

Beaconsfield Banter

3663 Penticton Street, Vancouver, V5M 3C9

Phone: 604-713-4605 • Fax: 604-713-4607

Principal: Mr. Tony Romano

Office Administrative Assistant: Ms. Tracey Bell

PAC Chairs: Tim Bottomer and Kathy Tenta

Director of Instruction: Ms. Janis Myers

Official Trustee: Mr. Christopher Richardson

<http://beaconsfield.vsb.bc.ca>



NEWSLETTER NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

Principal's Message

I hope everyone has had a great summer break and are well rested for the start of a brand-new school year. I am excited to be appointed as the new principal of Beaconsfield Elementary and am looking forward to meeting you during the first few weeks of school. September is a busy month for everyone as we get settled into new classes. Once we get permission from VSB we will move our students into their new home rooms. Once your child is with their new teacher, we would ask that you complete the many forms and submit the appropriate fees as soon as you are able to.

There will be more information coming from the school as teachers and students settle in during the first week of school. For now, we would like to draw your attention to the following important items:

School begins on Tuesday, September 5th from 9 to 10 am for grades 1 to 7.

- **All returning students**, please line up outside in last year's division.
- **All new students**, please meet at the front of the school steps at 9 am.
- **Kindergarten students and parents**, will go to the **library at 9:15**. Please stay with your child until the end of the presentation at 10 am.

2023-24 School Staffing Updates

There are some staffing changes that we want to make you aware of. Ms. L. Petersen has decided to move schools, we wish her all the best in her new assignment. We are happy to welcome Ms. AJ Merani, as our new kindergarten teacher, Ms. A. Metcalfe, resource teacher and Ms. R. Knight, grade 1/2 teacher. Lastly, I would like to welcome Mr. R. Cowley, to our supervision team. Welcome to Beaconsfield!

Health and Safety:

We will continue to monitor and adhere to the guidance provided by health authorities to ensure a safe learning environment. Staff will continue to remind students of the importance of regular hand washing and of coughing/sneezing into their elbow or a tissue. We will continue to ensure school sinks are well stocked with soap. If your child is experiencing Flu-like symptoms, we encourage you to keep them at home until they are symptom free to limit the spread of disease.

Communication

Communication is so important to a successful relationship between home and school. Please feel free to speak with your child's teacher about any concerns you may have. Check your child's agenda or communication book on a daily basis. This monthly newsletter is meant to keep you informed of all school activities. The school website, will be updated regularly with relevant school information, so please check that often.

Blended Classes

Blended or combined classes (1/2, 3/4, 4/5 etc.) often cause unnecessary concern with parents. There are many misconceptions about what this means. We want to assure you that we look carefully at the makeup of each class and try to balance them out so that your child is in the best possible learning environment. It is important to remember that, **particularly in the elementary grades**, all children are learning skills along a continuum and being in a blended class has little impact on the development of those skills or the educational experience that we offer.

Safe Arrival Procedures / 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 the answering service by calling 604-713-5159 school code 11. Messages can be received before the office is open. School offices are busy places:

consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.

To Report Your Child's Absence – Please call **604-713-5159 school code 11** prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence

Student Sign out Procedure

When you pick up your child during the school day, please ensure that you notify the office. If you do not notify the office, they will be unaccounted for, and the school will identify your child as a 'missing' student and will commence a search of school grounds. **If the school staff do not locate the child, and are unable to reach a parent promptly, the school will call the Vancouver Police Department.**

Therefore, clear communication is essential for ensuring the safety of your child.

Pick up and Drop off

Families should take note that in front of the school there is a No Stopping zone. City Bylaw Section 17.1 states: You cannot stop in a No Stopping zone for any reason, or any length of time. On either side of the No Stopping area there is a No Parking zone where people can stop for five minutes to pick up and drop off children.

PAC News

On behalf of the Parent Advisory Committee, we want to welcome all the returning and new students and parents. The first PAC meeting will be on Tuesday, September 12 at 6:30 pm in our library. All parents are welcome to attend. If you would like to contact our PAC or volunteer to help out with a program, please email beaconsfieldschool@gmail.com

Code of Conduct

The school code of conduct is an essential component in having students develop and maintain positive relationships. It guides everyone in our positive interactions and helps students deal with conflicts and difficult situations. The beginning of the school year is a great opportunity to take a moment to review the Beaconsfield Code of Conduct with your child and ensure they understand the different aspects of the document. It can be found on our website.

Concern at School?

Please remember that your child's teacher is your first point of contact. If parents have any concerns or questions regarding practices or activities occurring in their child's classroom, please discuss these concerns directly with the classroom teacher by phoning the school to book an appointment in order to speak privately with the teacher. Most concerns are solved at this point. After having spoken to the classroom teacher, and the issue is unresolved, an appointment with the administrator is the second step. Again, book an appointment in order to speak about matters privately. Beyond that, the VSB Conflict Resolution Process for School-Based Concerns provides more detail as to how parents can solve a concern at school. For more information please visit - [Conflict-resolution](#)

Finally, it is imperative that parents understand clearly that if you have a concern about a child other than your own, ONLY VSB STAFF are allowed to speak to that child. You may only speak to your own child.

