



David Livingstone Elementary School

315 East 23rd Street
Vancouver, BC V5V 1X6

Phone: 604-713-4985

Friday, June 5, 2020

Dear Livingstone Families,

It has been a delight having students back in the school this week. The four entrances, different routes, 2 metre teaching aides and lessons have been brilliant for helping teachers provide instructions about physical distancing and living in a world with COVID-19. Kids are delighted to be back in school and spending time together. They are also SO attentive in class. The biggest challenge has been trying to get teachers to adjust their workload and expectations of themselves to reflect that they are working online, as well as onsite with their students in their classroom and also with the children of Essential Service Workers who often attend up to five days a week. Teachers are also preparing for class casting for the next school year. Please let the classroom teacher know if your child will not be attending David Livingstone next year or if there is additional information that would be helpful when we do class placements.

I want to acknowledge protests taking place across North America which put the spotlight on racism, not only in the United States but here in Canada and around the world.

These events highlight the importance of ongoing work and intentional focus on the issues of racism and discrimination within our schools and our broader communities. At the Board level, several important actions have been taken to further racial awareness and redress issues of colonialism and systemic racism that exist within our larger society.

As a District, we have an intentional focus on equity within our work. As a District we are committed to:

- Creating a culture of care and shared social responsibility.
- Fostering safe and caring schools that promote mutual respect and safe, inclusive, equitable and welcoming school environments.
- Explicitly addressing racism and teaching about anti-racism.

Earlier this week, Superintendent, Suzanne Hoffman, recorded a video message that specifically speaks to racism, discrimination, and hate. This message is posted to all school websites as well as the District's homepage. In this message, our Superintendent acknowledges our collective responsibility to stand together against racism.

At Livingstone Elementary School, we work to ensure all staff and students feel safe, valued and included. I encourage you to have conversations with your children at their level about the things they are seeing and hearing. We need to work together to create school communities where every student listens and feels heard and safe. We have a number of students who have shown themselves to be champions of human rights this year. I invite students to submit their writing to livingstone@vsb.bc.ca so we are able to explore the issue more through online TEAMS platforms. We want our children to be thinking about who they want to be in the world and what they want that world to look like.

Sincerely,

Principal