

LORD STRATHCONA ELEMENTARY

592 East Pender Street

Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1V5

Tel: 604-713-4630

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

PAC Chairperson: Ms. Krista Sigurdson

SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Strathcona families,

Welcome back to Strathcona and the 2019-20 school year! For all of our Kindergarten and new students...a special welcome to you into the Strathcona community! We were able to transition to new classes Thursday morning, and students are settling in nicely. Teachers are eager to move forward with their programs, and students are engaged and ready to learn! We appreciate your patience this past week as we worked through the number crunching and class casting.

I look forward to connecting with many of you in the coming weeks and months! A couple dates to highlight on the September calendar:

- Wednesday, September 18th: PAC Meeting at 6:30-8:00pm
- Friday, 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 25th: Meet the Teacher Night 5:00-6:00pm

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. Sleep experts recommend not using any technology for at least one hour prior to bedtime.
- 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.



Don't forget to check out some useful information & resources for the start of the 2019-2020 school year:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/General_Resources/Back_To_School/Pages/default.aspx

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mark your calendars! Our first Professional Development Day is Monday, September 23rd, 2019. School will not be in session for students on that day. The next Professional Development Day will take place on Friday, October 25th, 2019.



WELCOME

A warm welcome to the following new staff members: Jessica Federico, Alix Moore, Hayley Enns, Claire Bunton, Steve Asdrubale, Nancy Chong, Marie-Antionette Paralleda, Saleszni Kumar, Sonia Gautam, and Sarah Cordingley. Welcome back to Conor Murphy, Anne-Marie Belanger, and Collette Gagne.

MEET THE TEACHERS NIGHT



This year's Meet the Teacher Night will be held on Wednesday, September 25th 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!

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

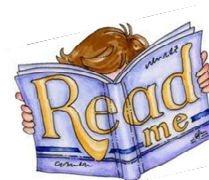
According to the research, students who miss 10 percent of instructional days are placed at significant risk for academic and social challenges. This means, regardless of the reason for absence, students who miss 18 days over the year will likely be off-track in their learning. In addition, students 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. The electronic version of the newsletter 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 in the coming days. 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.

TRAFFIC SAFETY

Traffic Safety tips for parents, students & drivers as kids head back to school:

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Safe_Caring/Traffic-Safety/Pages/default.aspx

ONLINE PAYMENT OF SCHOOL FEES

The Vancouver School Board will now be offering School Cash Online at Lord Strathcona as its preferred method of payment for all school fees, including everything from field trips to yearbooks. This secure system helps parents and community members pay school-related fees safely, quickly and easily online.

The new system puts all of the school fees available to your student online for purchase, keeping you informed of your child's activities and needs. We will post items through the system and assign the relevant fees to your student. You can then choose to purchase these fees online with one of three different methods, including credit cards. You can also stay informed and keep track of which school fees require your attention. The system strictly adheres to Canada's privacy and anti-spam legislation and meets the latest industry standards for payment security.

You are now able to register – a simple process that takes only a few minutes – by visiting <https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com> or visiting our website at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/online-payment> and following directions to the School Cash Online page. You will need your child's usual first name, last name and birth date to register.

Should you encounter any difficulties, you can use the parent help desk at **1 (866) 961-1803** or by visiting schoolcashonline.com/Home/Support.

More information will be sent home with the students in the package of forms.

Welcome Back to a New School Year Everyone!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WHAT'S GOING ON AT STRATHCONA

Friday, September 20 th	Terry Fox Run
Monday, September 23 rd	PRO D Day – No School for Students
Wednesday, September 25 th	Meet the Teacher – Open House 5:00 pm – 6:00 pm
Monday, October 14 th	Thanksgiving – School Closed
Wednesday, October 23 th and Thursday October 24 th	Goal Setting Conferences Early Dismissal 2:00 pm
Friday, October 25 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.



PAC CORNER

Welcome to our school's Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)! You are a voting member of the PAC and you are warmly invited to attend meetings, speak up, volunteer at events, or organize new parent-led initiatives.

In the coming days you will receive a letter from the PAC along with your welcome packages that includes information on donating to the PAC, joining our listserv, and our meeting and event dates for the year. If you didn't receive this letter or the dog ate it, please reach out and I'll send you the info again: krista.sigurdson@gmail.com

The PAC board this year is:

- Chair: Krista Sigurdson
- Secretary: Pam Murray
- Treasurers: Lubica Keighery and Laura Rioux
- Members At large:
- Andrea Glickman (Advocacy)

- Vicky Huang
- Amanda Qian
- Eva Sam (Chinese communication)
- Allan Williams (Elder advisor)
- Erika Xu

Coffee carts this year will be held monthly on the last Friday of the month from 8:30-9:30 with some jogs to account for school closures. Please check the school calendar for coffee cart dates and come say hi! Thank you Wildersnail for donating the coffee!!!

Our first PAC meeting will be held on Sept 18th at 6:30-8pm in the cafeteria. Free dinner at 6pm. Free childcare provided. If you have anything you'd like added to the agenda, please send me an email: krista.sigurdson@gmail.com

There are two ways you can help fundraise for our PAC through shopping:

- by using SPUD (or getting your office/friends to use SPUD) and follow the directions here: www.spud.ca/catalogue/FundRaising.cfm
- by using Mabels Labels (or getting your friends to do so) and use this link: campaigns.mabelslabels.ca

Feel free to reach out with any questions or concerns.

Looking forward to a great year,

Krista

Chair email: krista.sigurdson@gmail.com

General email: pac_str@vsb.bc.ca

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan

The kids plus student accident insurance program has changed and is now called The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP). This coverage is still provided by Industrial Alliance and is a voluntary plan which offers coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is ideal for supplementing costs not covered by provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans.

Families can register online to participate in the Plan by using the URL provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

May the 2019-20 school year be one of achievement, growth, and fond memories!

