



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

OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Renfrew Families,

As we transition to autumn, I reflect on the variety of teaching and learning opportunities presented to students at Renfrew during the last weeks of September and the beginning of October. Renfrew staff and students are continuing to work with last year's school inquiry question: How can we use reading data to improve instruction in the area of reading comprehension? In addition, we are continuing our work on the school district's goal: To increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students. Teachers and school staff did a remarkable job keeping the long-standing tradition of a Terry Fox Run going, with imaginative innovations and activities. More than ever, Terry's message of hope resonates. September ended with a significant observance: [Orange Shirt Day](#). Wearing an Orange Shirt on September 30 is a visible demonstration that we witness and honour the healing journey of Residential School Survivors and their families, and that we commit to the ongoing process of reconciliation in a manner that is specific, particular and real. It was a powerful day here at Renfrew and I hope students understood the important messages presented. A series of photos capturing the activities of Orange Shirt Day can be found later in the newsletter.

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

This newsletter contains a lot of important information, so please take a moment to read it. I am looking forward to more excitement and learning throughout the rest of October and November!

Kind regards,
Janine Lamb
Principal

MS. COUGHLAN'S LIBRARY CORNER

It has been such a joy to see our Renfrew students excited to be back in our Library Learning Commons and borrowing books once more. "Can we borrow more than one book this week, Ms. Coughlan?", has probably been my favourite question. Students have been working hard at remembering to bring their books back each week, in order to be able to increase the number of books they can borrow. Please check with your child's teacher to find out what day they go to the library, in order to help support them in returning their books each week. As Ms. Lamb mentioned, supporting our students' literacy is one of our pivotal school goals, and for most of our students, it can be such an exciting goal to support as we definitely have some ravenous readers!

During the months of September and October, our students have been exploring some of our most topical books, interested to learn more about the important events that are being discussed in our classrooms. After reading some of our Orange Shirt Day books, written by indigenous authors, students have been asking significant questions about why children were taken from their parents and placed in residential schools, wondering why the government didn't help them, and writing and drawing poignant heart-felt thoughts to send to the survivors, all coming from a place of love and care.

One of the books that was being discussed is called, “The Orange Shirt Story” written by Phyllis Webstad, a residential school survivor, and the woman who brought Orange Shirt Day to the forefront of Canadians. It is important for Canadians to remember and honour what happened to indigenous peoples and to take steps towards reconciliation towards all our indigenous peoples. This is also why we begin every assembly, meeting and gathering with an indigenous acknowledgment. This acknowledgment is one small way for us to honour the peoples on whose land we are blessed to live, work and play.



Please feel free to speak further with your child around this and other diversity and social justice topics, as discussion is essential to their growing understanding. It is especially important to engage in conversations with care and open curiosity as they come up, as these topics are central in our local and world news, highly visible on social media, and our students are looking for ways to process their understandings and feelings around such sensitive issues.

Another favourite topic of discussion around the school has been Terry Fox. We were lucky to receive a new, beautifully written book about Terry Fox from the perspective of his best friend Doug.



He met Terry in high school and writes about how Terry went from being a ‘terrible’ basketball player and someone who didn’t enjoy running at all, to the man who ended up running across Canada in order to raise money for Cancer awareness despite his own personal battle. The title of the book is “Terry Fox and Me”. The pictures are beautiful and it is written in storybook format for children. Definitely worth a read!

Last, but definitely not least, I am thrilled to be able to start up our leadership program in the library with Grades 5, 6, 7 students volunteering to be Library Monitors. I’ve had so many students volunteer to do this important work, and it warms my heart to know that we have such enthusiasm around reading and helping out in our caring school community at Renfrew Elementary.

Stay tuned for our next newsletter, where one of the library monitors will be giving their book recommendations!

Warmly,
Ms. Kamala Coughlan

FuturePLAY Network is Coming to Renfrew!

We are delighted to announce that work is underway to turn our computer lab into a FuturePLAY lab! The furniture, technology and software has been ordered, and staff have been taking part in Professional Development. Our hope is that the lab will be up and running by winter break. A big thanks to the PAC for helping to support the upgrading of the laptops in the computer lab, so that they can be moved into classrooms.

What is FuturePLAY?

