

Vic High



November 2020



Principal's Message

The first quarter in the 2020-21 school year has concluded. Our venture into a system with reduced contacts and increased sanitation measures has been orderly and remarkably successful. We owe much of the success of our first quarter to our custodians, office staff, and educational assistants who have each taken on significant roles in managing the safety protocols in the school. Academically, the first quarter has been very successful in terms of course completion rate and number of students earning academic distinction. In quarter one, 174 of our students achieved an A (86% or better) in both their classes.

While most extracurricular activities are on hold, we are engaging in some out of class activities under the specified COVID-19 guidelines. Our volleyball teams are currently practicing and basketball and the new e-sports team are gearing up to start their seasons. Musical theatre and our platform dance groups are preparing for virtual or 'spaced' audience performances. The youth combating intolerance and gay straight alliance clubs are meeting and have a number of initiatives planned to continue their work enhancing our inclusive school culture.

The move to the Topaz campus has been frustrating at times. We are still awaiting window treatments and our heating system is in need of further upgrades. Despite these delays, I think most of our staff and students have found the campus to be highly functional. Many spaces like the gym and library are larger and in better condition than we were operating out of at the Fernwood campus. In terms of supervision, we have experienced less graffiti, vandalism, and problematic community interactions than we do in a typical year. While I am feeling confident that we will be well served in our current location, I look forward to our return to our upgraded iconic building.

In quarter two we will be starting our lunch busing between campuses. The quarter system has reduced the number of transitions between campuses. We know that some parents were disappointed that we were unable to offer bussing between campuses before and after school. The decision was made early on to use the transportation budget to support students who are not

eligible for the city program with transit passes. We are currently supporting over 70 students with bus passes. While student bus passes now account for the largest portion of the project's transportation budget, we do feel that there is significant advantage to our students and the environment by having all our students have access to transit passes.

Congratulations to all our students for their remarkable efforts engaging in their learning in a meaningful and respectful manner under these unusual circumstances. While 2020/21 is far from a typical Vic High school year, I can feel the familiar warm and authentic 'Vic High' spirit in these unfamiliar, spaced, and sanitized hallways and classrooms.

Aaron Parker
Principal



We are now approaching the season when inclement weather may affect the safety and welfare of students. In particular, snowy weather has the potential to cause school closure or some School District 61 services to be suspended.

During inclement weather, information about schools will be updated continuously on the Greater Victoria School District 61 website at <http://www.sd61.bc.ca>.

Within the Greater Victoria School District, the Superintendent of Schools, Ms. Shelley Green, will provide media outlets with information about the status of our facilities and transportation services by 6:30 am.

Important Upcoming Dates

December 7 th to 16 th	Grad Photos
December 9 th	Parent / Teacher Meetings
December 9 th	Dance Performance (Live Stream)
December 18 th	Last Day of Bell Schedule 1
December 21 st to 31 st	Winter Break
January 4 th	First Day of Bell Schedule 2
January 13 th	Night of the Notables
January 25 th to 28 th	Numeracy/Literacy Assessments
January 28 th	Last Day of Quarter 2

Dance Department

“Platform 61”

The 18-member troupe is currently preparing for a 45-minute livestream performance on December 9th. The event will be titled “All Things Considered” & filmed on the Dave Dunnett Community stage. “All Things Considered” will be dedicated to our Grads of 2020 who did not have the opportunity to complete their magnificent repertory of 2019-20. The program is to include 4 new works from this year’s troupe, a showing “The Picker, and a video-recap of our 2019-20 season.



Laara w/ ‘Platform 61’ dancers rehearsing her Zambra (Gypsy Flamenco) piece

HIP HOP CREW-CLUB

A new club sponsored by the Dance Department and initiated by Platform 61’s two Dance Captains, Soo Song and Leah Melanson, provides an opportunity for dancers to come together on Mondays and Wednesdays at lunch. The mandate of the HHCrew is to create an inclusive club that places emphasis on building school spirit, friendships, integrity, leadership skills and respect, all while working as a crew and mastering the many skills of urban and street dance. Contact: K. Krich—Studio 112



Dance Captains: Soo and Leah work with new members of our Hip Hop Crew Mondays and Wednesdays at lunch.

