

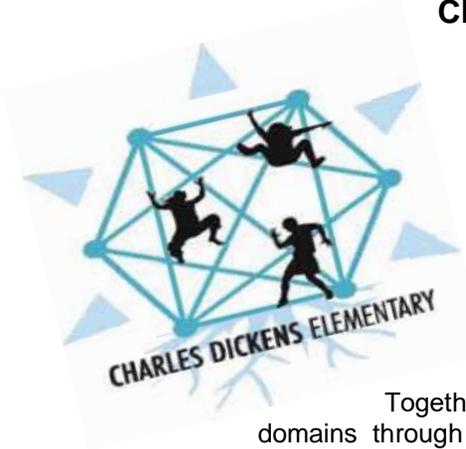
## CHARLES DICKENS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1010 East 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C  
V5N 3S5

Principal: Julie Weatherall  
Vice Principal: Shelley Sunner

Telephone: (604) 713-4723  
Fax: (604) 713-4725  
Website: <http://dickens.vsb.bc.ca>

Secretary: Anne Canning  
PAC Co-Chairs: Daniela Forde, Sara Getz,  
Laura Poree, Tiffany Searchfield  
Director of Instruction: Aaron Davis  
Trustee: Carmen Cho



### 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 framework.

# OCVEMBER 2020

We acknowledge that we *learn*, work together, and play on the unceded and traditional territory of the x'məθk'əyəm (Musqueam), seɪl'wɪtulh (Tsleil Waututh) and sḵwɔxwú7mesh (Squamish Coast Salish) peoples.

### Dear Dickens Community:

Since COVID has changed our world, I thought I would change our months – especially since COVID is the reason everything takes so long these days and why we get so far behind with our to-do lists. So welcome to Ocvember – a twilighty 'tween' time of Halloween (when for once masks are recommended for trick-or-treaters if there are any this year!). Ocvember is a time that slips into the colder, darker, shorter days of November when it might actually be nice to hunker down at home with just family, the way we are supposed to.

Here at Dickens we are getting used to the many COVID protocols and appreciate that you are supporting us in keeping your children safe by getting them to school at the right time and lined up in their assigned spots; by encouraging them to wear masks (remember that masks are mandatory for grade 6 and 7 students); by reminding them not to touch other people or their things even if they are in the same cohort; and by sending them well rested and ready to learn. Thank you, parents, for your kind words of appreciation that were expressed at the PAC Meeting last Thursday, October 22<sup>nd</sup> as well as in emails I have received: "Our kids are happy so we are happy." And because your kids are happy, teaching is more rewarding and full of fun for teachers and staff at Dickens.

As I get my steps in while on supervision or covering in classrooms I have had the opportunity to meet many of your children, to ask about the books they are reading, watch the games they are playing, and occasionally help them solve a playground problem. Play and playgrounds are vital to the SEL (Social Emotional Learning) which is an important component of the curriculum at school and crucial for future success in work and relationships. What a tremendous job Dickens teachers do in creating classroom community and helping students learn empathy and perspective taking. Dickens has always been a school that was reknowned for its whole school community and we are working on ways to make that happen again in spite of the restrictions imposed by COVID. We started with the Terry Fox Run and are currently planning a virtual Remembrance Day Assembly scheduled for November 10<sup>th</sup> at 11:00 am.

### TERRY FOX RUN AND FUNDRAISER



Division 7 with the support of teachers Blake and Kim F., spearheaded our COVID Terry Fox Run which raised \$2,346.00 – WOW! Way to go, Dickens! The race took place on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup> when Learning Cohorts ran in the rain – unstoppable just like Terry himself. Division 7 students did a cheer and made daily announcements about the event all week. In class they learned about Terry Fox. Below are excerpts from some of their writing.

Terry Fox was a Canadian hero. He tried to run across Canada to

raise money for people with cancer and this is his story... By Eloise

Here is Terry Fox and why he wanted to run across Canada. He got bone cancer when he was 18. It was in his right leg. By Ethan

Let's talk about Terry Fox and how he became a Canadian hero. Terry had his best friend, Doug. They met through basketball. But one thing Doug loved was running. Doug even helped Terry train for the run. Terry got his cancer in his right knee. One day in the hospital after surgery he had an idea to start the Marathon of Hope. By Joe

Terry Fox had to amputate his leg when he was 18. He ran through Newfoundland, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, PEI, Quebec and Ontario. He had to stop because his bone cancer had spread. Terry Fox ran for 143 days and 5373 km. By Poppy

...He is still remembered by many things such as statues, loonies, and people who do the Terry Fox Run every year. By Eloise

## **OUTDOOR CLASSROOM**

With the advent of COVID and the need for ventilation and fresh air, outdoor learning is highly recommended and classes are taking body breaks, walks and runs outside. Outdoor learning spaces are popping up everywhere, including at Dickens. Audrey and other teachers with their classes have worked hard to clear up the garden deck, to set up canopies with walls, and purchase chairs for a full-on outdoor classroom. PAC has offered money and we also received a grant from the Federal government to make purchases to support outdoor learning. PAC members had the clever idea of taping sidewalk games on our pavement in the Red Courtyard as a trial run for the painted games which we are hoping to install come Spring or Summer. Thank you to these thoughtful folk who are supporting ways to enhance outdoor learning.

