

GRENFELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

South Hill Swing Space 5987 Prince Albert Street

Phone: 604-713-4844

Website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/sir-wilfred-grenfell/>

PRINCIPAL: Maureen McDonnell	DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION: Chris Wong
OFFICIAL TRUSTEE: Christopher Richardson	PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) CHAIR: Caitlin Glass

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səlilwataʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

CHERRY BLOSSOM APRIL



Welcome to April in Vancouver, when the cherry blossoms decorate Vancouver streets with millions of beautiful petals of gorgeous pink, and bring out the crowds of hobby photographers to get those wonderful shots of streets looking like cathedrals against the backdrop of the mountains.

All those trees are not an accident: they were a gift from the people of Japan, starting with 500 trees that were sent by the mayors of Kobe and Yokohama in 1936. In 1958, Japanese consul Muneo Tanabe donated another 300 trees to celebrate friendship, which were planted along Cambie Boulevard and in Queen Elizabeth Park. Later, the city established the Cherry Blossom Festival, and a total of about 40,000 cherry trees now line many of Vancouver's streets.

It's wonderful that we can all enjoy the beauty of all these lovely trees every April.

NOON HOUR CLUBS:

We are currently running two noon hour clubs for the students who would like to participate during lunch hour.



Dance Club: led by Ms. Massis for Grade 6 and 7 students on Fridays. In addition to regular meets, students will participate in the Elementary Afternoon of Dance Festival, which will take place on April 23, 2026, from 1:15 PM to 2:30 PM at Gladstone Secondary. This event is a non-competitive celebration of dance, bringing together VSB elementary schools to perform and enjoy the art of dance.

Noon Hour Games: hosted by Youth & Family Worker, Ms. Mani. Students of all ages are welcome to drop in to play board games, build using Lego or building blocks, play chess or beading. Noon Hour Games are open every Monday and Thursday at lunch.



Thank you to the staff who volunteer their lunch time to support students!



RELAX THE RULES DAY

We had another successful and fun Break The Rules Day on March 13. Students were well-behaved even on the day when they were supposed to break the rules! It says a lot about Grenfell students. We raised over \$1400 towards outdoor education. As a result of the Break The Rules Day, students were rewarded with an additional 20 minutes of recess on Friday, April 11. Thank you to Ms. Cho for organizing this fundraiser. Thank you to the Grenfell families for your support.

CURLING AT GRENFELL



On April 8 & 9, our school gymnasium was transformed into an iceless curling rink. Grenfell students had the opportunity to learn about the sport of curling thanks to the elementary school program *Egg Farmers Rocks and Rings* sponsored by Curling Canada. The unique floor curling equipment provides our student with a true curling experience. Thank you to Ms. Su for organizing this fun program to enrich our physical Education curriculum.

NATURE PARKS ON SCHOOLS STUDENT SURVEY



The University of Victoria is working with BC Parks Foundation to evaluate the benefits of nature on school grounds for staff and students. A nature park including an outdoor learning area (concept plan attached at the end of this newsletter) will be installed at Grenfell this spring and the research team is eager to explore how the new space impacts our school community. The research team will be coming to our school on April 22 to conduct paper surveys of students' opinions on the park. Students from Kindergarten to Grade 7 are invited to participate in the survey. If you are interested in having your child participate, please complete the parental consent form at this link: <https://redcap.link/jc6m0m5l>

Early Dismissal Day!

EARLY DISMISSAL DAYS (PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES)

Conferences will be held on **Wednesday, April 29 and Thursday, April 30**. A reminder that students will be dismissed at **2:00 pm** on both days. Students will board the school bus an hour earlier. **Buses 1, 2, 3, will leave South Hill at 2:05; Buses 4, 5 will leave South Hill at 2:15.**

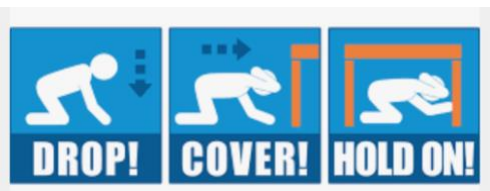
All meetings will be held at South Hill Swing Space (5987 Prince Albert Street). Families who cannot attend an in-person meeting can request for a Teams meeting with their child(ren)'s teacher(s).

