



Tecumseh Elementary School

1850 East 41st Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 1K9
Phone: (604) 713-5390 Fax: (604) 713-5383

September 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians of Tecumseh Students,

It was so wonderful to welcome our students back to school. I've mentioned before that the school comes alive when students start to fill the space with excited chatter and smiles that come from reconnecting with peers and our staff.

As was shared with our families in late August, the Health and Safety of our students and staff remains a top priority. We have carefully planned the entry and exit to our school this year by utilizing every door available to us, including the exit doors of specific classrooms. This plan has helped to spread our student population around our site to the best of our ability. Thank you, parents/guardians, for maintaining physical distance while outside and limiting interactions with other children who are not from your family.

A few reminders for this upcoming school year:

- In order to restrict the number of novel adults in our buildings, we respectfully ask **all parents/guardians to remain outside of the building unless an essential meeting is prearranged by appointment**
 - At morning drop-off and afternoon pick-up, we respectfully ask families to leave the school grounds as quickly as possible so that crowds can disperse naturally. On sunny days, if you plan on using the playground equipment, please consider leaving first and return later once crowds have dispersed.
- Please pack your child(ren)'s snack and lunch (in labelled containers with their names) daily. **There will be no drop-off of food during the day.** Please also pack a refillable water bottle for your child. We have a chilled water bottle filling station near the Main Office which is available for students to refill their bottles as needed throughout the day.
- All students will be outside during their break times. Please dress your child(ren) appropriately for the weather. For example: Please send them with a water repellent jacket/footwear and/or an umbrella. Please also consider sending your child(ren) with an extra pair of socks on particularly rainy days. Last year, the school purchased some rain ponchos for primary aged and intermediate aged students—we are happy to lend your child a rain poncho should they wish to borrow one. Please encourage your child to speak with their teacher about this opportunity.

- For the time being, we will move at the speed of comfort. For example, we will have school assemblies on Microsoft Teams to avoid crowding a school full of people together in the gym. We experienced success last year by being cautious and moving slowly.

After the first weeks of school and welcoming students back, we can see from the many smiles on our students' faces that the careful and thoughtful process our staff undertake each May/June to place students into their new classes was greatly appreciated.

We look forward to working with you as we all (Students, Parents, Staff) contribute to a wonderful school year ahead full of new learning experiences and productive challenges. School will be a vibrant, positive and inclusive place for all.

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

School Forms/Fees

This year, we attempted to go paperless with several school start-up forms that our District has made available to us in electronic form. We have been met with a few snags with this system (for example, from feedback, we now know many families do not have access to a printer). **We have gone back to the hardcopy version of the forms to make the process more convenient for our families.** When your child brings home a package of forms, please complete them at your earliest convenience (even if you have already submitted the forms electronically)—we apologize for the inconvenience.

For 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 me or our Vice Principal, Mr. G. Landreth. All requests will be treated confidentially.

If you have not already done so, please sign up for School Cash Online (instructions below). Now more than ever, we want to be able to do things electronically and reduce the need to pass cash from hand-to-hand whenever it is reasonable to do so. One additional benefit of being on School Cash Online to pay school-related fees is the ability to issue a refund quickly and efficiently if warranted or necessary. For example: Due to Covid-19 restrictions, our Grade 6 camp in May 2020 was cancelled—we were able to issue refunds to the families who paid the camp fees using School Cash Online within 3-5 business days. Other families received their refunds by manual cheque, weeks later in the Canada Post mail.

School Cash On-line—How to Register

To register with School Cash Online, click on the "Pay Fees" button at the top of our school's website (<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/tecumseh/Pages/default.aspx>). You will be redirected to the website where you can set up your account. Once you are successfully registered, you

will receive email notifications for all school related events or items that can be paid for using this convenient and secure, on-line service. This tool will make the paying of fees faster and safer and free up your child(ren) from having to remember to bring cash to school.

Cell Phones/Electronics (laptops, iPads, etc.)/Valuable Personal Items at School

At an upcoming virtual assembly, expectations around cell phones/electronics/items of value at school will be shared with students. Students are asked to turn off and secure their cell phones (e.g. in their backpack, in the classroom) during the school day unless their teacher has given approval for use for instructional purposes. No cell phones/electronics should be outside during recess and lunch. Students are not to photograph other students while on school grounds.

While we understand that some families supply their child with a cell phone for safety purposes (e.g. to send a text message to their parent to indicate they have arrived safely at school), we ask that students send the communication when they arrive safely at school, and then put away/secure their cell phone. We encourage all students to enjoy in-person, social interactions with peers while at school and not be “glued to their screens” while they are waiting for their school day to begin. Should an exceptional situation arise that the student needs to continue to use their phone to communicate with their parent, we ask that students notify the staff member on supervision and to come to the Main Office and let us know of the situation, so that we can best support them. Thank you for reviewing these expectations with your child(ren).

