

## 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: TBA

## SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

# **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Greetings Strathcona Families,

The Strathcona school year is well on its way, and I cannot believe it is already October! It was absolutely fantastic to see such a great turnout at our Meet the Teacher/Pizza Night open house a few weeks back. Building community and parent connections is a big focus as we hopefully put COVID-19 in the rear view mirror. Look for more in person opportunities to stay connected with Strathcona in the coming days and weeks: Terry Fox Run, pumpkin patch, parent/teacher conferences, October 27 PAC meeting...just to name a few!

Last week, the Strathcona school community did an amazing job focusing our teaching and learning around Truth and Reconciliation. Student centered activities and learning took place in many forms and this work will continue throughout the entire school year. I want to highlight the amazing assembly we had last Thursday where we invited Elder Bruce Robinson from the Nisga'a people to speak to our students and staff about his connections to Truth and Reconciliation. It was so powerful to listen to his stories, and our students were so respectful and engaged! Students also made meaningful presentations and took leadership roles in the assembly. Look for further highlights of the week in the student showcase section!

The monthly newsletter not only showcases highlights of the school year happening at Strathcona, but also has important information connected to the school calendar, PAC, and other important events. Please take the time to read through it carefully. The school will also email out regular updates as needed, without overcrowding your inbox!

I look forward to continuing to see many of you and your children in the coming weeks!

Sincerely,

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.



• 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 2022-2023 school year: <u>https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\_Support/General\_Resources/Back\_To\_School/Pages/default.aspx</u>

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mark your calendars! October's Professional Development Day will take place on Friday, October 21, 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.

## 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. Traffic Safety tips for parents, students & drivers as kids head back to school can be found here: https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student\_Support/Safe\_Caring/Traffic-Safety/Pages/default.aspx



## 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. 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.

## 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 <u>www.particpaction.com</u>

## 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

## 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 cannot 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, media release forms, and the fine arts fee is also included in the forms.

## **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 <u>https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com</u> or visiting our website at <u>http://www.vsb.bc.ca/online-payment</u> 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.** 

### **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.

## Welcome Back to a New School Year Everyone!







## WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Monday, October 10	Thanksgiving Day – School Closed
Wednesday, October 19	Goal Setting Conferences – Early Dismissal 2:00 pm
Thursday, October 20	Goal Setting Conferences – Early Dismissal 2:00 pm
Thursday, October 20	Picture Day
Friday, October 21	Professional Development Day – No school for students
Friday, November 11	Remembrance Day – School Closed
Friday, November 25	Indigenous Focus Non-Instructional Day – No school for students

# **STUDENT SHOWCASE**



## **Orange Shirt Day – Buddy Project**

Ms. Katie's 6/7 and Mrs. Friess' kindergarten classes are buddy classes this year. For their first project together, they created their own t-shirts for Orange Shirt Day. It was a way for students to meaningfully connect with one another and to Orange Shirt Day.

They began by dyeing their white t-shirts orange. Once shirts were dry students decorated them with messages of affirmation and reconciliation such as, 'I am precious' or 'We Matter'. Throughout the process students began to build relationships with one another. This week they not only have made a personal orange shirt but also a new friend.



## **Orange Shirt Day – School Wide Assembly**

Strathcona was honoured to welcome Elder Bruce Robinson to our Orange Shirt Day & Truth and Reconciliation assembly. The school gathered in the auditorium and students from Ms. Rachel's class started the assembly by sharing land acknowledgements they wrote. Mr. Butler, the music teacher, worked with a group of students leading up to the assembly to practice the Coast Salish Anthem. Students lead the anthem on hand drums and sang together. Afterwards, Elder Bruce began with a prayer on his drum and spoke of his experience attending day schools as a child. He emphasized how proud he was of all the students and how we are all one. Classes then shared projects they worked on for Orange Shirt Day and Truth and Reconciliation. A powerful and impactful first assembly to start the year off. A major thank you to Elder Bruce for offering his time and presence to the Strathcona community.



## **Division 8 – Animal Homes Project**

Division 8 had a gallery walk for animal homes project. They researched, made notes, and prepared a presentation. Everyone did a great job!



## **Terry Fox Run**

Terry Fox was diagnosed with cancer at the age of 18 and was determined to bring an end to those suffering from cancer. He ran 5,373 km across Canada to raise funds for cancer research. This journey, called the Marathon of Hope, took him 143 days, every day. The annual Strathcona Terry Fox Run took place on Friday, October 7<sup>th</sup>. Parents and guardians were able to attend as spectators and cheer on the students.



## STRATHCONA SCHOOL CODE OF CONDUCT

Our **Code of Conduct** supports a safe, caring environment in which <u>all</u> 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
Acceptable Behaviors	Acceptable Behaviours	Acceptable Behaviours
<ul> <li>Make safe/responsible decisions</li> <li>Practice healthy habits</li> <li>Follow school and classroom expectations</li> <li>Use appropriate words to express feelings and to solve problems peacefully</li> <li>Do your best to be a good learner</li> <li>Be organized and prepared for school</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Be inclusive, welcoming</li> <li>Treat others as you want to be treated</li> <li>Stand up for injustice-report behaviour that is unsafe, disrespectful, bullying</li> <li>Care about the feelings of others and help others who are hurt or need help</li> <li>Treat all guests with respect by listening, following directions</li> <li>Avoid bringing nut products to school</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Be proud of our school grounds/buildings by helping to keep them clean</li> <li>Treat all school equipment and materials with care</li> <li>Respect public and private property while on field trips</li> <li>Reduce, re-use, recycle</li> <li>Observe street signs and parking regulations around the school</li> </ul>
Unacceptable Behaviours	Unacceptable Behaviours	Unacceptable Behaviours
<ul> <li>Acts that put yourself or others in danger</li> <li>Leaving school grounds without permission</li> <li>Bringing weapons, dangerous objects to school</li> <li>Stealing, lying, cheating, swearing</li> <li>Incomplete homework assignments</li> <li>Uncooperative behaviour -backtalk, not listening or following directions from staff members</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Acts of bullying, intimidation, harassment, exclusion, discrimination</li> <li>Threats in person, writing or internet</li> <li>Physical aggression, violence</li> <li>Offensive/rude language or Behaviour including name-calling</li> <li>Encouraging or pressuring others to break school rules</li> <li>Spreading gossip or rumours</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Wilful damage to property and disrespect for the environment</li> <li>Vandalism, graffiti, littering</li> <li>Not cleaning up after yourself</li> <li>Use of wheels (scooters, bikes, skateboards, inline skates) on school property between 8:00 am and 4:00 pm</li> </ul>

