

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

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Strathcona Families,

We have made it through the first month of school successfully! We love the feeling of having students in the building and the energy it brings. It was great to reinforce what it means to be a Strathcona Dragon at our first ever virtual whole school assembly! Students are doing an amazing job of learning classroom routines and following safety protocols. This past week, some really meaningful learning and discussion also took place around Orange Shirt Day and what it represents.

While we send regular communication through weekly emails, the monthly newsletter represents a way to bring together our whole school community and share information from a variety of sources and organizations including the PAC, Strathcona Community Centre, and Vancouver Coastal Health. The monthly newsletter also serves as a way to showcase some of the amazing things happening in classrooms and throughout the school...student showcases are my favourite! This is even more important given the challenging circumstances we are living in and the restrictions it puts on parents accessing the school. Although we are not able to have a meet the teacher night event, Strathcona staff will find creative ways to keep you connected with your child's learning. Stay tuned for information about parent teacher conferences and how they will take place this year.

Thank you for your continued patience and flexibility as we navigate our way through the 2020-21 school year. I look forward to connecting with as many of you as possible in the coming weeks and months, in person and virtually!

Jason Eng
Principal Strathcona

GEARING UP FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

As we start the new school year, it is important that students are prepared in order to have a smooth transition back. Here are a few ideas and tips to start off on the right foot:

- Getting back to a school routine can be challenging so consider shifting bedtime and wake-up routines right away. Sleep experts recommend not using any technology for at least one hour prior to bedtime.
- Set up a homework center at home away from distractions (TV, laptop, iPad, phone etc.) Keep an assignment calendar nearby so you and your child know upcoming due dates. You will be teaching them valuable time management skills too!
- Please be sure to bring your child/children to school on time. Students have a better day at school when they arrive before the 9 am bell. They learn more and begin the day feeling calmer and less anxious.



Don't forget to check out some useful information & resources for the start of the 2020-2021 school year:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/General_Resources/Back_To_School/Pages/default.aspx

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mark your calendars! October's Professional Development Day will take place on Friday, October 23rd, 2020.



WELCOME

A warm welcome to the following new staff members: Dominic Maggiolo, Melissa Campbell, Christine Coles, Jacqueline Andre, Tara West, Ally Tapscott, Kathleen Schepers, Eden Chan, Michelle Martine, Lourdes Friess, Carman Tung, Emily Ng, Lana Fong, Luciana Lago Nobre, Tina Pierce, and Cameron Gedge. Welcome back to Stella Lee and Lexy MacGregor.

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. Parents should leave a message on a dedicated answering service by calling 604-713-4630. 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 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.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic Safety tips for parents, students & drivers as kids head back to school:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Safe_Caring/Traffic-Safety/Pages/default.aspx

STUDENT/PARENT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Below are resources for parents and students regarding bullying, and Ministry programs for safe education.

- [VSB Parent Pamphlet on What is the Difference? Peer conflict, mean behavior and bullying.](#)
- Ministry of Education [ERASE \(expect respect & a safe education\).](#)
- [ERASE|Report It tool.](#)
- [VSB Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol](#)

SACY – SUPPORTING AND CONNECTING YOUTH

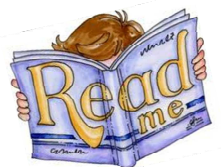
Substance Use Prevention Initiative in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health. Resources for parents/youth on substance use prevention/intervention please visit www.vsb.bc.ca/sacy

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!

NEWSLETTER

We will be sending out a newsletter on a monthly basis. It is important that parents and guardians read them. We use the newsletter to communicate information about all the exciting and interesting events occurring at the school and in the community. The electronic version of the newsletter will be emailed to parents and guardians, so please ensure that your email and contact details are up to date. Our newsletter is also posted on our website, and some paper copies will be available at the school office by request.



PACKAGE OF FORMS

Your child has brought home a package of various forms. Please ensure that all information on the Student Verification Form is current and correct. Also, remember that if there are changes to telephone numbers and emergency contact numbers, please inform the office immediately for your child's safety. Information regarding school fees, agendas, internet use, media release forms, and the fine arts fee is also included in the forms.

BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to behave in a manner that is courteous, cooperative and considerate. We will continue to implement Strathcona's Code of Conduct which was designed to promote cooperation among children and encourage respect for others and safety when at school.

Our Code of Conduct is: Take care of yourself, Take care of others, Take care of this place.

ONLINE PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES

The Vancouver School Board will now be offering School Cash Online at Lord Strathcona as its preferred method of payment for all school fees, including everything from field trips to yearbooks. This secure system helps parents and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly and easily online.

