

May 26th, 2023

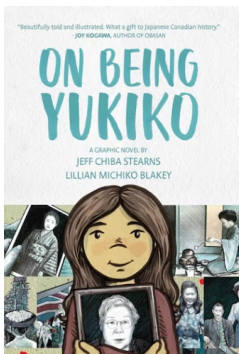
Message from Administration

The year continues to fly by! May and June are busy months, with field trips and outside activities. It will be especially important for families to check backpacks regularly for notices over the next two months. A reminder that students and teachers spend some time each day outside and it is important that they have the proper clothing for the temperature. As the weather warms up, please ensure that your children has sunscreen on and, if possible, a hat for extra protection on sunny days. We want everyone to enjoy their time outside and take care to protect their skin!



ASIAN HERITAGE MONTH

To celebrate and learn more about Asian Heritage Month students have been learning about several Asian-Canadian and Asian-American authors in the library with Mrs. Wood. Check out what they've been up to!



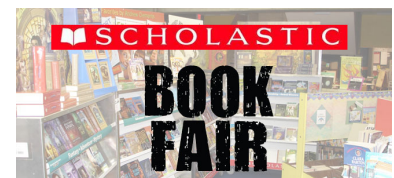
Students in Div. 3 participated in a special virtual author visit with Award-winning and Emmy nominated animation filmmaker and acclaimed Japanese Canadian author and illustrator **Jeff Chiba Stearns**. During this presentation, Jeff introduced his new best-selling graphic novel 'ON BEING YUKIKO' which discusses the themes of identity and the Japanese Canadian WWII internment. We are excited to be hosting Mr. Stearns next year at Blair where all students will get a chance to hear more about his books and life story!

Grade 6 students from Divisions 1 and 2 had the opportunity to listen to a virtual webinar by Chinese-Caribbean-Canadian author **Pearl Low**. Known for their books, 'Hair Love' and 'The Bailey School Kids Adventures' series as well as their work on the animated series 'Canvas' (Netflix) and 'Craig of the Creek' (Cartoon Network), Pearl discussed their journey as a story artist, comics artist and writer as well as the importance of identity and representation.

Students in Grades K-3 read 'The Perfect Bao' by **Kat Zhang** and 'The Perfect Sushi' by **Emily Satoko Seo**. Both books addressed the social emotional learning topic of 'growth mindset' and afterwards students reflected upon their own experiences of trying to do something "perfectly" and how they overcame their challenges. Author Emily Satoko Seo is a Richmond based author and will be introducing her new books this weekend at Ladner Village Books from 12-2pm for any families who want to stop by!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Thank you all SO much for your support and participation in our Scholastic Book Fair last month! Blair families bought over \$4300 in books, which in return, raised \$2445 for our school library!! These funds not only allow us to purchase the latest books for students and teachers to read and borrow, but also other exciting materials for our Library Learning Commons, such as new furniture, STEM engineering and coding technology and loose parts story-telling materials that are shared within our school. A very BIG thank you to our fabulous PAC team who Mrs. Wood would not have been able to do this without! It is because of your dedication to events such as these that we can continue to keep Blair students excited and passionate about reading. Thank you to all the volunteers who gave freely of their time to make the Book Fair such a success!



ZONE TRACK MEET A GREAT SUCCESS!



Congratulations to all our wonderful athletes who represented Blair School on May 4th. Our students showed wonderful support for their classmates and put their best effort into their events. We are extremely proud of all of them!

Thank you to Mrs. Khare and Ms Benedet for organizing our Track season for us. Another big thank you goes to all the staff members who helped coach students before school, at recess and at lunch. Their efforts really paid off!

CLASS /GROUP AND TEAM PHOTOS

We had our Class Pictures and Team & Club Pictures on Thursday, May 25th. All students will get a free class photo. Any family wishing to purchase a copy of Team & Club Pictures will receive an order form.



NEW OUTDOOR SENSORY PATH!



This past month, Divisions 4 and 9 collaborated with Ms. Jeni Chen, a local artist and author, to paint an outdoor sensory path. Located just outside the primary classrooms and portables, this sensory path guides students to move their bodies and calm their minds so they can be ready for learning. The path's design was inspired by Division 9's observational drawings of the beauty in nature around our school. By transforming these sketches into a large-scale mural, students are invited to run across logs, hop over stones, leap over lily pads, and solve a maze. We hope the sensory path will be both a vibrant work of art, as well as an effective tool for learning for all students at Blair and children in our community.