These expectations apply to behaviour at school, during school organized or sponsored activities, and behaviour beyond these times <u>including electronic</u> <u>communications</u> 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		
Consequences for choosing unacceptable behaviours are intended to	Initial, minor infractions:	
be consistent, preventative, fair, restorative rather than merely	discussion with a staff member	
punitive and may include	<ul> <li>identify the problem and possible solutions</li> </ul>	
	logical consequences such as garbage duty for littering, letter of	
	apology for hurting someone's feelings.	

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. 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. 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.	Repeated misbehaviour:         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         Serious Issues or Lack of Improvement:         identify problem and possible solutions         discussion with school staff         parents informed         in school/out of school suspension         safety and support plan may be created
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#### PARENT INVOLVEMENT

How parents can support our Code of Conduct:

- $\checkmark$  Talk to your child about the school code of conduct and this brochure.
- ✓ Help your child talk about problems and issues.
- $\checkmark$  Talk to your child's teacher if a problem arises.
- ✓ Encourage your child to take responsibility for his or her belongings, work, and behaviour.
- $\checkmark$   $\;$  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 over five days are made in consultation with the appropriate Director of Instruction as per the District Student Code of Conduct, AP 350. As per AP 350 6.7.1 an educational program must be provided.

#### 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
- Associate Superintendent
- 911

## CALENDAR 2022 – 2023 Lord Strathcona Elementary School

## School Operation Overview

Number of Days in Session	180
Number of Days of Instruction	180
Number of Days of Nen Instruction	6 Non Instructional Days
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	1 Administrative Day (June 30)

## **Important Dates**

School Opening Day	Tuesday, September 6, 2022
National Day for Truth and Reconciliation	Friday, September 30, 2022
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 10, 2022
Remembrance Day Holiday	Friday, November 11, 2022
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 16, 2022
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 19, 2022 – Monday, January 2, 2023
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Tuesday, January 3, 2023
Family Day	Monday, February 20, 2023
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 10, 2023
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 13 – Friday, March 24, 2023
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Monday, March 27, 2023
Good Friday	Friday, April 7, 2023
Easter Monday	Monday, April 10, 2023
Victoria Day	Monday, May 22, 2023
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 29, 2023
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 30, 2023

# Professional Development and Curriculum Implementation Days (school not in session)

Friday, September 23, 2022	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, October 21, 2022	Professional Development Day (Province Wide)
Friday, November 25, 2022	Indigenous Focus Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)
Monday, January 16, 2023	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, February 17, 2023	Professional Development Day (District Wide)
Monday, April 24, 2023	Professional Development Day (District Wide)
Parent Conference Dates	Early Dismissal Times
Wednesday, October 19, 2022	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM

Thursday, October 20, 2022	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM
Wednesday, February 15, 2023	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM
Thursday, February 16, 2023	Early dismissal at 2:00 PM



## 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 Schoolbased 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 Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to Strathcona Elementary located on the unceded territories of the xwmə0kwəý əm (Musqueam), skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səlílwəta?+ (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations! We warmly welcome you to get involved with the school's Parent Advisory Council (PAC). All parents and guardians at the school are voting members PAC and we welcome you at our meetings!

Our PAC strives to support the teachers and students at the school primarily through providing funding support to school initiatives. We organize community events (such as BINGO nights and movie nights), although most of that has been on hold through the pandemic. We also provide advice and advocacy to the school board on issues of concern to our school community.

Please join us for our next PAC meeting of the school year (our Annual General Meeting, or AGM) on **Thursday October 27th IN PERSON in the school cafeteria!** We will have free pizza, childcare and mingling from 6pm then the AGM at 6:30pm. Come find out what the PAC does for the school and how you can help! We will elect a new chair (or co-chairs), treasurer, secretary, and any other positions as determined by the PAC. We are looking for more PAC board members and we'd love for you to join!

We have delayed our AGM this year because two of our execs are running for office in the municipal election on October 15th (Krista Sigurdson for school board and Carla Frenkel for Park Board). Don't forget to vote on October 15th!

Some PAC projects involve fundraising. Last year we worked directly with teachers to help fund extracurricular supplies and trips. If we want to continue to fund all requests, we will need to raise more funds! If you can make a tax deductible donation to our PAC, information is below.

Join our listserv today! <u>http://eepurl.com/ggoJnb</u> Find our website with meeting minutes here: <u>https://tinyurl.com/jd5mkhpv</u> Join our Facebook group: <u>https://www.facebook.com/groups/1748127745327343</u> Make a tax deductible donation to the PAC online: <u>https://tinyurl.com/ms2x5m8h</u> Vice-Chair: Krista Sigurdson <u>strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com</u>

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#### 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