

HENRY HUDSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER

1551 Cypress Street, Vancouver, BC V6J 3L3 Phone: 604-713-5441 Fax: 604-713-5443

Vancouver Board of Education

September 2016 Newsletter

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The school year had a positive start with children moving into their new classes on the second day of school. For the most part, all classes are at maximum class size and we unfortunately did not have space for some of our in-catchment students. We were very pleased to welcome many new families to Hudson.

New staff this year include Ms. Deborah Baldarelli (Kindergarten), Ms. Sarah Skolsky (Speech-Language Pathologist) and Ms. Katie Percival (Youth and Family Worker). As well, Ms. Jen Johnson and Ms. Jenny Kuang have returned from maternity leave.

It was very nice to see so many of our families enjoying a meal together at our recent pot luck school dinner. Thanks to everyone for bringing so much food, to the volunteers for helping with set up and clean up and our PAC for providing beverages, plates, cutlery and assisting organizing the event.

As mentioned in our June 2016 newsletter, the school is fortunate to have a very involved PAC that provides numerous school activities and learning resources. Recently PAC purchased a set of guitars for classroom use and for after school lessons. Soon, we will also have an additional 30 laptops and two document cameras for classroom use. All Hudson parents and guardians are considered members of the school PAC. I strongly encourage participation in this pro-active group. PAC meetings are generally held on the last Wednesday of each month in our school library at 6:30 pm. Childcare is provided.

During the first few days of school, a number of notices were sent home. If you have not returned them to the school, please do so at your earliest convenience. It is important that we have current home contact information and that technology use forms and permission for the school to contact you via email is on record.

To help ensure student safety, please remember to sign students in each day if they arrive late or to sign them out if they leave early. The school parking lot is not safe to use as a walkway. While students are allowed to ride their bikes to school, they are reminded to walk them on and off the grounds.

We are looking forward to a positive and active school year, and your support is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Ian Cannon
Principal

Overview of Upcoming Activities & Events

- Friday, Sep 30 – Pro-D day – no school in session
- Wednesday, Oct 5 – Div 4 to VPL Main Branch
- Monday, Oct 10 – Thanksgiving – no school in session
- Friday – Oct 14 – Immunizations - Kindergarten
- Monday, Oct 17 – Audiology Testing - Kindergarten
- Monday – Thursday (Oct 17 to 20) Book Fair
- Friday, Oct 21 – Pro-D day – no school in session



PAC email Subscription Information

In order to receive emails from the Hudson PAC, parents need to visit <http://www.hudsonpac.ca> which then leads to <http://hudsonpac.ca/subscribe/> . By subscribing you will then receive all PAC emails that contains calendar and activity information, special events news, and general information.

First Nations Mask Making Project

In October, several classes will have the opportunity to work with artist Robin Roberts designing and carving a hawk mask in a northern Haida/ Tsimshian style. Mr. Roberts will be working closely with our Aboriginal Enhancement Worker, Nicole Brazeau. We have received generous support from our PAC, the VSB and Coastal People's Fine Art Gallery for this project. In January, the mask will be presented to the school in an assembly. Mr. Roberts is a graduate of Emily Carr Institute of Art and Design.

Earthquake Comfort Kits

Each year the school collects "comfort kits" from parents for their children to be stored in our earthquake bin. The kits are intended to be used in the event of an earthquake to provide comfort, a sense of safety and of home while students wait for the parents/guardians or designated contact to pick them up from the school. Contents often include a family photo, a re-assuring letter, small items of clothing, book, deck of cards, small toy etc. If you wish to provide a kit, please ensure all items fit into an 11"x 11" ziplock bag.

School Sports

The cross country season is well under way and includes students from all grades. Practices are Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:00am to 8:45am. Mini meets are held at local parks and the season ends with the City Championships meet at Trout Lake in October. Many thanks to Marina Percy for leading the practices and taking care of the organizational details. The school sponsor is Ms. Carrasco.

The volley ball season has also started with Boys and Girls teams. The teams are open to students from grades 5 to 7. The teams practise on Wednesday and Friday mornings at 7:55 am. Thanks to Ms. Dawson for organizing and coaching the teams.

School Garden

The school garden continues to expand with the addition of 2 planter boxes. The garden will be cleaned up and prepared for the planting of the winter crops: kale, cabbage, chard and garlic. Five classes will be working with Nikoo Boroumand, School Gardens Coordinator from SPEC (Society Promoting Environmental Conservation) on the garden. The vegetables will eventually be harvested and consumed by the students.

Rainy Day Activities

On days we have heavy rain, students are given some indoor options that include use of the gym, basement and lunch rooms. Announcements are made prior to the recess and lunch breaks informing the students of their options. Many students do choose to be outside in the rain – they are encouraged to bring dry socks and shoes

to change into, an umbrella and proper rain clothing. With the tendency of the grass field to turn into a soggy and muddy mess, it is often closed during wet weather.

Student Cell Phone Use

Students are encouraged to keep their cell phones at home. Student cell phone usage during school hours is disruptive to the classroom. Students should not be receiving and making calls, texting and using social media at school. Students who do bring phones to school need to keep the phones turned off and stored in their school bags. The office phone is available for use when needed.

Individual Photos

Individual photos were taken on September 19th. The proofs were distributed to the students on September 29th. You can order photos online at www.mylifetouch.ca. Retakes will be held on the morning of Monday, November 7th

Lost and Found

The school has two designated lost and found areas; in the gym and in the main entrance area. Parents and students are encouraged to frequently check those areas for their belongings. The lost and found is already filled with clothing, footwear, lunch kits and umbrellas. Unclaimed items will be donated charity every few months.

After School Activities

With the PAC and school offering numerous after school activities, some students are at Hudson until 5:00pm some evenings. Please remember to provide your child with a snack and a drink. It is advised to also determine a "pick-up" location. When most activities end, the office is closed and there may not be access to a phone.

Before and After School Supervision

School staff provide playground supervision each day from 8:40 am to 9:00 am and from 3:00 pm to 3:20 pm. After school, children not picked up wait in the office. The office closes at 3:30pm. If you are going to be late picking up your child, please call the office. Kindergarten students are dismissed directly to the parents or caregivers. Grades 1 to 7 students are dismissed on their own.