



# École Cleveland Elementary School

North Vancouver School District

## Parent and Community Update

Friday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Christmas Break is upon us in a week, and today Term One report are published to the Portal! An interesting, complex, and very different term for us all.

We would again 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 month, 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 but students and staff. If your child has forgotten a lunch, or shoes, or a raincoat, or anything else, **you MAY NOT go into the school or 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.

Thank you very much for your attention to these safety protocols.

### Second Step

Our second step program is well under way in all classes across the school. Students are engaged in lessons about skills for learning, empathy, emotional management, and problem solving. Ask your child what they learned this week; lessons and themes change weekly.

### Canopy Update

We have now suspended our canopy program for the winter months. Parent David Schmidt led a team of parent volunteers who would daily assemble six canopies and tables, and move them into several locations around the school. Then disassemble and store them at the end of each day, to assist with our intentions to provide more outdoor learning spaces for teachers and students.

The table and canopy groupings were used extensively by the majority of students, both during class time with their teachers, and at recess and lunch times. They were greatly appreciated by everyone at Cleveland. A huge thank you to David and his team of helpers for their daily efforts to support this initiative.



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## Christmas Bureau

Our recent toy drive was led this year once again by Mme Doyle, and the outpouring of support was phenomenal. The mountain of toys and games in our foyer was amazing, and it required a couple of full SUV's to deliver to the Christmas Bureau.

Thank you to everyone who embraced and contributed to the amazing community spirit that will help so many children over the holidays. The Christmas Bureau was stunned by the volume of donations from Cleveland, and it is a testament to the generosity of our community. Thank you.

## Superintendent Visit

On the morning of Tuesday, December 8<sup>th</sup>, Superintendent Mark Pearmain paid the school a visit. He spent nearly two hours here, meeting with students, administration, teachers, and our PAC executive.

I can say with confidence that he was very pleased and in fact inspired with what he saw at Cleveland. The classes he visited were engaged and hard working; and students and staff alike were all embracing our strict Covid protocols.

He spent time visiting the renovated courtyard, looking at our new sensory spaces, and getting a feel for what was happening at Cleveland. Much time was spent with our many new teachers, where he had an opportunity to see them in action. Superintendent Pearmain also met at length with the PAC executive, where he participated in a very frank and open conversation about education in North Vancouver, in these complex times.

## Farewell and Welcome

As we head into the final week before Winter Break, I would like to offer you a few personal reflections. As you likely are aware by now, December 18<sup>th</sup> is my final day at Cleveland Elementary. After nearly 35 years in North Vancouver School District, and over five at Cleveland, it is time to change direction on my journey as an educator and venture into new and unexplored opportunities.

It has been a great honour and privilege for me to have spent over five years working with the Cleveland community. The people I have met and the students I have supported and worked with have made a lasting impression on me. I have valued the connections I have made with every student, and every parent during my time here.

I am confident that Cleveland is weathering the Covid storm well, and that we are doing everything we can for the social, emotional and academic health of your children. Thank you for entrusting them to me and the amazingly talented and dedicated group of teachers and support staff that we have assembled here.



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I have known incoming principal Joe Campbell for over 10 years, and he was, in fact, Vice Principal at my sons' school for a number of years. Joe was most recently the Principal of Montroyal Elementary, and before that, Principal of Sherwood Park Elementary.

I am very pleased that Joe is taking over my role at Cleveland and know that as you get to know him, you will be as well. I would ask you to please offer Joe your warm welcomes. Joe and Laura both look forward to seeing you all return safe and healthy on Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>!

Thank you all for the support, friendship, and trust we have shared for my time here.

Best wishes for a happy and safe holiday season, and beyond!

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