FuturePLAY is a sustainable and scalable educational project aimed at fostering digital and STEAM literacy for grades four to seven students. Through the development of 21st century competencies such as critical thinking, creative thinking as well as collaboration, FuturePLAY is also geared to help prepare students for secondary and post-secondary programs, as well as the future tech-enabled world.

Our Goals

FuturePLAY is rooted in two key goals: creating engaging and well-equipped learning

spaces for students and providing deep professional development for teachers to support them as they prepare students for future careers.

OUR IMPACT

Up to two-thirds of children in elementary school, today will work in jobs that don't exist in today's economy. Through the implementation of the FuturePLAY program, we're inspiring Canada's future economy and supporting a skilled homegrown workforce.

LEARNING SPACES

FuturePLAY Labs are an integrated part of schools, combining the latest hardware and software with collaborative environments to foster STEAM literacy for all learners.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

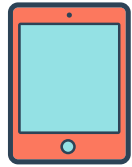
FuturePLAY professional development for teachers taps into current industry experts to educate about the latest in Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and everything in between.

FUTUREPLAY LABS

STEAM skills translate into STEAM Opportunities
Grades 4-7

FUNDAMENTAL OBJECTIVES

- 1 Create engaging and well-equipped spaces for students by providing:



portable up to date
hardware
and software tech



flexible playful
furniture + learning
spaces

- 2 Provide comprehensive professional development for teachers to support students in STEAM education

TARGET COMMUNITIES

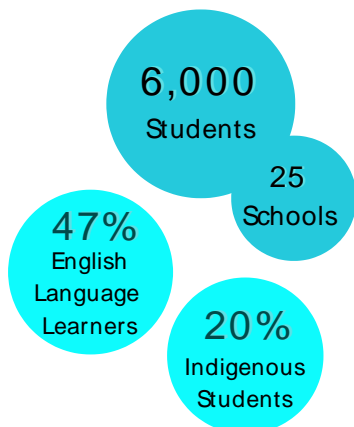


Elementary School in Vancouver
with vulnerable population



Diverse student population

CREATING IMPACT



YOU CAN SUPPORT OUR ELEMENTARY STUDENTS
FROM GRADES 4-7 TO SUCCESS IN STEAM!

DONATE NOW!

<https://futureplaylabs.org>



FUTURE
PLAY

LEGO TO SPARE?

Do you have Lego at home collecting dust? If so, we would happily take it off your hands. Staff at Renfrew are trying to build a 'Lego Bank' to use in the FuturePLAY lab and to build a 'Lego Wall' in the library. We are needing a lot so that each student can have their own Lego to us, following health and safety protocols. Please contact Janine if you are able to donate!

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mark your calendars! Our second Professional Development Day is Friday, October 23rd, 2020. School will not be in session for students on that day. The next Professional Development Day will take place on Friday, November 27th, 2020.



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.

Student/ Parent Information and resources:

Responding to Cyberbullying: A Guide for School Communities

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Repository/SBAttachments/0d22e0e1-2135-427f-bc4f-7eed1615b5fa_RespondingtoCyberbullying-AGuideforSchoolCommunities.pdf

VSB Parent Pamphlet on What is the Difference? Peer conflict, mean behavior and bullying.

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Safe_Caring/bullying/Documents/sbfile/180828/VSBParentBookletconflict-bullying.pdf

Ministry of Education ERASE (expect respect & a safe education) Resources

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/erase>

The ease|Report It tool is for students

<https://erasereportit.gov.bc.ca/#:~:text=The%20erase%7CReport%20It%20tool,during%20your%20school's%20operational%20hours.>

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. Montessori Kindergarten will be determined by a District run lottery. If you have a child born in 2016 or know someone that will have a child attending Kindergarten in September 2021, please register them during the above time frame in order to help guarantee your child's placement in their home school.

[https://www.vsb.bc.ca/School/School-](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/School/School-Registration/Kindergarten_Registration/FAQs/Pages/default.aspx)

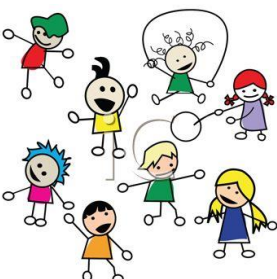
[Registration/Kindergarten_Registration/FAQs/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/School/School-Registration/Kindergarten_Registration/FAQs/Pages/default.aspx)

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.

