

## Dickens Annex Newsletter – November 2020

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

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Vice-Principal (Annex): Jim Embree

Principal (Main): Julie Weatherall

Director of Instruction: Aaron Davis

PAC Chairs : Daniella Forde, Sara Getz, Laura Poree, Tiffany Searchfield

### Important Dates to Remember:

- Nov 10<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Virtual Assembly at School
- Nov 11<sup>th</sup> Remembrance Day (no school)
- Nov 25<sup>th</sup> Early dismissal @ 2 pm
- Nov 25<sup>th</sup> Parent Conferences 2:00-7:00 pm
- Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Early dismissal @ 2pm
- Nov 26<sup>th</sup> Parent Conferences 2:00-4:00 pm
- Nov 27<sup>th</sup> ProD Day (no school)



### Creative Area Boodle

The name BOODLE comes from the saying, “The whole kit and caboodle”, meaning, a collection of things. If you have items to add to our collection, it would be really helpful if you could drop off clean items with your child’s classroom teacher. Following our COVID-19 safety protocols, **these items will be stored for 48 hours** before they are placed into the Boodle Boxes for students to use. Examples of items to keep our students creating:



- Cardboard egg cartons
- Toilet paper and paper towel rolls
- Boxes (cereal, cracker, cookie, granola bar, shoe, etc)
- Fabric scraps
- Paper plates
- Wrapping paper
- Front of used cards

Please refrain from bringing in any items that are best recycled (i.e., bubble wrap, styrofoam, plastic, tinfoil). Other items you feel may be of use to the school (i.e., toys, puzzles, crayons, markers etc.) should be brought to your child’s classroom teacher to ensure they can be used.

### Dickens Annex Library

Book exchange day for all students at the Annex is every **Tuesday (Division 3, 5), Wednesday (Division 1), and Thursday (Division 2, 4, 6)**. Please help your child to remember to return their library books on their specific library day.





### Twitter

Be sure to check out the Dickens Annex Twitter feed at [@dickens\\_annex](#) for artwork and projects that are created by our Annex students.

### PAC Blog

Just a reminder to check out the PAC Blog at [dickens.blogspot.com](#) to stay up-to-date on all that the PAC is doing at Dickens and Dickens Annex. The next PAC meeting will be on **Thursday, December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 pm.**

### Remembrance Day Assembly

This year we will hold a virtual Remembrance Day assembly for the students at the Annex on Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am. Students attending Dickens Annex will view the assembly remotely in their classrooms.

- Every student will receive a poppy on this day
- We will be collecting money for the Mount Pleasant Royal Legion poppy fund. If you wish to donate, money will be collected in classrooms.



### Parent Conferences

Our parent conferences will be held on **Wednesday, November 25<sup>th</sup> from 2-7 pm** and **Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 pm.** Students will be dismissed from school on both of these days at 2 pm. Conferences will be held virtually through MS Teams, or by a 1:1 onsite meeting that is scheduled with the classroom teacher. All 1:1 meetings must follow the health and safety guidelines of our school. More information will be shared with you in the coming weeks.

### Clothing Reminder

The wet and rainy weather may soon be on its way. 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 rain.
- Have extra clothing labelled with your child's name at school if they need to change out of wet clothing

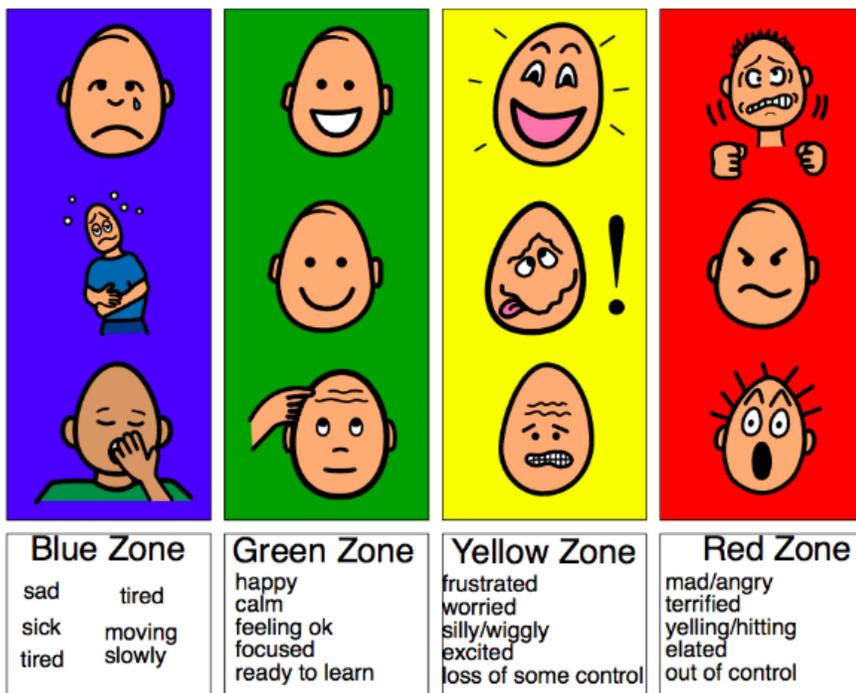
Children should be able to put on their own coats, shoes, hats, mitts, etc. This includes zipping up raincoats. Please help them practice this at home.