The new system puts all of the school fees available to your student online for purchase, keeping you informed of your child's activities and needs. We will post items through the system and assign the relevant fees to your student. You can then choose to purchase these fees online with one of three different methods, including credit cards. You can also stay informed and keep track of which school fees require your attention. The system strictly adheres to Canada's privacy and anti-spam legislation and meets the latest industry standards for payment security.

You are now able to register – a simple process that takes only a few minutes – by visiting <https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com> or visiting our website at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/online-payment> and following directions to the School Cash Online page. You will need your child's usual first name, last name and birth date to register.

Should you encounter any difficulties, you can use the parent help desk at **1 (866) 961-1803** or by visiting schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support.

More information will be sent home with the students in the package of forms.

Welcome Back to a New School Year Everyone!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



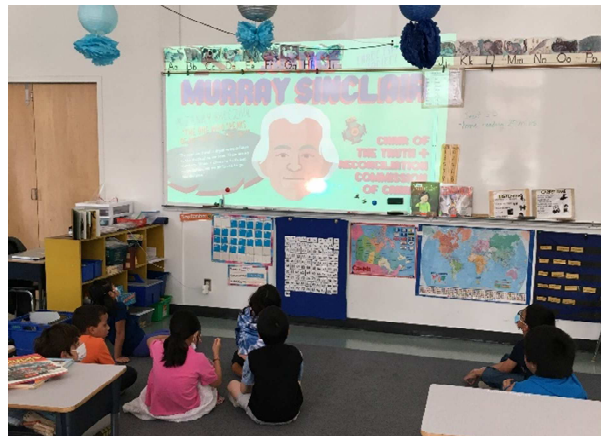
WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Monday, October 12 th	Thanksgiving – School Closed
Wednesday, October 21 st and Thursday October 22 nd	Goal Setting Conferences Early Dismissal 2:00 pm
Friday, October 23 rd	PRO D Day – No School for Students
Wednesday, November 11 th	Remembrance Day – School Closed
Friday, November 27 th	Indigenous Focus Professional Day

STUDENT SHOWCASE



Orange Shirt Day and Gardening at Strathcona





STUDENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL: *Notice to our students and parents/guardians/ caregivers*

The Vancouver School District and our community partners are committed to having safe, caring and inclusive schools. In the event that a student makes a threat of violence or harm to other students, staff or the school community the school will initiate the VSB student risk threat assessment process.

THE VSB STUDENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS

What behaviours initiate a student threat risk assessment?

A Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment will be initiated for behaviours including:

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill;
- Verbal/ written/ drawn threats to harm or kill others;
- Online threats to harm or kills others;
- Possession of weapons (including replicas);
- Bomb threats;
- Fire setting;
- Sexual intimidation or assault; sextortion
- Gang related intimidation and violence

What is a threat?

- An expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something.
- Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, made through gestures or posted on the Internet.

Duty to report threat making behaviour

Maintaining a safe, caring and inclusive school community is the responsibility of everyone in the school community. Students, staff, parents/ guardians/ caregivers and community members must report all threat related behaviours to their school administrator.

Duty to Respond

All threats must be taken seriously and require a response that includes investigation and intervention. Our goal is to respond to threats quickly and in a professional manner, so that we can maintain a safe and caring learning environment.

The school administrator will initiate the threat risk assessment process, according to district protocol. Each school has a multi-disciplinary School Threat Risk Assessment Team which includes the School Administrator(s), Area or School-based Counsellor(s), and School Liaison Police Officer. A school may also involve district resource staff and community partners such as Child and Youth Mental Health in the threat assessment process.

What is the purpose of a Student Threat Risk Assessment?

The VSB student threat assessment process is used to:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- To understand factors contributing to the threat makers' behaviour.
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker.
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What happens in a Student Threat Risk Assessment?

- Information is gathered from multiple sources including open source digital publically available data. This may include interviews with the threat-maker, student(s), staff and parents/ guardians/ caregivers to assess the level of risk.
- The School Threat Assessment Team examines the information collected and in consultation with community partners, determines the level of risk.
- Appropriate intervention plans are developed, implemented and shared with parents/guardians, staff and students, as required. Information shared throughout the risk/threat assessment process will respect the individual's right to privacy and the safety of all.

Can I refuse to participate in the threat assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the Threat Risk Assessment process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring environment for all.



Dear Strathcona Families,

Welcome back to school this year! And welcome new families! I know this is a very difficult time for many of us and I hope that you are able to adjust to our new normal. Please reach out to me or members of our PAC executive for ideas of how the PAC can support families and foster parent engagement at our school. We have moved our PAC meetings online and thanks to a license from the DPAC, we are able to host large meetings for free on Zoom.

