



LORD STRATHCONA ELEMENTARY

592 East Pender Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1V5

Tel: 604-713-4630 Fax: 604-713-4633

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

PAC Chairperson: Mr. Alec Smecher

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Strathcona Families,

Welcome back to school! For all our Kindergarten and new students...a special welcome to you to this amazing place. We are looking forward to an amazing 2018-19 school year filled with student learning, engagement, and community connectedness. As we conclude the first week back at school, students are settling into their new classes. I know teachers are eager to move forward with their programs for the 2018-19 school year. We appreciate your patience this past week as we work through the number crunching and class casting, to ensure we can accommodate as many registrations as possible, while setting up classroom environments where your children will thrive!

I look forward to meeting and reconnecting with many of you in the coming weeks! A couple events to keep in mind:

- Thursday, September 20th: Terry Fox Run at McLean Park at 1:00 (I will be hosting training sessions for students over the next two weeks to build up endurance!)
- Wednesday, September 26th: PAC Meeting
- Thursday, September 27th: Meet the Teacher Night

Midway through next week, students will be bringing home a package of information, and several forms that need to be read, filled out, and returned ASAP. It is important that the school has accurate and up-to-date information on every child. Thanks for your cooperation in completing this task.

Very much looking forward to a successful Strathcona startup!

Jason Eng

Principal

GEARING UP FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

As we start the new school year, it is important that students are prepared in order to have a smooth transition back. Here are a few ideas and tips to start off on the right foot:

- Getting back to a school routine can be challenging so consider shifting bedtime and wake-up routines right away.
- Set up a homework center at home away from distractions (TV, laptop, iPad, phone etc.) Keep an assignment calendar nearby so you and your child know upcoming due dates. You will be teaching them valuable time management skills too!
- Please be sure to bring your child/children to school on time. Students have a better day at school when they arrive before the 9 am bell. They learn more and begin the day feeling calmer and less anxious.



PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mark your calendars! Our first Professional Development Day is Friday, September 21st, 2018. School will not be in session for students on that day. The next Professional Development Day will take place on Friday, October 19th, 2018.



WELCOME AND FAREWELL

A warm welcome to the following new staff members: Chelsea Luchenski is joining the Strathcona team to teach grade 4/5. Natalie Mirolo is joining us from Norma Rose Point Elementary as a teacher in our grade 1/2 classroom.

Farewell to Mr. Alex Mitchell, we wish him well as he embarks on a new position with the Surrey School Board. Goodbye also to Caroline Lay, our District Literacy Teacher as she moves on to a new position in the Vancouver School Board as a Literacy Mentor Teacher. Welcome to Erika West who is joining our team as our new District Literacy Teacher.



Finally, welcome to Anne-Marie Belanger who will be filling in for Collette Gagne one day a week teaching with Madame Keddie in the French grade 4/5/6 class, as well as providing resource support to students.

MEET THE TEACHERS NIGHT

This year's Meet the Teacher Night will be held on Thursday, September 27th from 5:00 to 6:00 pm. Building strong relationships between the school, classroom teachers, support staff, students, and parents is an important way to begin your child's learning year. From 5:00 - 5:20, parents and guardians are invited to visit their children's teachers in the classrooms. From 5:20 - 6:00 there will be food available (pizza, fruit and drinks) and a chance for families and teachers to mingle in the courtyard. We are looking forward to meeting you all!

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION SUPPORT

Heather Froste, the Indigenous Education Teacher, and Donna Lokhorst, the Indigenous Education Worker, would like to welcome new and returning families back to school. We provide student and family support from Monday-Friday at Strathcona. Please feel free to drop by our offices located in the basement of the junior building (C002 & C008). A reminder that Redfox feasting and active play will be taking place every Monday from 3 pm to 5:30 pm. As well, Redfox drumming is happening every Wednesday from 3pm to 4:30 pm. Please see Donna Lokhorst, or call her at 604 354-7561, for more information.

REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

Student safety is of paramount importance at the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences. If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on a dedicated answering service by calling 604-713-4630. Messages will be received before the office is open. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.

