



Tecumseh Elementary School

1850 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 1K9
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May 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Tecumseh Students,

Beautiful spring weather has finally arrived and the overall energy of our students and staff is boosted! Many classes have gone outside to learn, explore and plant with the idea of learning about our environment and contributing positively to it. Near the South End of the staff parking lot, is a new garden of native, pollinator plants which will hopefully thrive and bloom, to bring bees and hummingbirds to the area. The neighbourhoods' gardens will benefit from these helpful creature visits!

We continue to be grateful to our amazing community of families for doing their part to keep our students and staff safe during this pandemic. Families and staff have been diligently completing the Daily Health checks and making the decision to stay away from the school site to keep everyone as safe as possible. At school, we have robust Health and Safety protocols in-place (Examples include: staggered start/dismissal times, staggered break times, thorough and consistent hand hygiene, positive encouragement to always remain masked at all grades, enhanced daily cleaning of high touch surfaces) that have served us well this past year. Thank you for supporting us and cheering us on!

We are reflective upon the protocols we put in place this year and how they have been extremely helpful for the school community. These include all classes lining up outside in the fresh/open air and having a controlled and calm start to the day after each teacher picks them up and dismisses them at the end of the day. This has reduced bottlenecks in hallways and improved flow within the school. We have also experienced success having all students go outside into the fresh/open air for their break times—students playing in open spaces with lots of air circulation is a good thing. This past year, students have come to school well equipped for the weather. We have also purchased some rain ponchos in primary and intermediate aged student sizes to lend to students who may need assistance with water repellent gear. Additionally, we have experienced success with limiting the number of novel adults entering the school building during the day to be by appointment only. This has limited the number of exposure possibilities for our students and staff. Looking ahead to next year, we plan to continue to implement these protocols.

Each day I come to work grateful and honoured. From the happy waving hands and cheery greetings from students and families to feeling the joy and energy that an elementary school generates; it is truly a privilege to be a part of this community.

Thank you, all, for your continued support of the team here at Tecumseh and the work that we do with our students.

Sincerely,
Mr. V. Edwards
Principal, Tecumseh Elementary School

Water Bottle Filling Station

A sensor activated/touchless, water bottle filling station has been installed in the hallway in front of the Main Office! It is now available for students to refill their water bottles throughout the day with chilled water. This is wonderful news as water fountains have been closed throughout the pandemic and this water bottle filling station has arrived as the weather is warming up.

Please continue to send your child(ren) with their own water bottle so that they can refill it throughout the day as needed.

Modified Sports Day

With Covid-19 still looming in the province, **we will not have a traditional Sports Day as we have had in the past.** This will help us avoid having different cohorts of children mixing unnecessarily. As well, it will mitigate the influx and mingling of spectators.

This year, Ms. Harris, and the Grade 7 students in Division 2, have designed a series of fun, “Toy Story” themed activities to share with each classroom! These activities can be completed by individual classes at their leisure during their time in the gymnasium or outside! Each class will be able to split their own group into four teams and enjoy the prepared activities. The Grade 7s produced short “How-To” PowerPoint presentations and video demonstrations to share with classes. What a creative way for our Grade 7s to show leadership!

On a nice, hot day before June, the school will provide our students with an individual Freezie treat to enjoy.

Our beloved Grade 7s are leaving soon...

Once again, like last year, due to Covid-19 Health and Safety protocols, we are not able to host a gathering for our Grade 7s and their families as we have done in Pre-Covid times. Together, the Grade 7 Staff Team here at Tecumseh is planning something special **within their own classrooms**, to send off our Grade 7s as they reach this important and memorable milestone of leaving elementary school.

An explanation of the Class Casting/Placement process:

In June of each year, we begin the process of planning for the next school year. The Tecumseh staff works very hard to make the best possible placement for your child.

There are many factors to consider when generating class compositions. They include: academic progress, individual learning styles, classroom interactions between students, specific learning needs in different areas, a balance of students requiring English Language Learner and Learning Assistance support, and information provided by the children and parents.

This is not an easy task. Tecumseh staff invests a great deal of time and thought into this process. It is not a perfect process as there are many variables to consider in our school population; however, our staff considers the individual needs and nature of each child.

The way in which the number of divisions and grade levels are determined is directly dependent upon the number of students registered at the school, the number of staff members assigned by the Vancouver School District and the contractual rules for class configuration.

Sometimes, combined classes are necessary based on our student enrollment and staffing allotment. Placement in a combined class does not reflect in any way your child’s academic ability. Placement in a

combined class at the lower grade does not mean that your child will cover the curriculum of the upper grade or receive an advanced program. The same holds true for a student who is in the upper end of a split class - your child does not receive a non-advanced program because students from a lower grade are in the same classroom; nor will your child be academically penalized by being placed into the combination class, rather than a straight grade class.

More information regarding Combined (split) Classes can be found here:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/General_Resources/combined-class/Pages/default.aspx

Our teachers and staff do an excellent job of placing all of our students. Make sure that your child's current classroom teacher has all pertinent information about your child. Please also make sure your classroom teacher is aware of any concerns you may have about academic and emotional vulnerability or behavioural/social conflicts so that these factors may be considered in placing students.