## **Outdoor Learning: Comments from Division 15**

Maddie Grade 5 - "Great to work outside and have a change of scenery"

Sidney Grade 5 - " I feel calm and am able to focus"

Maya W. Grade 6 - "Love the fresh air while working outside"



### **Outdoor Learning: Written Reflections from Division 16**

Today we had a real glimpse of what our new outdoor classroom will look like! It is two big tents that we will attach together...It works really well and I think it is a great addition for our roof-top learning garden where you can actually learn outside without the elements getting in your way. It's going to be a great success once it is up and open for other classes. Thank you for making it happen, Audrey! By Anika

The outdoor classroom is looking great! Today we put up both of the tents and the walls. It is much bigger than I expected. I really think that if we decorate it and set it up it will be a great place for learning. I really hope that the other classes will love learning in there as much as I know our class will!! Also it is good for COVID because germs spread less outside. JM

It was so much fun setting up the outside classroom. I really liked how the doors opened by a zip and not a flap. It also reminded me of the tents they have at outdoor weddings. Emily

### **WALKING THROUGH THE HALLS**

I'd like to share some of the student work I've seen on my travels through the hallowed halls of Dickens. Since parents are not able to come into the building this year, I'm sure you will enjoy seeing these displays.



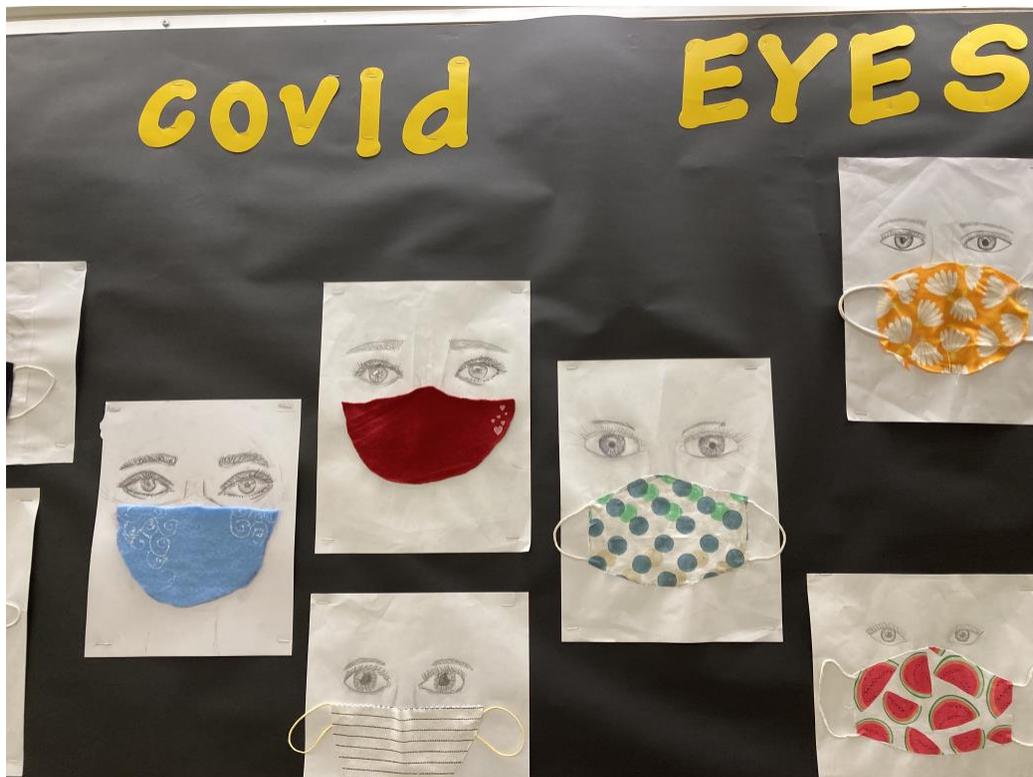
Division 8's beautiful, colourful T-shirts tell their story – what an interesting bunch 😊

### They're Gourd-geous



Divisions 9 and 10 turned gourds into adorable metallic creatures – an uncanny combination of organic and metallic.





Division 16's 'COVID Eyes Collages' capture the new look for students everywhere.

#### FROM OUTDOOR LEARNING TO VIRTUAL LEARNING – HOW THINGS ARE CHANGING

The following link will take you to **Raising Digitally Responsible Youth – A Guide for Parents**. In a time when students often have to use computers to access learning, parents need to be able to understand and support the safe use of the Internet.

<https://saferschoolstogether.com/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Raising-Digitally-Responsible-Youth-Guide-2020.pdf>

**Halloween** is coming up this Saturday and classes are celebrating in a variety of COVID-safe ways on Friday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. There will be no shared food – only individually packaged items, no whole-school activities, but a range of classroom events – and of course the opportunity to dress up in costumes. Some **scary sentences** from Division 10 follow to get you in the mood!

- Her ears are full of dry crusty wax and her nails have fungus growing from them.
- He has boils filled with yellow pus and crusty dry skin.
- She bites people she does not like and red, gooey blood gushes out.
- For dinner he likes brains preferably.
- It watches your every move.

I hope you don't run into any of the above! HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Julie Weatherall  
Principal, Dickens Elementary



## 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 catchment school office during your scheduled appointment

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**

Charles Dickens Elementary School and Charles 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 Charles Dickens Elementary School and Charles 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 Charles 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>