

David Oppenheimer

Elementary School

*2421 Scarboro Street
Vancouver, V5P 2L5*

Phone: 604-713-4570 Fax: 604-713-4572

Principal: Ms. Shannon Burke

Oppenheimer Website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/david-oppenheimer/Pages/default.aspx>

NEWSLETTER

December 2022

Our Mission...

At Oppenheimer "it is our collective responsibility to promote innovative teaching and learning practices, support opportunities for leadership, support cultural, emotional, physical and mental well-being and advocate for public education" (Vancouver School District Strategic Plan). We believe students should have the opportunity to develop their full potential as individuals and members of society. Students should be encouraged to achieve their personal best in school, maintain a positive sense of self-worth and develop social responsibility.

Our School Goal is...

To improve Literacy with an emphasis on writing fluency so that by the final term more students from K-7 meet or exceed expectations as measured by writing assessments and Language Arts report card marks.



Principal's Message

Dear Parents,

With only two weeks until school closes for the holidays, and the first big snowfall of the year, it's time to wish all Oppenheimer families a good holiday in whatever way your family and friends celebrate it! Once again, students are collecting for food banks and other giving projects; two students from our student council have independently created a candy cane sale and are collecting donations for Children's Hospital! Thank you to Ella in Division 2 and Abby in Division 3 for your charity and generosity!! This time of the year certainly highlights how good we have it and helps us think of others. Thank you also to our wider school community.

With only two more weeks left to the 2022 school year, welcome to winter at the beginning of December! We are experiencing a genuine cold snap complete with extreme snow and some icy surfaces. We encourage all Oppenheimer families to be mindful of your walking in and around the school areas. It is challenging for our single engineering staff to keep up with the salting and shoveling on footpaths and walkways. We are aware and want everyone to take extra care on the icy patches on our sidewalks. Some students have been helping us with chipping away at the icy surfaces on the pathways. These spots can be hard to see, especially when the sun starts going down. That said, the students are loving the winter weather and enjoying the snow by sliding and building snow-people all over the playground.

Health wise, together with you, our families, we have worked hard at keeping school safe and healthy for everyone. Thank you for keeping your children home when they are ill and coming to get them when they become sick at school. While major bouts of cold and flu have had an impact on our attendance, we have soldiered winter celebrations, preparations, and activities. As you will see from the art and displays in this newsletter, our students have many talents and love to show them off!

As the annual FSA assessments have been completed for Grade 4 and 7 students, we will be sending home individual results before the winter break. Communities and individual divisions who notified their families during November conferences will be sending home Communicating Student Learning reports on December 17th. In November, staff participated in our District Indigenous Focus Day. As a staff we continue to look at ways to implement Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation document. Staff responded to the day with suggestions for actions; actions such as removing colonial language, giving voice to Indigenous leaders and educators, including Indigenous music and art making in teaching experiences, doing more with and in our environment, and focusing energies on oral and land-based teaching and learning.

Again, we say a huge thank you to our PAC for all their support. We send PAC and school newsletters and attempt to keep Oppenheimer families up to date. Please take note of the PAC newsletter that was sent out December 5th for more details on PAC events and happenings. We, as a school staff, want you to stay safe, stay healthy, take care of yourselves, and be patient and kind to each other. Please read below for more specific information on what is happening at Oppie.

Thank you all,

Ms. Shannon Burke



Winter Concert – December 15th

Please check your email for information about our upcoming Winter concert. We have 9 and ½ divisions who will be taking part in our celebration of singing and playing instruments. Our afternoon concert for families will take place on December 15th at 1:30. Please notify the office if you are interested in tickets. We apologize for the tight turn around on tickets, if you require any assistance, please reach out to us in the school office. We are prepping the gym for our first post-covid Winter celebration!

