

LORD STRATHCONA ELEMENTARY

592 East Pender Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1V5

Tel: 604-713-4630

Principal: Mr. Jason Eng Vice Principal: Ms. Janine Lamb

PAC Chairperson: Ms. Krista Sigurdson

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Strathcona Families,

It has been great to connect with many of you in recent weeks at community events such as Meet the Teacher Night and the Terry Fox Run! As we transition to autumn, I reflect on the variety of teaching and learning opportunities presented to students at Orange Shirt Day this past Monday. What a powerful day! I hope students understood the important messages presented, as we joined others across Canada in acknowledging the harm caused by the residential school system to Indigenous Peoples. A series of photos capturing the activities of Orange Shirt Day can be found later in the newsletter.

Also on the school front, staff have been focused on the school wide implementation of Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at Strathcona aimed at creating a calmer learning environment. A significant amount of our professional development as a staff is focused around this area, and there is an action plan in place on what to target in year one. More information to follow in the coming weeks and months!

It was great to connect with the PAC at their first general meeting a few weeks back. I am looking forward to working collaboratively with parents on a number of different initiatives to help support students and the school.

Looking forward to more excitement and learning in October!

Jason Eng

MS. HONG'S LIBRARY CORNER



Harry Potter Week: There will be activities in the library at lunch the week of October 28 - November 1. Stay tuned for more details!

Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports (PBIS) at Strathcona

We are very excited to kick off our schoolwide PBIS initiative! PBIS stands for Positive Behaviour Interventions and Supports. What that means is that we are establishing consistent expectations for every member of our school community. These expectations are currently focused around the hallways, the cafeteria, our outdoor spaces and also technology use. These expectations will be supported through a number of different initiatives and encourage positive behaviours. The focus of PBIS is prevention and not punishment. We look forward to moving forward with this schoolwide program and are counting on your support!

If you would like to learn more about PBIS, please refer to this website: www.pbis.org

[PBIS.org Home Page](http://www.pbis.org)

PBIS: Positive Behavioral Intervention & Supports. OSEP Technical Assistance Center. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of Special Education Programs (OSEP) and the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), the Technical Assistance Center on PBIS supports schools, districts, and states to build systems capacity for implementing a multi-tiered approach to social ...

www.pbis.org

Thank you,

Strathcona Staff

CELL PHONE POLICY AT STRATHCONA

As part of our PBIS framework, Strathcona is putting in place consistent expectations throughout the school and a common language for all staff, students, parents and community members. One point of focus this year will be student cell phone use. We understand the importance of cell phones in this day and age and accept that many students own a cell phone and bring it to school. However, cell phones, especially social media use at school, has been a root cause of many issues over the past couple of years at the school. With the safety of all students in mind a new policy this year has been introduced this year for all intermediate students.

School Policy

1. Students are permitted to bring their cell phones to school.
2. Students will be permitted to use their cell phones before 9am and after 3pm on school grounds.
3. Between the hours of 9am and 3pm, including recess and lunch, students will not be permitted to use their cell phones.
4. If you need to contact your child you can call the school and the office will connect you with your child (604-713-4630).

Consequences

1. If a student is using their phones between 9am and 3pm, the phone will be taken away for the rest of the day and returned to the student at 3pm.
2. If the student continues to use their cell phone, refuses to put it away, or continues to try and use during school hours, a parent meeting will be required to discuss the plan moving forward for that student.

If you have any questions regarding this policy please contact us. We would be happy to answer any and all questions that you have.

LUNCH FORMS

If your child is participating in the Hot Lunch Program, please remember to return a lunch envelope to the office every month. Even if the envelope is empty, it will help staff to accurately order and plan for students that are participating. Thank you.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mark your calendars! Our second Professional Development Day is Friday, October 25th, 2019. School will not be in session for students on that day. The next Professional Development Day will take place on Friday, November 8th, 2019.

VERIFICATION FORMS

Verification Forms has been sent home with students in September. Please review and make any necessary corrections and return your forms as soon as possible to the class teacher. Mark changes in coloured pen. Also, it is extremely important that any health issues be brought to our attention as additional forms may be needed.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION PROCEDURES FOR 2020-2021



Applications for Kindergarten for the 2020-2021 year will begin on November 1st. Catchment students applying for registration between November 1st, through January 31st will be given first consideration over those who apply later. French Immersion Kindergarten will be determined by a District run lottery. If you have a child born in 2015 or know someone that will have a child attending Kindergarten in September 2020, please register them during the above time frame in order to help guarantee your child's placement in their home school.

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Students are supervised before school from 8:40am to 9:00am and after school from 3:00pm to 3:20pm. Children should not arrive before 8:40am or leave after 3:20pm unless specifically requested to do so as part of an organized/supervised activity, otherwise they will be unsupervised.

