

Dickens Annex Newsletter – January, 2019

<http://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/charles-dickens-annex>

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Vice-Principal (Annex): Jim Embree

Director of Instruction: Aaron Davis

PAC Chairs: Amy Stanley and Heather Garnett

Important Dates to Remember:

- **Jan 7th** Welcome back
- **Jan 8th @ 7 pm** PAC Executive meeting
- **Jan 16th** Volunteer Conduct Session #3
- **Jan 21st** Kindergarten Hearing Screening
- **Jan 21- 25th** Healthy Living Week
- **Jan 22nd** Bobs and LoLo Concert for students
- **Jan 31st CSL reports sent home with students**
- **Jan 31st** Kindergarten Registration deadline
- **Feb. 6, 13, and 20th** Ice Skating at Trout Lake Community Centre



Communicating Student Learning

Dickens Annex is participating in Year 2 of the VSB Communicating Student Learning (CSL) pilot project. This means that there is a new reporting schedule that includes five required communications with parents in a school calendar year. These include the following:

- Two formal written reports:
 - A **Progress Report** that will be sent home to families by the end of **January**
 - This report will indicate where the child is in relation to the age/grade expectations using written comments and a competency scale
 - a summary of the progress toward the goals in the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP), where applicable
 - A **Summative Report** that will be sent home to families by the end of **June**
 - This report will indicate where the child is in relation to the age/grade expectations using written comments and a competency scale and a student self-assessment of the Core Competencies (Communication, Thinking and Personal and Social)
 - a summary of the progress toward the goals in the child's Individual Education Plan (IEP), where applicable
- A minimum of three ongoing communication with families (timing at the teacher's discretion)
 - These ongoing communications can occur in different ways, such as: three-way conferences, electronic portfolio reviews, parent-teacher meetings, reflections on student work, Fresh Grade or other on-line platforms, telephone conversations, interim written reports

The Communicating Student Learning (CSL) report will include:

- Descriptive written comments addressing:
 - Student learning strengths
 - Areas for growth
 - Ways to support learning
- Student Competency Scale (In relation to Grade Level Expectations):
 - BEGINNING to acquire knowledge, skills, strategies and processes
 - DEVELOPING the ability to apply knowledge, skills, strategies and processes
 - APPLYING knowledge, skills, strategies and processes consistently
 - EXTENDING knowledge, skills, strategies and processes creatively and strategically.

We also look forward to working with parents and you are encouraged to take an active part in giving feedback, setting goals, and supporting your child in their learning. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Jim at the school.

Healthy Living Week

We will be having our Healthy Living Week the **week of January 21-25th**. There are many exciting classroom lessons and activities planned for this week. Our emphasis this year will be on healthy relationships and social/emotional learning. In addition, parents are encouraged to join us as we walk around Glen Park every morning from **9:00 – 9:15 am**. We encourage you to not just be a spectator, but to join us as we walk, talk, and model active participation with your children and other students in the school.



Volunteer Conduct Session – January 16th

At Dickens Annex we greatly appreciate the time that parents/caregivers give to support students in the classroom, on field trips, and during extra-curricular activities. The relationship of our students with caring adults is one that we support and nurture. Please be reminded that the Vancouver Board of Education has guidelines in place for Adults interacting with students. All parent volunteers at Dickens Annex must attend a Volunteer Conduct session, read the volunteer guidelines, and sign a Volunteer Conduct Agreement. If you would like to volunteer, please plan to come to our next session on **Wednesday, January 16th at 9:15 am**.



Parents Interacting with Students

In accordance with the VSB guidelines, we ask that parents/caregivers not approach other students to address conflict with peers, without their parent present, just as you would not want parents/caregivers addressing your child in your absence. If this is regarding a situation that happened at school during school hours, please address your concerns with the classroom teacher or other school staff and we will follow up. Thank you for your cooperation.

Thank Yous



The PAC would like to express sincere thanks to everyone who donated gifts to the Holiday Hampers project at the end of last year. We were overwhelmed by all the wonderful gifts that we received. Once the gifts were collected from the school they were wrapped by a small army of moms and then delivered to the families in our community. Thank you again for your generosity and for helping make the Holidays a happy time for so many people.

In addition, Dickens Annex would like to thank you for your generous donations of canned and packaged food for the Vancouver Food Bank. We were able to collect and donate over 7 boxes of food items before the winter break.

Card and Cookie Sale

Our Christmas Card and Cookie Sale was a huge success. Thank you for those who volunteered to help as well as those who purchased items. In total we were able to raise **\$539.00**. This money will go towards purchasing new books for our early readers.

School Closure Due to Weather

There may be times when schools are closed due to weather conditions (due to heavy snowfall). The VSB will post information about snow closures on its website at www.vsb.bc.ca by 6:00 am. In addition, the following media stations will be informed:

- CKNW (980 AM)
- CBC (690 AM, 105.7 FM)
- CJVB (1470 AM)
- CFHG (96.1 FM)
- CKWX (1130 AM)
- BCTV/ Global
- CITY TV

Parents are asked not to call media outlets to ask if schools are closed.



Clothing Reminder

The wet and rainy weather has arrived. Kindly, keep the following in mind when you send your child to school.

- Children always play outside during recess and lunch rain or shine (unless it is exceptionally wet weather)
- Bring indoor/outdoor shoes (boots for rainy and snowy weather). The ground is often wet and muddy the day after
- Have extra clothing labelled with your child's name at school for your child if they need to change out of wet clothing
- Children should be able to put on their own coats, shoes, hats, mitts, etc. This includes zipping up raincoats

Kindergarten Registration

As of **November 1st, 2018** all kindergarten registration will be done online. Kindergarten registration for the Vancouver School District runs from November 1 to January 31 for children who will be turning 5 by December 31, 2019. If you know of any children in our catchment area that are kindergarten age, please spread the word. Registration is a two-step process. If a child was born in Canada, complete the online form before bringing in your supporting documents.

Step 1: Completion of an online application form at vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten.

Step 2: Bringing supporting documentation, along with your child, to your neighbourhood English catchment school.

The following original documents must be presented at your catchment school to complete your application:

- Proof of British Columbia residency
- The original birth certificate of the child
- Applicable Immigration/Citizenship/Permanent Resident Documentation
- Immunization Records if available

If your child was born outside of Canada, you will need to go to the VSB District Reception and Placement Centre (DRPC) and complete the initial registration there.



Holidays While School is in Session

If you are planning on taking holidays while school is in session, please let the office know by phone or email as soon as you know your dates. Many thanks.

BC Children's Hospital
New free online resource from BC Children's Hospital. Great resources if you have a child with ADHD or know someone who does: <http://rollingwithadhd.ca/>

Free Online Resource for Parents

Midtown Moresports

Midtown Moresports winter program schedule is now out for students in K-7. Programs run from January 26th until March 16th at Dickens and McBride Elementary School. Programs include K-1, Gr 2-3 coed soccer, as well as K-1, Gr. 2-3 Basketball. Registration in \$40/8 weeks.

Moresports is committed to ensuring that no child be denied an opportunity to participate in a program because of an inability to pay. Parents or guardians unable to pay some or all of the program fee are invited to speak to their child's teacher, school counsellor, school principal or Moresports Hub. Brochures are available outside the Annex office.