



We respectfully acknowledge that we live, work, learn, and play on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples – skwx wú7mesh (Squamish), selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and xwməθkwey̓ əm (Musqueam) nations.

September 16, 2021

Tennyson Admin Team Message

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year! It has been wonderful seeing our students back at Tennyson for a year full of learning experiences. Students have now transitioned to their new classes. We wanted to thank all of our staff and our parents for making this a positive and exciting experience for students. Research and experience tells us that a positive school climate and positive and productive family-school relationships have a strong effect on student learning and their overall experience in school. We very much appreciate our staff who work very hard every day with our students, and our families who do the same. We look forward to a great year working together!



Families Dropping Off/Picking Up Students – How you can help!



Traditionally at Tennyson many of our families wait with younger students before and after school, and enjoy time talking with one another on the school grounds. With our current space, it is really important that students go to their Division line-up upon arrival, and that adults refrain from congregating on the grounds. Please drop your child off and know that they are in good hands on the school grounds – we have staff supervision right before and after school. Also, TOSS and YMCA use our outdoor spaces after school; if too many families are congregating after school, the programs cannot use the outdoor space in the same manner. The out-of-school care providers ask that families head off the grounds after school and consider using parks or other areas. We love seeing our Tennyson families of course, but our tight space during construction means that we really need everyone’s collaboration and co-operation.

Principal: Douglas Roch
Vice Principal: Kateryna McNicol
Admin Assistant: Veronica D’Angelo



Director of Instruction: Richard Zerbe
Liaison Trustee: Fraser Ballantyne
PAC Co-Chairs: Tai Scott

Bell Schedule

Instruction begins at 9am, and ends at 3:03pm each day this year. Students will be dismissed at 3:03. We currently have split recess/lunch times for primary and intermediate students, to accommodate all of our students on our grounds. These times are subject to shift for operational reasons, in which case we would communicate this to families.



Recess/Lunch Recess Times

Primary (K-3)	Recess #1: 10:30-10:50	Lunch Recess #2: 11:20-12:07pm
Intermediate (4-7)	Recess #1: 10:55-11:15	Lunch Recess #2: 12:13-1:00pm

Student Photo Day – Sept 20, 2021

Photo Day is a bit earlier this year. It will be conducted on Monday Sept 20th, by Mountain West studios in our library. Students not present for the photo will be offered a re-take day at a later date.



Meet the Teacher – Virtual Format

As we did last year, classroom teachers in will have an opportunity for families to meet them “virtually”. The majority of our teachers will have a form of “virtual Meet the Teacher” on Sept 23rd, at 5pm or 5:30pm. The format and in some cases, the date or time, may vary slightly. Teachers will contact their families with more information. Kindergarten families have already met their children’s teacher.



Staff Updates

We are pleased to welcome back our amazing and talented teachers and support staff. Please join us in welcoming the following new staff members to Tennyson:

- Mme Emma Pearce (Division 17 Teacher)
- Mme Fatima Elhaddaoui (Division 11 Teacher)
- M Yves Ma (Division 8 teacher, now with us on a permanent basis)
- Mme Rachael Doyle (PE/Health Teacher)
- Mme Natasha Rodriguez (School and Student Support Worker)
- M Alain Thibault (Division 4 teacher, with us until Mme Renee returns in October)

You can find a list of Tennyson Staff members on our school website. Here is the link:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/lord-tennyson/About-Us/OurStaff/Pages/default.aspx?rf=712ff967-0c6f-4607-bc86-5602a3a24c7a>

Federal Election 2021 – We’re a Polling Station

Most VSB elementary schools this year will be polling stations for the September 20th Federal Election Day. As in past years, we work with Elections Canada staff to have signage to guide voters to our gym (through the North grounds entrance off West 10th directly through the exterior gym door), so that we do not have voters wandering the grounds or inside other parts of the building, We will place very clear visual cues outside near the gym to delineate the off-limits play spaces. As the W 10th entrance may be a bit busier than usual depending on when voters arrive, please consider having students enter and exit from the Maple Street and W 11th entrances for this day only. Some of our intermediate students are learning about government and the electoral process, and we are hoping they will get a quick glance, even if through the window, of democracy in action, and then discuss the electoral process.

Forms, Fees, and Parent/Guardian Contact Info

We have been preparing an envelope for each student containing important forms for you to sign and to return to school. It is important that the Student Verification Information sheet is reviewed and updated. These envelopes will soon go out to families, with a requested return by the following week. In the envelope is a checklist of forms within. Please note that the walking field trip permission slip will be sent separately by the classroom teacher – please return it by the September 27th deadline, or sooner.



We will continue to use SchoolCashOnline to accept payments for all fees to the school. Please see the brochure later in this newsletter for how to use SchoolCashOnline, how to sign up if you do not have an account, and a FAQ.



Safe Arrival – Student Attendance

We will continue to use the district Safe Arrival line to report student absences. This is effective immediately. Please call (604) 713-5426, and press 1 for Safe Arrival (there is a prompt). You will then leave a message for the office. **It is vital that all absences are called into the school prior to 9am.**

Students Arriving Late to School or Leaving Early

It is very important that students are accounted for. If your child arrives to school late, they should check in at the office and then go to class. It is also important that students leaving the school prior to 3pm on a given day are signed out. Since the school building is currently restricted to students and staff, please let the classroom teacher know. When you are about to arrive or have just arrived at the school, please come to the front door and ring the doorbell, or call the office, and a staff member will release your child to you. We need to physically see that they go with their parent/guardian.

