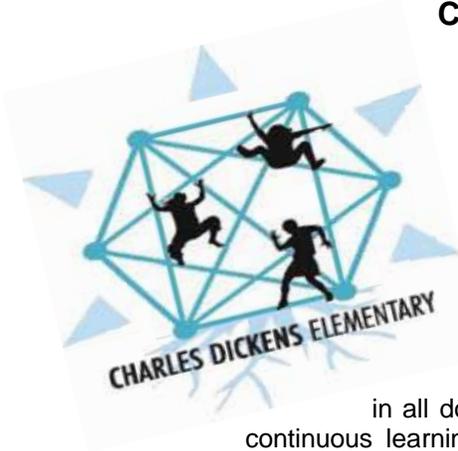


## CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1010 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C  
V5N 3S5  
Telephone: (604) 713-4978  
Fax: (604) 713-4980  
Website: <http://dickens.vsb.bc.ca>

Principal: Julie Weatherall  
Vice Principal: Shelley Sunner  
Secretary: Carmelina Spirli  
PAC Co-Chairs: Sara Getz, Jessie Mok,  
Kate Shapiro  
Director of Instruction: Julie Pearce  
Trustee: Carmen Cho



framework.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Together we bring alive our commitment to develop each child's potential in all domains through a long-established philosophy built on mutual respect, continuous learning and opportunities for leadership within a child-centred, multi-aged

# November 2021

We acknowledge that we *learn*, work together, and play on the unceded and traditional territory of the x'məθk'əyəm (Musqueam), seɬɬwɪtulh (Tsleil Waututh) and sḵwəxwú7mesh (Squamish Coast Salish) peoples.

### IMPORTANT DATES:

**Wednesday, November 10<sup>th</sup>: Virtual Remembrance Day Assembly at 11:00 am**

**Thursday, November 11<sup>th</sup>: Remembrance Day – school is not in session**

**Friday, November 26<sup>th</sup>: Indigenous Focus Non-Instructional Day – School is not in session**

Dear Dickens Community:



**The last bright days of fall – and there's nothing better than a good old-fashioned story with your Hallowe'en costume on!**

What Shelley enjoys about the Library...

In the Library you will find us growing our love for reading by delving into interesting titles both old and new. At any given moment, students can be found nestled in a nook reading about magical creatures; connecting with children across the world; and finding ways to save our Earth to name just a few of our favourites. "Shelley, just one more page, please" they can be heard saying, hanging on to every word.

My goal this year continues to be bringing diverse and authentic voices of marginalized

communities to our students. For the month of November our students will focus on Peace, Remembrance Day, and the Indigenous contribution to wartime efforts. We spotlighted Corporal Francis Pegahmagabow's impressive medals of bravery and learned he was the most decorated Indigenous soldier in Canadian war and peacekeeping efforts. He was a fierce marksman revered by his fellow comrades. Over 7000-12000 Indigenous men and women served in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War.

We are looking forward to thinking critically about the world around us and learning new and exciting things as we progress through the school year. Thank you for supporting us!

Shelley Sunner, VP Dickens

### **Minion Carm Spirli, our secretary, with two special helpers on October 29<sup>th</sup>.**



#### **A message from Carm:**

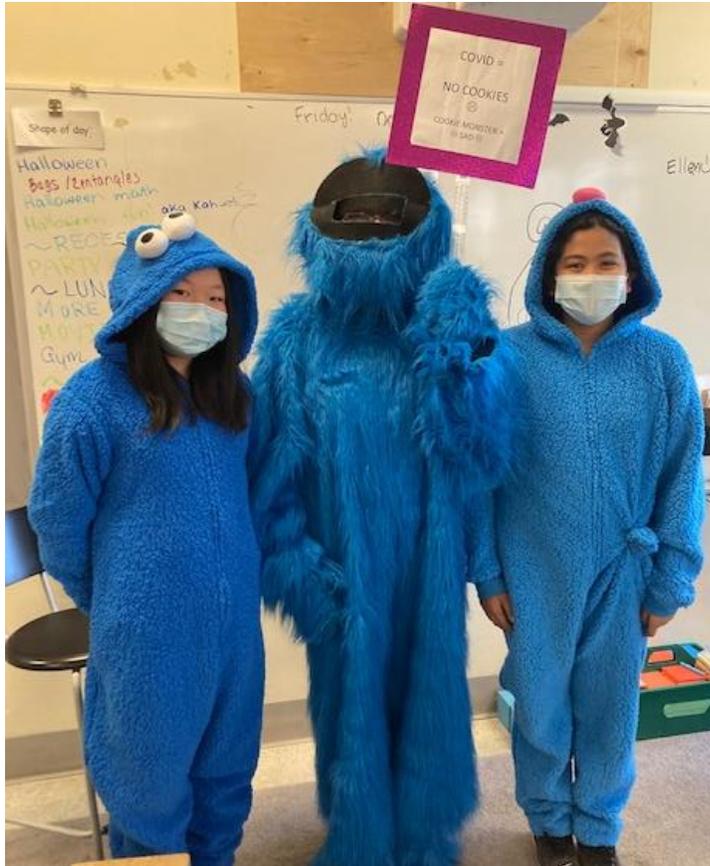
I'm so grateful to get to work in the office with 2 wonderful women. 🙏

