



Tecumseh Elementary School

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Greetings, Parents/Guardians of Tecumseh Students!

No sooner did we start to enjoy the smells of pumpkin spice, do we start to hear holiday music on the radio. This school year is off to a roaring start!

Some recent highlights included and will include:

- Halloween celebrations were alive and well at Tecumseh! Many children chose to dress in costume on Halloween day. Many of the staff joined in the fun as well! Earlier in the week, our primary aged students enjoyed some different themed stations created by the primary teachers. On Halloween day, primary students celebrated each other in a wonderful costume parade in the afternoon! Our intermediate students were treated to a flash mob by the teachers/staff as they danced to “Thriller”, which ultimately culminated in a whole intermediate group dance party! Great fun and spirit was displayed by all!
- On November 7th, we held our annual Remembrance Day assembly. We are so proud of how respectful our students were as they participated in this important, solemn gathering. Many classes volunteered to share at the assembly.
 - Poems of peace and remembrance
 - Songs of hope
 - The choir performed a beautiful rendition of “Imagine”
 - Indigenous Veterans Day information was shared to honour and remember the contributions of the Indigenous Peoples
- On November 15, 2019, we conducted our first lock down drill of the year. VPD Constable Gilmore, came to join our drill and was thoroughly impressed with how well our drill was completed! We practice emergency drills throughout the year so that should there be a real emergency, we are all calm and ready.
- Our after school programs are in full swing, with David Thompson Community Schools programming, South Van Neighbourhood House programming, YWCA programming for our Grade 7s as well as Red Apple Heritage Chinese Language Programming. Tecumseh is a busy place with lots of opportunities for kids.
- On November 20, 2019, our Grade 6/7 students met Richard Peter, Indigenous Wheelchair athlete and BC Hall of Famer (https://bcsportshall.com/honoured_member/richard-peter/). Mr. Peter came to Tecumseh through a connection with the Hero in You program offered by the BC Sports Hall of Fame (<https://bcsportshall.com/hero-in-you/>). Mr. Peter shared his

personal story with our students in a powerful presentation our students will not soon forget.

Upcoming school events:

- On November 27th, 2019, two teams of four students will be representing Tecumseh at the Kids Lit Quiz competition at Mount Pleasant Elementary! Last year, one of our teams went all the way to Nationals (in Hamilton, Ontario) and placed second in the nation! We wish our teams the best of luck at this year's competition!
- Many classes are currently rehearsing in their respective classes in preparation of our Winter Concert! This is an annual showcase of the many talented students we have at our school. The show will be performed twice. On Wednesday, December 18, 2019 at 1:00 pm, the show will be performed for the other students in the school. We will be extending an invitation to our students at the Annex to join us in the audience for this fun-filled performance. A small number of chairs will be set-up at the back for parents for this particular performance on Wednesday. On Thursday, December 19, 2019 at 9:15 am, many more chairs will be set up for the "parent/guardian/community show"— classes who will be performing this show, will stage in their classes, so that our parents can fill our gym with their smiles and feelings of pride. Please come and join us if you are able!

We appreciate the students, families and staff that make Tecumseh such a great place to be.

Mr. V. Edwards
Principal

Reporting and Report Cards

This year, every school in the Vancouver School District will be issuing **two** formal, written report cards. The mid-year report will go home to all families at the end of January 2020. The end of year report will go home to all families at the end of June 2020. This year, Tecumseh teachers have decided to complete the reporting in two possible formats:

- Traditional Report Cards will be completed by Divisions 5, 10, 12, 13, 14, 18K, and 19K
- Communicating Student Learning Report Cards (which will be a school district standard across elementary schools in the 2020/2021 school year) will be completed by Divisions 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 9, 11, 15, 16, 17. Please see the attachment for more information regarding the "Communicating Student Learning" reporting method

In the next school year, 2020 – 2021, all Vancouver School District elementary schools will adopt the “Communicating Student Learning” format of progress reporting.

As always, you are welcome to and encouraged to communicate directly with your child’s teacher throughout the school year as you feel necessary, should you wish to discuss your child’s progress thus far. In some instances, our teachers may reach out to families to organize meetings to discuss student progress or challenges. Our teachers continue to be open to work collaboratively with families to provide a rich educational experience. It takes a village!

Traffic around Tecumseh

Thank you to all who have heeded our requests to keep the area immediately adjacent to the school (East side of Commercial Street at East 41st Avenue) clear of vehicle traffic. The street is signed by the City of Vancouver as “No Stopping 8:00 am—5:00 pm”. The rationale behind this signage is to keep the area clear for emergency vehicles should we ever need them. Parking along the curb in this zone creates a bottleneck of traffic as people attempt to pull into Commercial Street from East 41st Avenue, and pull out of Commercial Street to access East 41st Avenue.

Thank you for taking an active part in ensuring students are safe when commuting to and from school.

A very special thank you to our PAC Chair, Ms. Sidhu, who organized Vancouver Community Police to visit our site and hand out reflectors to our students to clip to their backpacks! They come in very useful for visibility on these dark, dreary, wet mornings/evenings!

Lost and Found

Please remember to check the Lost and Found for your child’s items the next time you are in the school. There are daily reminders on our morning announcements for students to claim their items. The Lost and Found is located at the bottom of the stairs in front of the Main Office (inside the Main Entrance facing East 41st Avenue).

All items in the Lost and Found will be packed and donated on December 20, 2019, before we head into Winter Break

Encouraging all students to dress for the weather

We ask students to ensure that they dress for the weather. It comes as no surprise that it rains in Vancouver (a.k.a. RAINcouver). We strongly encourage students to wear a rain jacket and warm/waterproof boots (if possible). Students are welcome to keep a pair of indoor shoes in their classrooms to change into after break times.

In times of heavy rain, we will offer an indoor option for students during breaks. In times of light rain/drizzle, we will be encouraging students to get some fresh air and have some time to run around. Having a chance to move around can be very helpful in allowing students to expel excess energy and allowing students to focus on their learning after their recess/lunch breaks.

We have been encouraging students to be outside on non-rainy days (before school and during break times) to get some fresh air, exercise and socialize with friends. Fresh air does a body good! Please help us, by encouraging the children to dress warmly (perhaps in layers) and be ready for changes in weather.