Looking for Volunteers for Intermediate Lunchtime Walks to Connaught Park

We are planning for interested intermediate students to have the opportunity to go to Connaught Park for one lunchtime per week, with parent consent, and weather-permitting. This gives the students the opportunity to enjoy a designated area in the park, with students of their grade. Students would be accompanied by a supervision aide and one or several parent volunteers. If you would like to volunteer to accompany the students to and from the park between about noon and 1pm, please email the school at tennyson@vsb.bc.ca. We are still working on the specific days that students/grade levels would go to the park, so please let us know when you are available and we will see it can match up. Volunteers will be required to follow health protocols and are also required to read and sign a VSB Volunteer Conduct Agreement that outlines some VSB policies. Thank you for considering helping us to make this great opportunity for our intermediate students a reality!



Communications from the School

At Tennyson, we use our website and email to share our newsletter, communicate upcoming events, and for other important information. Please check the school website on a regular basis. When a newsletter or flyer is posted, we will email a link to all families. Please ensure your email is up to date, and that you know if our communications are going into a folder that is not your main inbox.

The school website is: <http://tennyson.vsb.bc.ca>

Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) also sends messages to families via email, and posts to their website. The PAC website is: www.lordtennyson.ca

Dressing for the Weather

At Tennyson, students are outside for ALL recesses. It is important that students dress for the weather. This includes having jackets, water-proof gear and boots when it rains, and sun protection for sunny days. Some teachers will ask students to have two pairs of shoes at school.



Allergy Awareness – Peanuts and Tree Nuts

Please note that we are an *allergy aware* school. We have a number of students with severe allergies to peanuts, tree nuts, and nut products (peanut butter, Nutella, etc). **We ask that everyone avoid bringing lunches and snacks with these ingredients as such ingredients can be dangerous to others.** We have noticed that students sometimes bring Nutella sandwiches to school. Please note that this spread contains nuts and can be potentially dangerous to others. Please try to avoid such spreads. We also ask students to wash hands before and after eating. We appreciate our families working together in this regard.





Medical Conditions

1. Please ensure that the school is informed of any medical condition that may require emergency care at school, ie: anaphylaxis, diabetes, seizures, severe asthma and serious heart conditions.
2. A “Medical Administration” form, completed by a physician, is required for any medication being dispensed by a school staff member. Copies of these forms are available in the office.
3. Parents choosing to keep medication such as an epi-pen or inhaler in the First Aid area at school are responsible for checking expiry dates and providing new supplies as needed.

Parking Around the School

Please be aware of parking restrictions around the school. We have been hearing of families getting tickets in these zones, as the neighbourhood is patrolled regularly by City parking enforcement. Please be cognizant of the restricted areas and avoid parking in the prohibited zones, as you are highly likely to receive a ticket.



Construction Update

The contractor continues to work on what will be our new school grounds. The new anticipated completion date for the remainder of our school site is late December, 2021. The Project Office and contractor are anticipating having the zone for our new second playground ready for late October. The seeded and irrigated grass field will take the remainder of the school year to “take”, and we look forward to it being available for us once we are able to use it.

Combined Classes

Sometimes schools have questions about combined classes (eg. A class with Grade 6 & 7 students, 5 & 6 students, and so forth). Here is a VSB document that is intended to answer parent questions (you may need to copy and paste):

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/General_Resources/combined-class/Documents/sbfile/180621/combined-classes-brochure-web.pdf

Tennyson School & District Code of Conduct

All VSB schools have a school code of conduct that students, staff, families, and visitors are expected to follow as is developmentally appropriate. Here is the link to ours:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/lord-tennyson/About-Us/Publications/Documents/Tennyson%20Code%20of%20Conduct%20-%20rev%20October%202020.pdf>

Here is a link to the VSB Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol (Fair Notice to Parents/Guardians):

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Safe_Caring/Student_Threat_Risk_Assessment/Documents/VSB%20-%20Student%20Threat%20Risk%20Assessment%20Protocol-Fair%20Notice.pdf



Competency-Based Curriculum



Did you know that schools across the province are working to implement a redesigned curriculum, in which content areas are addressed around the building of core competencies in students? This curriculum embeds First People’s principles of learning into all subject areas, as well. Here is a description of core competencies (from the Ministry of Education website):

The core competencies along with literacy and numeracy foundations and essential content and concepts are at the centre of the redesign of curriculum and assessment. Core competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep learning and life-long learning.

Thinking: The thinking competency encompasses the knowledge, skills and processes we associate with intellectual development. It is through their competency as thinkers that students take subject-specific concepts and content and transform them into a new understanding. Thinking competence includes specific thinking skills as well as habits of mind, and metacognitive awareness.

Communication: The communication competency encompasses the set of abilities that students use to impart and exchange information, experiences and ideas, to explore the world around them, and to understand and effectively engage in the use of digital media.

Personal and Social: Personal and social competency is the set of abilities that relate to students' identity in the world, both as individuals and as members of their community and society. Personal and social competency encompasses the abilities students need to thrive as individuals, to understand and care about themselves and others, and to find and achieve their purposes in the world



Tennyson PAC News

The first Parent Advisory Council meeting will be on Sept 27 at 7pm on Zoom. All Tennyson parents/guardians are welcome!

Here is the Tennyson PAC website: www.lordtennyson.ca



IMPORTANT DATES

Please check the school and PAC websites for the ongoing addition of items and events

Sept 20: Student Photo Day

Sept 20: Federal Election – Tennyson gym is a polling station

Sept 23: Meet the Teacher Virtual Format (this may vary between divisions)

Sept 27: PAC Meeting @ 7pm on Zoom

Sept 24: Professional Development Day (students not in attendance)

Sept 29: Orange Shirt Day for Truth & Reconciliation

Sept 30: National Day for Truth & Reconciliation – students not in attendance

