

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

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Strathcona Families,

We are well into Autumn, and it has been so interesting to see Strathcona continue to move forward with the teaching and learning piece during Covid-19. At the most recent PAC meeting, I highlighted the importance our staff has placed on communication and connectedness. It is a challenge to do both of these when we cannot meet as a whole school, see parents in person, or even have a recess where all 450 students are outside at the same time. Having said that, tremendous efforts are being made to emphasize the importance of communication and connectedness, even if done virtually!

It is wonderful to see both our Option 1 and Option 4 students participating in the library book exchange and school pumpkin patch event! Our virtual Halloween parade was a hit for all students to see and participate in. I am getting very positive feedback from both staff and parents about how October parent-teacher conferences took place. We will endeavor to keep parents updated with the events taking place at school and share pictures when permitted!

Please take some time to review some important items in this newsletter:

- kindergarten registration for 2021-22
- mini school information for grade 7 families
- PAC updates
- pictures from the past month of school events!

Take care everybody and stay safe,

Jason Eng
Principal

SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

Students are supervised before school from 8:45 AM to 9:00 AM and after school from 3:00 PM to 3:20 PM. Children should not arrive before 8:45 AM or leave after 3:20 PM unless specifically requested to do so as part of an organized/supervised activity, otherwise they will be unsupervised.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

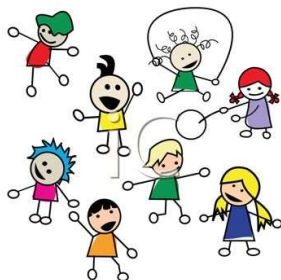
Please remember to exercise caution when dropping off or picking up children from school. Familiarize yourself with restricted areas and avoid double parking and U-turns. Remind your children not to run between cars to cross the street. Please acknowledge and respect all traffic signs and parking regulations.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



SAFETY PATROL

The corner of Jackson and Keefer is a very busy one every morning and afternoon. We have decided that it would be a good opportunity for our grade 6 and 7 students from Strathcona to participate in this great Safety Patrol program. The students received training from a VPD police constable and are now being chaperoned for the next two weeks to make sure they are safe and comfortable to patrol the crosswalk. Make sure to acknowledge them and please have your children cross at that crosswalk. They will be there rain or shine to assure safety for all.





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

DIGITAL RESPONSIBILITY

The following link is a guide for parents on digital responsibility. A wonderful resource to support families at home.

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

MUSIC IN THE COURTYARD

Calling all musicians! Do you have a child who enjoys playing music? Strathcona would like to pilot an initiative where students and staff play music in the courtyard (and eventually, other outside locations) while students arrive at school. The goal is to add a positive vibe to our mornings with the calming and soothing sound of music. The idea is very similar to [Keys to the Street](#) which placed public pianos in various parts of Vancouver. If your child is comfortable playing a piece of music, independently, for roughly 10 minutes, please reach out to the school and we will start scheduling students to play!

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

Do you have spare muffin tins, unused kitchen items, or utensils? Strathcona would like to use these in our outdoor mud kitchen as a way to promote outdoor education. Please send these items with your child and we will collect them directly from the classes. Thank you!



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

The next Professional Development Day will take place on Friday, November 27th, 2020.

MINI-SCHOOL REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR GRADE 7 STUDENTS

REGISTRATION FOR MINI SCHOOLS FOR 2021 ENTRANCE FOR GRADE 8S ONLY.

VSB's Mini School programs provide enrichment opportunities for highly motivated students who are Vancouver residents, consistently work at an Applying level and have excellent work habits. **Students must apply to each program separately as per each program's process.**



Each year over 1,400 students apply for approximately 500 grade 8 spaces in the Mini School programs.

As a result of the COVID-19 Health and Safety protocols for schools, there have been changes made to the application process for VSB Mini School Programs for 2020-2021.

This year there will **not** be a District-wide Assessment/Test for Grade 7 students as part of the Mini School application process.

Program information nights will be held online or through digital platforms. Information about each information night will be posted on the program websites.