To report your child's absence – Please call 604-713-4630 prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence.

WHAT THE RESEARCH SAYS ON SCHOOL ATTENDANCE/LATE ARRIVAL

According to the research, students who miss 10 percent of instructional days are placed at significant risk for academic and social challenges. This means, regardless of the reason for absence, students who miss 18 days over the year will likely be off-track in their learning. In addition, students who arrive after the 9 am start of the day miss important instructional time as many of key lessons around literacy and numeracy occur first thing in the morning. If you need help getting your children to school, please contact the office and ask for Janine Lamb, Vice Principal, or one of our Youth and Family Workers or a member of the Indigenous Enhancement team and they will work with you to implement a plan for supporting your child to get to school on time every day.

STUDENT SIGN OUT PROCEDURE

When you pick up your child during the school day, please ensure that you sign them out at the school office. If you do not sign out your child, they will be unaccounted for, and the school will identify your child as a 'missing' student and will commence a search of school grounds. If the school staff do not locate the child, and are unable to reach a parent promptly, the school will call the Vancouver Police Department. Therefore, clear communication is essential for ensuring the safety of your child to prevent unnecessary searches. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe!

NEWSLETTER

We will be sending out a newsletter on a monthly basis. It is important that parents and guardians read them. We use the newsletter to communicate information about all the exciting and interesting events occurring at the school and in the community. After this first newsletter, we will be moving to an electronic version. The electronic version will be emailed to parents and guardians, so please ensure that your email and contact details are up to date. Our newsletter is also posted on our website, and some paper copies will be available at the school office by request.



PACKAGE OF FORMS

Your child will be bringing home a package of various forms next week. Please ensure that all information on the Student Verification Form is current and correct. Also, remember that if there are changes to telephone numbers and emergency contact numbers, please inform the office immediately for your child's safety. Information regarding school fees, agendas, internet use, media release forms and the fine arts fee is also included in the forms to be distributed next week.

BEHAVIOUR EXPECTATIONS

Students are expected to behave in a manner that is courteous, cooperative and considerate. We will continue to implement Strathcona's Code of Conduct which was designed to promote cooperation among children and encourage respect for others and safety when at school.

Our Code of Conduct is: Take care of yourself, Take care of others, Take care of this place.

Welcome Back to a New School Year Everyone!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Friday, September 20 th	Terry Fox Run
Friday, September 21 st	PRO D Day – No School for Students
Thursday, September 27 th	Meet the Teacher – Open House 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Friday, September 28 th	Orange Shirt Day – Recognizing of the harm of the aboriginal residential school system
Tuesday, October 2 nd	Individual Photo Day
Monday, October 8 th	Thanksgiving – School Closed
Wednesday, October 10 th and Thursday October 11 th	Goal Setting Conferences Early Dismissal 2:00 pm
Friday, October 19 th	PRO D Day – No School for Students



STUDENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL: Notice to our students and parents/guardians/ caregivers

The Vancouver School District and our community partners are committed to having safe, caring and inclusive schools. In the event that a student makes a threat of violence or harm to other students, staff or the school community the school will initiate the VSB student risk threat assessment process.

THE VSB STUDENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS

What behaviours initiate a student threat risk assessment?

A Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment will be initiated for behaviours including:

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill;
- Verbal/ written/ drawn threats to harm or kill others;
- Online threats to harm or kills others;
- Possession of weapons (including replicas);
- Bomb threats;
- Fire setting;
- Sexual intimidation or assault; sextortion
- Gang related intimidation and violence

What is a threat?

- An expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something.
- Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, made through gestures or posted on the Internet.

Duty to report threat making behaviour

Maintaining a safe, caring and inclusive school community is the responsibility of everyone in the school community. Students, staff, parents/ guardians/ caregivers and community members must report all threat related behaviours to their school administrator.

Duty to Respond

All threats must be taken seriously and require a response that includes investigation and intervention. Our goal is to respond to threats quickly and in a professional manner, so that we can maintain a safe and caring learning environment.