PEDESTRIAN AND COMMUNITY SAFETY TALK

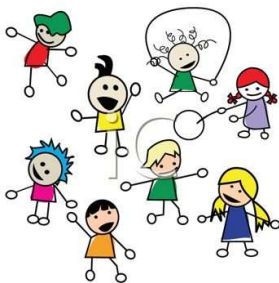
On Wednesday, November 6, Ryan Hooper from the Vancouver Police Department will be talking to all students about pedestrian and community safety.

PLAYGROUND SAFETY SESSIONS FOR PRIMARY STUDENTS

On October 1 and 2 this week BCIT student nurses will be working with each primary class to talk about playground safety. Some of the topics included are needle and condom safety, staying with the group and staying on the school grounds.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Please remember to exercise caution when dropping off or picking up children from school. Familiarize yourself with restricted areas and avoid double parking and U-turns. Remind your children not to run between cars to cross the street. Please acknowledge and respect all traffic signs and parking regulations. Thank you for your cooperation in not doing student drop off in the staff parking lot.



KEEP MOVING, IT'S GOOD FOR YOU!

ParticipACTION reports that Canadian kids need to sit less and move more! With this information in mind, we are continuing to ask students to head outdoors at recess and lunch so they can run, play and be active during their breaks! Please make sure that your children are dressed for all types of weather as they will be going outside on most days. For more information please visit www.participaction.com

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Friday, October 11	Jacky Essombe performance
Thursday, October 17	Earthquake Drill Cross Country District Meet at Trout Lake 12 – 3PM

Wednesday, October 23	Parent Conferences 2:00-8:00 PM; students dismissed at 2 PM
Thursday, October 24	Immunization for Kindergarten and Grade 6 Parent Conferences 2:00-5:00PM; students dismissed at 2PM
Friday, October 25	Provincial Pro-d – no school for students
Wednesday, November 6	Pedestrian and Community Safety Talk with Vancouver Police Department
Thursday, November 7	Remembrance Day Assembly
Friday, November 8	PRO D Day – no school for students
Monday, November 11	School Closed for Remembrance Day
Tuesday, November 12	Photo retakes
Wednesday, November 20	PAC Meeting

Orange Shirt Day at Strathcona



On Monday, September 30th, we joined people across Canada in acknowledgement of the harm the residential school system caused to Indigenous Peoples.

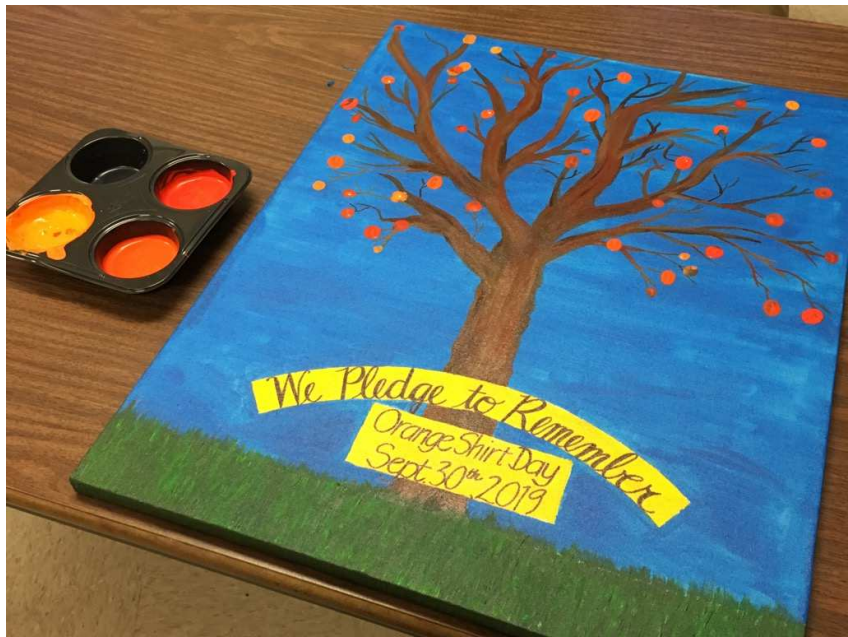
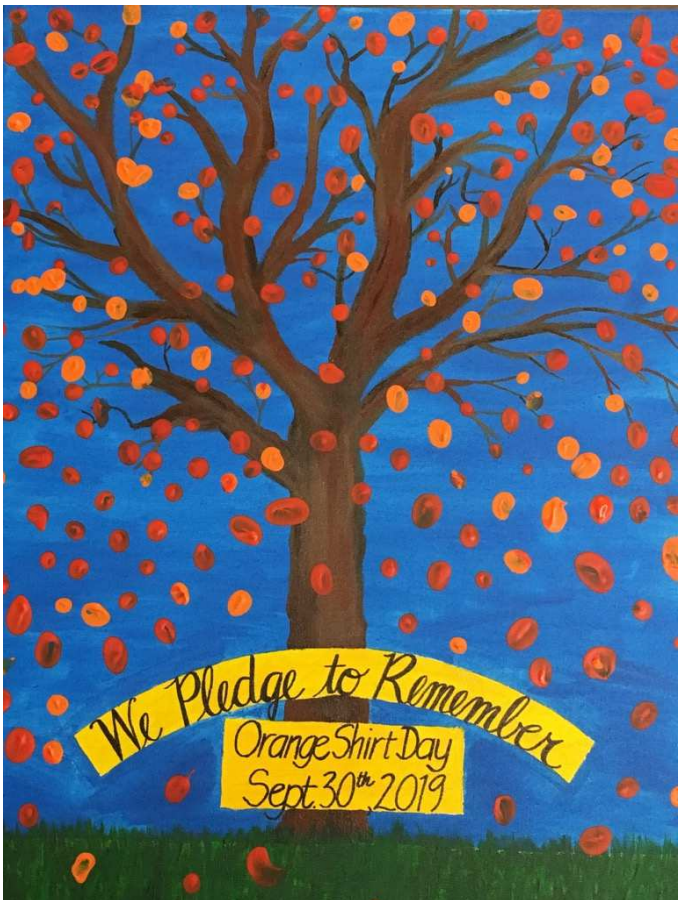
Strathcona had a number of activities planned, some of which were school wide.