“The Picker” 10-minute Short Film

“The Picker” concept and choreography by Rayn Cook-Thomas and performed by VHS dancers from 2019 and 2020 and filmed during our COVID summer, was entered into IDFFA International Film Festival. It was chosen as the Best Secondary Dance School Film Award IDFFA Schools 2020 Winner—Director and Choreographer: Rayn Cook-Thomas; Producer/Director: Kerry Krich; Cinematography: R.Cook-Thomas, K.Krich, Lyle Almond (Faery Well).

IDFFA: Inspired Dance Film Festival Australia

<https://www.facebook.com/idffaschools/photos/a.122838429447904/178096407255439/?type=3>

Students of our new Dance for Camera course are seen here filming “Shadow’s Hope”. A 3-minute dance choreographer and performed and filmed by the class’s Production Crew. Performers: Leah Melanson and Xander Burrows.



Athletics

Vic High Athletics are happening safely at our new campus! The season has been altered due to the pandemic, but our students and coaches are making the best of the situation. Currently we have our boys and girls volleyball teams practicing twice weekly until the end of November. Our basketball program will be up and running for December. A new addition to the BC School Sports Program are E-sports, and Vic High will enter a team during this trial period beginning at the end of November.

All sports are following the COVID-19 protocols and safety guidelines established by our Provincial Health Officer, BC School Sports and the Lower Vancouver Island Athletic Association. Currently our schools are in Stage 2, which allows for intraschool activities within educational/co-curricular cohorts. Prior to any participation to any school sport activities (including practices and intramurals) all participants (including student-athletes, coaches, and volunteers) must sign participation agreements to acknowledge their duties and responsibilities as an athlete during the pandemic. This allows our students to continue to develop their athletic skills and abilities in a controlled, safe setting.

Predicting the future during this unprecedented time is nearly impossible. However, there are numerous reasons for bringing school sport back, albeit in a modified way, as it is critical to the physical and mental health of our student-athletes. All levels and abilities are welcome, have your student listen to the announcements for upcoming athletics opportunities, or have them contact Ms Finlayson, Athletic Director, at efinlayson@sd61learn.ca.

Leadership

Leadership start up looked really different this year. Our traditional Cornerstone breakfast was adapted to be in class competitions, games, and treats. We surprised the students with new lanyards (new building, new lanyards).



Leadership students organized recognitions for Orange Shirt Day and Bike to Work/School Week. They planned and executed a staff appreciation day with coffee and treats for our hard working staff. For Halloween Leadership students were able to decorate, give out candy, and host a virtual costume contest. And they presented an incredible Remembrance Day video and display. Leadership students worked tirelessly



on this project and coordinated with the Vic High Alumni to include some rarely seen photos from the archives.



Leadership students have also been promoting kindness and building community through initiatives such as Feel Good Fridays, a Kindness Board, and Silver Linings 2020 (where staff and students can share the positive things that have come out of this year). They can often be found in the foyer in the mornings, dancing to music as they welcome our students into the building. Our focus as a class this year is to build community and to make this building feel like our own. We are busy working on initiatives with that in mind and are excited for the challenges that COVID has presented, it forces us to think outside the box and to be creative in our ideas.

We are Vic High.



VHS Spirit Wear Store

<https://store.passionsports.ca/VHS/shop/home>



French Immersion

We are so excited to welcome back all of our French Immersion students this year! We have a great group of grade 9 students who have joined us and have made a great transition thanks to the classes that they have been taking with our grade 10 students. In PE class our junior students have spent a lot of time studying health units such as nutrition and physical conditioning and they have had the chance to get out and take many walks around our new neighborhood.



Our grade 9 and 10 Français Langue students have been busy practicing their oral French skills by playing a number of games and making their own creative videos at home! This quarter the goal has been to encourage our French Immersion learners to speak, read and write French as much as possible while enjoying being back in class! Our B block students even found a way to create a socially distanced Halloween party and escape room activity! We look forward to more French language practice and fun in quarter 2!

-Jean Morrison

Vic High Lunch Program

Our Victoria High School Youth and Family Counsellor team would like to remind families of our daily Lunch Program. In an attempt to eliminate barriers and extend our support to students, we offer a wide range of meals Monday – Thursday at the beginning of the lunch hour. We are building up the menu, and hope to have warm meals provided by Sysco soon.

The lunch program is offered to students in need, whether due to financial hardship, or other barriers to accessing lunches consistently. All information is confidential, and we make a concentrated effort to ensure students feel safe and supported when accessing their lunch. If your family may benefit from this support, we would be happy to send out an application form.

