



École Cleveland Elementary School

North Vancouver School District

Parent and Community Update

Friday, November 6th, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

November is upon us, and with it, the beautiful change of seasons, dropping temperatures, and the prospect of a Report Card coming home soon!

We would like to thank our parents and community members for the diligence in making sure that their kids are picked up and heading home shortly after the dismissal bell at 3:00 pm. It really has made a difference over the past 10 days, as we see much more limited interaction between the students of different Learning Groups (classes) on the playground, after the bell. We really appreciate the community taking our concerns seriously and assisting with what we saw as a potential hot spot.

We also must remind parents as well, that the inside of the school is off limits to all except students and staff. If your child has forgotten a lunch, or shoes, or a raincoat, or anything else, you MAY NOT go into the class to drop it off. You MUST come around to the front entrance of the school, and call the office number, and a staff member will come out and get it from you and take it to your child.

We know we can count on our parents to support us, as all of our precautions and procedures and protocols are there for the safety of your little ones!

Second Step

As you are aware, British Columbia developed a new skills-based curriculum. For the last five years, we have been working to implement a skills-based approach across our classes in Kindergarten through grade 5. This curriculum is based around three core competencies: Communication, Thinking, and Social-Emotional. A focus on core competencies in all curricular areas fosters life-long skills children will need for success in their lives ahead: communicating clearly, critical thinking, creative thinking, knowing themselves as learners, and working with others.

In support of our Personal Social core competency, this year at Cleveland we are implementing a new program school-wide, called Second-Step. It is a research-based program which teaches age-appropriate social-emotional learning skills. Extensive research in the last decade has shown us that a school-wide focus on social emotional learning can lead to improved academic success, fewer negative behaviours, improved attitudes, and reduced emotional stress. These skills in the long-term can foster increased school success, peer relations, and sense of belonging.





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Each week, teachers will explore new lessons with their classes. You can expect information to see information sent home each week about the week's focus, key language, and ways to reinforce it at home.

The K-5 program is based on four main units: skills for learning, empathy, emotional management, and problem solving. You will see these same four themes explored across the grades. The grade 6-7 curriculum will expand on these skills to target: growth mindset, goal setting, emotions, and conflict-resolution.

Feel free to reach out to your child's classroom teacher, Principal Bill Reid, or Vice Principal Laura Stewart for more information about the program, or visit www.secondstep.org to learn more.

We look forward to working with you to roll out this exciting program at Cleveland!

TERM 1 Parent Teacher Interviews and Early Dismissal

Term 1 comes to an end on Friday, December 11, and Term 1 Reports will be published to the Portal that afternoon. In support of the Term 1 Reporting period, we will be dismissing students early, at 2:00 pm on Tuesday November 17 and Thursday November 18. This will facilitate the scheduling of remote parent teacher meetings to discuss the progress of your child. If you haven't already, you will be hearing from your child's teacher soon.

Pumpkin Patch 2020

What Fun! Many of you assisted or had a chance to see our wonderful pumpkin patch at Cleveland on the morning of October 22nd.

It provided a magical opportunity for our Primary students to participate in our traditional pumpkin patch visit, while we are under COVID restrictions. If we couldn't take our students to the patch, we could bring it here! [Read all about it here](#)

Wildlife of the School Grounds

The past couple of weeks have seen a clear increase in the variety and number of wildlife incidents we have seen and heard about in the community.

In particular we have been dealing with pesky coyotes. Please keep in mind, while they are typically small and generally avoid human contact, they appear to have become habituated to this area, likely by an abundant food supply. Please make every effort to eliminate any attractants that could tempt any wildlife in and around your homes and yards.

We have been in contact with the Wildlife and Conservation Branch several times, and they have provided us with advice for cohabiting with these indigenous animals.

Read all about co-habiting with [wolves and coyotes](#) here



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Christmas Bureau

Make a gift to the Christmas Bureau and give hope and joy this holiday season
Many of our North Shore neighbours need our help – especially during the holiday season.

Ways to donate: We know there are reasons why people are having a hard time, and that no one struggles without cause. From job loss to illness to mental health challenges and gender-based violence, the most vulnerable members of our community deserve our care and support.

The Christmas Bureau ensures that low-income families, individuals, and seniors living in North Vancouver, West Vancouver, Lions Bay, and on Bowen Island can celebrate the holidays. Christmas Bureau recipients have an average annual household income of \$16,858, and in 2019, the program supported nearly 2,100 people living in our North Shore community.