All classes received a class set of orange paper shirts on which students wrote their name. As the day progressed, classes created an 'Every Child Matters' collage with their paper shirts.

'I Pledge to Remember – Orange Shirt Day 2019'. Donna Lokhorst, Strathcona's Indigenous Education Worker, spoke to all classes about Orange Shirt Day. Students had the opportunity to put their fingerprint in orange paint on the canvas as their 'Pledge to Remember'. This canvas will be displayed in the school for the whole year at a location to be decided.

Students may also have participated in talks from Indigenous elders, stories in our library and/or a 'Salmon Song' performance.







PAC CORNER

Thank you for coming out last week to our first PAC meeting of the year. We had a great turnout and lots of thoughtful discussion! Three happy announcements to highlight:

1. Tiffany Kindrid has joined the PAC board as a member at large (income equity rep). Welcome Tiffany!! We are so excited to have you and your previous board experience to strengthen the team.
2. Our PAC was the recipient of an anonymous \$15,000 donation towards school grounds renovation! Thank you anonymous donor whoever you may be :) These funds have been deposited into our account at the school and expenditures of over \$500 will always be voted on at PAC meetings unless already approved in an annual budget.
3. Last Wednesday, we voted at PAC general meeting to approve the work of Prospect and Refuge Landscape Architects in order to undertake preliminary PAC funded sitework on school grounds to a maximum of \$5,000. This will involve community design and consultation detailed in their proposal. This work will enable the school grounds committee to apply for corporate and foundation grants to actually undertake any improvement work. Well done school grounds committee! If you want to get involved with this work, send me an email and I will connect you.

Krista, PAC chair
krista.sigurdson@gmail.com



OCTOBER 2019

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

It's ghost and goblin time again! Here are some tips from the public health nurse for a fun and safe Halloween.

How to make your costume safe?

- ◆ Make sure that drivers can see your child. Use costumes with reflective tape and give each child a flashlight.
- ◆ Costumes should be made with fire resistant material—check the label.
- ◆ Make sure your child can see. Use face paint instead of masks. Tie hats, wigs, or scarves securely so that they won't slip over your child's eyes.
- ◆ To prevent falling, costumes should not be longer than your child's ankle and shoes should fit properly.

How to make trick or treating safe?

- ◆ Children should stay in well lit areas and only visit homes that have their outside lights turned on. Children should not go inside any house.
- ◆ Before your children eat their candy, make sure you examine it. Throw out any candy that has small holes in the wrappers or torn or loose packages. Cut all fruit open before your children eat it. Throw out any treats that are not wrapped.
- ◆ A parent or responsible adult should supervise young children.
- ◆ If you are driving on Halloween night, please be extra careful. Children are excited at Halloween and may forget some of the safety rules.



Where do I find more information?

- Robert and Lily Lee Family Community Health Centre, 604-675-3980
- Health Link BC - online www.healthlinkbc.ca or dial 811
- www.vch.ca/schoolhealth