In general, unless it is for educational and safety usage, students are reminded that the school does not encourage electronic/valuable personal items (toys, cards, stuffed animals) at school and will not be responsible for lost/damaged electronic or personal items.

Bicycles/Scooters/Skateboards/Rollerblades/Heely Shoes

It is so wonderful to see so many students using our bike racks and finding ways to be physically active when travelling to and from school! Students are reminded that they must wear a helmet and to dismount from their wheeled item (bike, scooter, skateboard, rollerblades/skates, Heely shoes) when they are on school grounds. Our school grounds are delineated with fencing on East 41st Avenue, Beatrice Street, East 43rd Avenue and Commercial Street.

Mass Parent/Guardian Email System and School Phone (Main Office)—Some tips!

The most efficient way for us to communicate with our families is via mass email. Teachers can/will email the families in their class using this system. The school office can also email important information to all families using this system.

To help ensure that our emails from the school make it successfully to your inbox, please add the following email address to your email client’s address/contacts list:

- sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca
- StudentRecordsTecumseh@vsb.bc.ca

Adding these email addresses may help to let your email client understand that messages coming to you from either of these email addresses are not junk/spam. Please also check your junk/spam folders frequently just in case one of our messages gets routed there by your email client.

Please also, consider adding Tecumseh Main Office's telephone number to your contacts list so that when the school is attempting to reach you, it will show on your call display as Tecumseh Elementary School. Our main office phone number is: 604-713-5390

Student Absences

If your child(ren) will be absent from school, please call 604-713-5159 (school code 83) to report the absence. For Safe Arrival, we follow up on all unreported absences.

Student Lates

We understand that children often have medical/dental appointments or at times, will wake up late for school. If your child is late, please bring them to the East 41st Avenue entrance of the school. Parents/Guardians, please stay outside. Please send your child to the Main Office to report their presence. The office will make note that the student has arrived safely and will issue the student an "arrival slip". The student will then go to their classroom and give their teacher the slip indicating that they have already checked-in at the office.

Midday Pick-Up

If you need to pick-up your child midway through the school day, please:

- Contact your child's teacher **well in advance** to make arrangements for your child to go to the Main Office at a predetermined time
- The teacher will send the child to the Main Office at the predetermined time
- Parent/Guardian—please come to the East 41st Avenue entrance of the school and ring the doorbell to the right of the entrance door
- After confirming your identity, the Office Administrative Assistant will then release the child to you through the Main Entrance

We are a "Nut Aware School"

As we have a number of children and staff at Tecumseh who have severe/life-threatening allergies to nuts, we ask for your assistance in not sending food containing nuts to school. Thank you for your support in keeping our school safe for all students and staff.

We are a "Fragrance Free School"

We also have several students and staff who have allergies to perfume/cologne/strong chemical scents. Thank you for your support in keeping our school safe for all in our school community.

Lost and Found

Please remember to remind your child(ren) to check the Lost and Found for their items. The Lost and Found is located at the bottom of the stairs in front of the Main Office (at the East 41st Avenue entrance of the school). It is a good idea to write your child's name onto the label of their jackets/hoodies/personal belongings.

PAC Meeting

Our wonderful Tecumseh PAC does an amazing job supporting the students and staff at our school! Here is the link to the first PAC meeting on Tuesday, September 28, 2021 at 6:00 pm:

https://teams.microsoft.com/l/meetup-join/19%3ameeting_NTQ1NTliYjAtM2VhYi00ZGRkLWFkMDYtZWNIIMGFjNTE3NTI5%40thread.v2/0?context=%7b%22id%22%3a%220b8a2e58-7b30-4a08-bab7-d75559e0e3a5%22%2c%22oid%22%3a%221d9a127c-b771-44ec-8197-e5cb914ece87%22%7d

The meeting will be virtual, and all parents/guardians of the Tecumseh community are invited and welcome to join the meeting! If you click on the link, you can join the meeting via an internet browser. There is no need to download Microsoft Teams.

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.

More information can be found here:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Safe_Caring/Student_Threat_Risk_Assessment/Documents/VSB%20-%20Student%20Threat%20Risk%20Assessment%20Protocol-Fair%20Notice.pdf

Upcoming Important Dates:

September 24, 2021	Professional Day—School is not in session for students
September 28, 2021	PAC Meeting on Microsoft Teams 6:00 pm (see link above)
September 29, 2021	Orange Shirt Day
September 30, 2021	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation—School is closed