I absolutely love the kids. It makes my day better & brighter when I hear their laughter & see their smiling faces.

The community of parents/families are wonderful to deal with

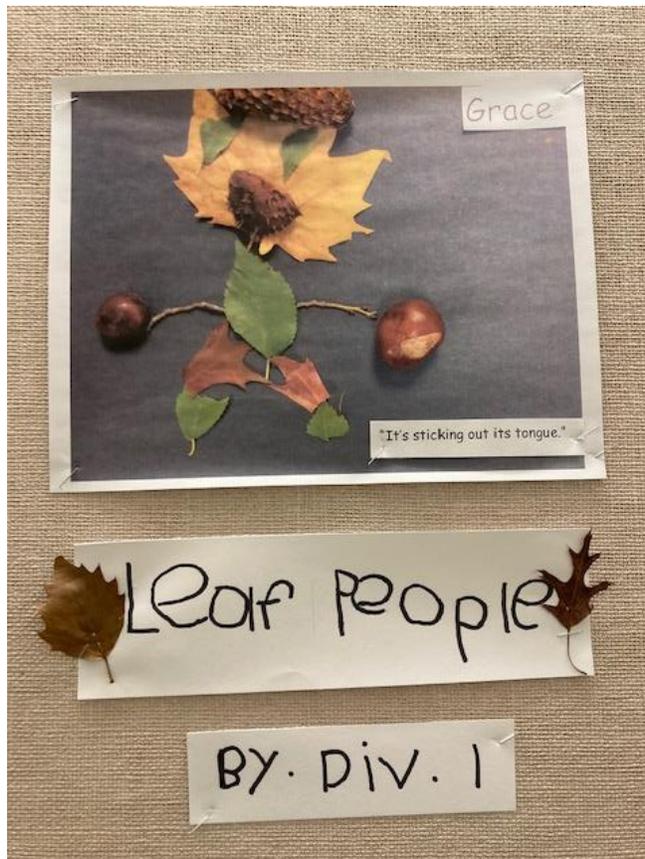
I feel like I'm at home at Dickens, especially how I was welcomed with open arms by all the staff.

All in all, I love my job, every aspect of it and I'm grateful to be in this great school



## Student Writing from K to 7

Once again, my dear friend, the Cookie Monster, joined me at Dickens for the last school day before Hallowe'en. Cookie Monster was thrilled to discover that a couple of Dickens students had dressed up just like him! While we wandered the halls and visited all the classrooms looking for – you got it – cookies, we found some great writing on the walls. No cookies sadly – COVID protocols are still in place.



**Kindergarten Students in Division 1** created Leaf People and told stories about their character. Here are some of their character descriptions.

Heath: "He likes getting fresh air and his house is called Acorn House. He lives in a tree. He does not like getting winded because he'll break."

Riley: "He lives in the dirt. I saw it in the Leaf Man book. And sometimes the wind flies him away."

Charlie: "When the sky is dark, he gets scared. He has a spikey hoodie on. It keeps him from getting scared."

Sadie: "My Leaf Person is a kind of girl and I like doing skips and jumps so maybe I'll do that with my leaf person."

Lee: "He eats leaves with his sharp mouth."

Stella: "She likes sushi. And going to the pool. She's the same age as me – 5! And I know her name too – Stella!"