Allergies and Nut Aware School

If your child has any medical condition, please make certain that you have spoken to the school office about your child's needs.

Students will be eating lunch in their classroom. This creates a family feel and a calmer eating environment. However, lunch can also be a time of concern for some of our students who have allergies to food products.

We have students with severe life-threatening allergies. Most have an allergy to peanuts and tree nuts (cashews, pistachios, hazelnut, etc). The smallest amount of Nutella or peanut butter on a friend's hand could be transferred to a book, pencil, ball or skipping rope and cause any number of reactions, including hives, vomiting, or anaphylactic shock and, without immediate emergency medical assistance, loss of consciousness or worse. Therefore, protection of anaphylactic children requires the school to establish guidelines for everyone, as follows:

- classrooms and common areas free of any substances that place the student at risk of anaphylactic shock – **this means no peanuts or nuts please**
- signs around the school that indicate the facility is as a "**Nut Aware zone**" and
- **not sharing any food, forks, spoons, and food containers.**

Our staff will be discussing the above points with students, and we hope that parents will support our efforts. While this request may pose an inconvenience for parents when packing your child's snack and lunch, I wish to thank you for your understanding of these potentially life-threatening allergies. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Payment of School Fees

Fees charged to parents of SCHOOL students come in two parts: school supplies + additional learning fees. The Vancouver School Board offers the service to parents/guardians to purchase basic school supplies in bulk at wholesale prices and to pass the cost-savings on to families. School supplies are offered to parents for \$35 per student. This cost covers basic school supplies used for students' personal use such as paper, writing tools, rulers, scissors, glue sticks, erasers, paint sets, and exercise books for the **full** school year except where excessive loss and replacement becomes unreasonable. The advantages of the Board providing student supplies are: (1) convenience (2) cost savings (3) standardization of supplies used in the classroom, and (4) availability of supplies as needed throughout the school year. As agreed with PAC – yearly charges for enhanced learning experiences are also levied. This money pays for performances and activities. **A separate notice is being sent home with further information.** The Vancouver School Board will not deny a child access to the anything required for his or her educational program because of financial hardship. Parents and guardians who would like to request to postpone payment for school supplies or have the payment waived for the current school year, should contact the school Principal, Mr. Romano ttromano@vsb.bc.ca to work out a plan.

School Cash on-line

A reminder that teachers and our office will not be accepting cash or cheques for school fees or field trips. Please sign-up with School Cash Online. See next page for instructions.

SchoolCashOnline

For safety and efficiency reasons, the Vancouver School Board would like to reduce the amount of cash and number of cheques coming into our schools. Please join the many parents who have already registered for the convenience of paying online; it takes less than five minutes. After following the easy, step-by-step instructions below, you will begin to receive email notifications regarding your child(ren)'s upcoming events.

NOTE: If you require assistance, select the *SUPPORT* option in the top right hand corner of the screen.

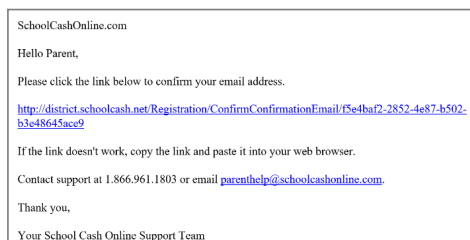
Step 1: Register

- If you have not registered, please go to the *School Cash Online* home page <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com> and select the "Get Started Today" option.
- Complete each of the three Registration Steps
*For Security Reasons your password, requires 8 characters, one uppercase letter, one lowercase letter and a number.



Step 2: Confirmation Email

A registration confirmation email will be forwarded to you. Click on the link provided inside the email to confirm your email and *School Cash Online* account. The confirmation link will open the *School Cash Online* site prompting you to sign into your account. Use your email address and password just created with your account.



Step 3: Find Student

This step will connect your children to your account.

- Enter the School Board Name.
- Enter the School Name.
- Enter Your Child's Usual First Name, Last Name and Birth Date.
- Select *Continue*.
- On the next page confirm that you are related to the child, check in the Agree box and select *Continue*.
- Your child has been added to your account.

Find Student

School Information

School Board Name: School Board 1575
Looking for a student in a different school board? [?](#) [?](#)

School Name: Eagle High School [?](#)

Student Information

Do you have the student number?

Student Number:

First Name:

Last Name:

Birth Date:
Date format: mm/dd/yyyy

(No students? [Click here](#))

Step 4: View Items or Add Another Student

If you have more children, select "Add Another Student" and repeat the steps above. 8 children can be added to one parent account. If you do not wish to add additional children, select "View Items for Students" option. A listing of available items for purchase will be displayed.

