



## Tecumseh Elementary School

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1850 East 41<sup>st</sup> Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5P 1K9  
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December 2020

Warm, holiday greetings, Parents/Guardians of Tecumseh Students!

We are just around the corner from our Winter Break. We hope you will have a safe and restful holiday to recharge before taking on the New Year! A few reminders:

### Winter Concert

Even though we may not gather together in the gym for a formal Winter Concert, many classes continue to work hard at rehearsing and performing for our Winter Concert! As I walk down the hallways, I can hear instruments playing and beautiful voices singing in unison.

This year, a number of classes prepared performances for a **virtual** version of the Winter Concert!

- So that all students in the school get the opportunity to enjoy/celebrate the performances:
  - We video recorded the classes that performed and placed the video in a shared folder that all staff could access
  - Each Classroom Teacher will show their class the recorded performances, at their leisure
  - For each class who performed, the Classroom Teacher will reach out to their class' families and share their own class' performance with them. Example: Division 9's performance will be shared to Division 9's families (either by posting it to their class Team, or sharing a folder with the parents/guardians
    - **We respectfully ask all families that this video footage is for private viewing purposes only and not to be shared widely on social media** (typically, we routinely draw attention to this at all of our live performances, where families use their cell phones to film the live performances)
- **Please know, we cannot widely share the entire collection of performances with all of our families:**
  - *Some families have not given media consent to film their child*, in these instances, teachers have reached out to the family to seek "one time permission for this specific performance"—if granted, the student was included in the filming.
  - In some instances "one time permission for this specific performance" was not granted, or we did not hear back from the parents/guardians prior to filming—the student was still part of the performance or production of the performance, but the video recording was framed carefully so that the student was not filmed.

We are so fortunate to have a vibrant music/fine arts program at our school with many talented teachers, who also happen to be accomplished musicians/performers in their own right! Lucky us!

### **Lost and Found**

Please encourage your child(ren) to check the Lost and Found for your child's items. The Lost and Found is located at the bottom of the stairs in front of the Main Office. All items will be packed and donated before we head into Winter Break at the end of day on December 18<sup>th</sup>.

### **In the event of poor weather/snow closure**

By 6:00 am, the VSB will post information about snow closure on its website at [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://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)

Please check the VSB website or listen to the radio/TV stations listed above to learn about **school closures (poor weather situations)**. Please do not call media stations to inquire about school closures/snow days.

### **So many different celebrations occur in December!**

With winter break on the horizon it is a time of *many* different holidays and types of celebrations including (but not limited to) Hanukkah, Winter Solstice, Christmas and Kwanzaa.

Some Multi-faith Observances and Celebrations in December:

- Month of December – Indigenous Spirituality – *Ththikopiwipisim* – (Hoar Frost Moon/Month of getting ready for winter).
- Hanukkah 2020: From nightfall on December 10—Nightfall on December 18
- December 21—Winter Solstice
- December 25—Christmas Day
- December 26—Kwanzaa (until January 1)

### **Some thoughts about the holiday season**

Last year, in the December newsletter I reflected upon my own experiences as a kid during the holiday season. I realized that the things I remember most were the *experiences* over the *things* I was fortunate enough to receive.

For our families new to Tecumseh, here is a short excerpt from last December's newsletter:

*I remember curling up and watching holiday movies with my parents (and fighting over who was hogging all the blankets—it was me), staying up late, getting the opportunity to go to McDonald's for a hot chocolate, playing with friends while my parents played mah-jong with their parents into the night (and struggling to stay awake long enough so we could play some more), hanging out with cousins, baking with my mom (who was not a baker) and ending up making drink coasters rather than cookies, and so many more. The time I had with family and friends is what sits with me now as an adult, not so much the "stuff" I received.*

It is a stressful and busy time of year, but as I reflect upon my own experience, I can see that as much as my parents stressed about finding me the perfect toy or book, or... It was my time with them and the experiences we shared that truly meant the most.

We wish you the most wonderful Winter Break and hope that you will have many opportunities to create memories with your kids. To laugh and love and really enjoy your time together.

Be safe and well.

We look forward to seeing you after the break, on January 4, 2021!

Sincerely,

Mr. V. Edwards  
Principal, Tecumseh Elementary School