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

ASSEMBLIES

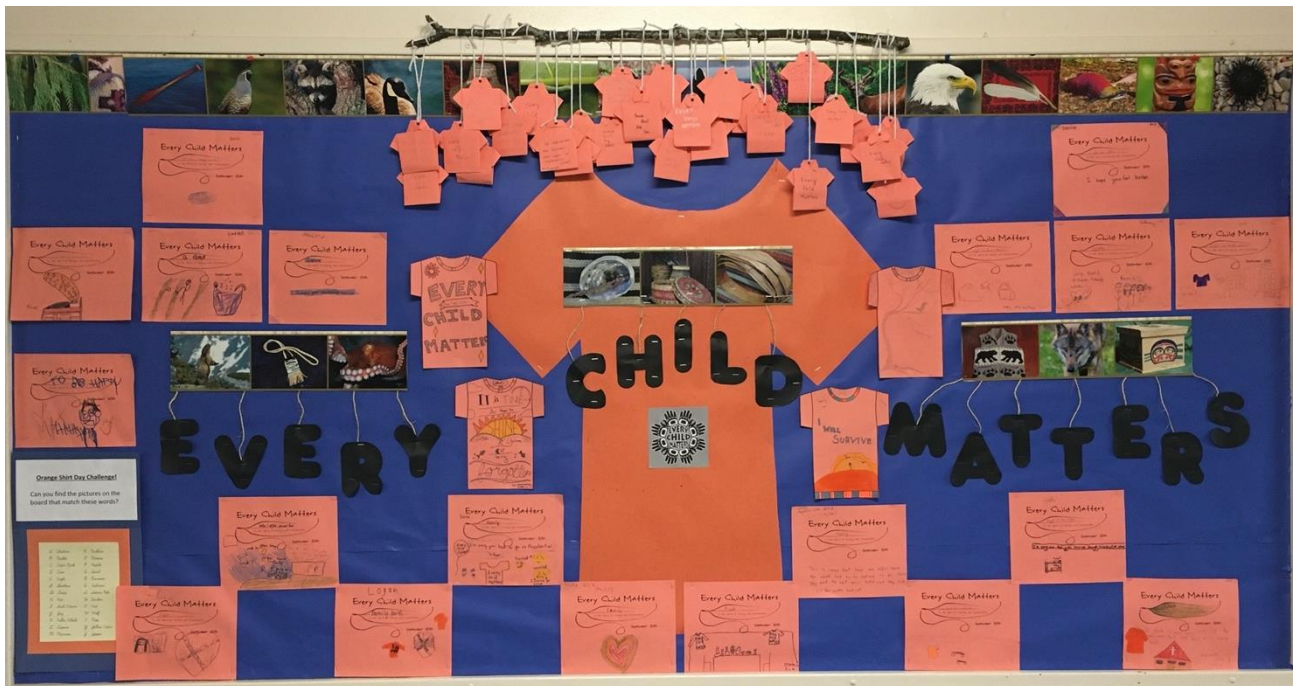
We held our first virtual assembly on Friday, September 23, and our second on Friday, October 9. It is certainly an adjustment to virtually lead an engaging assembly for the entire school. Some of the topics covered at the assemblies were the school code of conduct, Orange Shirt Day, the origin of Thanksgiving, and a Thanksgiving performance by Ms. Mooney's Kindergarten class. Thank you to Ms. Visser who is organizing our assemblies. We are learning as we go, and assemblies will continue to be an important part of the fabric of Renfrew School. We are looking forward to the next one to honor Remembrance Day, on November 10th!