Please note, we do not place students based on wanting to be with a best friend, however, a level of social connection with known peers is considered for every student. If you feel it is necessary to make a written request, **please ensure that it is accompanied by an educational rationale for the placement.** Please know, a written request is not a guarantee of placement but an acknowledgement of your interest and hope for your child.

Thank you for your support as we strive to create the best possible learning environment for all the students in our school.

Traffic Around Tecumseh School

Traffic around Tecumseh School continues to be a challenge especially in the morning at drop-off and at dismissal time. Now that the road construction is complete on Beatrice Street, we are asking that parents/guardians pay particular heed to the signage that is immediately adjacent to the school on Commercial Street.

The City of Vancouver **No Stopping** signage is in place to reserve space directly beside the school on Commercial Street, should there ever be a need for emergency vehicles to attend to Tecumseh. Also, when vehicles park here, even for a few minutes, it creates a bottleneck of traffic as vehicles come into Commercial Street from East 41st Avenue (southbound) and as vehicles attempt to access East 41st Avenue travelling northbound on Commercial street. ***It is the goal to have a consistent and smooth flow of traffic in this area.***

Thank you to all the families who are assisting by parking a little further away and enjoying a morning stroll to the school with your child(ren). Since the road construction appears to be complete on Beatrice Street, it is now available again for 3 minute drop-off parking. There is also ample parking on East 43rd Avenue.

Thank you for continuing to avoid using the staff parking lot as this area is reserved for Tecumseh staff, VSB Operations staff, and our itinerant staff. This is not a suitable place for drop-off or pick-up.

We appreciate your support to keep our students, their families, and pedestrians safe on the streets near our school.

Tecumseh School Calendar 2021-2022

Our calendar dates have been set for next year. Please see below for your planning purposes:

Tecumseh Elementary School	
	
2021-2022 School Calendar	
DESIGNATION	DETAIL
SCHOOL OPERATION OVERVIEW	
Number of Days in Session	186
Number of Days of Instruction	178
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	7 Non-Instructional Days 1 Administration Day (June 30)
Special Provincial Closing Dates & Vancouver School District Closure Days	
School Opening Day	Wednesday September 8, 2021
Thanksgiving Day	Monday October 11, 2021
Remembrance Day	Thursday November 11, 2021
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday December 17, 2021
Winter Vacation Period	Monday December 20, 2021-Monday January 3, 2022
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Tuesday January 4, 2022
Family Day	Monday February 21, 2022
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday March 11, 2022
Spring Vacation Period	Monday March 14-Friday March 25, 2022
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Monday March 28, 2022
Good Friday	Friday April 15, 2022
Easter Monday	Monday, April 18, 2022
Victoria Day	Monday May 23, 2022
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Wednesday June 29, 2022
Administrative/School Closing Day	Thursday June 30, 2022
Non-Instructional Days (school not in session)	
Tuesday September 7, 2021	In-Service Anti-Racism Training Day
Friday, September 24, 2021	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, October 22, 2021	Professional Development Day (Province Wide)
Friday, November 26, 2021	Indigenous Focus Non-Instructional Day (District Wide)
Monday, January 17, 2022	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, February 18, 2022	Professional Development Day (District Wide)
Monday, April 25, 2022	Professional Development Day (District Wide)
Goal Setting Conference Dates:	
Tuesday, October 19, 2021	2:00 pm dismissal
Wednesday, October 20, 2021	2:00 pm dismissal
Wednesday, March 02, 2022	2:00 pm dismissal
Thursday, March 03, 2022	2:00 pm dismissal

The Tecumseh 2021—2022 Calendar at a Glance can also be found on our school's website here:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/tecumseh/About-Us/Pages/Tecumseh-Year-At-a-Glance-Calendar.aspx>

School Fees for 2021—2022

Please see the attachment for the 2021—2022 Tecumseh School Fees.

As a reminder, the Vancouver School Board will not deny a child access to the school supplies required for his or her educational program because of financial hardship. Nor will any child be excluded from activities where a fee is charged. If at any time there is a financial challenge, please contact the school Principal, Mr. V. Edwards. All requests will be treated confidentially.

如果你需要经济帮助, 请联系你们学校的负责人 • 如需經濟協助, 請聯絡貴校校長 •
 Nếu bạn cần trợ cấp, xin liên lạc với Hiệu Trưởng Trường • Tawagan ang tagapamahala o
 punongguro ng paaralan kung kailangan ninyo ng pinansyal na tulong. • Si vous avez besoin d'aide
 financière, veuillez contacter la direction. • Si necesita apoyo financiero, por favor contacte a la
 dirección de su escuela • ਜੇ ਤੁਹਾਨੂੰ ਵਿੱਤੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਦੀ ਲੋੜ ਹੈ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਕੂਲ ਪ੍ਰਬੰਧਕ ਨਾਲ ਸੰਪਰਕ
 ਕਰੋ • 재정 지원이 필요하시면, 학교의 교장선생님께 문의하시기를 바랍니다

Important Upcoming Dates:

Monday, May 24, 2021	Victoria Day—School Closed
Friday, June 4, 2021	Individual Student Photo Day—Students will be photographed outside by Lifetouch. No group/class photos will be taken this year.
Tuesday, June 29, 2021	Last day of student attendance/Year-End Report cards go home
Wednesday, June 30, 2021	Administrative/School Closing Day