



## April Newsletter 2023

### PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

We hope you enjoy our April newsletter which includes a number of highlights from different departments sharing learning activities that our students have engaged in the past couple of months. Our staff are committed in providing a learning experience for our students that meets the needs of each and every student. Starting this month, newsletters will be sent out once a month in the school calendar except for January and March.

Although we still have three months left, we are already actively planning for next year. Course selection is finished and the timetable for next year is being built. Thank you to our counselling team for meeting with our students to guide them in selecting courses that meet their goals, and to our two vice principals Ms. Blake and Mr. Irani, who are immersed in creating next year's timetable. Because we are a smaller size school but offer a number of options and programs for our students, it can be really challenging creating the timetable but our admin team are up to the task!

Scholarship, Graduation Ceremony, and Prom night updates and information were recently shared with our grade 12's. This is a busy and hectic time for our grade 12 students, and we encourage families to ask their child about the upcoming events and the scholarship applications available to Britannia students. We are so fortunate as the scholarship funding that we receive at our school is well over \$100,000 dollars! We are truly grateful for the incredible financial support for our students from such a caring and supportive community.

As we head in to the long weekend, we hope you and your family have a relaxing four days. Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or queries.

Kind regards and Huy Chexw,

Rose Mackenzie

### OUTREACH

Over the past 2 months, students from Kwáyatsut Outreach have attended a series of Indigenous culinary arts classes at Cedar Feast House, an Indigenous-owned catering company based in Strathcona. The owner of Cedar Feast House, Theresa Contois, is a Red Seal chef and introduced students to new cooking techniques and beautiful, Indigenous ingredients such as venison and wild rice. Those fortunate enough to receive the leftovers each week were treated to Bannock tacos, fresh pasta with venison meatballs, Bison Bourguignon, salmon with wild rice, and butter chicken. Thank you so much to Cedar Feast House, Malcolm Key, the students, and CLICK grants for making this delicious opportunity a reality.



## BRITANNIA BAND AT THE VSB DISTRICT JAZZ FESTIVAL

On Wednesday, February 15th, the Britannia Band took the stage at the VSB District Jazz Fest. They performed three pieces: Feelin' Good, Cissy Strut, and 25 or 6 to 4 to share the diversity of repertoire explored in Band. Immediately following their performance, the Brit Band had the opportunity to work with clinician/adjudicator Bruce Taylor. He spoke highly of the band and their ability to be flexible and successfully try everything he suggested. It meant a lot to get to work with such an accomplished musician/teacher.

It was a spectacular evening of music and a wonderful opportunity to see what other schools are doing. Having performed at Jazz Fest, the band is excited to try more jazz pieces in addition to those they are preparing for the Con Brio Festival they will attend in Whistler.



## STREETFRONT-SHREDDIN'

The StreetFront students enjoying a day on the mountain before heading to Spring Break! – March 10, 2023





## PHOTOGRAPHY CLASS VISITS THE POLYGON

On January 26, the Britannia Photography classes had the opportunity to travel to the Polygon Gallery on the North Shore, near Lonsdale Quay, to view the Lind Prize finalists as well as two other exhibits. The Polygon is a lens based gallery presenting contemporary photographic and lens based art. Students learned about different ways emerging artists are interpreting lens based processes and materials in our guided tour of the Lind Prize finalist exhibition; video, glitch, ocean lumen prints as well as sound ASMR installations that accompany video.

Students were treated to 2 more exhibits by Deanna Dikeman, "leaving and waving" as well as Rebecca Belmore "Hacer Memoria".

It was a fantastic day. Thank you to all who came on the field trip and to the teachers and adults who helped facilitate, particularly Nancy Cameron as our second adult on the trip.



## LIBRARY NEWS

The library continues to be an active lunchtime hub. It is especially busy with the onset of Ramadan. Thanks to help from Mr. Crawford, in the woodshop, we have a new puzzle table that is proving to be a very popular space for students to sit and unwind. Book circulation is very healthy, and students are regularly putting in their personal requests for books they would like added to the collection. Ms. Ng is always happy to help find the right book for the right student. And as always, please return your overdues, we are a fine free library!

