

LORD STRATHCONA ELEMENTARY

592 East Pender Street

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Principal: Mr. Jason Eng Vice Principal: Ms. Janine Lamb

PAC Chairperson: Alec Smecher

JANUARY NEWSLETTER

Dear Strathcona Families,

Welcome back to Strathcona and Happy New Year! I hope that families enjoyed their time away from school and have come back rested and recharged. The vibe I am getting from most students is that they are happy to have returned and be continuing their learning.

It has been a busy first week back. This month students will be attending a safety presentation which facilitated by our school police liaison officer, Constable Garrick from the Vancouver Police Department. He will run two age appropriate presentations, covering a range of important topics, including playground safety and stranger danger. These messages will continue to be reinforced by staff and myself throughout the school year, and we encourage you to do the same at home. We have also included some tips in this newsletter. On the school front, it was great to see Madame Bronwen and Ms. Luchenski's classes participate in Project Chef this week! What an engaging and exciting learning experience for the students through cooking. January at Strathcona means that basketball season is in full swing! We will have four teams participating in the VSB league representing students in grades 4-7. Lots of early morning practices, lots of dedicated coaches, lots of hard work and also lots of fun!

One of the reasons for the early January newsletter is to keep you updated on important events and dates coming up in the next couple months, so please keep those in mind. You will also have noticed that the Vancouver School Board has gone to a new website design. They migrated our old website information over, but there is some updating and tweaking ongoing. Ms. Lamb is doing an excellent job getting it up to date with the focus on making it as user friendly as possible!

I look forward to seeing you all in coming weeks and months...all the best in 2019!

Jason Eng
Principal

MS. HONG'S LIBRARY CORNER



Welcome Back to the Library!

Harry Potter Week is Monday, January 14 to Thursday, January 17. Students are welcome to come the library at lunch for fun Harry Potter activities.

I hope you had a wonderful break. Open Book Exchange has restarted. Open Book Exchange is from 9:00 am to 9:40 am Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday, and 2:30-3:00pm Thursdays. Students can come in small groups or with the whole class. See your teacher for the best days. The library is usually open before school at 8:30 am and after school until 3:30 pm.

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Open Book Exchange 8:30-9:00 am	Open Book Exchange 8:30-9:00 am	Open Book Exchange 8:30-9:00 am	Open Book Exchange 2:30-3:00 pm Closed 2 nd Thursday of each month for meeting	Open Book Exchange 8:30-9:00 am

GOAL SETTING CONFERENCES

Hopefully all families have discussed the first term report card with their children and about continuing to put forth a great effort to achieve their best in school. Thank you again for continuing to support your child's learning by monitoring studies at home (home reading, spelling/dictee, writing programs and projects). When the school and home work together, children benefit.

On January 23rd and 24th, students will be dismissed at 2:00pm so that families can once again spend some time meeting with their child's teachers to review progress, adjust goals or set new ones. Children learn best when the significant adults in their lives -- parents, teachers, and other family and community members -- work together to encourage and support them. Schools alone cannot address all of a child's developmental needs: The meaningful involvement of parents and support from the community are essential. Conference request forms are sent home the second week of January.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our updated website is now available at <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/lord-strathcona>. Check it out!

STUDENT SAFETY

Strathcona's School Liason Officer, Scott Garrick, will present workshops for all students regarding personal safety in January.

In speaking with your children about personal safety the following key reminders are suggested:

1. Walk to and from school with their parent/ caregiver, friend, or a group of friends.
2. Avoid talking with adults who are not known to them.
3. Always tell a trusted adult, such as a parent or member of the school staff, about any unusual or suspicious activities.

Parents wishing further resources or information can visit [Canadian Center for Child Protection](#).



Student safety is the first priority of the Vancouver School Board. Schools will be kept open except under extreme circumstances to provide the option of attendance for all, but the decision to attend is the responsibility of each family. Parents/guardians are responsible for their children's safe travel to and from school. If, for any reason, a parent/guardian feels that a child cannot travel safely to school, then they should make other arrangements. During extreme weather conditions it is also common for police and other authorities to advise citizens to avoid unnecessary travel. Parents should take this advice as well. Students will not be penalized for lack of attendance under such poor weather conditions. Students are reminded to wear appropriate clothing for the conditions. When sidewalks and roads are slippery, students walking to school should take extra care. We encourage you to review your own preparations for severe weather conditions and ensure that you are familiar with the city's

response procedures for those conditions. We request that you strictly adhere to parking restrictions in and around all Vancouver schools.

