



Oppenheimer Elementary

September 2022

Principal: Shannon Burke
Trustee: Estrelita Martin-Gonzalez
Director of Instruction: Christopher Wong

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Principal's Message



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Welcome back to school and welcome to our new students and families! After the first weeks, our enrolment has settled down at 415 students. We have welcomed 30 new students to Oppenheimer over the summer and are looking forward to getting to know them and their families over the coming months. Classes are now fixed, and students are settling into new routines and getting to know one another. If you have questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to your child's classroom teacher.

We have many new staff members, including myself, and it is a challenge remembering all the new names and roles. New teachers, support staff and district staff are all part of the changes happening for us this year. We've also said goodbye to a few beloved staff members who have moved on from the school to new positions or retired from the VSB.

Please welcome the newest members of our Oppenheimer team:

Elaine Ong – Kindergarten – Division 18

Jessica Ho – Grade ½ - Division 13

Laura Farley – (filling in Term 1 for Kelly Quinlan) Grade 2 – Division 12

Chloe Sinclair – Grade 2/3 – Division 10

Lauren Lee (partner with Nista Panago) – Grade 3 – Division 8

Tim Tweeddale – Music prep – all grades

Brenda Hobbs – Youth and Family Worker – cross grades

Starr Vickers – District Resource Teacher (Deaf and Hard of Hearing)
Derek Lew – District SLP for Oppenheimer
Anne Malimban – School and Student support
Fritzie Vaflor – School and Student support
Charlene Myers – School and Student support (Deaf and Hard of Hearing)

Thank you to Julie Zaleski (student support) who is moving to Crosstown and to Ling Henderson (student support) who was assigned to help at Oppenheimer for the month of September and is moving on to Weir elementary.

Thank you to PAC for working hard behind the scenes to start-up our PAC hot lunch program. Thank you as well for assisting us with refreshments at our Meet the Teacher Open House. We are looking forward to working with you to make this the most successful year yet for fundraising and support for our students and families.

Staff are excited for the 2022-2023 school year ahead and working with our students as they explore curriculum in various creative ways. We are eager to see where this new year of changes and opportunities will take us. Stay tuned for more information on how our students will explore and create new learning and experiences in the months to come. GO ORCAS!

Meanwhile we are looking forward to seeing all of you at PAC meetings, our Meet the Teacher event, and Goal setting conferences as well as other opportunities to connect with us this school term.

SHAPE OF THE DAY AT OPPENHEIMER

OPEN HOUSE (BBQ) AND CONFERENCES

Many of you have been contacted by your classroom teachers regarding the day -to-day running and routines in your child's classes. We are also going to be hosting an Open House next week on Wednesday Sept 28th from 3:30 – 5:30. Please join us for a hot dog and a sneak peek into your child's classroom! If you are planning to join us, we just ask that you tell your child's teacher (deadline today) how many immediate family members are coming so that we have an idea of how many hot dogs/veggie dogs to prepare for next week. Please be aware that this is limited to immediate family, and we are using the guideline of '1 hot dog per person' to distribute.

This isn't the only chance to meet teachers as we have upcoming parent/teacher conferences on October 12 and 13. If you are not able to make it to our open house, we will see you soon when teachers do Goal Setting with students and parents.

BELL SCHEDULE

As some parents have been asking about the daily bell schedule here are some clarifications for you. The bell schedule remains the same as last year with staff members on supervision beginning at 8:40, a warning bell at 8:55 and a 9am start bell. Recess is from 10:50 to 11:10 and lunch is from 12:05 – 12:52. Our dismissal bell rings at 3:03 and after school supervision is available outside until 3:20.

LUNCH AND LUNCH MONITORS

We have our 3 Kindergartens and our two Grade 1 classes eating in our activity room at lunch with myself and several support staff in the room to supervise. The rest of our classes are eating in their classrooms from 12:05 – 12:25. The Grade 7 students have signed up to be lunch monitors for primary classes. The Grade 7's will be supported by our supervision aides and support staff while the students are eating. At 12:25 a bell rings for all students who then go outside to play.

HEALTH AND HOUSEKEEPING FOR PARENTS

ABSENCES AND SAFE ARRIVAL

Regular attendance and prompt arrival at school is important if your child is to gain full benefit from the school program. Office hours are 8:00 am to 3:30. If your child is going to be late or away for any reason, please call the **safe arrival line at 604-713-5159 x62** before 9:00 a.m. to confirm their absence. You can also email OPPattendance@vsb.bc.ca with the following information:

1. Child's first and last name (**please spell last name**)
2. Teacher and Division
3. Absent or late (please give anticipated arrival time)

If we do not hear from you, we will call home to ensure your child's safety. If your child arrives at school late, please have him or her sign in at the office so we do not have to bother you at home or at work.

LEAVING EARLY

If you will be picking up your child early, please let the Teacher know in advance if possible. When you arrive, please pick up your child at the main office so that we are aware and can facilitate a safe handover. Please notify our OAA, Debbie, or another staff member so they can ensure that your child is accounted for in the case of an emergency.

SICK STUDENTS

For the protection of your child and other children, please keep your children at home if they show signs of illness. Please keep your child home until they are no longer infectious and are feeling rested and well. Let our office administrator Debbie know of your child's absence.

If students show signs of being unwell at school, parents will be contacted to bring them home as soon as possible.

All information pertaining to our current Communicable Disease Prevention Plan, including current Covid-19 measures can be found here:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/COVID-19/updates/Pages/Important.aspx>

MEDICAL ALERTS

We will soon be updating our medical alert information at the office. If you are a new parent with a child who has a medical alert or a returning family with a child who has recently developed a medical condition, please contact the school office so as we can update our information and ensure we have all the necessary paperwork. Medical alerts are typically those with a life-threatening diagnosis such as an anaphylaxis allergy or asthma, for example. Any other medical concerns can be shared with the classroom teacher, and you will then be directed to the office to complete paperwork if necessary.

STUDENT FORMS

Student forms are on the way! Please be patient while we finish our packages for students to take home. Many forms will be sent home in paper format for you to complete, sign and return to your child's teacher. One form, the CASL (Canada's Anti-Spam Legislation) form, requires online completion and our office will send the link in the forms package for you to complete.

CROSS COUNTRY

Will be running this year for Grades 3 – 7. All interested students have been given a permission form for parents to sign and return. Practices will be in the mornings on Tuesdays (starting next week) and Fridays at 8:15. The meets will take place on Wednesdays after school on Sept 28th, Oct 5th, and Oct 12th. Thank you to all the staff who are volunteering their time for practices and meets.

SAVE THE DATE

SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER – WHAT'S HAPPENING AT OPP!

Friday, September 23 – Professional Development Day
(No school for students)

Tuesday, September 27 – Indigenous Day of Dance

Wednesday, September 28 – Open House BBQ 3:15 – 5PM

Thursday, October 9 – Oppenheimer Orange shirt day

Friday, September 30 – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (No school for students)

Friday, October 7 – Individual Student Photo Day

Monday, October 10 – Thanksgiving Day – school closed

Wednesday October 12 - Goal Setting Conferences (Early Dismissal 2PM)

Thursday, October 13 – Goal Setting Conferences (Early Dismissal 2PM)

Monday, October 17 – VCH Grade 6 Childhood Immunization Clinic

Wednesday, October 19 – Cedar Rose Carving for Grade 3, 4, 5

Wednesday, October 19 – PAC Zoom Meeting 6:45PM

Thursday, October 20 – Cedar Rose Carving for Grade 3, 4, 5

Friday, October 21 – Professional Development Day (No school for students)