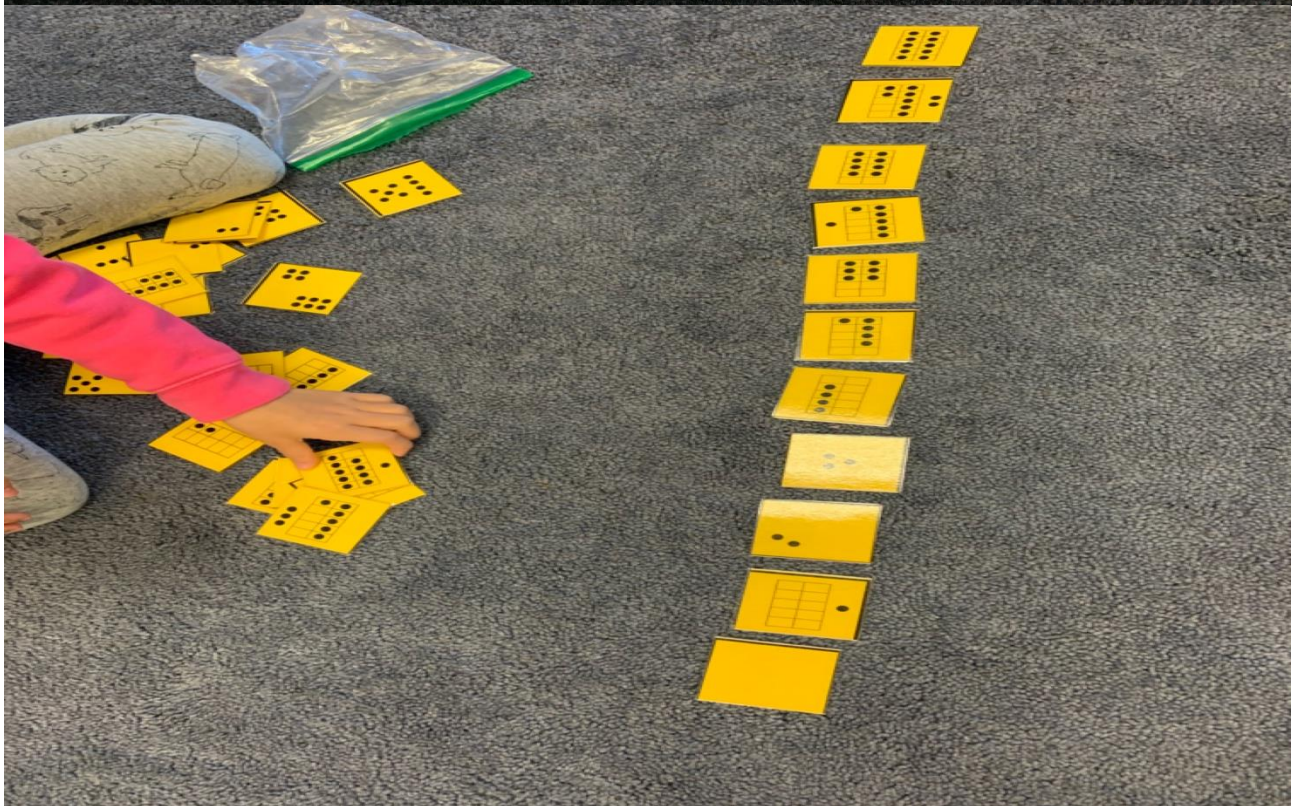
Orange Shirt Day at Renfrew



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

Renfrew had a number of activities that took place throughout the week. Students watched videos, heard stories and participated in art activities as a way to recognize and remember.







Renfrew's Annual Pumpkin Patch



Today was an exciting day at Renfrew, as students got to visit the Renfrew Pumpkin Patch. Despite the rainy weather, great fun was had by all! Thank you to Ron Basra and family for making this year's event possible, and to all the volunteers who showed up in the dark to unload 525 pumpkins!



RENFREW PAC

Hello from the PAC

Welcome back to another school year! We hope everyone has settled into our new normal. We have received several questions regarding our hot lunch program. Due to Covid-19 we are not able to provide our regular hot lunch program at this time or any other food related fundraisers. We will keep everyone updated if this changes. If you have any other questions or comments please contact us at renfrewschoolpac@gmail.com.

2020 - 2021 PAC Executive

Chair - Maya Toews
Treasurer - Lina Li
Secretary - Elaine Yong
Fundraiser - Lucy French
Member at Large - Angela Giardullo
Member at Large - Michael Branco

Upcoming PAC meetings via Zoom

Tuesday November 17th time tbd
Tuesday December 15th time tbd

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WHAT'S GOING ON AT RENFREW

| | |
|------------------------|--|
| Friday, October 23 | Province-wide Pro-d – no school for students |
| Tuesday, November 10 | Remembrance Day Virtual Assembly |
| Wednesday, November 11 | School Closed for Remembrance Day |
| Wednesday, Nov. 18 | Parent Conferences students dismissed at 2pm |
| Thursday, Nov. 19 | Parent Conferences students dismissed at 2pm |
| Friday, Nov. 27 | Professional Day – No school for students |