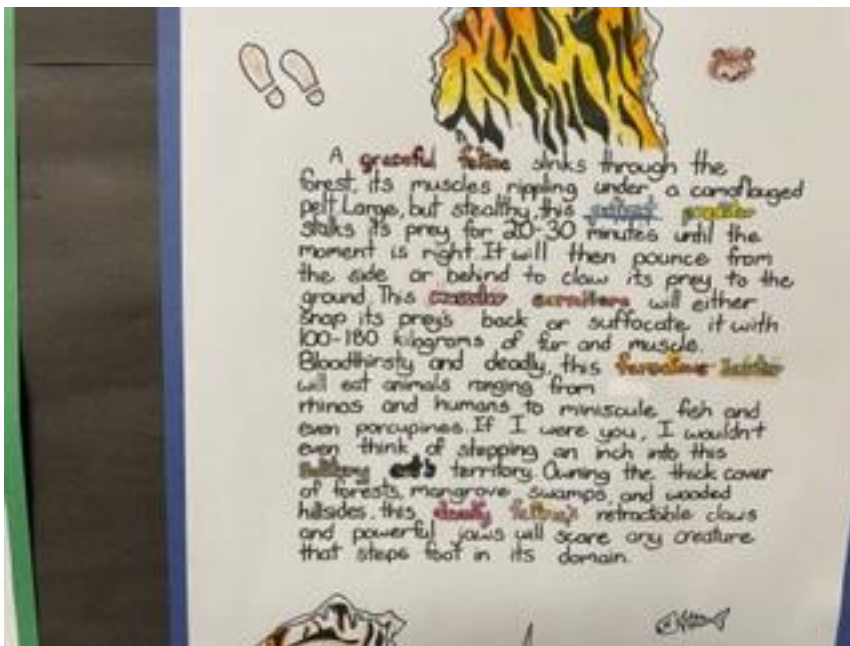
November Highlights

Throughout the first term, teachers have been displaying some amazing artwork and writing on their bulletin boards outside their classrooms. To showcase just a few – here are some beautiful examples of their art and writing from around the school:

Introducing... Division 1



Division 2 – What animal am I?



Division 6 – Chalk Frosty's



Division 11 – Morrisseau Bears



Division 12 – Emily Carr (art and Haiku)



Please stay tuned for more celebrations of artwork and creativity in upcoming editions of our newsletter!

Student Affordability Funds

Thank you to those families who have submitted requests to access our student affordability funding. A reminder to all, this is one-time only funding that has been given to the school to access supports like food, clothing, and additional school costs. If you have a basic need or are struggling to cover the costs of school events or items, please contact us using the school email or come by to pick-up the application form. We will be distributing assistance based on an equity model for families in need. Our school email address is oppenheimer@vsb.bc.ca if you would like a copy of the form sent to your email – please print and scan to return to the school.

Dates of note before winter break:

- Gr 7 Bake Sale, Wednesday Dec 7
- Div 6 & 7 – to Aquarium, Wednesday Dec 7
- Div 3 & 4 – to Gulf of Georgia Cannery, Thursday Dec 15
- Candy Cane Sale – Wednesday Dec 14 (deadline for pre-sale Friday Dec 9)
- Div 1 & 2 – Archaeology Exhibit in Library, Friday Dec 16
- Last Day of School before Winter Break, Friday Dec 16

Lost and Found

Our **Lost and Found** is located outside of the office in the front foyer area. It is currently overflowing with winter jackets and accessories, clothes, water bottles and hats! PLEASE come and look if you are missing any of your child's items. Parents are allowed in the school **any time** to look through the lost and found. Our wonderful supervision aide, Mami is the staff in charge if you need any assistance. One reminder is that we will pack up unclaimed items to take to a goodwill society at Winter Break. It is extremely helpful if you label all your children's belongings with your family name to help us match lost articles to their owner. We try to re-unite items with their owner when labelled with the correct name.

Student Council Corner

From time to time, we will have student council events and updates in our newsletter. Here are two items for families to note as we approach winter break.

Candy Cane Sale

Our student council is hosting a candy cane sale with all proceeds being donated to Children's Hospital. Candy canes will be on offer for a toonie. Please go to School Cash Online if you would like to pre-order Candy Canes for your child. Student council will deliver them on Wednesday and will also have sales of the extras available at recess and lunch. The Cash Online sales are open from Tuesday December 6th to Friday December 9th. On behalf of Children's Hospital, Oppenheimer Student Council thanks you for your support!

[Login to Schoolcash](#)

Food Bank Donations

Student council is also raising money for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. You may have heard in the news that Food Bank usage is at an all-time high this season. Due to rising food costs, the Greater Vancouver Food Bank has seen a 1000 new users per month this Fall. There are two ways to contribute to our Food Bank drive – virtual and during our Winter concert. We have set-up donations on the School Cash Online website as well as the options for packages you may like to donate to the cause. During the Winter Concert, you may wish to bring non-perishable food donation and leave it in the boxes outside of the gym door. Thank you in advance for any assistance you can bring to help families in need.

Donate to the food bank [HERE](#)

Kindergarten Registration for Choice Programs (January)

Beginning January 9, you can apply for up to three choice programs through [our online application process](#). To apply you must have completed your child's Registration at their English Catchment School by the end of January. The application period for Kindergarten Choice Programs closes on February 3 at 4pm.

By mid-February, families that applied for District choice programs and identified full schools will be notified of their child's enrolment status. By the end of April, all families with children registered for kindergarten will know which school they are attending come September 2023.

If you have not heard back by the end of April, please contact the school principal of your neighbourhood catchment school and they will help you find out about your child's status.

Notice about kindergarten French Immersion applications:

Families interested in applying for a French Immersion kindergarten placement can choose to apply to any of the 12 VSB elementary schools offering Kindergarten Early French Immersion. Families can select up to a maximum of 3 location choices per student.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>