The objectives of our PAC are to enhance communication between parents and administration, promote the development of parent community, provide a forum for parent input at the school and contribute to the effectiveness of the school through our involvement. While I wish we could host BINGO night, coffee cart, and movie nights this year, we hope to generate interest in other virtual forms of communication and engagement.

Thank you teachers, staff, and administration for their hard work this Fall!

2020-20 PAC Board

We held our AGM on Sept 30th and our new board by acclimation is:

- Chair/DPAC rep: Krista Sigurdson <strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com>
- Secretary: Megan McKinney <strathconapacsecretary@gmail.com>
- Treasurer: Dawn Brennan <strathconapactreasurer@gmail.com>

Members at Large

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

I am thrilled to have 5 new board members this year (Megan, Dawn, Carla, Drew and Jamie)! Thank you for volunteering! I would like to thank parents Andrea Glickman and Allan Williams who resigned from our board for their enormous contributions to the PAC in previous years. You will be missed!!

If you are interested in joining the board, it's not too late. Feel free to reach out to me. If you are interested in bringing an idea to the PAC, please reach out to me or our secretary to have item added to a meeting agenda.

Rain/Winter Gear Donation Collection Event This Weekend!

Parent Danielle Sherring has organized a children's rain/winter gear donation collection event this Saturday at Maclean Park from 12:30-2pm. Please stop by if you have any donations of children's winter/rain gear in sizes 4-16. Donations will be given to the school for redistribution to kids in need. Click here for more information: <https://fb.me/e/6Hz8JU56G> If you want to help out or have donations but can't make it to the event, you can email donationslordstrathcona@gmail.com to coordinate.

Safe School Grounds Committee

Carla Frenkel and Drew Stewart are co-chairing the PAC safe school grounds committee this year and are working on a terms of reference for approval at a PAC meeting. Please reach out to me if you would like to join the committee or would like more information. They continue to work on engaging the VSB on improving our school grounds and addressing long standing safety issues at our school.

Gardening Group

Over the summer a group of parents met at the school to clean up the school garden next to the childcare portable. This is a work-in-progress and the group continues to meet once a month on the first Sunday of the month at 2pm. If you would like to join gardening group, reach out to me and I can connect you. Carla Frenkel is helping lead this endeavor.

Online Communication

You will find PAC meeting notes on our PAC website here: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/lord-strathcona/Families/Parent-Advisory-Council/Pages/default.aspx>

You can sign up for our PAC listserv here: <http://eepurl.com/ggoJnb>

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

Next PAC meeting

Our next PAC meeting will be held on Wed Oct 28, 2020 at 6:30 PM by Zoom. Please reach out to our secretary, Megan McKinney <strathconapacsecretary@gmail.com> if you have agenda items you'd like to add.

Register in advance for this meeting: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlucO6orzvvhHNxg4uHgTnGPug-VHnSi4cjl>

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting. Registration will help us keep track of how many PAC voting members are at a meeting.

Warmly,

Krista

Krista Sigurdson
PAC Chair strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan

The kids plus student accident insurance program has changed and is now called The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP). This coverage is still provided by Industrial Alliance and is a voluntary plan which offers coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is ideal for supplementing costs not covered by provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans.

Families can register online to participate in the Plan by using the URL provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

May the 2020-2021 school year be one of achievement, growth, and fond memories!



STRATHCONA SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

Our **Code of Conduct** supports a safe, caring environment in which **all** children are treated with respect and can achieve their potential. Our school is committed to an environment where there are no impediments to full and free participation in the school community, and which promotes mutual respect, where all are equal in dignity and rights.

This Code of Conduct is intended to ensure freedom from harm, including freedom from discrimination based on race, colour, ancestry, place of origin, religion, marital status, family status, physical or mental disability, sex or sexual orientation, as set out in the **BC Human Rights Code**.

