



MESSAGE FROM THE PAC PRESIDENT:

WE MADE IT!

As my family staggered into winter break last Friday, I reflected on the school session from the cautious start in September to the end of 2020. I am grateful that our community — knock on wood — didn't experience any outbreaks that would have shut the school down. I'm also grateful that, in our school community, there's a spirit of cooperation and compliance. Everyone is wearing masks, keeping their distance from one another, and respecting the school's protocols.

FIGHT THE FATIGUE

Remember we once had a parent lounge with a coffee machine? And a parent library? Movie nights? What distant memories! With effective vaccines (thank you, science) on the horizon, now is certainly the time to fight the fatigue and heed the edicts of our rock-star Provincial Health Officer Dr. Bonnie Henry. Visions of community events with dunk tanks and candy floss dance in my head.

THANK-A-TEACHER

My next reflection was on how much Van Horne's staff, teachers, and administration deserve a holiday break. What a time to be an educator. While we aren't banging pots and pans for them at 7pm, I want all the staff at Van Horne Elementary to know that the PAC deeply and sincerely appreciates their sustained efforts to educate and care for the little humans who we love above all else. If you feel the same, consider acknowledging a teacher in your kid's life with a message of appreciation.

Wishing you a fun, safe, cozy, and happy holiday break and best wishes for 2021.

Yours in community,

Gregg "El Prez" Sayer

President / Chair, Van Horne PAC

TIS' THE SEASON

The absence of our traditional Holiday Pancake Breakfast and Fundraiser has not stopped the generosity of our community. The PAC is donating \$500 to the Vancouver Food Bank to help those who need it most in our wider community.

On a related note, if you know of a Van Horne family who is facing hardship, reach out to the school's principal or a PAC executive for information about support.

EASY WAYS TO FUNDRAISE:

COBS **COBS BREAD**

Mention "Van Horne Elementary" when you shop at COBS on Main Street and 5% of your purchase goes to the PAC.

Mabel's Labels **mabel's labels**

Keep track of your child's belongings! Order Mabel's Labels and the PAC will receive 20% of all sales.

www.vanhornepac.com/mabelslabels



10,000 REASONS TO GET MOVING

We have great news! Van Horne Elementary was selected to participate in the Active School Travel Pilot Program. This initiative is organized by BC Healthy Communities Society (BCHC) and is part of the province's Active Transportation Strategy: Move. Commute. Connect. The goal of the program is to encourage and support active modes of travel (walking, wheeling, and taking public transit) to and from school. The PAC has received funds of \$10,000 from the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to work with BCHC on development and implementation of the project throughout 2021.

Want to 'pedal' this project forward?

The Active School Travel project represents yet another chance for our community to up our green game. If this cause resonates with you, get in touch with Marija Velickovic at activeschooltravel@vanhornepac.com.

RETURN-IT SUCCESS

Did you know that in 2020 our amazing community saved more than 20,000 containers from the landfill and earned the school more than \$2,000 as part of the Return-It Recycling and Fundraising Project?

Did you also know that in June 2020, we were awarded 2nd place out of 337 entrants in Return-It's School Contest for a cash prize of \$2,500?

These amazing results are thanks to all Van Horne families, who are collecting and returning their refundable packages!

Thank you, all!

During winter break and winter term we are continuing to recycle. You can take your containers to any Return-It depot or simply drop them off at a parent hub. Visit www.vanhornepac.com/returnit or reach out to sustainability@vanhornepac.com if you have questions or you'd like to volunteer in 2021.

NEXT PAC MEETING

When: Wednesday, Jan. 27th, 2021 @ 6:30pm - 7:30pm via Zoom

Where: Zoom instructions will be sent via email

KEY DATES

Jan. 4th, 2021: First day of classes after winter break

Jan. 20: Pro-D day (no school)

Jan. 27th: PAC meeting @ 6:30pm

Feb. 12: Pro-D day (no school)

Feb. 15: Family Day (no school)

Feb. 23: PAC meeting @ 6:30pm

VOLUNTEER

Join our volunteer pool: www.vanhornepac.com/volunteer

INCORPORATE RECYCLING INTO YOUR HOLIDAY ROUTINE:

For how best to recycle holiday materials, check out recyclebc.ca/holiday-recycling)