Student Accident Insurance

Student accident insurance information is available for families online. The VSB is offering parents access to two voluntary accidental injury, unexpected medical/ dental expenses and critical illness. The two companies that are offering the product are called IA Family Accident Reimbursement Plan and Study Insured. Families can register online to purchase and participate in either of these plans by using the URL's provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com

Package of Forms

Students will be bringing home a package of various forms in the next couple of weeks. Please ensure that all information on the Student Verification Form is current and correct. Also, remember that if there are changes to telephone numbers and emergency contact numbers, please inform the office immediately for your child's safety. Take a close look at each document and return the ones that need signatures to the school as soon as possible.

Devices/Cell Phones: Being Respectful of School Policy

Students are may only use devices at school following two conditions:

1. Under the supervision of a staff member
2. For instructional purposes only

Also, parents, students and staff cannot take photos of any student (but your own) without permission of parents.

Sleep and Bedtime

Here's our attempt every year at helping parents get their children to bed at a reasonable time! Being tired can lead to not being able to do your best with both academics and behavior. Set a regular bedtime routine, have a quiet time 30 minutes before bedtime, avoid caffeinated soft drinks and chocolate in the evening, keep bedrooms cool, dark and quiet and remove devices from bedrooms.

Age	Wake-up time						
	6:00 AM	6:15 AM	6:30 AM	6:45 AM	7:00 AM	7:15 AM	7:30 AM
Sleeping time							
5	6:45 PM	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM
6	7:00 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM
7	7:15 PM	7:15 PM	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM
8	19:30	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM
9	7:30 PM	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM
10	8:00 PM	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM
11	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM	9:45 PM
12	8:15 PM	8:30 PM	8:45 PM	9:00 PM	9:15 PM	9:30 PM	9:45 PM

Your to do list:

To be Paid Through Cash Online:

- School Fees Notice (a separate notice is being sent home requesting payment)

Forms to be Completed Online (see attached instructions to this email)

- Go to <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca>
- enter your child's Personal Education Number PEN and birthdate
- Accept the consent for each of the forms. Not accepting or completing implies decline.
- Forms to be completed:
 - VSB Internal Use Media Consent
 - External Use Media Consent
 - CASL - Canadian Anti-Spam Legislation
 - Student AUP - Acceptable Use Policy

To be signed and returned to school (notice will be sent home in September):

- Student Critical Incident Reunification Sheet (for emergencies)
- Student Verification Form (verifying personal information is correct)

Important Dates in September

Tues. Sept. 5	First Day of school for students in grades 1-7 (9:00-10:00am)
Tues. Sept. 5	New Kindergarten Welcome in library 9:15-10:00am
Wed. Sept. 6	First full day for students in grades 1-7 (9:00am -3:03pm)
Wed. Sept. 6	New Kindergarten gradual entry begins
Wed. Sept. 13	First full day for new Kindergarten students (9:00am-3:03pm)
Tues. Sept. 12	PAC meeting @ 6:30 pm in our school library
Mon. Sept. 25	Professional Day – no school for students
TBA	Meet the teacher / Open House
Mon. Oct. 2	Day in lieu of National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – no school
Tues. Oct. 3	Individual Student Photo Day

Thank you for entrusting your child to us. We will take good care of them!

[SEE NEXT PAGE FOR MORE CALENDAR DATES](#)

CALENDAR 2023 – 2024

Lord Beaconsfield Elementary School

School Operation Overview

Number of Days in Session	188
Number of Days of Instruction	181
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	6 Non Instructional Days 1 Administrative Day (June 28)

Important Dates

First Day of School for Students	Tuesday, September 5, 2023
Day in lieu of National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	Monday, October 2, 2023
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 9, 2023
In lieu of Remembrance Day	Monday, November 13, 2023
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 22, 2023
Winter Vacation Period	Wednesday, December 27, 2023 - Friday January 5, 2024
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 8, 2024
Family Day	Monday, February 19, 2024
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 15, 2024
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 18 – Thursday, March 28, 2024
Good Friday	Friday, March 29, 2024
Easter Monday	Monday, April 1, 2024
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Tuesday, April 2, 2024
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20, 2024
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 27, 2024
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 28, 2024

**Professional Development and Non-Instructional Days
(school not in session)**

Monday September 25, 2023	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, October 20, 2023	Professional Development Day (Province wide)
Friday, November 24, 2023	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Wednesday January 17, 2024	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, February 16, 2024	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Monday, April 22, 2024	Professional Development Day (District wide)

Parent Conference Dates

Early Dismissal Times

Tuesday October 24, 2023	Dismissal at 2:00pm
Wednesday October 25, 2023	Dismissal at 2:00pm
Wednesday February 7, 2024	Dismissal at 2:00pm
Thursday February 8, 2024	Dismissal at 2:00pm