SNOW CLOSURE

By 6:00 am, the VSB will post information about snow closures on its website at www.vsb.bc.ca and will inform local media stations, including:

- CKNW (980 AM)
- CBC (690 AM, 105.7 FM)
- CJVB (1470 AM) • CFHG (96.1 FM)
- CKWX (1130 AM) • BCTV/Global (Cable channel 11)
- CITY TV (Cable channel 13)



MULTICULTURAL FAIR 2019

Multicultural Fair is happening on March 14, 2019. Any families who would like to share their cultures and traditions with our students on that day, please contact Tracy at tkong@vsb.bc.ca for more information.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Do you have a child born in 2014? Kindergarten registration has started!

All Kindergarten applicants are required to complete a 2 step process:

1. submit an online application
2. go to their English catchment elementary school to finish registration.

When registering your child please bring:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Parent/ Guardian ID
4. Immunization records (if possible)

This includes families who wish to apply for Choice programs (French Immersion, Montessori, etc.) and/or a cross boundary placement. The priority registration period for Kindergarten opens now until January 31st. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

Note: Sibling Priority for Kindergarten admission is only provided to students who register between November 1st to January 31st. Sibling priority is not provided after January 31st.

If your child was born outside of Canada, you need to report to the VSB District Reception and Placement Centre (DRPC) and complete the initial Kindergarten application there. If you want to apply for a Choice program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Online Applications for Choice programs begins January 14th to February 4th, 2019.

KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION FAQs

What if I want to apply for an English school in another catchment area?

If you are interested in having your child attend an English school that is not your catchment school you will need to submit a cross-boundary application. The cross-boundary process opens February 4th. The deadline for cross-boundary application is February 28th. If you are applying to a school outside your catchment area, it is important for you to know that your child will only be considered once all in-catchment students have been placed.

What if I want to apply for a choice program?

The district offers a variety of choice programs including French Immersion, Mandarin Immersion, Fine Arts, Aboriginal Focus School, International Baccalaureate and Montessori. If you are planning to apply for Choice Program(s) you still need to register for kindergarten at your English catchment school first. The online application process opens in mid-January and closes in early February. Visit <http://kchoice.vsb.bc.ca> for more information. There will be a district supervised draw to select applicants for the available program space. Offers for program spaces will be made by late February. You will be given a formal offer of a space in a Kindergarten choice program or an indication of where you sit on the waitlist.

KINDERGARTEN SEPTEMBER 2019

Kindergarten can be an exciting and stressful time for you and your child.

Support for School Success invites families who have a child entering kindergarten to join in fun activities to provide support for learning, behaviour and physical health.

With fun activities, your child will have eyes, hearing, talking, health, behavior, and dental checks.

Location:

Ray-Cam Co-operative Centre
920 East Hastings Street

Dates:

February 28, March 28,
April 25, May 23, June 27

Call Harinder at 604-675-3980 to sign up for a 2 hour appointment.

For more information:

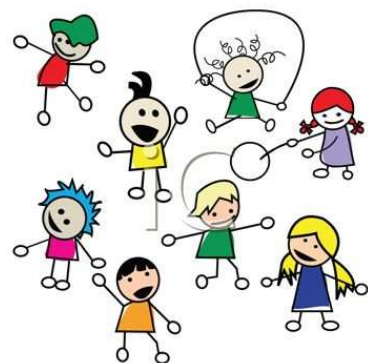
Ray-Cam staff - Carin @ 604-257-6949;

BC Children's Hospital RICHER NPs @ 604-875-2246

OR Drop in to check things out!

You can bring a friend or family member with you for support.

There will be a snack, lunch and a small gift bag for your child.



CHOICE PROGRAMS FOR GRADES 1 TO 7

VSB is proud to offer a wide range of educational options for different types of learners. Our Choice programs include French Immersion, Mandarin Bilingual, Indigenous Focus, Montessori and Fine Arts.

