



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: Cinzia Jeffries & Ryan Murphy

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Strathcona Families,

It appears that the weather has turned from our glorious extended summer to cold wet darker days very quickly. However, the excitement and busyness that is Strathcona continues as we prepare for winter holidays in Mid-December.

I really value the different opportunities to build community connectedness at Strathcona: this includes pumpkin patch, the Indigenous mural celebration, in person parent/teacher conferences and a great turnout at the PAC annual general meeting. I am excited to announce that the next community event will be taking place on the morning of December 8th...the return of the annual Strathcona Pancake Breakfast! Students and families are welcome to join staff on this day in the cafeteria to socialize and eat breakfast together. Stay tuned for further details.

Our school Enhanced Services team is in the midst of organizing winter hampers to support families during the holiday season. If at any point the school can be of assistance to you or your family, please do not hesitate to reach out to me directly at jeng@vsb.bc.ca. All support is done in a respectful and confidential manner.

This Friday is a non-instructional day for students. Our entire school staff will be participating in a district led Indigenous Focus Day. We look forward to continuing our unlearning and relearning, and embedding the knowledge we gain in our everyday practice supporting Indigenous Education at Strath!

Three more weeks until winter holidays!

Sincerely,

Jason Eng
Principal Strathcona

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mark your calendars! November's Professional Development Day will take place on Friday, November 25, 2022.

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.

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

Student safety is of paramount importance at the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences. If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Messages will be received before the office is open. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine. To report your child's absence – Please call 604-713-4630 and leave a message prior to 9 AM on the first day of the absence.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS ON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE/LATE ARRIVAL

According to the research, students who miss 10 percent of instructional days are placed at significant risk for academic and social challenges. This means, regardless of the reason for absence, students who miss 18 days over the year will likely be off-track in their learning. In addition, students who arrive after the 9 am start of the day miss important instructional time as many of key lessons around literacy and numeracy occur first thing in the morning. If you need help getting your children to school, please contact the office and ask for Dominic Maggiolo, Vice Principal, or one of our Youth and Family Workers or a member of the Indigenous Enhancement team and they will work with you to implement a plan for supporting your child to get to school on time every day.

RAIN GEAR

With cooler and rainier weather approaching, students must be mindful to come prepared with the appropriate clothing matching the weather. It's also recommended to pack a warm sweater as classrooms are keeping windows open currently for ventilation. For students in younger grades, it is recommended to pack an extra set of dry clothes in the event that they get wet playing outside. If you require support with said items, please reach out to the school and we will do our best to find a solution.



SACY – SUPPORTING AND CONNECTING YOUTH

Substance Use Prevention Initiative in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health. Resources for parents/youth on substance use prevention/intervention please visit www.vsb.bc.ca/sacy

STUDENT SIGN OUT PROCEDURE

When you pick up your child during the school day, please ensure that you sign them out at the school office. If you do not sign out your child, they will be unaccounted for, and the school will identify your child as a 'missing' student and will commence a search of school grounds. If the school staff do not locate the child, and are unable to reach a parent promptly, the school will call the Vancouver Police Department. Therefore, clear communication is essential for ensuring the safety of your child to prevent unnecessary searches. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe!

MINI-SCHOOL REGISTRATION INFORMATION FOR GRADE 7 STUDENTS

REGISTRATION FOR MINI SCHOOLS FOR 2023 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.

There is no District-wide Assessment/Test for Grade 7 students as part of the Mini School application process. Interested students need to complete both the District Registry process ([available here from November 7 - December 15, 2022](#)), and then apply directly to the Mini School programs through Mini School program websites.

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 the grade 8 level. See 2023 Programs Brochure for a description of each Mini-school program:
http://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Learning/Secondary/Mini_Schools/Documents/sbfile/VSB%20Mini%20School%20Brochure%202023.pdf

Contact the programs directly for information, contact information, and application forms. Information Nights begin at 7:00 PM unless indicated otherwise.

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 2018 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.

This year, children born in 2018 are eligible for kindergarten registration and will go to school starting September 2023.