## Social and Emotional Learning at the Annex

We continue to focus on social-emotional learning at Dickens Annex. We hope to equip students with strategies, tools, and a common language to help them advocate for themselves and take ownership of their social-emotional learning. We want to encourage all school staff and parents to use similar language to support this goal.

We use three main programs as a framework. Please see the three simple posters and for more information. We are happy to share more of our understanding of these programs. Please ask your children about what they are learning at school.



## Zones of Regulation

This program teaches students how to recognize their feelings. For example, when playing on the playground or in an active/competitive game, students are often experiencing a heightened internal state such as silliness or excitement and are in the Yellow Zone, but it may not need to be managed. However, if the environment is changed to the library where there are different expectations than the playground, students may still be in the Yellow Zone but have to manage it differently so that their behaviour meets the expectations of the library setting.

**Red Zone:** an extremely heightened state of alertness and intense emotions.

**Yellow Zone:** a heightened state of alertness and elevated emotions; however, one has more control when they are in the Yellow Zone.

**Green Zone:** a calm state of alertness (happy, focused, content, or ready to learn). This is the zone where optimal learning occurs.

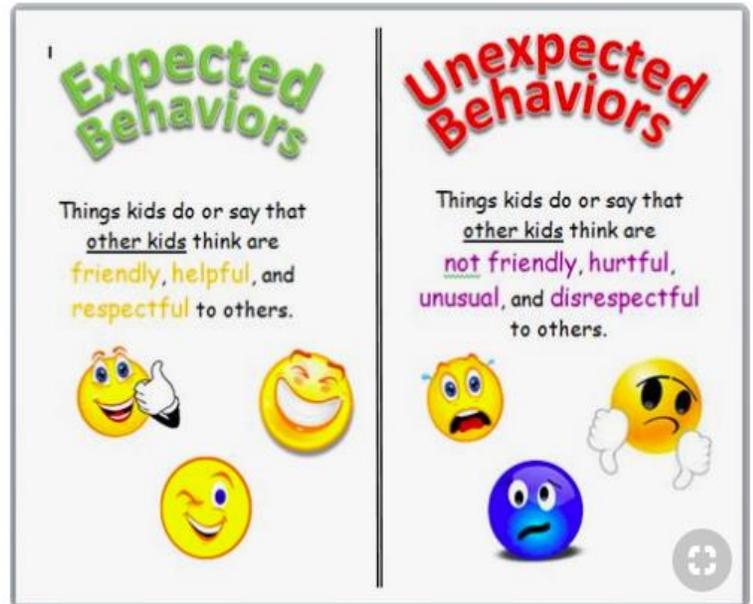
**Blue Zone:** a low state of alertness that is usually associated with sad feelings (tired, sick, or bored).

When we refer to the zones for a child, we ask them to consider: ***“What ‘zone’ are you in?”*** and ***“What do you need to do to get back to the Green Zone?”***

