



Tecumseh Elementary School

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October 2019 Newsletter

As the fall weather approaches and pumpkin spice wafts through the air, we find ourselves grateful to be part of a wonderful school community of support and laughter.

Many highlights of October come to mind:

October found Tecumseh's gymnasium the host of the Federal Election's Advance Polls and as a polling station on Election Day! Staff and students showed great flexibility as we worked with Elections Canada to free up space for the polling. Classes worked on ideas of the importance to exercise our right to vote.

At 10:17 am on October 17th, Tecumseh staff and students participated in the Great BC Shakeout. We practiced our Duck, Cover and Hold On during the province wide earthquake drill. Many classes have had discussions about the importance of practicing drills and how being prepared at school and at home is everyone's responsibility. For more information about Earthquake preparedness, please have a look at the resources available at:

<https://www.shakeoutbc.ca/>

After school programs are in full swing at Tecumseh. The David Thompson Community Schools Team fall programming on Fridays for Grades 1—5 (Super Scientists, Grades 1—3 and Creative Chefs, Grades 4/5), Heritage Chinese Language programming on Thursdays, YWCA Programming for Grade 7s on Fridays as well as South Van Neighborhood House Programming for Grades 4—6). On Mondays (weather permitting), Coach Carrie from Equal Play soccer is on-site at lunch time to provide soccer opportunities for our Grade 3—7 Girls. Also during the school day, on Fridays, we are hosting Ballet BC's DanceXpress, who, through an opportunity provided by our friends at David Thompson Community Schools Team, has come in to provide some dance/movement sessions with our Kindergarten and Grade 1 students.

School teams at Tecumseh continue to be a wonderful opportunity for students to get involved, get active, learn/practice teamwork and learn/practice new skills. Our Cross Country team competed in a series of mini-meets at Champlain Heights, that culminated in a District-Wide Meet held at Trout Lake on October 17th! Our students raced with heart and we are very proud of their efforts! Tecumseh also had a soccer team who played their final in a torrential downpour. Their tenacity and team spirit were impressive as they placed 2nd overall! Many reports of horizontal flying saves into puddles were reported by the coaches! We are so very proud of our students. Thank you to all of the teachers/staff who volunteer their time to

provide these team opportunities for the kids. Thank you to all the parents who volunteered their time to help drive our teams to their competitions! Please encourage your son/daughter to listen carefully to our morning announcers, as new team/sports/clubs opportunities arise, the coaches have this information broadcasted to the school for special meetings and permission slip pick-up.

Our active Library encouraged whole school reading with Drop Everything And Read (D.E.A.R.) on October 21st. After the morning announcement, students and staff spilled into hallways with the reading material of their choice and enjoyed 20 minutes of sustained silent reading. Reading, like learning to play a musical instrument or improving at any other skill, takes practice to become better. What better way than to practice together! Did you know that when a person reads for 20 minutes each day, they average to reading 1.8 million words per year? This is compared to someone who reads 5 minutes per day (282000 words per year). Thank you, Ms. Broadland and Ms. Gill for organizing this fun event for us. Lots of people were “caught” reading and we were happy to be “caught”!

On October 28th, Constable Chan (Vancouver Police Department School Liaison Officer), came to speak to our primary students regarding Halloween safety. Primary students also partook in a pumpkin patch on our grass field. Thank you to Mrs. Evans and the primary team for organizing these fun activities for our primary students. Looking ahead, we will most definitely have some Halloween fun at Tecumseh on Thursday, October 31st! There will be an intermediate assembly at shortly after lunch and a primary assembly/costume exhibition at 2:15 pm. Both of these gatherings will be in the school’s gymnasium.

A few Halloween reminders:

- Students are welcome to come to school in costume if they wish to do so. **Costumes are optional.** Many students enjoy and look forward to seeing other kids (and staff) in costume!
- Please keep in mind, **weapons are not allowed at school at any time**, even if they form part of the costume. **Please leave any items that look like guns/swords/knives/axes, etc. at home** so that they can be a part of your child’s costume for the evening’s festivities. Light sabres are ok!
- Fragile parts of costumes should also be left at home so that they are intact and ready for the evening’s festivities.
- **If your costume is very scary, please be mindful of our youngest students at Tecumseh.** If they look frightened of you, please remember to pull off the mask so that our youngest kids can recognize that it’s just another kid under the mask.

We are looking forward to a very fun day at school on October 31st!

October also brought some new staff members to the Tecumseh Team!

- Ms. Angela Liu joins us on the Supervision Aides Team!

- Ms. Emma Crimp joins us in the Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, Friday job-share position in Division 16 (grade 1) with Ms. Lyman (Wednesdays)! We wish to thank Ms. Mary Lee for all of her hard work with Division 16 for most of September and October. Ms. Lee's incredible professionalism and diligence contributed to a smooth transition for Ms. Crimp.
- Ms. Melanie Monrad joins us at the permanent Vice Principal at Tecumseh Annex starting on November 1st! A very special thank you Mr. Chuck McNicholl (Interim Vice Principal) for his work and assistance in supporting our Annex colleagues since the beginning of the school year. Mr. McNicholl and Ms. Monrad will have some overlap time together at the Annex to ensure a smooth transition for the new Administration.

Last but not least, many thanks to our amazing PAC for their continued advocacy for our students and their fundraising efforts. They are always looking for extra help. Please feel free to contact the PAC via email at: tecumsehelementarypac@gmail.com.

It is with great pleasure and gratitude that I get to come to work at our amazing school. Tecumseh is a gem.

Mr. V. Edwards
Principal