All Vancouver School District secondary schools have a variety of challenging and exciting programs and courses. Many schools have also developed their own school-based enrichment program for a wide variety of interests and abilities.

Mini-school programs begin at grade 8. See 2021-2022 Secondary Programs Brochure for a synopsis of each Mini-school program:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Learning/Secondary/Mini_Schools/Documents/sbfile/201014/Secondary-Program-Oct-2020%20rev%201.pdf

Contact the programs directly for information, contact information, and application forms.

Visit for more information:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Learning/Secondary/Mini_Schools/Pages/Default.aspx

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 choice 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 29**. 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: 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



1 Apply Online

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)



2 Visit your catchment school with necessary documents

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.

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than available space* at the school, the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1 and January 29

1. **In-catchment** Kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into 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 was drawn.
4. Between January 29 and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 29

In-catchment Kindergarten students who apply **after** January 29 will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist.

Note: There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 29.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/School/School-Registration/Pages/default.aspx>

* Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the District (Administrative Procedure 300).



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

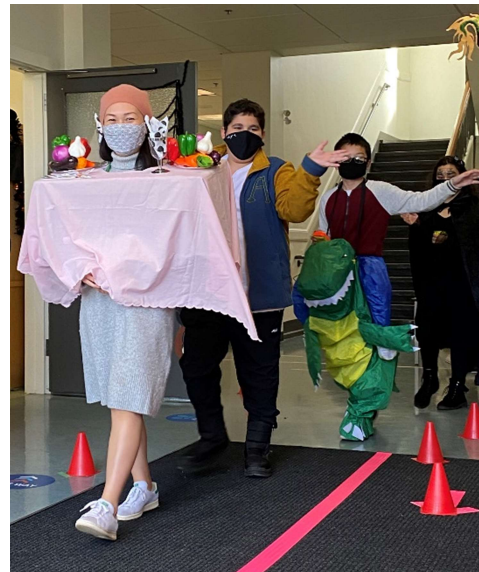
WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Tuesday, November 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Wednesday, November 11	School Closed for Remembrance Day
Friday, November 27	Pro-D Day
Friday, December 18	Last day of school before Winter Break

Student Showcase



Pumpkin patch and Halloween parade!





PAC CORNER

Dear Strathcona Parents,

This is a hard time for parents to feel connected to the school and to other families. We hope that PAC meetings can be an opportunity for you to get updates from Principal Eng and find out from other parents about projects being worked on. There's no requirement for you to do anything beyond show up to meetings (though yes, of course, if you want to get more involved...!), and we'd love to see you there.

Our next PAC meeting will be held on **Wed Nov 18 at 6:30pm by Zoom**. Join the meeting by using this link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86377017568> Please email Megan, our secretary, at strathconapacsecretary@gmail.com if you'd like anything added to our agenda for our Nov 18th meeting.

We would love to hear your ideas for ways our PAC can bring families together (at a distance!) right now. For example, one parent has suggested organizing a mutual-support-network where parents can deliver groceries or run errands for families that may be isolating at home. Another parent has suggested a mask making drive. We welcome your ideas and efforts.

Strathcona Elementary's fantastic neighborhood assistant, Tracy Kong will be offering simultaneous verbal Chinese translation at our PAC meetings. Thank you Tracy!!! Please reach out to her if you have question about this: tkong@vsb.bc.ca

Other great ways to stay in touch are:

Join our listerv here: <http://eepurl.com/ggoJnb>

Find our PAC Facebook group here: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1748127745327343>

Find meeting minutes on our PAC website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/lord-strathcona/Families/Parent-Advisory-Council/Pages/default.aspx>

Our meetings for the remainder of the school year will be:

Nov 18, 2020 06:30 PM
Jan 20, 2021 06:30 PM
Feb 17, 2021 06:30 PM
Mar 31, 2021 06:30 PM
Apr 21, 2021 06:30 PM
May 19, 2021 06:30 PM
Jun 16, 2021 06:30 PM

Cheers, Krista (PAC Chair) strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com

Strathcona PAC Board

Chair: Krista Sigurdson
Secretary: Megan McKinney
Treasurer: Dawn Brennan

Members At large:

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