

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/OCTOBER NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Hello Strathcona Families,

Welcome to the 2021-22 school year. From the vibe I feel around the school and in classrooms, we are off to a fantastic start!

It was so nice to see many of you at last week's school Terry Fox Run. Thank you for your donations to the Terry Fox Foundation and for supporting the students and cheering them on!

Further connections will be made with classroom teachers next week during parent/teacher conferences. Many of you will also have seen Strathcona's new outdoor learning space located next to the gravel soccer field. The boulders are in place and the project is 80% complete. The final steps are the installation of several garden beds with indigenous species as well as the planting of a few more trees.

This time of the school year is so busy...I am impressed with the work being done in classrooms. In particular, I want to emphasize how impressed I am with the authentic teaching and learning taking place around Truth and Reconciliation throughout many of our classrooms.

The newsletter serves as the primary source of information going out to families but is also used as a showcase of the amazing amount of student learning and work taking place at Strathcona. Newsletters are normally sent out every four to six weeks, and includes an information section from our wonderful Strathcona PAC. Please check out their section and all the other information items! To supplement the newsletter, we also send frequent email communication home as reminders or information related to time sensitive topics.

I look forward to connecting with many of you in the coming weeks!

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 2021-2022 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 22, 2021.

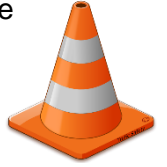
SUPERVISION OF STUDENTS

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



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.

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.

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

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

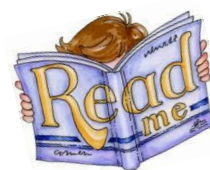
Substance Use Prevention Initiative in partnership with Vancouver Coastal Health. Resources for parents/youth on substance use prevention/intervention please visit www.vsb.bc.ca/sacy

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, 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.

Welcome Back to a New School Year Everyone!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS



WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

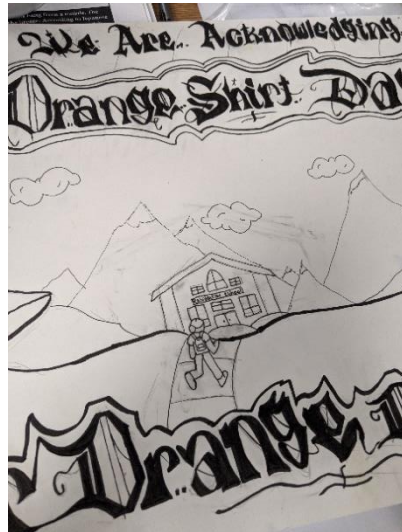
Wednesday, October 20	Goal Setting Conferences – Early Dismissal 2:00 pm
Thursday, October 21	Goal Setting Conferences – Early Dismissal 2:00 pm
Thursday, October 21	Picture Day
Friday, October 22	Professional Development Day – No school for students
Thursday, November 11	Remembrance Day – School Closed
Friday, November 26	Indigenous Focus Professional Day – No school for students

STUDENT SHOWCASE



Orange Shirt Day

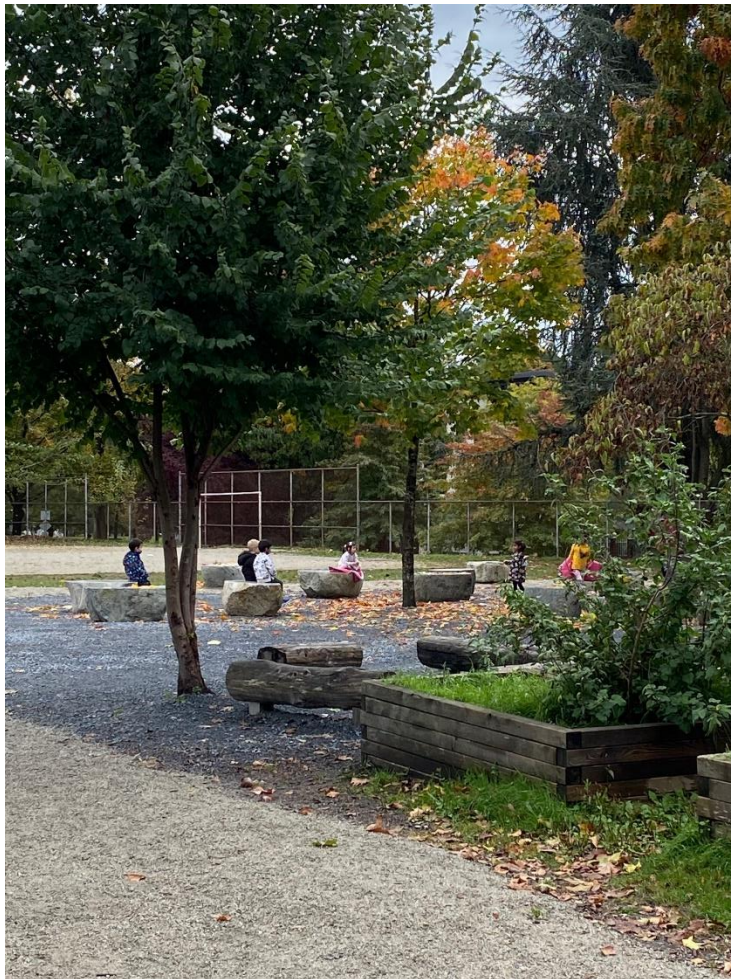
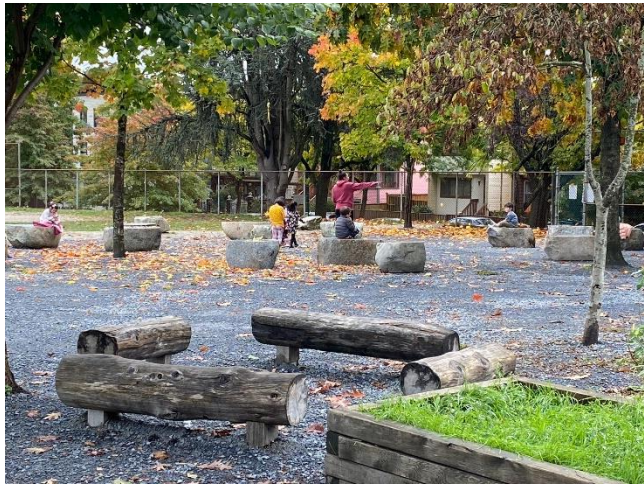
Ms. Andre's class, Division 3, created some posters for Orange Shirt Day.



