



SIR WILLIAM VAN HORNE ELEMENTARY

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VAN HORNE NEWS

We acknowledgs that we live, work and play on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples –
xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish), and Səlílwataʔ/Selilwitulh (Tsleil-Waututh) Nations

T.E.A.M

TREAT ourselves, others & environment with respect
ENCOURAGE and support each other
ACT in a safe and responsible way
MAKE every effort to achieve

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Mr. Stephen Leung - Principal
Ms. Marianna Cianelli - Administrative Assistant
Ms. Jessica Thorburn - Extra Clerical
School Board Trustee: Janet Fraser
Director of Instruction: Alison Ogden

- PRINCIPALS MESSAGE -

Dear Parent(s) and Guardian(s),

Welcome back!

Before I begin what would be a typical first newsletter, I wanted to take this opportunity to express my gratitude to the Van Horne parent community. I wanted to make sure all of you understand how appreciative I am for the way all of you have handled the beginning to this school year. None of us have done any of this before. It is all new. It was and is probably not as smooth as we would all like. Despite all the changes coming at all of us, the parents and families have handled it all with classy composure. What it takes is flexibility, calmness, kindness, and caring and all of you have shown this. I am very proud of this community and I look forward to seeing all of you in the hallways in the hopefully not too distant future. Now on to our regular business.

I hope you and your children had as fun and relaxing summer as possible. I would like to extend a special welcome to our new students and their families – we are happy to have you join our Van Horne community.

Van Horne is pleased to welcome the following new staff members: Ms. Michelle Tan (resource teacher/librarian), Ms. Ivon Leung (School and Student Support Worker), Ms. Rosemary Mahnger (School and Student Support Worker), and Ms. Rea Dimatulac (School and Student Support Worker). We are also welcoming the following people who will be with us for varying amounts of time: Ms. Amanda Leung (School and Student Support Worker), Ms. Natsuko Fujii (School and Student Support Worker), Ms. Kimberly Wong (Kindergarten Teacher), Ms. Monica Taeidi (Grade 5/6 Teacher), and Ms. Polly Novak (Prep Teacher).

At this point I also want to give my well-wishes to Mr. Paul Milne and Ms. Judy Cottrell. Mr. Milne has moved on to teach in another school district and Ms. Cottrell has retired from teaching/Librarian after a long a successful career.

We have begun our 2020-2021 school year in a different way from our usual start. This year, students began the school year immediately in their new classes and did not report to their last year's teacher. We are now operating on our regular schedule from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Staggered recess and lunch schedules are in effect and classes have been organized into learning cohort groups.

Newsletters will be emailed to parents and posted on our school website each month. Please ensure that you have supplied the school with your email address.

This year we will all have to be extra mindful that things are not the same as previous years. Our old ways of doing things will need to change. None of us have done this before. As such, it is helpful to remember that the change will be messy and we can all make it through this if we support one another, show understanding, kindness, caring and compassion, and most of all be flexible. I promise you that we at the school will do our absolute best to make it as smooth as possible and to always keep health and safety at the top of our priority list.

A new school year brings excitement, anticipation, and often a little anxiety for children - and parents! You can help by being encouraging and helping your child to approach new opportunities positively. With support from parents and school staff, children typically adjust very quickly.

I am personally looking forward to seeing all our returning students and meeting those students that are new to our school.

On behalf of the Van Horne staff, welcome to the 2020 -2021 school year!

Take care,

Stephen Leung
Principal

HEALTH AND SAFETY

As we begin the school year, I would like to reassure our families that the District’s guiding principles as students’ return to school has health and safety being a top priority. We follow the PHO and MOE Health and Safety guidelines and we ask that you please adhere to the following to avoid congestion and gathering on the school grounds:

- Students report immediately to their designated area, they are physically distancing and minimizing physical contact
- Arrive as close to the bell as possible and leave the school grounds as soon as students are dismissed
- Parents are asked to be mindful of maintaining physical distancing at pick up and drop off and if possible and maintain physical distancing
- Make your way away from the school immediately upon drop off and pick up
- Contact the school office if your child is late and/or is being picked up for an appointment
- No public access to the school buildings. Only VSB staff and students are permitted in the buildings

It is very important, for the safety of staff and students, that we follow the guidelines of the provincial health officer and that we model the way we are working and playing at school. Please help us in keeping families, students and staff safe by following the above guidelines and protocols in place.

A reminder that parents must assess their child daily for symptoms of common cold, influenza, COVID-19 or other infectious respiratory disease before sending your child to school. If your child is ill, they must remain home. If you are unsure of your child’s health condition or if they have COVID19-like symptoms, contact 811 for guidance and/or consult with your family doctor prior to sending them back to school.