Please reach out to our Youth and Family Counsellors for more information.

Lisa Roy, Mark Sheremeta, Gen Walsh, Corie Aarsen

Library News & Updates

Recreational Reading Opportunities – all year long!

The third Monday of every October is designated as **Drop Everything and Read Day** across schools in British Columbia. It was wonderful to have classes from the Humanities, Math/Sciences, and Applied Skills in participating in 20 minutes of silent reading. Regular reading builds many competencies – academic and social-emotional – and our school has enjoyed a strong reading culture over the past few years in particular.

The library is open to students during our regular school hours; there are safety protocols in place for browsing and using the library as a both reading and study hub. Students are always welcome to browse the displays at the entrance to the library and inside the library; to browse the Reading Calendar of recommended reads on the library web site, and to see the teacher-librarian for personal reading suggestions.

Research Resources

Students and parents have access to high-quality vetted resources including online encyclopedias and databases through our library's **Digital Resource Hub** beneath the Quick Links on the library web site at <https://vichighlibrary.sd61.bc.ca/>

Log in off-site of Vic High is as follows:

All EBSCO resources: user name = **vichigh** password = **vh2020!**

All GALE resources: log in as **vichigh** (no separate password required)

These resources include many helpful features: audio/listen functionality, built in citations, and a variety of tools that help students thoughtfully choose and organize information. Many classes this quarter have been learning to use these tools effectively in order to support their research and inquiry projects.

Teacher-librarian Ms. Burleson welcomes student and parent questions. Feel free to email wburleson@sd61.bc.ca



Vic High PAC

Hello Parents of Vic High Students! Because you have kids at Vic High you are automatically a PAC member. Welcome!

Parent Advisory Committee meetings are held on the second Monday of the month at 7pm via Zoom. We are open for suggestions, ideas and parent participation. Your link to attend the zoom meetings is sent out each month prior to the meeting. Dates for the upcoming meetings are December 14, January 11, February 8, March 8, April 12, May 10, June 14. These meetings are usually no more than one hour and you get to meet some new faces you wouldn't otherwise have a chance to. BYOB(average!)

This year we are helping to raise funds through our Thrifty's Smile Cards and Fairway Cards to go towards the purchase of a new digital sign or other possible shortfalls or inspirational objectives that come from upgrading the school on Grant Street. Parents of Grade 9 students will have received a Thrifty's Smile Card or a Fairways Card with your youth's report card. How it works: You put a dollar amount on the card before the cashier starts ringing your groceries in. Then just pay with that card and 5% goes back to the PAC for the kids! You can re-use this card over and over again!

You Don't Have a Card? Contact the PAC (pacvichigh@gmail.com) and we will get one out to you.

The PAC would like to give a big Shout Out to Kristy of Caffé Fantastico for the generous donation of coffee, tea, treats and her time in helping us put on a successful Teacher Appreciation event on November 4.

Please check out the [Caffé Fantastico Vic High fundraiser](#). Enjoy some fantastic coffee while supporting your kids.

Cheryl Chaytors: Chairperson; Ben Black: Secretary; Kate Wallace and Lisa Sheppard: Treasurers; Petra Gerard: Member at Large

Grad

It's grad portrait season! From December 7th to Dec 16th, all graduating students will have the opportunity to have their grad portraits taken by the photographers from Edge Imaging. Each grad needs to make a 15 minute appointment on the Edge Imaging website (see poster for information) and this will take place at the back of the library.

Please note that your gown and sash will be provided by Edge Imaging (sanitized as per COVID protocols) but props (books, sports equipment, flowers, etc) will not be provided this year. Please bring your own props for photographs if you wish.

Please see Mrs. McMaster if you have any questions.

Your Portrait Session

Times may be uncertain, but you can certainly carry on the tradition of marking this accomplishment with a classic portrait! Your professional portrait session includes traditional gown and sash poses on contemporary and traditional backgrounds.

*Sit fee details available online when you book your session.



More Options

Your safety and comfort is our top priority. We're working with each school to offer options that work best in your area. Your sitting options may include: more poses, casuals and Vintage Hollywood poses. [View details on all your sitting options at bookmygrad.ca](#)



B.Y.O.P

As part of our commitment to protecting students' health, Edge will not be providing props during your photo shoot. Please feel free to bring your own flowers, books, etc. to be photographed with during your session. For more information on our Covid photo day health & safety procedures, please visit edgeimaging.ca/FAQ



Graduating Class Composite

Just like the one on your high school walls, you'll receive your own copy of a graduating class composite. Composites are typically handed out at Convocation or at the end of the school year.