Before applying for Choice programs students must first register at their neighbourhood school.

Applying to Choice Programs in Grades 1 to 7 currently requires a paper form submission.

Download the Choice Program Application Form. Choice Programs are available according to space.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Monday, January 14 – Friday, January 18 th	Harry Potter Week
Wednesday, January 23 rd	Early dismissal, 2 PM. Parent conferences 2-8 PM
Thursday, January 24 th	Early dismissal, 2 PM. Parent conferences 2-5 PM
Friday, January 25 th	Professional Day. School not in session for students.
Friday, February 15 th	Curriculum Implementation Day. School not in session for students.



PAC CORNER

The next PAC meeting will be on January 30th. A light dinner is served at 6pm, the meeting begins at 6:30pm. There is free child-minding available. We hope to see you there!

All parents are invited to come by for a coffee by donation on Wednesdays, from 8:30-9:30 am in the courtyard. This is a great opportunity to connect with other members of the Strathcona Community.



Community Centre News

Afterschool Programs:

Yoga for Kids, Amazing Animals and Lego (6-8 yrs), Lego Building & Coding, Mad Science For Kids, Cooking for Pre-Teens with Ryan

Winter 2019 programs begin on January 7! Register ASAP; programs run the risk of cancelation if registration is too low!

Food Programs at Strathcona Community Centre:

- Breakfast Program - Jan. 7-31st (M-F, except Jan. 25th Pro-D day)
- Backpack Program - Jan. 11-25th (Every Friday 2-4pm)
- Chat and Chew food club - Jan 8-31st (Every Tuesday and Thursday 12-12:55pm)
- Cooking fun with families - Jan 14-28th (Every Monday 12—2:30pm)
- Grow your own microgreens workshop - Jan 25th (9:30am-11:00am) Must pre-register.

Beginning January 14 to March 15, lunch time and after school Moresports programs:

Mondays

Badminton w/ Tim & Trevor
3:30 to 5:00pm in the Gym
Grades 2 to 7

Tuesdays

Mini-Soccer w/ Josh
3:30 to 5:00pm in the Gym
Grades 4 to 7

Wednesdays

Lunch time: Knitting Club with Helen in the Library

After School: Dodgeball with Luke & Josh
3:00 to 4:30pm in the Auditorium

Thursdays

Lunch time: Badminton Club with Tim in the Gym

Fridays

Mini-Soccer w/ Josh & Cole
3:00 to 4:30pm in the Gym
Grade K to 3

No sessions on Jan 25th and Feb 14th

Quick Tips: Getting Active as a Family

When the whole family is involved in physical activities together, children learn that being active is fun and makes you feel good. And busy parents can combine family time with exercise time. Try these tips for getting everyone in the family up and moving together:

Walking

- **Start with short walks** that everyone in the family can do. Add more distance gradually. Younger children can ride a bike or a tricycle. You can pull a wagon in case little ones get tired.
- **Scavenger hunts** can keep children from being bored on a walk. Keep in mind a list of "treasures" they can find, such as a red leaf, a blue house, a black dog, or an out-of-province licence plate.
- **Use a phone app** or get pedometers, and work on increasing the number of steps you take on your family walks. Start with a goal of 10,000 steps a day.
- Register the whole family in a **family fun run/walk** in your community. If the event is for charity, have your family walk through your neighbourhood to collect pledges.

Outdoor activities

- Go for a **bike ride**.
- Join your children in old-fashioned games like **hopscotch, tag, jump rope, and hide-and-seek**.
- Get involved in family-friendly sports like **skiing, skating, swimming, and tennis**.
- Play a daily **family basketball game** in the driveway or at a playground.
- Take up **miniature golf** or flying-disc golf.
- **Fly a kite**.
- **Pick up trash** at a local park.

Indoor and rainy-day activities

- Have a **family dance night**. Share dances from each generation, and teach each other to do them.
- Create a new dance or **exercise routine to a favourite song**. Have a different child choose the song each week.
- **Go to the mall**, and count how many laps you can walk as a family.
- Have a **hula hoop contest**.
- Set up a fun **obstacle course** in the basement, garage, or spare room.

Want to read more? Check out Health Link BC www.healthlinkbc.ca