All Kindergarteners across ALL the K classes drew an image of what makes them special/why they matter as we reflected on how children should be treated at school and the injustice of residential schools. At the heart art ceremony, we greeted the four directions to acknowledge the land, and Robin and Donna sang and drummed the "Thank You Song".



Outdoor Learning Space



Student Vote

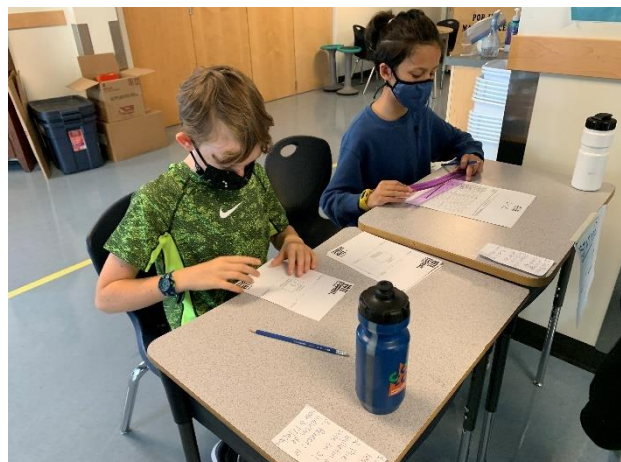
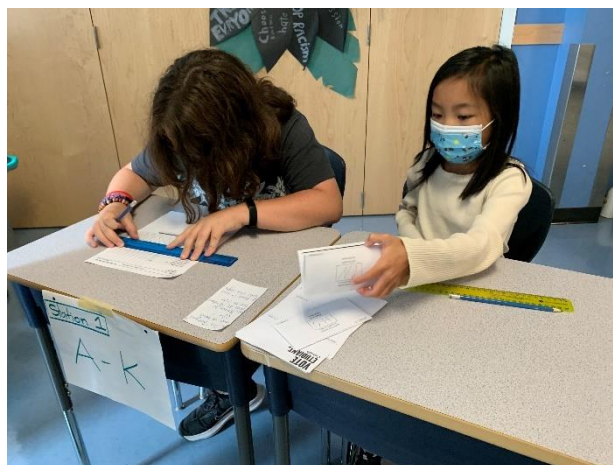
As you may know, students at Strathcona Elementary School have participated in Student Vote. For Student Vote, kids in elementary schools get a chance to vote each time there is a real election. This program is a really good practice for when we are able to vote. This year, there were more participants than other years at the school. Division 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 13 voted. Division 6 organized the vote and it took place on September 17 and 20.

We organized our voting stations into two groups using last names: A to K and L to Z. Two Division 6 students worked at each station. There were two poll clerks per station. The poll clerks were responsible for crossing voters off the list of electors and for giving out ballots.

The second important job was to be an information officer. An information officer greets and assist electors and helps maintain peace and order.

If you are interested, this is how the votes across Canada were calculated:

Liberals: 117 seats, 24% of the vote
NDP: 107 seats, 29% of the vote
Conservatives: 91 seats, 25% of the vote
Bloc Québécois: 20 seats, 2% of the vote
Green Party: 3 seats, 10% of the vote



At Strathcona, we elected Jenny Kwan who represents the New Democratic Party.