To help maintain a healthy learning environment, staff, families and students are asked to practice good hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette (i.e. coughing and sneezing into your sleeve). Please review with your child the safety protocols on a regular basis and ensure that you have returned the signed copy of the Daily Health Assessment to your child’s teacher.

Update on coming to school and leaving school

After a couple of weeks, we have had the opportunity to reassess how we are handling picking up and dropping off of kids each day. Very soon you will receive information from your child’s teacher around a new procedure we are going to implement. This new procedure is to help all of you by making it easier for you to practice physical distancing. Please follow the new procedures for everyone’s safety

Daily Health Assessment Form

We would like to share some information with you regarding new health and safety measures. Attached here you will find a new version of the daily check in. It is shorter and more specific to Covid-19. There is no need to sign and send this to the school. It simply replaces the sheet you already have at home. Please use it each day with your child before sending him/her to school.

Vancouver School Board policy is that every child must fill this form before attending school. A reminder will be sent home to families that have still not returned the signed form. This is the Daily Assessment Form sent home the first week of school. Please ensure you sign and return to your child’s teacher as soon as possible. You can also email the form to mcianelli@vsb.bc.ca Please note this form is only to be sent to the school once.

The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan

The Kids Plus Student accident insurance program has changed and is now called The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP). This coverage provided by Industrial Alliance and is a voluntary plan which offers coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is ideal for supplementing costs not covered by provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans. Students injured at school will be covered.

Families can register online to participate in the Plan by using the URL provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

If you have questions about the program you can contact Industrial Alliance directly using the following contact information:

Phone: 1.800.266.5667

Email: solutions@ia.ca

A student in Division 18 would like to remind you all the importance of



2020 – 2021 SCHOOL FEES & AGENDA FEE INFORMATION ALONG WITH OTHER IMPORTANT CONSENT FORMS

School Fee

The School Supply Fee will be \$35 per student in grade K-7. All school fees need to be paid online via our School Cash online system. If you have not already done so please register for online payment at <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com> The fee is due by Friday, October 9th, 2020. **Students Learning from Home, option 4, school fees will be prorated. You will pay for them upon your return to the school.** The Vancouver School Board offers this service to parents to purchase basic school supplies in bulk at wholesale prices to pass the cost-savings on to families. This fee covers the cost of supplies used for students' personal use such as paper, writing tools, rulers, scissors, glue sticks, erasers and exercise books. Since teachers sometimes require additional items for the students to work with, you may be asked for a few specific supplies as the year progresses. Note that the Vancouver School Board will waive the fee if there is a need due to financial hardship. If you would like the fee waived, please contact Mr. Leung either via email or by calling the office.

Your child's 2020-2021 Student package will be prepared the week of September 28th and will be sent home by Friday, October 2nd with your child. When you receive the package, please complete and sign all forms, complete payments online and return all necessary documents to your child's homeroom teacher **all stapled together**. Please do not take apart.

School Agenda Fee

Students in Grades 1-7 received an agenda. Agenda fees are \$7.00 per student. This item has been added to our School Cash online system. Please pay for the agendas online. Students Learning at Home, option 4. If you would like to purchase an Agenda before coming back to school, please pay online and you can call the office at 604-713-4965 to arrange for pick up.

Please do not combine payments with other siblings class. **Additional fees for separate programs/books such as Music, Jump Math, Wordly Wise and Field Trips will be sent home from individual teachers. Going forward all payments need to be made online. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

For all new families to Van Horne, I will send you a step by step on how to create an account on the KEV-School Cash Online System so you are ready to make payments online. To register for School Cash Online: <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com/>

2020 – 2021 IMPORTANT MESSAGES

VAN HORNE TECHNOLOGY POLICY:

Technology can be an important part of the student learning experience. Van Horne is able to provide students with access to technology when required by the teacher.

Our policy:

In general, we ask that students do NOT bring technology, such as tablets and smartphones etc. to school.

The reasoning:

The school is not able to safeguard these devices and is not able to replace them should they be lost, damaged, or stolen. There have been many incidences of students using these devices out on the playground during recess or lunch, unsupervised, to access internet sites etc. The school takes seriously student safety and access to websites in this manner cannot be supervised and thus poses a risk. While the school district has firewalls, the firewall is not able to guarantee 100% safety.

However:

Some teachers MAY, on occasion, ask their students to bring technology for projects etc. Also, some parent(s)/guardian(s) may want their students to have access to a phone for safety reasons.