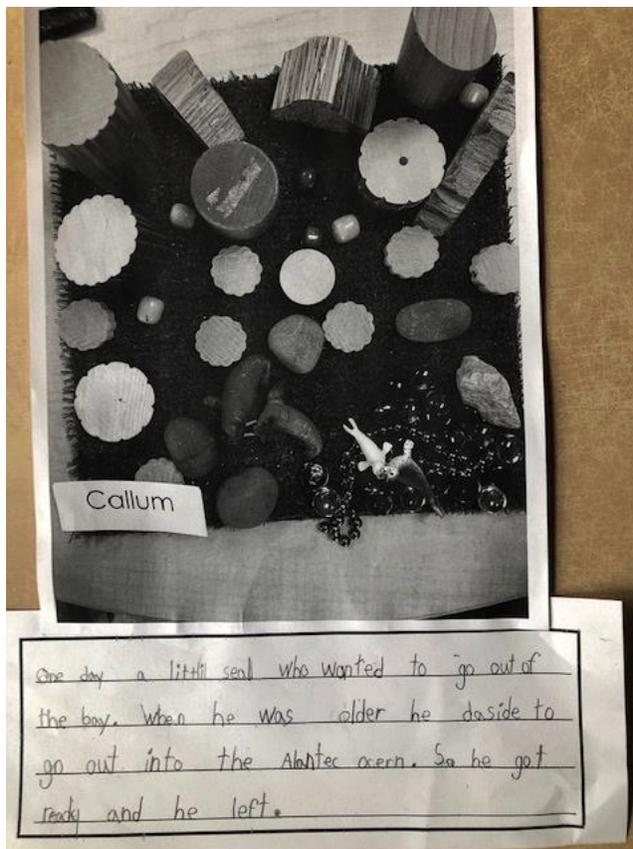
Bella: "She's got wings. She's a scary ghost leaf girl."

Grayson: "He's got two different eyes. What else makes him special is he's got red and black and green on his tummy."

Ellie: "He lives in this house. Then he cleans up. Then he rests."

### **Division 4 Grade 1 and 2s wrote stories using 'Story Workshop'.**

"Story workshop is a structure for early literacy that amplifies the relationship between play, art, and writing. Children develop ideas and stories through choices of art materials. By creating images through play, story workshop invites children to explore their amazing ideas in a variety of art forms." Karen Lam



Callum: "One day a little seal wanted to go out of the bay. When he was older he decided to go outside into the Atlantic Ocean. So, he got ready, and he left."

Mishka: "The mom and kid went looking for a home. They found gems."

Teemo:  
"The orca has a fight with the bad guys."

Jane: "Once upon a time a bear went searching in the forest. Then he heard a whimper."

Emily I: "The mermaid got caught in the cave. Then the fish got the mermaid out."

Luke: "A family lived by the sea. Every night Dad told a story. One day a tsunami took their fire tools."

## What Does a Principal Really Do?

Grade 1 and 2 students in Division 7 are studying the community and decided to interview Dickens staff. Before the interview they brainstormed about what they *thought* the principal and vice-principal did.

### What time do they go home after school?

- "I think Julie and Shelley go home in the middle of the night because they have to clean the whole entire school so they cannot leave until the night"

### What does Julie do in the office?

- "She does principal things"

### What does Julie do when she is not in the office?

- "She cleans up blood "
- "She is a supervision aide"
- "She only stays in the office"

Grade 1 and 2 students in Division 5 also interviewed me and asked a number of great questions such as what tools I used, how I learned how to do my job, what time I started work, and what my favourite thing to do at work was. Following the interview, they wrote that I help people remember things, organize the school, and make announcements. I help out teachers and help kids with problems. I talk to parents and help people when they are hurt or sick. I work on a computer. And I protect the school. In Division 5's illustrations I sport many interesting hairstyles including the no-hair-at-all look. I wonder if the grade 1s and 2s have confused my job as principal with that of a hospital worker given that I apparently spend a lot of time dealing with blood and sick or hurt people. Fortunately, Shelley and I do not have to clean the whole school every night. Phew! (Many thanks to Phil and team for doing that!)

## Division 8 Grade 3 and 4s' Spooky Halloween Sentences



## **An interesting (and scary) way to study parts of speech!**

Nayan: The horrid witch rode on a tattered looking broom.

Anna: A scary zombie was cutting peoples limbs to eat.

Poppy: The ugly witch was sharpening her chainsaw to prepare for all the nasty children who dared trick-or-treat at her stinky lair.

Mary Lu: The traumatized child hid in the bushes from the Grim Reaper.

Maridel: The grand high witch was fried by Pennywise the clown.

Max: The decapitated zombie was moaning for help in the cemetery.