We really enjoyed leading and participating in Student Vote because it felt like we could really act as our character and we got the privilege to help other kids get the chance to vote!

- Written by Marlow, Vanessa, and Charlotte from Division 6

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>Acceptable Behaviours</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>Acceptable Behaviours</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>Acceptable Behaviours</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>Unacceptable Behaviours</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>Unacceptable Behaviours</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>Unacceptable Behaviours</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>Initial, minor infractions:</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>Repeated misbehaviour:</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>Serious Issues or Lack of Improvement:</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 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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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



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.



October 2021 PAC

Incoming Chair welcome

Hello Strathcona Elementary Community members! Welcome to a New School Year.

My name is Theo Lamb and I have the honour of serving as your school's new PAC (Parent Advisory Council) Chair here on the unceded territories of the xwməθkwəy̓ əm (Musqueam), sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səłílwətaʔt (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations.

I look forward to connecting with you all further about the events and issues that impact our school community. Meantime, I thought I would share a few key pieces of information.

First off, I want to acknowledge all of the hard work and effort that results in the hot lunch program at Strathcona Elementary. I also want to remind our community that this is a no-barrier food program. My son just started up in kindergarten at Strathcona and the opportunity to participate in a daily hot lunch program has been a game-changer. I know he's receiving a complete and healthy meal each day prepared with care. If you face barriers to ensuring your kiddos receive lunch each day, whether it's the cost of the meal or finding time to prepare it, please know that you can sign up for this program which the Vancouver School Board supports, regardless of those barriers, including the ability to pay. Simply walk into the front office and ask for the hot lunch program schedule and sign-up form.

Thank you to all families who continue to respond to provincial health orders requiring all children, age 5 and up, to wear masks indoors. I know it's a shift for younger students and I'm grateful to this school community for pulling together and responding so quickly.

Lastly, plans are in the works to organize a morning coffee cart event this December. This will be an opportunity for hot drinks, treats, and community connections during a school drop off, rain or shine! Stay tuned for more details!

I look forward to connecting with as many of you as possible at our next General Meeting on November 29th at 6:30 pm ([link is here, just in case.](#))

In warmth and community,

Theo Lamb (Incoming Strathcona Elementary PAC Chair)

Outgoing chair farewell...but not going anywhere :)

It has been such an honour to be the PAC chair for the last 2 years and I'm delighted to welcome Theodora (Theo) Lamb to the chair role! I'll be staying on as vice-chair and DPAC representative. I'll be helping transition a new board of volunteers and a new chair.

Thank you departing PAC board members for all of their hard work and contribution to the PAC last year! Specifically, thank you to Drew Stewart, Eva Sam and Andrew Ledger who are trusting us to carry the work forward.

We have two new board members joining us this year as members-at-large: Hanna Wagner and Sarah Fielden. Welcome Hanna and Sarah! We are always to new members joining if you are interested.

One of the ideas Sarah is spearheading is developing a room parent program where one parent/guardian from each class will be designated to help increase communication and community within the classroom community. This will facilitate communication between the PAC, teachers, and parents who can't attend PAC meetings. If you are interested in being a room parent, please email the PAC chair at strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com or reach out to Sarah at sjfielden@yahoo.ca

You may have seen that the district sent out information on their education plan survey. The deadline has been extended to Oct 18th. Please fill out if you haven't already. From the district:

"The Education Plan establishes the Board's vision and sets the direction for the District. It is important to have community input as we gather the views of students, families, staff and the public. If you have not already done so, please take time to

complete the short survey to share your expectations and aspirations for Vancouver schools. It takes less than 10 minutes to complete. Responses are anonymous. Your input is important to us.

Please visit edplan2026.vsb.bc.ca

The survey is open until October 18, 2021.”

Krista Sigurdson (outgoing chair, incoming vice-chair)

Upcoming meetings

Our next general PAC meeting will be held on November 29th at 6:30PM on zoom. Click [here](#) to join. Our full list of meeting dates are listed on our [website](#) and reminder emails will be sent out through our [listserv](#).

Welcome 2021-2022 PAC board!

- Chair: Theo Lamb strathconaelementarypac@gmail.com
- Vice Chair and DPAC Representative: Krista Sigurdson
- Secretary: Megan McKinney strathconapacsecretary@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Dawn Brennan strathconapactreasurer@gmail.com
- Members At large:
 - Carla Frankel (School Grounds)
 - Tiffany Kindrid (Income Equity)
 - Jamie Smallboy (Indigenous Representative)
 - Erika Xu
 - Sarah Fielden
 - Hannah Wagner

How to find the Strathcona Elementary PAC (Parent Advisory Council)

Staying connected with the Strathcona Elementary PAC keeps you looped into activities and events that impact your family. Our PAC has a [website](#) where you can find meeting minutes, our constitution, PAC board member names and more. We also have a [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) page. And, you can subscribe to our listserv by clicking [here](#).

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>