It is up to all members of our school community, students, staff, and parent volunteers – to ensure that our actions:

- Are responsible to ourselves, others and to the community
- Protect and promote our own learning and the learning of others
- Create safe conditions
- Demonstrate pride in our school

At Strathcona School, doing the ‘right thing’ means:

- ❖ Taking care of ourselves
- ❖ Taking care of each other
- ❖ Taking care of our community

TAKING CARE OF OURSELVES	TAKING CARE OF OTHERS	TAKING CARE OF OUR COMMUNITY
<p><u>Acceptable Behaviours</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Make safe/responsible decisions ▪ Practice healthy habits ▪ Follow school and classroom expectations ▪ Use appropriate words to express feelings and to solve problems peacefully ▪ Do your best to be a good learner ▪ Be organized and prepared for school 	<p><u>Acceptable Behaviours</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be inclusive, welcoming ▪ Treat others as you want to be treated ▪ Stand up for injustice-report behaviour that is unsafe, disrespectful, bullying ▪ Care about the feelings of others and help others who are hurt or need help ▪ Treat all guests with respect by listening, following directions ▪ Avoid bringing nut products to school 	<p><u>Acceptable Behaviours</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Be proud of our school grounds/buildings by helping to keep them clean ▪ Treat all school equipment and materials with care ▪ Respect public and private property while on field trips ▪ Reduce, re-use, recycle ▪ Observe street signs and parking regulations around the school
<p><u>Unacceptable Behaviours</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acts that put yourself or others in danger ▪ Leaving school grounds without permission ▪ Bringing weapons, dangerous objects to school ▪ Stealing, lying, cheating, swearing ▪ Incomplete homework assignments ▪ Uncooperative behaviour -backtalk, not listening or following directions from staff members 	<p><u>Unacceptable Behaviours</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Acts of bullying, intimidation, harassment, exclusion, discrimination ▪ Threats in person, writing or internet ▪ Physical aggression, violence ▪ Offensive/rude language or Behaviour including name-calling ▪ Encouraging or pressuring others to break school rules ▪ Spreading gossip or rumours 	<p><u>Unacceptable Behaviours</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Wilful damage to property and disrespect for the environment ▪ Vandalism, graffiti, littering ▪ Not cleaning up after yourself ▪ Use of wheels (scooters, bikes, skateboards, inline skates) on school property between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm

*These expectations apply to behaviour at school, during school organized or sponsored activities, and behaviour beyond these times including electronic communications that negatively impact a safe, caring school learning environment. **The behaviours cited are examples only and not an all-inclusive list. Racism will not be tolerated in our school.***

CONSEQUENCES	
<p>Consequences for choosing unacceptable behaviours are intended to be consistent, preventative, fair, restorative rather than merely punitive and may include</p> <p>Throughout elementary school, it is understood that students will show increasing maturity, self-responsibility, decision-making ability, and leadership. Accordingly, there is a progression of expectations held for students as they become older, more mature and move through successive grades.</p> <p>When considering appropriate consequences for unacceptable conduct, the school will take these factors into consideration. Each situation will be dealt with individually. Behaviour or communication that discriminates on the prohibited grounds set out in the in BC Human Rights Code will be taken seriously by the school.</p> <p>Special considerations may apply to students with special needs, if they are unable to comply with a Code of Conduct due to having a disability of an intellectual, physical, sensory, emotional or behavioural nature.</p>	<p><u>Initial, minor infractions:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • discussion with a staff member • identify the problem and possible solutions • logical consequences such as garbage duty for littering, letter of apology for hurting someone’s feelings. <p><u>Repeated misbehaviour:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify problem and possible solutions • loss of privileges (time spent after school, removal of possessions, attendance in Solution Room) • notification to classroom teacher • notification to parents in some cases <p><u>Serious Issues or Lack of Improvement:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identify problem and possible solutions • discussion with school staff • parents informed • in school/out of school suspension • safety and support plan may be created

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

How parents can support our Code of Conduct:

- ✓ Talk to your child about the school code of conduct and this brochure.
- ✓ Help your child talk about problems and issues.
- ✓ Talk to your child’s teacher if a problem arises.
- ✓ Encourage your child to take responsibility for his or her belongings, work and behaviour.
- ✓ Help your child to resolve issues peacefully and with respect for others.
- ✓ Support your child in his or her schoolwork and activities.

SUSPENSION

In accordance with **the School Act, Sec. 85(2)(ii) and (d)**, the Board authorizes the Principal or designate of any school in the district to suspend a student from attendance at school for up to five days.

Suspensions may be for the following reasons:

- A. because a student is willfully and repeatedly disrespectful to a teacher or to any other employee of the Board carrying out responsibilities approved by the Board.
- B. because the behaviour of the student breaches the District Code of Conduct or policy and/or has a harmful effect on others or the learning environment of the school.
- C. because the student has failed to comply with the School Code of Conduct.

NOTIFICATION	
As circumstances warrant, any or all of the following may be notified:	
- Principal/Vice Principal	- Teacher
- Staff	- District Staff
- Area Counsellor/YFWs	- Parents/Guardians
- Other schools	- Community
- Ministerial Agencies	- Police Liaison Officer
- 911	- Associate Superintendent