



Tecumseh Elementary School

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October 2020 Newsletter

It feels like we just started our school year and here we are in deep into October already! I am grateful to be part of such a wonderful community of support and laughter.

Many highlights of October come to mind:

On October 5th and 6th, we had our first fire drills of the year. This year, we are very mindful of large congregations of people outside at a time. To mitigate this, we have split our fire drills for Group A students (Divisions 1&2, 5&6, 9&10, 13&14 and 17&18) on one day, and Group B students (Divisions 3&4, 7&8, 11&12 and 15&16) on another day. Our students practiced evacuating the building in a calm and quiet manner. Throughout the year, we will continue to practice our safety drills including more fire drills, earthquake drills and lockdown drills. We understand the importance of practicing emergency drills, so that in the event of a real emergency, we automatically know what to do.

On October 13th, we welcomed back a number of children who were previously in Option 4— Learning from Home Transition Support to Option 1—In person instruction! It was so great to see the many smiling faces of our students who were able to return. School is a fun place to be with all of its learning opportunities and social interactions. I have mentioned before that the students are the pulse of the school. The pulse at school grew stronger in October!

At 10:15 am on October 15th, Tecumseh staff and students participated in the Great BC Shakeout. We practiced our Duck, Cover and Hold On emergency procedures 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/>

In Library News...

Our active library encouraged whole school reading with Drop Everything and Read (D.E.A.R.) on October 26th! Students and staff participated in this fun event with 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”!

Our library remains open for our Option 4 students to come by invitation to borrow books from the library! Students are encouraged to reach out to their teachers to arrange for a time to come to the school to borrow some books for home reading! Curbside pickup of library books happens every Monday from 9:10am-9:40am

Virtual Book Fair

Tecumseh’s Book Fair is going online, so save the date! From November 2nd-16th, discover the newest books hot off the press, from the comfort of your home. **You will be able to shop using this link once it goes live on Monday, November 2nd:**

tinyurl.com/yy4nwffe

Orders are delivered right to your home! Free shipping on orders over \$35, otherwise shipping is \$6. Bonus: Every purchase supports our school library and keeps kids' reading. Thanks for your support!

Ms. Broadland & Ms. Gill
Tecumseh Teacher-Librarians

Halloween!

On October 30th, we look forward to some Halloween fun at Tecumseh! Here are 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. I wonder what my costume will be this year?
- 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 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 Halloween night’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.
- Remember that all break times are outside in the fresh air—if parts of the costume are fragile or not weather resistant, please plan ahead to be ready to go outside for the breaks. Some students may choose to remove their costume and leave it in their classroom before they head outside in their rain gear.

- This year, due to Covid-19 Health and Safety Protocols, we are **not sharing food** at school. Please do not send food to school to share with other children in the class.

We are looking forward to a very fun day at school on October 30th!

With gratitude:

- Thank you to Ms. Bain, who came to Tecumseh to assist with providing Learning From Home Transition Support to our students who chose Option 4. Your assistance has been and continues to be greatly appreciated!
- Thank you to Mr. Chang, for assisting on our Resource Teacher Team for September and October! Please join me in welcoming Ms. Kendler, who will be working as part of the Tecumseh Resource Teacher Team on Wednesdays until March 2021.
- Thank you to our amazing PAC for their continued advocacy for our students and staff. 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