## CARVING PAVILION-SOCIALS

Social Studies 8 and Social Studies 9 classes met and spoke with Simon James Jr., an Indigenous artist who has started work on the community pole in the Britannia ʔxʷqʷeləwən ct carving pavilion. Simon shared stories about his family lineage and relations, as well personal stories about how his journey in becoming a carver and the co-creator of the animated television show called Raven Tales. Students participated in a visioning session, providing suggestions for the design of the community pole. Students are excited for the opportunity to return to ʔxʷqʷeləwən ct carving pavilion to see the carving process in action!



## MODERN LANGUAGES

In Language classes, students engage with many aspects of culture, including food, music and celebrations.

### French

Recently, French 8 and French 9 participated in the international competition "Manie Musicale", highlighting Francophone artists from around the world. The goal of "Manie Musicale", which follows the dates of the March Madness basketball tournament, is to increase student engagement and cultural knowledge through popular French songs. This year 471,000 students participated around the world. Students at Britannia have had so much fun singing, dancing and voting on their favourite songs and are looking forward to a class visit and show from their favourite local artist, Missy D!

In Semester 1, French students also had the opportunity to "speedate" cheeses. This homage to fromage gets student to experience an essential part French gastronomy – cheese. Students were put in the shoes of a cheese connoisseur and asked to evaluate a variety of cheeses from the Francophone world. We sampled and then evaluated cheeses on the following categories: scent, colour, texture and of course taste. Délicieux!



## MANDARIN

For Lunar New Year, the Mandarin classes went on a field trip to Aberdeen Centre. Students completed a scavenger hunt for Lunar New Year items, used Mandarin to talk to the market vendors, and enjoyed delicious Chinese food for lunch.

Back at Britannia, students decorated their Mandarin classroom with Lunar New Year elements. Students also tried calligraphy writing, lantern making, and paper cutting: it was a wonderful celebration!

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE LEARNING

With warmer Spring weather on the horizon, ELL students are looking forward to exploring the community to practice their English around the neighbourhood.

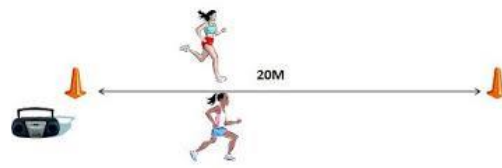
## ENGLISH

Earlier this year, English Studies 12 students visited the Chinatown Storytelling Centre, whose motto is "Honouring our past. Shaping our future." Students engaged with a range of stories from our neighbourhood and considered different ways to communicate, including through writing, photographs, video, sound recordings, architecture, and artefacts. Following their field trip, students told their own stories by researching and writing about places that are important to them.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Recently, students in PHE 8, 9, and 10 classes had some fantastic lessons on agility and coordination. These students displayed their overall physical skills by taking part in racquet sports – Badminton, Pickleball, and Speedminton.

Students also took part in Fitness Assessments and other fitness related activities while setting some personal fitness goals. One of the highlights of our fitness assessment session is always the cardiovascular endurance test. Depending on the weather, students will either take part in the 12 Minute Run (complete as many laps of the Britannia Oval) or the 20 Metre Beep Test (run 20 metres across the gym floor to the sound of each “Beep”).



Due to the inclement weather, we decided to stay inside Beep Test. Students did awesome the first few rounds, then between “beeps” decreased, they slowly dropped out of

Determined not to give up, some members of each grade pushed themselves to the limit as other students cheered them on. Standout performances were put in by: Lara, Dani, Oliver and Bienfait.

and do the as the time the test.

In the next few weeks, students will be moving outside to take part in striking and fielding games. A reminder for students to be prepared for all outdoor activities. As the grass is usually wet, be sure to have a change of clothes and appropriate footwear to engage in our field-based games.

## SCHOOL/OFFICE INFORMATION

April 7	Good Friday - School Closed
April 10	Easter Monday - School Closed
April 24	Professional Development Day
April 28	Semester 2 Mid-Term Reports Published – 3pm
May 11	Family Teacher Conference – Early Dismissal 2:05pm
May 19	Professional Development Day
May 22	Victoria Day Holiday
June 13	Graduation Ceremony – Early Dismissal 2:05pm

## SCHOOL ADDRESS

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**Acknowledging that we live, work, and play on the unceded and traditional territories of the Coast Salish peoples – sḵwxwú7mesh (Squamish), sel̓ilwítulh (Tsleil-Waututh), and xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam) nations.**

# BRITANNIA BRUINS