A traditional portrait with a blue background will be provided to your school for the composite and yearbook.



*Composite size and folder inclusion vary by school. Details provided upon booking.

Book your session TODAY!

To book your Graduation Photo Session, grab your student card and go to bookmygrad.ca. Enter your school code and student number to get started.

SCHOOL CODE:

Senior Graduation

Book Your Portrait Session



#EDGEGRAD21 Do Good & Get Rewarded!
FIND OUT HOW YOU COULD WIN A BURSARY
CHECK OUT edgeimaging.ca/win FOR DETAILS

Congratulations on Your Graduation

You've worked hard and it's time to celebrate.

Edge Imaging will be coming to your school to commemorate this milestone moment. Sign up soon so you can be sure to get the time slot that works best with your schedule.

Questions? Reach out to our experts if there's anything we can answer for you.
customer care@edgeimaging.ca OR 888.416.3343
edgeimaging.ca/graduation

Home Economics



Same classroom. 70 years difference. SJ Willis - in the 1950's above and currently in 2020- Below photo is a combination class of Textile Studies 11/12 with Fashion Industry 12 taught by Ms Adamschek



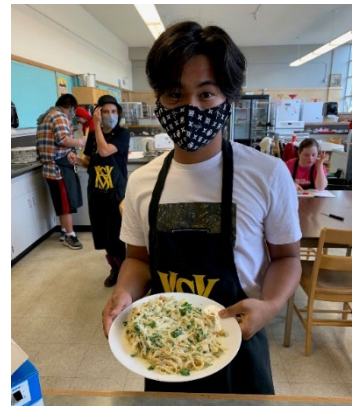
New Foods Classroom at SJ Willis Campus September 2020



First batch of Foods 11 students in our new aprons (thank you to the PAC for providing them) Looking sharp in our Vic High Black and Gold!



Food Studies 11 student enjoying their Choice Pasta Lab



The packed up Textile Studies classroom back in June at our Fernwood Campus

The unpacked Textile Studies classroom here at now at our Topaz Campus





Facebook: L'Ecole Secondaire Victoria High School @vichigh



Sometimes we need to be reminded of all the good, especially this year. Staff and students are sharing their highlights from 2020 on our Silver Linings 2020 board in the foyer



Thank you to Lucia for all of the poppies used in our Remembrance Day display. Thank you to Leadership for creating our Remembrance Day video.



Vic High participated in the Great ShakeOut BC earthquake drill.



Instagram: @vichighsd61



Congratulations to Ahmad Al Shehab, Al Baraa Al Homsi and Majeed Sultan for receiving a VicPD Civic Service Award



Chemistry 11 students doing science things. #sciencerules



Students participated in 'Dream It Be It', a career support seminar for girls held in our Career Centre



Grad Spirit Week



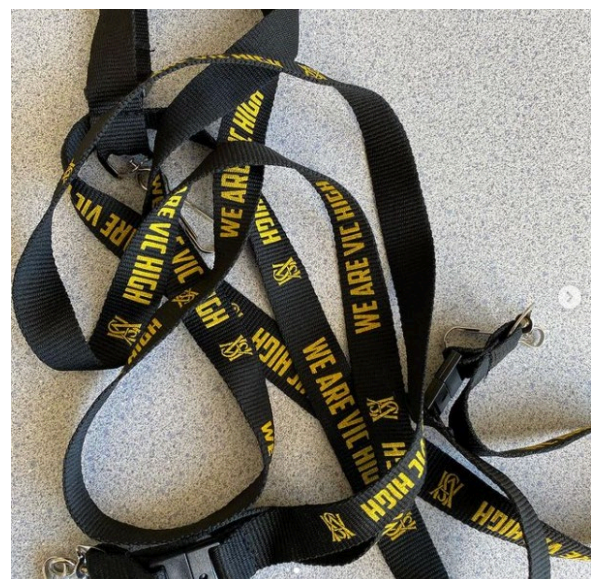
Mr Pitre and Outdoor Education 10-12 at Dallas Rd Beach



