



McBride Annex Elementary

4750 St. Catherines St., Vancouver, V5V 4M7
Telephone (604) 713-5374 Fax (604) 713-5376

Vice Principal: Ms. Andrea Greenhalgh
Principal: Ms. Lindsay Thompson
Trustee: Ms. Carmen Cho

OAA: Ms. Betty Hung
Director of Instruction: Mr. Aaron Davis
Website: www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/mcbride-annex

September 2021 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,
Welcome to the 2021-22 school year. It is hard to fathom that we are now entering our third school year with the Covid-19 pandemic as part of our lives. Our current grade 3s are the only group that have had a year of school without Covid. Our kindergarten and grade 1 students do not know what a "regular" school year should be and our grade 2s have only had a taste! We all welcome you and your family back and look forward to the excitement of the rest of the year ahead of us.



Andrea Greenhalgh
Vice-Principal

STAFF CHANGES

Our tiny school of McBride Annex has had changes again. We welcome back **Ms. Jennifer Lum** who is teaching our Division 3 class of grade two and three students. Ms. Lum will be with us until January when Ms. Kayra will return from maternity leave. **Ms. Eva McIntyre** is joining us in our Kindergarten room on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday's. Ms. McIntyre has years of experience teaching kindergarten and was most recently at Shaughnessy Elementary. Mrs. Vandana Locket, our Student and School Support Assistant, has taken a position at another school, and until her position is filled, we will have Mr. Brent Faddies with us. Our Speech Language Pathologist Ms. Eleanor Roff was reassigned within the VSB and our new SLP will be **Ms. Erin Boswell**. **Ms. Maria Foster** is our new school counsellor. You may also notice more adults around our school. The VSB District Hard of Hearing team has relocated their offices to our school. Their office is in Room 119 which is across from Start Smart Preschool. Welcome to them as well!

FORMS TO RETURN TO THE SCHOOL

Over the next couple of school days your child(ren) will be bringing home important documents that need to be returned to the school. All papers photocopied in white need to be returned to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Thank you.



SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our school website: www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/mcbride-annex is being updated on a regular basis. The calendar option now has our long-range events entered into it.



REPORTING STUDENT ABSENCES

Student safety is of paramount importance at the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences. If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on a dedicated answering service by calling 604-713-5159 ext. 50. An email can also be sent mbraattendance@vsb.bc.ca

DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Just a reminder to check your child's daily health assessment prior sending them to school. There is a QR Code (see below) that you can scan and there is also a link to an app that can be downloaded. In your opening package each child received a hard copy of the Daily Health Assessment. We will be sending home any students that show any signs of illness and ask you to be vigilant in conducting the health assessment for us. We will also be encouraging all of our primary students to wear masks while in the classroom setting. Please ensure your child has a mask in their backpack everyday. Thank you.



- **District Communicable Disease Prevention** Plan link – <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/COVID-19/Pages/default.aspx>
- <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca/healthcheck?execution=e1s1>

SCHOOL CASH ON-LINE

Last year the VSB started using School Cash Online for all payments within the school. The VSB has not yet loaded the payments for our school, but if you are registered you

will receive an email notification that you have items to pay. If you have not yet registered to pay for your school fees (\$35) and for our grade 2 and 3 students an additional fee of \$10 for their agenda, please do so. The website is <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com> or you can visit the VSB website at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/online-payment>

SCHOOL PHOTOS –

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15th

Our individual school photos for the 2021-2022 school year are coming very quickly! They are on **Wednesday, September 15th** in the morning. Edge Imaging is our new school photo provider. Edge Imaging provides a variety of photo options to capture your child's true personality, preserving all their school day memories. For more information on photo day, please visit www.edgeimaging.ca for answers to frequently asked questions.



MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT / WELCOME TO THE COMMUNITY

We normally would be inviting you to our school to meet all our staff, tour your child's classroom, and meet the teachers. Obviously, this year is again different, but our staff feel we would still like to reach out to you with an outdoor welcome to our school community. We will meet from **5:30-6:00 pm on Wednesday, September 22nd**. We will have an informal meet and greet with our teachers. This event will be directly prior to our first PAC meeting of the year. The PAC meeting will begin at 6:00 pm. Please see more information in our PAC news section about the PAC meeting.

OUTDOOR CLOTHING / CHANGE OF CLOTHES

With the increased focus of being outside our students are expected to be outside for all recess and lunch hours regardless of the weather. Please ensure they are dressed appropriately. The teachers will also be conducting as much learning, as possible, in our school garden area as well.



Please ensure your child brings outdoor clothing to school that suits the weather. If the weather is rainy students will need rain boots, a rain coat and a hat or umbrella. If the weather is cold students will need boots, a warm jacket, mittens/gloves and a hat. Children do go outside for recess and lunch on all days, so they need to be prepared for the weather. When children return inside after playing outside their shoes are often wet and muddy. If possible, please provide indoor shoes for your

child that can remain at school so that they have clean and dry footwear to put on after recess and lunch.

RECESS / LUNCH PROCEDURES

With our increased focus on hand washing and sanitizing all students will continue to eat their recess snack prior to recess at 10:35 and eat their lunch, in their classroom, at 11:50ish. They will be outside for the 20 minute recess (10:40-11:00) and outside for the entire lunch break (12:05-12:52). All students must have their lunches with them at 9:00 am as we are unable to have lunches dropped off during the day.



Another reminder that students need to bring any cutlery needed for their lunch as well as a water bottle each day. Last school year we had our water bottle refill station installed and is very well used.

NEEDED – VOLUNTEER FOR OUR FRUIT AND VEGETABLE PROGRAM

The BC Agriculture in the classroom foundation provide a fruit and vegetable program to interested schools within BC. It has been postponed since March 2020 and is able to be run again this year. We need a parent or parents that already have or are willing to get their Food Safe certificate (school will pay) to distribute the fruit / vegetables to the classrooms. This is an approximate time commitment of 1 hour a month. The fruit / vegetables need to be washed and divided up into classroom portions. The dishes then need to be loaded into our dishwasher. The food is delivered to us monthly. If interested please contact Ms. Betty, in our office at 604-713-5374.

TERRY FOX RUN

We will have our annual Terry Fox run from 2:15-2:45 on September 23rd. Please watch for more information coming home in the next two weeks.



PAC MEETING

Our PAC meeting dates have been set for the year. The first three meeting dates are: **Wednesday, September 22nd (outside please bring a lawn chair), Monday, October 18th, and Wednesday, November 24th**. All meetings will be at 6:00 pm and for now they will be held on Zoom (except for Sept. 22nd). The Zoom link will be shared prior to the meeting to all parents. We look

forward to welcoming our new Kindergarten and new to the school families to our PAC.

[We will be having our first PAC meeting on Wednesday, September 22nd at 6:00 pm outside under the covered area of the Annex.](#) **Please bring your own chair.** All parents are welcome, however please note that no childcare will be available. As it is outside, we would like to minimize noise and disruption so that we can have a successful in-person PAC meeting for the first time since Feb 2020! We will be serving pizza, so please bring your own drinks. We look forward to meeting you and providing an update of what we have planned for the new school year.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

The PAC organizes and runs McBride Annex's hot lunch program – more information to come soon!

PAC QUESTIONS Any questions regarding PAC events please email the PAC at mcbrideannexpac@gmail.com.

Dates to Remember

Wednesday, September 15th – Individual Photo Day

Wednesday, September 22nd – “Welcome to our Community and Meet our Teachers” 5:30-6:00 pm outside on blacktop area. PAC meeting 6:00-7:30 (please be mindful that there is no childcare available and we would like to conduct our meeting so if one parent can attend this would be helpful)

Thursday, September 23rd – Terry Fox 2:15-2:45 pm

Friday, September 24th – Professional Day, students do not attend school on this day

Thursday, September 30th – National Day for Truth and Reconciliation statutory holiday – School is not in session