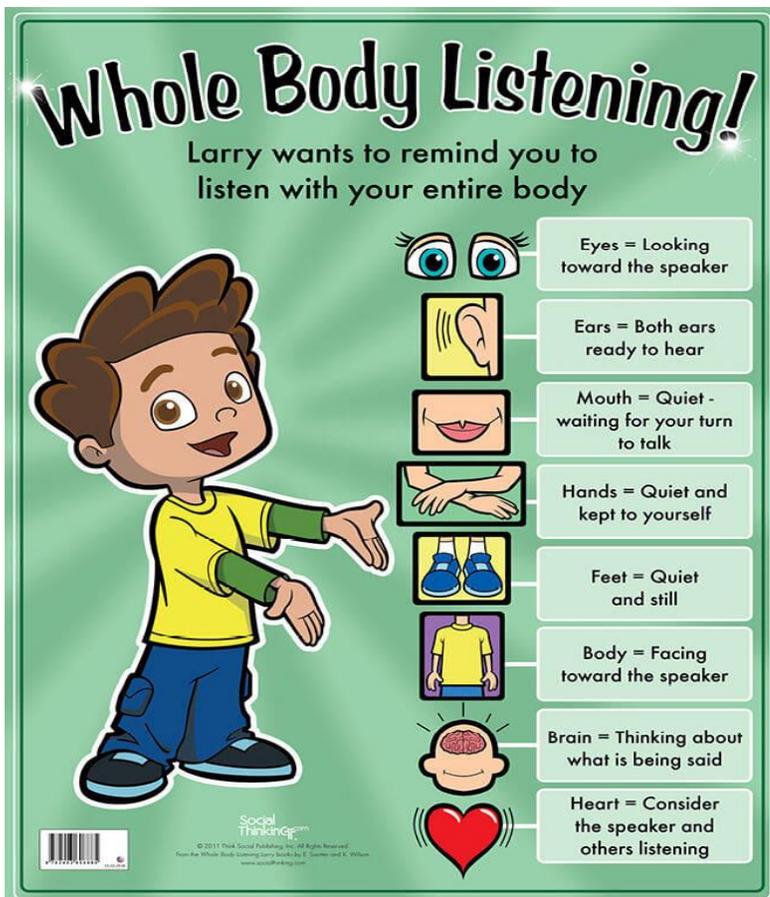
## Expected/Unexpected Behaviour

Identifying expected/unexpected behaviours help students learn to observe social situations more carefully and understand that behaviours are linked to others' emotions. How we feel about another's behaviour affects how we treat them.

**Expected behaviours** make us feel better about ourselves. As teachers and parents begin the new school year sharing experiences with their students (children), the more that the positive (expected) behaviors in situations are noted and accounted for, the more positively students are likely to behave while learning about their own social emotional learning system, which is critical for success not only during the school years, but also in adulthood!



## Whole Body Listening



**Whole Body listening** requires practice and explanation.

**Whole Body listening** means also using your eyes, ears, mouth, hands, feet, body, brain, and heart.

We are hoping that by teaching these programs and by using this common language, students will understand their learning needs better and build their empathy for others.

Thanks for helping us with our goal!

The Dickens Annex School Community



**Kindergarten registration for children born in 2016 begins on November 1.**

All kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for District programs (Early French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Focus School, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Nootka Fine Arts) and/or a cross boundary placement.

The priority registration period for kindergarten opens on **November 1 and closes at 4 pm on January 29.** Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

Applying for kindergarten is a **2-step process**:

**Step 1:** Completion of an online application form

**Step 2:** Verifying documentation

- Contact your English catchment school office to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation
- Bring supporting documentation to your English school office during your scheduled appointment



**1 Apply Online**

appointment to



catchment

**2 Visit your catchment school with necessary documents**

**Supporting Documents Needed:**

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records
5. Court orders/documents (if applicable)

If you want to apply for a District program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for District programs and cross boundary placements will begin to be accepted in early 2021.

**Registering at the Annex or the Main School**

Dickens Elementary and Dickens Annex share one common catchment area. Students who reside within this catchment area (in-catchment registrants) will receive priority for enrolment at one of the two school sites based upon available space.\*

When completing a registration form, parents will be asked if they prefer the annex or the main school. The District will attempt to accommodate parental preferences for placement, once available space has been determined.

At some sites there may be more in-catchment applicants than available space.\* In these instances, the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

**Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1 and January 31**

1. In-catchment kindergarten registrants who have a sibling who is currently attending and who will continue to attend Dickens Elementary and Dickens Annex next year **will be enrolled first at their preferred location.**
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a **random draw** for the remaining kindergarten spaces. Students will be registered at their preferred location as space permits.
3. Students who cannot be accommodated at their preferred location will be accommodated at the location that has space and placed on waitlist for their preferred location in the order in which their name is drawn.
4. Between January 31<sup>st</sup> and the second Friday in June (when school organizations are finalized), students on the ordered waitlist will be offered spaces at their preferred location as space becomes available. This waitlist will remain active until September 17, 2021.

**Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31**

All in-catchment kindergarten applications received **after** January 31 will be registered at their preferred location, if there is space, or added to the bottom of the existing waitlist for their preferred location, and registered at the location that has space to accommodate them.

**Please note:** There will be no priority given to registrants with siblings already attending Dickens Elementary and Dickens Annex if they register after January 31.

\* Available space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the District (Administrative Procedures 300).

For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>