Grad Spirit Week



Grad Spirit Week



We honoured our Cornerstone tradition with a new twist. Trivia, treats, and some new Vic High swag. Things might look different but the black and gold is always there. #wearevichigh

**Congratulations to the following students who achieved an A (86% or better) in both their
Quarter One classes of the 2020-2021 school year**

Grade 12

Calin Barber
Alex Bell
Sofia Bernardes
Bridget Boldy
Isaac Cain-Tallo
Laux Cholette
Annika Clark
Anh Phuong Cong
Raymark David Dalafu
Isaura Diaz Bustos
Ella Erickson
Finn Fairbairn
Ella Gallant
Ethan Gonzales
Simone Griffin
Arun Huijbregts
Laara Huuskonen
Blu Inman
Hudson Jared
Marco Joly
Sofia Khutorna
Leland Maither
Erin Meiklejohn
Niela Meyer
Aria Munro
Fahd Murad
Muhammad Amir Noor
Olivia Nugent
Lucia Palma
Rafael Palma
Lucas Pokotylo
Jed Pottery
Eileen Quayle
Noah Roth
Kate Sabater
Angel Sagun
Gavin Seymour
Soo-Yeon Song
Grayson Threlfall
Ayden Vose
Monta Wallbridge

Grade 11

Ahmad Abousaleh
Ayan Araleh
Shay Beckett
Lily Butler
Ella Cholette
Maia Cleese-St Cyr
Griffin Costello
Calla Cowan
Anouk Dao
Alexei Daunis
Pita Fevaleaki
Nadine Gomez
Matisse Gubby-Hurtig
Kaya Hafey
Willa Herwig
Mateo Junker
Tamsyn Klazek-Schryer
Yuseon Kwon
Cameron Lalli
Madison Levagood
Maia Looi
Isaac Marykuca-Vidal
Luka Matkovic
Gwen McLeod
Leah Melanson-Arley
Jacob Mercado
Maya Mishra
Juliana Monk
Ben Nienhuis
Dean Paling
Elliot Pearson
Garnet Ponce
Samony Ponn
Annie Ratsma
Mathew Rempel
Lambert Rodriguez
Naïke Schultz
Kieran Slade
Maisie Starkey-Engel
Olivia Walasek
Silas Waldhaus
Logan Ward
Magdalena Whetung-Bermeo
Toby Zarry

Grade 10

Cohen Aiken
Noah Ayles
Maria Barnacha
Josh Black
Tamsin Bowles
Truman Bramble
Teresa Buckingham
Andrew Carido
Maya Chapman
Cameron de Vries-Johnson
Abigail Dunbar
Angelena Farley
Romi Fowler
Oliver Golder
Samuel Gomes
Cohen Grundy
Patrick Guevarra
Anhuar Gutierrez
Charlotte Harrison-Edge
Sienna Heit
Jonas Hsu
Matthew Kozlowski
Zen Lahlouh
Kayley Langford
Bella Leopkey
Saidi Mader
Tila Marier-Farmilo
Addy Mauro
James McColm
Elsa McLaren
Fynn Migallo
Nathan Mitchell
Koharu Murahashi
Anna Nyberg
Asa O'Connor-Jaeckel
Anise Russow
Leo Rysiew
Aina Saitoh
Simeon Sanford Blades
Oscar Schuckel-Bailey
Sara Shinwari
George Sleen
Ella-Jo Spindler
Nyla Sproule
Julia Troost
Teagan Williams
Hector Willson
Benjamin Yuen

Grade 9

Iona Aire
Emily Archibald
Savannah Bartleman
Zachary Bissonette
Lucinda Booth
Marina Britskaya
Erina Clayton
Antonio Coelho
Xyrehl Crisostomo
Rylee Dixon
Liliya Evdaeva
Rory Fleming
Hannah Fudge
Naomi Gladman
Briar Gotro
Faith Harvey
Adam Hill
Aviva Isitt
Alisha Leerholm
Leo Looi
Shogo Mano
Avery Mitchell
Andre Moneda
Fred Niedjalski
Spenser O'Shea
Marlowe Pease
Kira Percival
Jordan Pichette
Brian Pinon
Shane Priestley
Kaleb Quinn
Piper Read
Elizabeth Rose
Mihailo Ross
Sebastian Schallie
Julius Susut-Nohr
Mattigan Waldron
Jenny Walshaw
Lilah Weston
Charlize Yaranon
Isa Yewchuk-Noesgaard