The priority registration period for Kindergarten opens on **November 1 and ends on January 31**. Kindergarten applications received at any point within the priority enrolment time frame will be part of the priority enrolment period. 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

- Bring supporting documentation to your English catchment school office

Supporting documents needed:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Applicable Immigration/Citizenship/Permanent Resident Documentation
4. Immunization records (if available)
5. Court orders/documents (if applicable)



1 Apply Online



2 Visit your catchment school with necessary documents

If your child was born outside of Canada, you will need to go to the [VSB District - Newcomer Welcome Centre](#) and complete the initial registration there.

District choice programs

If you want to apply for a Choice Program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice Programs and cross boundary placements will begin to be accepted in early 2023.

Applying for a District choice program is a separate process and runs from January 9 to February 3. Visit the [Kindergarten Choice Programs](#) page for more information.

Cross-boundary

Families who wish to apply to a school outside of their catchment area, known as cross-boundary, will register their child at their neighbourhood catchment school first.

Applying for cross-boundary is a separate online process and runs from February 1-28. Cross boundary applications will only be considered after all in-catchment students have been accommodated.

More information can be found on the District website, under [cross boundary registration](#).

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

MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Friday, November 25	Indigenous Focus Professional Day – No school for students
Thursday, December 1	Grade 6 Immunization
Thursday, December 8	Pancake Breakfast
Friday, December 16	Last day of instruction before Winter Vacation

STUDENT SHOWCASE



4th Annual Strathcona Pumpkin Patch & Halloween Fun



Strathcona's Mural Ceremony

Written by Brynn, Hailee, Micah, and Norah (Div. 6)

The unveiling of the mural took place on Monday, October 17th. The ceremony was about acknowledging indigenous artists who painted the mural. This event was held in the staff parking lot facing the mural on the community centre.

The artists who made this mural are Bracken Hanuse Corlett (Wuikinuxv and Klahoose Nations), Ocean Hyland (Tseil-Waututh Nation), Atheana Picha (Kwantlen First Nation), and Kelsey Sparrow (Coast Salish and Anishnaabe).

Members of the host Nations who came to help with protocol were:

- Welcoming: Chief Jen Thomas (Tseil-Waututh Nation)
- Speakers: Morgan and Alec Guerin (Musqueam Nation)
- Drummers: Bob Baker and the Eagle Song Dancers (Squamish Nation)

Members of the Red Fox student drum group were present and played a song. Other people who attended were the artists, members of the Strathcona school community, some parents, and people from the VSB.

To prepare for this ceremony, we worked with Megan. To begin, we read and learned about the Musqueam, Squamish, and Tseil-Waututh nations. Then we wrote our own land acknowledgements. Two members from division 6 presented the land acknowledgment at the beginning of the ceremony. Kamil read his and Clara read Ingrid's land acknowledgment.

Here are the two texts from Kamil and Ingrid:

Kamil:

"I would like to acknowledge that we are on the unceded Territory of the Squamish, Musqueam and Tseil-Waututh nations. I'm Indigenous and my mom is Indigenous. The purpose of this mural is to learn about local artists. Four Indigenous artists painted this mural. There are a lot of salmon and turquoise on the mural. I'm inspired to learn more about Indigenous art like beading and weaving."

Ingrid:

"Today we're gathering on the traditional, ancestral and unceded land of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tseil-Waututh nations. I'm grateful to be on this land because I can learn about Indigenous culture and I can learn many other things. The purpose of this mural is to present local art and to make Indigenous people feel welcome in this community. On the community centre mural there are colours like blue, red, green, and orange. There are figures like salmon, people, stars, plants, and moons. As my commitment, I plan to learn more about Indigenous artists, authors, athletes and carvers and weavers."



Smokehouse in the City

In October, divisions 6, 7, 8, 16, and 19 participated in VSB's Smokehouse in the City event – a salmon canning and smoking demonstration. This event was led by Musqueam Knowledge Keepers Martin and Shona Sparrow and supported by staff from the Indigenous Education Department. Students had the chance to learn and listen to a song shared by a Musqueam elder, see how to prepare and can salmon, learn about the salmon smoking process, and discuss the importance of salmon to the Musqueam Nation. Special thanks to Megan Hanna (Indigenous Education Teacher at Strathcona) for organizing the classes to attend.





Here's a quick reminder on how to find out about PAC meetings and events!

To get PAC emails sign up [here](#).

To join PAC Facebook group click [here](#).

Cinzia Jeffries (2022-23 PAC co-chair)

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