Thank you to Ms. Maggie Coval, Division 9's UBC Teacher Candidate who applied for this grant and was the successful recipient. Thank you so much to Ms. Chen for collaborating with us to make this project a reality! We hope our students and community enjoy this sensory path for years to come. The funds for this project were generously donated by the University of British Columbia's Emily Longworth Award.

SPORTS DAY – JUNE 9th

Each year the school puts on a fun 'Sports Day' with grade 7 leaders organizing each relay race. We have not had a Sport's Day for a few years and we are excited to have it this year! Our Sports Day will be Friday, June 9th. The following is an outline of events scheduled for Sports Day in case you would like to drop by:

Shape of the Day

- 8:45 Take attendance in classrooms
- 9:00 Arrive in gym for Cheers
- 9:30 Start Stations Outside: 4 stations

- 10:30 Snack – provided by PAC
- 10:45 Pre-School Race
- 11:00 Restart Stations: 4 stations
- 12:00 Lunch – Food Day organized by the PAC
- 12:30 (approximately) Tug-o-War
- 1:00 Dismissal



Students are reminded to wear sunscreen and hats to protect themselves from sun exposure during the day, and dress appropriately for the weather. It looks to be a fun day for everyone! There will be a hot lunch provided by our Blair PAC on Friday, June 9th. They will be serving hotdogs/or veggie dogs and a juice box for each child at the school at no cost. If you want to bring your own lunch, or extra food that day please do so.

GARDEN BEDS AT BLAIR SCHOOL



The Blair Garden is in full swing. Division 8 has been busy in the garden. They weeded, dug in manure, planted and have been watering regularly. We were lucky again this year to not only get a seed donation from Westcoast Seeds but to also be included in Urban Roots Giving Gardens. Urban Roots donated over 100 starter plants per school to more than 200 schools and community gardens across the Metro Vancouver area. This year our gardens are full of beans, peas, strawberries, chives, oregano, parsley, basil, rosemary, radishes, cucumbers, tomatoes, and a variety of leafy greens. We also have our Butterflyway garden which was started two years with the help of the David Suzuki foundation to attract butterflies to our area. Our pollinator garden is also in place to attract pollinators to our garden. We are very excited to see our Indigenous Healing Garden plants come back strong after our Fall planting! As always, we are looking for help watering and weeding in the summer. If you are looking for a fun activity to do with your kids that also helps Our Place, please contact Mrs. Ridley to be added to the garden watering schedule for the summer. aridley@sd38.bc.ca

PAC MEETING ON MAY 31st

The next PAC meeting is on Wednesday, May 31st at 7:30 on TEAMS. This meeting is also the PAC's Annual General Meeting. An email was sent out last week asking for volunteers for the the PAC executive. Next year's PAC executive will be determined at this PAC Meeting. We hope you will consider helping the PAC in the work that they do. It certainly helps our school a great deal!!

Positions that are available include:

- President
- Vice-President
- Treasurer
- Secretary (meeting Minutes and Agenda)
- Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee
- Vice Chairperson of the Fundraising Committee
- Representative of BCPAC
- Representative of DPAC



If you would like be a part of our PAC executive, please nominate yourself, or if you know someone who would like to be more involved then please email Liuchun Yang liuchunyang@live.com

PLAYGROUND BOTTLE DRIVE FUNDRAISER:

We had great participation in our second school wide Fundraising event for our new playground. The whole school participated, between odd and even divisions and a friendly competition was a motivator to see which divisions would bring in the most bottles and cans. Our Student Leadership students collected the bottles for PAC each day. Susan Deng (our Fundraising Chair) collected all the bottles at the end of the two weeks and took them to the Return It Depot. Thank you to all the families and classroom teachers for their participation in this fundraiser. The Blair account at the Return It Depot is still open; therefore, families can still return their bottles and cans throughout the year, and they will still count towards our fundraiser. Thank you to Susan Deng for all her organization and hard work in support of our Playground Fundraiser. Stay tuned for more fundraising events in the future!

STUDENT PLACEMENT FOR 2023-24 SCHOOL YEAR

In mid-June the Blair staff will begin the task of organizing students into next year's classroom settings. The goal in student placement is for our staff is to create a positive and balanced classroom – academically and socially. If you are planning to make a request for your child for the 2023-2024 school year, please send an email to blair@sd38.bc.ca by Monday, June 5th. Please do not request specific teachers, however, you can share the learning environment you feel your child will learn best in.