Lachlan: The ragged old zombie weakly crawled out of the grave searching for something to kill.

Johanna: The dirty dancing Dracula was having a date with the disintegrating devil in the deadly death grave.

Emeliano: The brown jack-o'-lantern eats up the kids as revenge for carving him.

Jamie: A creepy wizard cast a spell to make a child disappear.

Joe: A nasty wizard cursed a Grim Reaper with a potion called formula 96 delayed action mouse maker.

Ruby: A cursed deadly werewolf limped through the wood while looking for a snack.

Trevor: The wicked witch cast a spell on the tiny vampire.

Vanessa: The grim reaper soared to Mars to drink potions with accursed alien while they met the rainbow devil.

Joriel: Spiderman throws a web into the tree.

Noah: The transparent ghost haunted kids in the graveyard.

## **Some Scary Story Starters by Division 11 Grade 3, 4 and 5 Students**

Quietly he creeped up behind her. She slowly turned around and the world went black. The last thing she ever saw was a pair of gleaming yellow eyes.

I saw my reflection in a puddle but there was something different about it. I saw a person behind me who had white clothes and a black mask.

You go to bed, then you wake up 15 minutes later to the sound of moaning coming from under your bed...to be continued.

Then the monster tied me to a chair and told me to be quiet.

There was darkness all around me. I felt stuck to my spot like I was paralyzed.

The sight of their bones rotting and covered in grime sent a shiver down his spine.

Just as I entered the sixth train car I felt a hand grab the collar of my shirt.

The only thing you could hear was the sad and mournful cries of pumpkins grieving for the lost and the creaking of ancient trees in the wind.

As soon as I touched the swirling white light I vanished from the graveyard and was never seen again.

### Alliteratively Dee-licious Treats by Div. 14 Grade 5, 6 and 7 students.



I ate wicked, wonderful, wacky Wunderbars wildly on Wednesday.

Great grumpy gummy bears were filled with green, gushy, gooey greatness.

A mad, malicious monster's Mars bar was taken by a marvellous, magical mermaid.

A sketchy person ate sweaty, smelly Smarties while acting superstitiously.

Carnivorous creepy crawly caramel cubes are extra chewy on cold crisp days.

I started laughing very nervously when I luckily found a lonely lollipop with ants in it.

I ate a wicked, wonderful wacky Wonderbar on Wednesday.

On a sunny Sunday I was very sad, so I sacrificed my sandwich for a super sweet and sour Starburst that sung softly in my mouth.

The magical Mars bar felt marvelous and mushy.

I munched on a miraculous Mars bar this Monday while my mom marvelled at the most messy mayhem momentarily.

Messy magnificent M&Ms are a magical mayhem on Mondays.

I like to troll people whilst eating Trolli in a tub in a tub in Thailand.

Sour Skittles are not sweet but sour with a super strong stinging taste in a stemless, stainless small piece of candy.

Super sweet kids eat sour patch kids while sneaky snakes slide down the side of the tree and snatch the sweet kids' sour patch kids.



Jaze is our part-time teacher Librarian who works Wednesdays And Thursdays. Like Shelley, She loves books and teaching In the library. Every season or Holiday Jaze loves to find all the Books she can on the topic and Decorate – not only the library, But also, herself! For Hallowe'en Jaze made her own hoodies that Say 'BOOKS' and 'Hocus Pocus Everybody Focus!' Now that's Magic😊!



On October 20<sup>th</sup> at 2:15 – 3:00 we had a very successful **Earthquake Drill** and followed the full procedure: drop, cover, hold on; count to 60; safely exit the school; open the earthquake bin and set up stations; and student reunification. Thanks to parents who volunteered to pick up their children and help us fine-tune the procedure so that we will be ready in the event of a real emergency.

**Student Council** will be announcing a **Food Bank Drive** from November 16-30. Once the drive starts, we will welcome your contributions. The Food Bank has indicated a need for non-perishable food, especially canned salmon or tuna and pasta.

**New Director of Instruction at Dickens:**

The District is pleased to announce that **Aaron Davis** will be taking on the role of Director of Instruction, Employee Services effective November 8, 2021. Julie Pearce, retired Associate Superintendent, will be supporting Aaron's families of schools until the new Director of Instruction starts in January 2022. **Shannon Burton** has been appointed to the role of Director of Instruction and will be our DOI at Dickens starting January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021.

Don't forget to **set your clocks back** this Sunday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 am.

Julie Weatherall,  
Principal, Dickens Elementary