



## Canada-Austria COVID-19 Children's Project

### "What we learned from the coronavirus"

UBC's Life Sciences Institute (LSI) is seeking elementary school children's reflections on COVID-19, and what the pandemic has meant to them. Thank you for your interest!

The LSI and the Institute for Molecular Biotechnology (IMBA) in Vienna have joined forces to capture children's perspectives on a unique moment in human history, and underline the importance of basic science in unprecedented events facing humanity.

We plan to start with a web-based gallery, but envisage publishing a small book. To help gather submissions, we will be promoting a "call to action" video on Twitter, featuring the head of the LSI, Dr. Josef Penninger. In the video, Dr. Penninger promises to respond directly to each child who participates.

#### **Submissions**

We could not do this without the contributions of teachers. We know you've all been stretched by the pandemic and its impacts yourselves, and in asking your students to participate in this project, we know there are implications and additional workload for you. Just as we promise to respond to each child, each teacher – and their principal – will receive a letter of appreciation. Should we be successful in raising funds for publication of a book, each participating teacher will receive a copy as a memento. All participating teachers, their classes and their schools will be recognized in the online gallery, and in any publication emerging from this project.

#### ***The Nuts and Bolts***



We don't want to place boundaries on creativity – but we understand from Stephanie Lecce, the North Vancouver teacher at St. Pius X School who started us down this path, that children in primary grades need guidance around writing activities.

That's Mishka Yakovyshenko there to the left. He's in Ms Lecce's grade 3 classroom.

So, here are some ideas:

- How do you imagine the virus?
- How has the virus affected you?
- What did you learn about the virus and not getting sick?

We have not specified a length. Individual children should feel comfortable with whatever they wish or want to produce.

We do ask is that if possible, originals be sent to the LSI by snail mail or electronically to Bethany Becker, LSI's communications and outreach specialist.

**Bethany Becker**

Life Sciences Institute

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Illustrations and messages that are posted on social media should include a hashtag of #whatwelearnedfromcorona, so that both institutions can find the postings. LSI does not have an Instagram account, but Bethany does, and we are on Twitter, @ubclifesciences.

***Release forms***

Many schools have parents and caregivers sign releases at the beginning of the school year. We do not require a special release for our purposes, but if children are not covered by such a release and wish to participate, we will provide a document for parents to sign.

***Timeline***

We are mindful that the school year is coming to an end very soon! We are happy to accept submissions through the end of the summer, but do not want to make teachers feel obligated in any way to coordinate, collect, or process submissions.

**Thank you**

We greatly appreciate your interest in this project, and welcome your input!

Please contact Bethany at the coordinates above with any questions or comments.