



Tecumseh Elementary School

1850 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 1K9
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February 2022

Dear Parents/Guardians of Tecumseh Students,

Between the atmospheric rivers, the odd sprinkle of snowfall and a few sunny days, Vancouver weather has kept us on our toes at Tecumseh!

We are appreciative of our families who do their best to equip their child(ren) with weather-appropriate clothing as our students continue to enjoy fresh air during their break times (recess and lunch). Through the successful application for federal outdoor education grant money last year by a few intrepid teachers, we have a variety of rain ponchos and rain pants at the school to help students with an extra layer of rain protection if they choose to take advantage of them!

In celebration of the Lunar New Year, we wish all our members of the Tecumseh Elementary School community a spectacular Year of the Tiger, filled with good health and prosperity. I shared with the staff and students, some of my own Lunar New Year traditions that I experienced as a child. Some traditions included ensuring everyone in the family pitched in so that the home was spotlessly clean before Lunar New Year's Eve (cleaning on New Year's Day was frowned upon for fear of sweeping away all the good luck), receiving a new set of pyjamas to wear so that I could enter New Year's Day wearing something new, and receiving one lucky red envelope to keep under my pillow so that the good luck of the new year would soak into my head while I slept. To this day, my home is still cleaned ahead of Lunar New Year's Eve, I must now buy my own new pyjamas, but my mom still gives me a lucky red envelope to keep under my pillow on New Year's Eve. We know the sharing of traditions was reciprocal from our students as they shared their own traditions with their teachers and classmates.

Sharing of our cultures is so very important.

Every day I am thankful I get the privilege to work with such a stellar group of students, a supportive community of families and a highly skilled and experienced staff.

Sincerely,

Mr. V. Edwards
Principal, Tecumseh Elementary School

Other updates from the school include:

February is Black History Month!

Our student announcers from Division 1 have been sharing information during morning announcements about prominent Black Canadians and their connections to British Columbia! For example, here is the announcement that was shared over the P.A. on February 7, 2022:

Today's fact about Black History in Vancouver is about John Sullivan Deas. John Deas was born in 1838. He was a tinsmith who came to British Columbia from South Carolina in 1862. Deas spent time in the gold fields in Yale, and also operated a hardware and stove business in Victoria for a while. However, he is most well-known for founding the most successful salmon cannery in the region on the island that would eventually be named after him. The next time you drive through the Massey Tunnel, formerly known as the Deas Island Tunnel, you can look out the window as you zip through Deas Island and remember John Deas and his legacy in our community!

Students are enjoying learning about prominent Canadians during daily announcements!

Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action!

Division 2 (Grade 6/7) has been studying and discussing the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and have challenged themselves to share their knowledge with our school! Each week, Division 2 student announcers join our regular student announcers in the morning to provide ways for our students to proactively do their part in Truth and Reconciliation. The Grade 6/7 students have worked together in their table groups, researched their Call to Action and presented it to their class. During the morning announcements, they shared why it was important, others researched what has been done or what there is left to do, and some groups shared how students, or the school can help. This is such a powerful and meaningful project! Well done, Division 2!

Kindness Abounds at Tecumseh!

In **every** classroom at Tecumseh, teachers talk with their students about the importance of being kind. In Division 9 (Grade 4), Ms. Seto read the book "Each Kindness" by Jacqueline Woodson to start conversations with her students about the powerful ripple effect that each act of kindness generates. In Division 9, a few times per week each student is given the opportunity to share their act of kindness with the class, after which, the class and teacher applauds, and the student proudly places a marble in their "Kindness Jar". Over time, the Kindness Jar filled, and when it was all full, the class rejoiced when they counted that 574 acts of kindness were performed! These acts of kindness ranged from, "inviting and including others in their play", "helping someone by holding the door open" to "welcoming a guest teacher/staff to Tecumseh school". Just think of the ripple effect of over 500 acts of kindness! We are so proud of our students at Tecumseh.

Our wonderful PAC!

We are grateful to our supportive PAC for their active participation in helping the students at Tecumseh! This year, through their fundraising initiatives and other means, our PAC has funded the addition of 30 iPads for Tecumseh students to use at school. So far, 19 of the 30 iPads have arrived and have been deployed to classes for student usage. It is our hope the other 11 iPads will arrive soon, however; supply chain issues affect many aspects of our lives.

Projects that different classes have enjoyed using the iPads with include, Movie making with green screen special effects using iMovie, the creation of story books using Book Creator, creating music using GarageBand, internet research, accessing their student Office 365 accounts and using the Office 365 suite of applications (Word, PowerPoint, Excel, OneNote, OneDrive, Teams), and reading a varied library of eBooks available through the VSB library database and applications such as Epic! and Raz Kids. Our students are tech savvy and use the available technology to further their learning each day.

A few important reminders:

Traffic around the school

In the morning rush and afternoon pick-up time, there are many vehicles that approach the school to drop off and pick up their child(ren).

Please refrain from parking in the **No Stopping** zone that is on Commercial Street (north of the ramp). This area is signed by the City of Vancouver as a **No Stopping** zone to keep the area clear for emergency vehicles, but also to keep the area close to Commercial Street and East 41st Avenue clear of vehicle bottlenecks. When there are many cars in this small area near the intersection, the congestion forces incoming/outgoing vehicles to weave between one another to get by. This creates an unsafe situation for our students/families trying to cross Commercial Street.

The City of Vancouver By-Law Enforcement Officers have visited our site randomly and have issued over 60 parking violation tickets since September 2021. At times, members of the Vancouver Police Department have also attended to help educate drivers on the importance of keeping the area safe for pedestrians and students.

There is 3-minute parking along Beatrice Street (south of the staff parking lot) and Commercial Street (south of the ramp) for a quick stop to drop your child(ren) off. For families needing to park for longer periods of time, there is 30-minute parking on East 43rd Avenue. Also, on the north side of East 41st Avenue, there is ample parking on Commercial Street for a quick drop-off/pick-up.

Please do not use the staff parking lot for dropping off or picking up.

Thank you all, for helping us keep our surrounding streets safe for our students.

Tecumseh is a nut-aware and fragrance-free school

Thank you, parents/guardians for refraining from sending your child(ren) with snacks that contain nuts to school and from wearing strong colognes/perfumes. We have a number of students and staff with nut allergies and allergies to strong fragrances such as those that are associated with colognes/perfumes. We appreciate your assistance with keeping our students and staff safe and comfortable.

Safe Arrival Absence Reporting

If your child(ren) will be late or absent from school, please call **604-713-5159 (school code 83)** to leave a message to let us know. This phone line is open to receive voicemail messages 24 hours per day/7 days per week. This phone number is also printed in the student agendas if your child uses one.

If you have not already done so, please add Tecumseh's Main phone number (604-713-5390) to your cell phone contacts list, so that you know when we are trying to reach you during the day.

Covid Updates

Please visit the following websites for up-to-date information:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/COVID-19/updates/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19>

Thank you, for continuing to do the daily health check with your child(ren) before sending them to school. All staff are required to do this health check before coming to work each day. Here is the link to the on-line tool:

<https://bc.thrive.health/covid19/en>

There is also an app to download to your smart phone. It can be found here:

<https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/mobile>

Upcoming Important Dates

February 18, 2022—Professional Day (District-Wide)—School is not in session for students

February 21, 2022—Family Day—School is closed