With this in mind:

Bringing technology to school is a decision parents must make. If brought to school, technology should stay in backpacks and not be accessed during school hours, unless directed to by teachers at school. For our purposes, we will count the minute students step on school property until 3pm as "School Hours". Teachers will teach responsible use of technology to students.

Action:

If a student is seen accessing these devices without permission from school adults, students will be given one request to put them away. Non-compliance or repeated offences will result in the device being secured by the classroom teacher or Principal and parents will need to arrange to pick up the devices personally. Parents, please discuss this with your child. This will also be reviewed with all students by school staff at our next assembly.

Thank you for your cooperation.

SAFE ARRIVAL PROGRAM

Reporting Student Absences:

Please note, like all schools in the Vancouver School Board, Van Horne Elementary has a Safe Arrival Program when reporting your child's absences.

Student safety is of paramount importance at the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences. If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on a dedicated answering service by calling **604-713-5159 Ext. 90**. Messages will be received before the office is open. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.

Student Sign Out Procedure

If you need to pick up your child before 3:00pm, please make sure you have sent a note or an email to your child’s teacher. The teacher will send your child to the office at the appropriate time for pick up. When you have arrived at the school, please call the office and the office staff will bring your child to meet you from the main front the door. Please meet your child at the front of the school (gate entrance on Ontario street). The office staff will sign out your child at the office.

Student signing in late Procedures

It is very important that all students arrive to school on time. The bells rings 9:00am for classes to being coning into the school. For the safety of the Van Horne community and as per the Vancouver School Board safety protocols, If your child arrives late, please call the office at 604-713-4965 and the office staff will come out and meet your child at the front door. For the students who are not with a parent/guardian but arrive to school late, they should wait outside the main front door.

MESSAGE FROM FROM THE PAC

A MESSAGE FROM THE PAC

Dear Fellow Parent/Guardian,

Below you'll find information on [how to join](#) your division's WhatsApp group, should you wish to.

WhatsApp groups are a great way for parents to share division-specific information as well as to support each other at the classroom-level. When we [network these groups together](#), it becomes an efficient way to share relevant PAC news or urgent messages with the community. We do our best to limit and summarize what we share.

Contact your class rep listed in the link below and they'll guide you on how to join your division's group. Of course, there's no obligation to join.

Find your class rep here:
<https://mailchi.mp/d2c0ac5e2642/join-your-division-whatsapp-group-2020>

GROUND RULES

To limit distractions for busy parents, here are some ground rules:

- 1. **School-related:** Please keep messages relevant to school life..
- 2. **Permission:** Don’t add a parent to the group without their explicit permission.
- 3. **Respect downtime:** Be mindful of unnecessary messaging to your group during down times (in the evening or on the weekends).

If you would like to receive messages information via email from the Van Horne PAC and added to their email distribution list, please sign up at <http://vanhornepac.com/email>

Regards,

Gregg Sayer
President
Van Horne PAC

HOUSE COLORS AND CHALLENGES 2020-2021

As we did in the previous year, students, families and staff will remain in the same house color for their duration of learning at Van Horne Elementary. All new students and staff have now been added to their new house color. Your teacher will have an updated list. When you login into TEAMS you will see your house color channel. If you don’t see your house color channel on TEAMS, please send Ms. Cianelli and email at mcianelli@vsb.bc.ca **Our house colors are Green, Yellow, Red and Purple**

Our first challenge will take place next week. “Bike to School Week”
Hey kids, why can't a bike stand up by itself? Because it's two-tired! Next week is "Bike to School Week". Come with your bikes as many times you can, track your trips in your classroom, and get some great prizes, such as Athletic Masks, Gift Cards and Cineplex passes. Also, whichever school house has the most bike rides for the week will be awarded extra points! "

ORANGE SHIRT DAY!

Orange Shirt Day – September 30, 2020

Every year we take time to share awareness of Canada’s history with regards to the Residential School System. This year, there is an additional opportunity I am sharing with you here. I hope you are able to take advantage of it.
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_UPxh8td3Sa2UFQ7M1W2PTA?mc_cid=d4d0531873&mc_eid=50818c5421



[Welcome! You are invited to join a webinar: A Conversation with Phyllis Webstad, Founder of Orange Shirt Day. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email about joining the webinar.](#)

Native Northwest invites you to an intimate conversation with Orange Shirt Day founder Phyllis Webstad. Phyllis, who will be telling her family's story, will be joined by Haida Now curator and Native Northwest orange shirt designer, Kwiaahwah Jones.

us02web.zoom.us

THANK YOU VAN HORNE COMMUNITY

