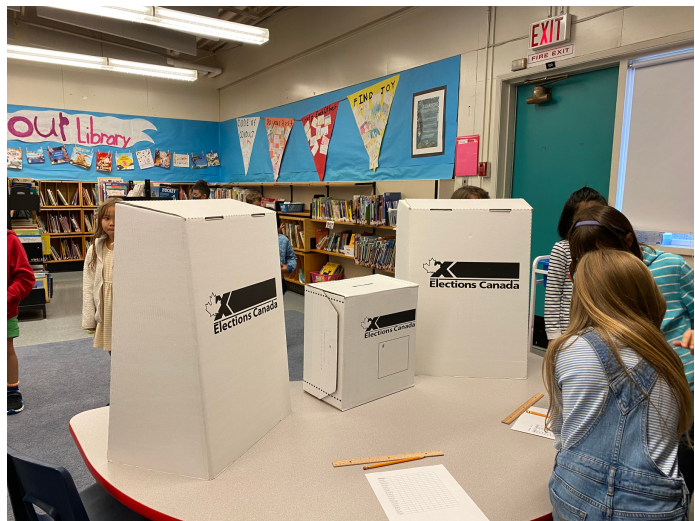
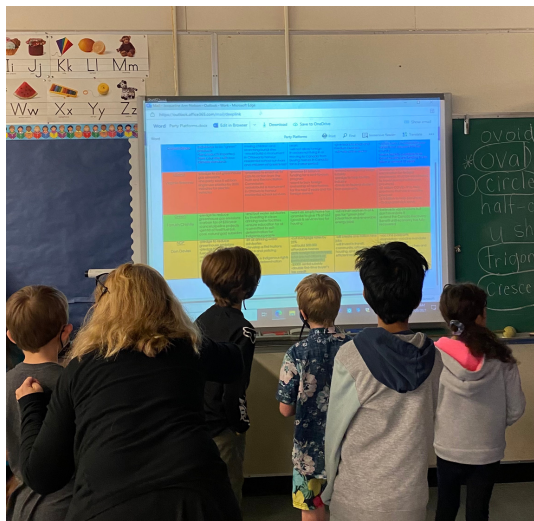
<https://survey.alchemer-ca.com/s3/50120540/VSBEdPlan2026-Public>

Terry Fox Run



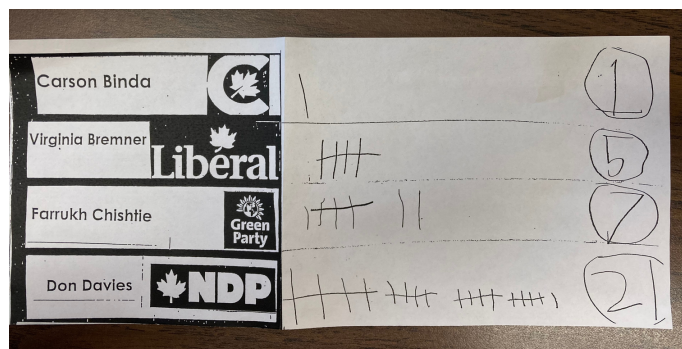
Our students all participated in the Terry Fox Run last Friday. Every student made their own efforts to run, jog, walk as many laps around Glen Park as they could and they did an amazing job! Collectively, we raised \$326.20 to donate to the Terry Fox Foundation. Thank you to everyone for your support and contribution.

Student Vote



Students in Div. 2 and 4 learned about the political parties and participated in their own Student Vote.

The results were:



Truth and Reconciliation



Design by Robin Roberts, Haida/ Tsimshian / Squamish

When thinking about Orange Shirt Day and Residential Schools, what resonates is the loss of innocence. Children reach school age and ideally start school with innocence. How could orange represent Phyllis Webstad's innocence, the day her shirt was taken away? The salmon egg represents the beginning of a journey, a birth, a hope. Like salmon, children grow into their world, their home, and they remember where home is. Residential schools were designed to make Indigenous children forget home, forget who they were, and forget where they came from. In that moment when the belongings are taken away, when the orange shirt was taken away from Phyllis Webstad, was when part of that innocence was taken away. It represents the culture that residential schools were designed to extinguish.

Culturally, salmon represents precious food resources for many British Columbia nations that reside up and down the coast and the inland rivers. It is something they identify with, it is home, and to most, it is medicine. Salmon are birth and hope. They grow and go out into the world and go back home. They always remember where home is. When looking at salmon, it is a way of seeing the world and part of understanding it.

The eyes are very important. They're about seeing. For thousands of years Indigenous peoples have had to understand the relationships between each other and their surroundings, their place in it and within their communities. Seeing is recognizing the past, present and future, the ancestors, the current families, the future families who are not here yet.



It is important that we recognize those who have endured residential school, and those who come from families that went. Remembering helps our future. Remembering and teaching about it will help to make change. The salmon egg represents those students who went, who never forgot where their home was, and those who may not have made it back.

At Dickens Annex, students participated in thoughtful discussions and a drum circle to sing the Coast Salish Anthem.

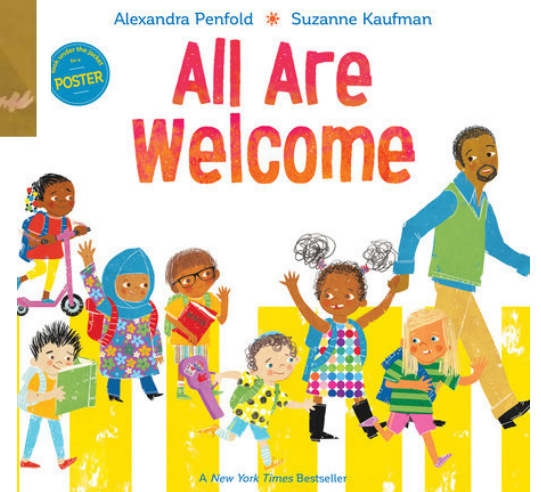
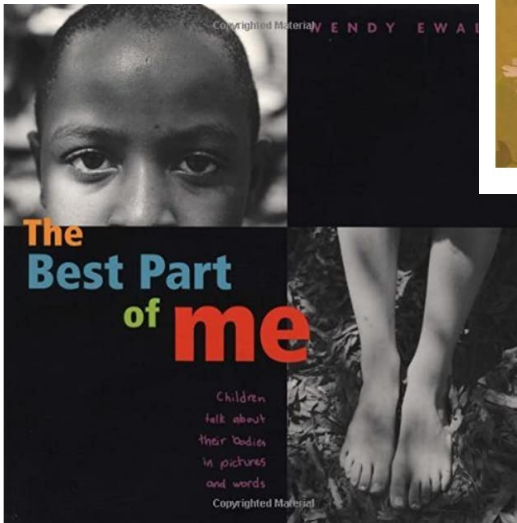


Reminder:
School is from
9:00am to 3:03pm

PAC:
Next meeting is on
Oct. 21

What are you reading?

Sharing titles that spark meaningful conversations.



These titles focus on diversity, acceptance, and celebrating things about ourselves that make each of us special. Through these books, students shared experiences of feeling left out, the joys of friendship and community, as well as how they can make others feel welcome.