If you or your family would like to receive support from the Christmas Bureau, you can learn more [here](#).

If you would like to volunteer with the Christmas Bureau, you can learn more [here](#).

This volunteer-run program has two components, **The Toy Shop** – this year our volunteers will put together Toy packages for our families, from the Christmas Bureau Toy Shop. **Holiday gift baskets** – filled with grocery gift cards, wrapped presents for each family member, personal care necessities (such as toothpaste and soap), and other festive items which are generously provided by sponsors who are matched with qualified families, individuals, and seniors.

How it works: Trained staff and volunteers interview each applicant to ensure they qualify for support. Applicants must provide proof of income and residence, and show valid medical cards for each child in the household.

The Christmas Bureau offers a variety of ways for you to make a difference:

Make a financial gift: Your financial gift will help the Christmas Bureau staff and more than 200 volunteers operate the program during the holiday season. Your gift will guarantee that our team can provide individually-selected presents and holiday gift baskets for more than 2,000 people in just a few short months. Your gift will also help train our volunteers and keep the lights on at the Toy Shop, so parents can select gifts from the heart for their children. (This year, due to Covid-19, our volunteers assemble Toy packages for parents to give their children.)

Sponsor a family: Put a smile on a child's face this Christmas by sponsoring a family. Recruit the help of your family, friends, colleagues or community groups to provide holiday gift baskets for low-income individuals, families, and seniors.

Tell us the number of families, individuals, and seniors you would like to sponsor and we will match you with qualified applications. We'll provide the ages of each person, along with gift suggestions to guide your shopping. We will also send an information package that explains gift basket assembly and delivery.

We are very careful with the gift baskets. They are collected and organized by a registration number and kept in a secure location for pick-up the following day. We respect and protect the privacy of each family receiving assistance and do not disclose sponsors' names to the families.



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Make an in-kind donation: Christmas Bureau clients receive grocery gift cards, toiletries, personal care items, toys, wrapped donated gifts, and other basic essentials. There is a deep and ongoing need for these items, and your in-kind donation will ensure that vulnerable members of our community can celebrate the holiday season. The Christmas Bureau serves children 0 – 18 and tweens and teens are often harder to buy for. To help you get started, we have prepared a [tween and teen wish list](#).

Upcoming Parent Workshop

EMOTION FOCUSED FAMILY THERAPY

PARENT & CAREGIVER WORKSHOP

Supporting a loved one struggling can be challenging. This evidence-based workshop will introduce practical skills to strengthen relationships, increase cooperation and respond to strong emotional reactions

Nov 25, 27 & Dec 2, 4
10:30am to 12:30pm
Via ZOOM
Must attend all sessions

**TALK TO YOUR FOUNDRY WORKER FOR REFERRAL
OR CONTACT COREY: COREY.CHAN@VCH.CA OR
604-367-6981**

· FOUNDRY ·
WHERE WELLNESS TAKES SHAPE

Families will learn skills to:

- Manage challenging behaviours
- Help your loved one approach, process & manage stress & emotions
- Help to heal wounds from the child's or family's past



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COVID Reminders

We would like to again remind Cleveland families of our daily COVID guidelines, protocols, and operational details:

- Everyone that comes into the school must complete a *daily* [health self-assessment](#) prior to entry
- Every parent must also assess their child daily or signs and symptoms of cold, influenza and COVID 19.
- If a child is sent home due to illness, they must remain home until they are well
- Students will be guided to wash or sanitize their hands routinely during the course of the school day
- Physical distancing is practices at all times
- We have installed 6 new hand washing stations in the hallways throughout the school
- While not required, we will respect the wishes of any child to wear a mask at any time.
- The gym and music room remain closed
- Mme Dumont is providing opportunities for children to access the library
- We continue to take advantage of Cleveland's extensive outdoor areas and newly renovated courtyard Please ensure that your child is prepared and dressed for outdoor weather every day.
- Water fountains will remain closed, and water bottle fillers will remain open.
- Please check that your child has everything they need for the school day, as we will not be able to accommodate drop-off of forgotten items.
- Outside school doors will remain locked during instructional hours.
- Primary and Intermediate students have separate recess and lunch breaks
- Each Learning Group (class) has a designated recess and lunch outside location

Safety of students, families, and staff is our priority. Should you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact your child's classroom teacher, Principal Bill Reid, or Vice Principal Laura Stewart directly.

Sincerely,

Bill Reid
Principal
breid@sd44.ca

Laura Stewart
Vice Principal
lstewart@sd44.ca