

# Oppenheimer Elementary Newsletter

2421 Scarboro Ave, Vancouver, BC V5P 2L5 604-713-4570

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/david-oppenheimer>

Safe Arrival – 604-713-5159 ext. 62 [OPPAttendance@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:OPPAttendance@vsb.bc.ca)

**Principal:** Hope Sterling

**OAA:** Deborah Pollastretti

**OSB:** Cathy Yoshida (Fridays)

**Director of Instruction:** Christopher Wong

**Trustee:** Estrellita Gonzalez

**PAC Co-Chairs:** Esther Moreno & Sara DiMarino

## Dear Oppenheimer Community:

We were happy to welcome back about 30 of our students for the first week of school after winter break (Jan 4-7). Then on Monday, Jan 10th it was great to see most of our students return to in-person learning! Although we had a slow start, teachers and support workers have lots of great learning opportunities planned for our students this month. We understand that some families are not feeling confident to return to school just yet, but please know we are doing our best to follow the Health and Safety protocols laid out by our province and district. We are cleaning our high touch surfaces once per day, have new directional signage to manage traffic flow and prevent crowding, we are reinforcing daily self-health checks and encouraging 3 ply masks, staff are staying home if they are feeling sick and we are increasing our outdoor learning opportunities wherever possible.

### STAFFING

We are excited to be welcoming back Ms. Tan (Grade 4, Division 7 Teacher) and Mr. Lipsky, (CST SSB) who will be supporting our students on Mondays, alternate Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

### REPORT CARDS

Report cards will be sent home on Friday, January 28<sup>th</sup>. Our next official parent conferences will not be until April 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup>, but remember, you are welcome to reach out to set an appointment with your child's teacher whenever you have questions or concerns.

### KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Calling all children born in 2017! Registration closes on Monday, January 31<sup>st</sup>. Families can register at [www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten](http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten). We have a very large number of registrations this year, so it is looking like we will probably be conducting a draw. We will keep families posted as the process moves forward.

Kindergarten

### EDUCATION PLAN 2026

The Strategic or "Education Plan" is a roadmap, created by our trustees that will lead the district over the next 5 years to improve outcomes for students. Three of the overarching takeaways are: 1) The VSB should



The PAC Meeting will be on Wed, Jan 12 at 6:45 PM. See you on Zoom!



If your child needs a free backpack or help with food security, please contact the school office.



identify and implement ways to improve outcomes for students 2) Equity and inclusion must be ensured across the school system 3) Reconciliation with First Nations should be a priority. Thank you to all of our families who provided important feedback by participating in the district survey. The final plan will be operationalized in April.

### **FOOD BANK**

Our Student Council will be continuing their Virtual Food Bank Drive through the month of January!



### **BLACK SHIRT DAY**

On January 14th, thousands of students, educators, and citizens across British Columbia and Canada will once again be wearing black shirts in recognition of the struggle for civil rights fought by Black and racialized Canadians. Commemorating the birthday of Martin Luther King Jr., Black Shirt Day is both a day of education and remembrance, and an invitation to a necessary conversation about racial justice. We encourage all our staff and students to take action against racial injustice by wearing black on Friday, Jan 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **FUNCTIONAL SCHOOL CLOSURES**

Staff have spent time planning how to respond should the school need to temporarily close in the coming weeks. The decision will be made by the District and will only occur if there is a shortage of available staff, due to illness, and we are unable to keep the school open for in-person learning and safely supervise students. In the event of a functional closure, we will notify families as soon as possible via email and place an alert on our school website. During a functional closure, we will shift to providing remote learning opportunities for students to ensure continuity of learning. Also, as we did in the first week of January, we will make every effort to continue to provide in-person support during a functional closure for students with additional needs, such as students with special needs and children of essential workers.

### **ABSENCE REMINDER**

**If your child will be absent and is expected to be at school, please ensure you are calling our Safe Arrival Number or emailing our dedicated attendance email before 9 AM: Safe Arrival 604-713-5159 ext. 62 or Email: [oppattendance@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:oppattendance@vsb.bc.ca)** During these times of high absences, we appreciate your help.

We know these days are challenging in many ways. You can continue to count on us to keep you informed and do everything we can to meet students' needs. If you have any questions, please contact me. We look forward to working together with you and your children to navigate the upcoming months.

Ms. Hope Sterling, Principal

<b><u>January Dates to Remember</u></b>	
Wed, Jan 12	PAC Meeting
Fri, Jan 14	Black Shirt Day
Mon, Jan 17	Professional Development Day – NO SCHOOL
Fri, Jan 28	Report Cards Sent Home