The school administrator will initiate the threat risk assessment process, according to district protocol. Each school has a multi-disciplinary School Threat Risk Assessment Team which includes the School Administrator(s), Area or School-based Counsellor(s), and School Liaison Police Officer. A school may also involve district resource staff and community partners such as Child and Youth Mental Health in the threat assessment process.

What is the purpose of a Student Threat Risk Assessment?

The VSB student threat assessment process is used to:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- To understand factors contributing to the threat makers' behaviour.
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker.
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What happens in a Student Threat Risk Assessment?

- Information is gathered from multiple sources including open source digital publically available data. This may include interviews with the threat-maker, student(s), staff and parents/ guardians/ caregivers to assess the level of risk.
- The School Threat Assessment Team examines the information collected and in consultation with community partners, determines the level of risk.
- Appropriate intervention plans are developed, implemented and shared with parents/guardians, staff and students, as required. Information shared throughout the risk/threat assessment process will respect the individual's right to privacy and the safety of all.

Can I refuse to participate in the threat assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the Threat Risk Assessment process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring environment for all.

“Thank you for your support of the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program. It has been a long and rewarding partnership and is truly appreciated. Over the years, Kids Plus™ has helped many families, providing much needed reimbursements for out-of-pocket costs. We appreciate your support and we are truly grateful for the part you have played.

We have big news: the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance school distribution program is moving online!

All partner school boards can now access kidsplus.ca/resources for information about Kids Plus™ which they can use on their respective websites, e-newsletters and social media. The main website at kidsplus.ca will continue to be available for parents to purchase coverage, access claims forms and full plan information online. Additionally, for 2018 we've decided to take our mission to be green one step further by discontinuing distribution of all Kids Plus™ Notices (Brochures) to reduce our overall paper use. These changes are part of our ongoing commitment to continuously provide superior and meaningful service to our partners and clients while reducing our impact on the environment.”

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our new promotional landing page, our Kids Plus™ Client Service Specialists would be happy to assist you. You may contact us toll-free at 1-800-556-7411 or email kidsplus@ia.ca.

Sincerely,

Ed Bender
National Vice-President, Special Market Solutions



PAC CORNER

Welcome to September!

If this is your first time at Strathcona you'll find it a strong, active community that takes its diversity seriously.

The PAC (Parent Advisory Council) is made up of parent volunteers. We work with the school, parents and community to build connections, organize events and help give students the best environment we can.

You can find us on Wednesday mornings in the school courtyard running a coffee station by donation, and we are on Facebook under "Lord Strathcona Elementary PAC". We're here to help you, so please come say hi and let us know if you have questions or ideas.

Our first PAC meeting is Wednesday, September 26. Join us for pizza at 6:00pm, and the meeting will start at 6:30. It's a by-election, and we're looking to elect a secretary for this year.

Watch for news about this year's PAC events, including a movie night and the Spring Fair.

Special thanks to last year's PAC volunteers, including David Chen, outgoing chair!

Best regards,
Alec Smecher (PAC chair)
strathconapac@smecher.bc.ca



Community Centre News

COMMUNITY CENTRE FOOD PROGRAMS:

Breakfast starts: Tuesday September 4 - 7:30am - 8:55am (runs on school days)

Cooking fun with families: Monday September 10- 12noon- 3pm (every Monday)

Backpack market program: Friday September 14 - 2pm - 4pm (every Friday including pro-d days)

Community kitchen: Wednesday September 26 - 1:30pm - 3pm (every other Wednesday)

NEW COMMUNITY CENTRE PROGRAMS:

Kids Zumba | Tuesdays 4:30-5:30PM

Mad Science for Kids | Thursdays 3:15-4:15PM

Ukulele Private Lessons | Saturdays at various times

Yoga for Kids | Tuesdays 3:15-4:15PM

Bricks 4 Kidz Lego Building Classes | Thursdays 3:15-4:45PM

Cooking for Pre-Teens with Ryan | Tuesdays 3:15-5:15PM