



February 2021

'We inspire competence, character and compassion'

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February Dates to Remember



Mon. Feb. 15	Family Day
Fri. Feb. 19	Professional Day – All Schools Closed
Tues. Feb. 23	PAC Meeting @ 7:00 p.m.
Wed. Feb. 24	Pink Shirt Day
Wed. Feb. 24	Hot Dog Lunch (PAC Sponsored)

Principal's Message

Dear Families,

Due to a medical procedure, I will be away from February 18 - 26th and plan to be back to work Monday, March 1st. I am pleased to share that both Mr. Fiddes and Mr. Allanson will be Acting Principal in my absence. Mr. Allanson will be at the school from February 22-25th and is very much looking forward to seeing all the students and families. For those of you who are new to Strathcona, Mr. Allanson was Strathcona's Vice Principal for the past 2 years and is now the Vice Principal at Vedder Elementary. Please join me in Welcoming Back Mr. Allanson!

~Ms. Kass

Students Walking Home

Student's safety both at school and on the way home is of utmost importance to us all. If your child is walking home, please take a moment to talk about the importance of walking on the sidewalk or side of the road, looking both ways before crossing onto the road and to watch for moving vehicles. Over the past couple of weeks, there have been a few close calls of students not being aware of their surroundings and crossing or walking onto the road while a vehicle was moving near them.

Kindergarten Registration

If your child will be five (5) years of age by December 31, 2021, please register at

<https://sd33.vivosforms.com/Form/StudentApplication?p1=2021-2022>

Recent Power Outages

In light of our two recent Power Outages along with winter weather season upon us, the school district makes the call around closing classes for the day.

Unless you are notified by the district or school office, assume that school is open for the day. The school district considers many factors when making the decision to close a school for any period of time due to a power outage, weather or an emergency such as the anticipated time until power is restored, heat, water and overall safety for students and staff to be at school.

Student Drop Off and Pick Up

We have been very pleased with how well drop off/pick up traffic flow has been moving through the school parking lot. Thank you for helping to make it work as smoothly as it has been this year.

Families are encouraged to walk to school as often as possible, park only designated areas both in the school's parking lot and in the surrounding neighborhood areas.

When using the drop off zone in school's main parking lot, please remember:

- remain in your vehicle
- proceed forward
- if idling for more than a few minutes, please turn off your vehicle's engine
- help your child exit or get into your vehicle as quick as possible
- park when wanting to have a morning ritual of saying good bye or giving hugs to see your child off for their school day

PAC News

The next PAC Meeting is on Tuesday, February 23th, at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom. Please check the PAC Facebook page for more details.

Dress for the Weather

Please ensure your child is dressed for the weather. This is especially important on cold and rainy days. We have a limited supply of winter coats and toques, please contact the office if your child needs a coat or toque.

PINK Shirt Day – Anti-Bullying:

On February 24th, is our national Anti-Bullying Day, also now referred to as ‘**PINK** Shirt’ day. All schools have a **zero tolerance** for bullying behaviour. If a bullying situation occurs, measured steps to address the situation will swiftly be taken. At Strathcona, we take student safety and acceptance seriously. Conflict and disagreements are a natural part of life and learning.

As a school and staff, not only do we model, teach and encourage acceptance and inclusivity, but we value our diversity. Diversity in learning styles, successes, needs as well as diversity in everyone’s strengths and weaknesses. In fact, instead of viewing a need or difference as a weakness, we see them as a learning opportunity either for us to learn more about the individual or for the student as an area needing further support and growth. We work with students to solve any disagreements or conflicts that may arise in a positive manner and develop their understanding of the difference between a problem, a conflict and bullying.

Throughout the years, various peer conflicts or moments of unkindness have frequently become synonymous with the term “bullying”. It is important for students to recognize and understand what the terms disagreement, conflict and bullying mean. Each of term reflects distinctively different experience and it is important to distinguish the difference while equipping students with the skills and tools to deal with conflict as they arise, either by seeking help or solving the issue on their own.

Unkindness: inconsiderate, mean or harsh behaviour.

Conflict: a serious disagreement or argument that can also be known as a struggle; it is often occurs as a struggle between two or more people who perceive having incompatible goals or desires.

Peer Conflict: a mutual disagreement between peers; not necessarily a bad thing as disagreement or conflict is part of life and children/people need to develop their skills and knowledge ways to resolve disagreements or problems.

Bullying: an act by a person who purposely targets or focusses on someone else where he or she uses strength or power to target someone (often frequently) to cause them harm or to intimidate those who are weaker and typically force him or her to do what they want.

Conflicts are a natural occurrence in life as people interact with one another. Not everyone will agree 100% of the time or have the same viewpoint. As a school we strive develop students’ capacity and skills to independently, proactively and positively deal with conflicts that arise for them and work with families to support this endeavor.

There are many websites that families can visit to find information around empowering your child and ways to deal with conflict and/or bullying behaviour.

Some that you may wish to visit are:

- www.kidsnowcanada.org/conflict-resolution/
- www.witsprogram.ca/
- www.prevnet.ca
- www.selfesteem.dove.ca/Bullying
- www.erasebullying.ca
- www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sco/resources.html