KINDERGARTEN WELCOMING EVENT



We will be hosting a kindergarten welcoming event to work with the incoming Kindergarten students and families on **Thursday, May 14 from 11:00 to 12:00**. The meeting will take place in the Swing Space at 5987 Prince Albert Street. All families who have registered their child for Kindergarten at Grenfell will be invited to attend. The kindergarten event provides a great opportunity to share information about what a typical kindergarten day looks like. Community partners such as Vancouver Coastal Health, Vancouver Public Library as well as the district's multi-cultural workers, school counsellor and the Grenfell Kindergarten team will be at the meeting to meet with the new kindergarten families to answer any questions. Students and families will rotate through different Kindergarten activities that foster Kindergarten skills. All participants will receive a Welcome Bag packed with kindergarten resources to practise at home.





BIG ONE AT TWO AT 2:00 PM ON THURSDAY, MAY 7th

As part of the preparations for an earthquake, we will be holding the full-scale annual earthquake preparedness practice on Thursday, May 7th at 200 PM. This school-wide drill will include the following activities:

1. Drop-Cover-Hold On

Students will practice Drop-Cover-Hold on in the classroom

2. Evacuation of the school

All students will exit the school building and congregate in the grass field adjacent to the school building.

3. Student-Family Reunification Practice

We would like to invite volunteer parents/caregivers to help us streamline the student release procedure by picking up students at around **2:30 pm (South Hill 5987 Prince Albert Street)**. Please report to the **Parent Check in** the basketball court (on Prince Albert St.) once arriving at school. To help us organize, please let the office know by May 5th if you can pick up your child(ren) at school as part of the student-Family Reunification drill. Please call (604)713-4844 or email Ms. Conte at the office rconte@vsb.bc.ca. **All other students will be dismissed at the usual time at 2:58 pm to get onto the school buses following their usual bus schedule.**



VSB SUMMER LEARNING 2026

Registration for **Elementary** Programs will open on Thursday, April 30, 2026 at noon (12:00 PM) and will close on Wednesday, May 20, 2026 at 11:59 PM. Feel free to contact your child's teacher for course recommendation.

Registration for **Secondary** Programs will open on Thursday, May 7, 2026 at noon (12:00 PM) and will close on Wednesday, June 10, 2026 at 11:59 PM.

To register: <https://summer.vsb.bc.ca/>

SCHOOL FEE 2026-27

This is the time of the year when we set the school fee for the next school year. As with the current school year, the board will be charging \$35 as the school supply fee. This fee covers basic consumable school supplies used for students' personal use such as paper, writing tools, glue sticks, erasers, exercise books and art supplies. Supplies are provided for the full year. We will charge \$12 for a student planner for each student from Grade 1 to 7. There will be a \$15 performance fee to bring performing arts into the school. There will be a \$15 fee for ADST (Applied Design, Skills and Technologies) related supplies for ADST projects. **Financial Hardship:** as a reminder, the Vancouver School Board will not deny a child access to the school supplies required for their educational program because of financial hardship. Nor will any child be excluded from activities where a fee is charged. Please let the principal know if at any time there is a financial challenge.

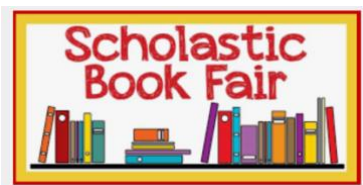


NEXT PAC MEETING

The next PAC meeting is **Thursday, May 14 at 9:00 am** in the Staff Room (South Hill Swing Space). We are looking forward to seeing you.

UPCOMING PAC HOT LUNCH DAY

The next hot lunch dates are **April 24** (Sushi Taku), **May 8**, **May 22** and **June 19**. The order link will be sent out shortly. Thank you for supporting the PAC-run Hot Lunch Days. PAC hot lunch is a main fund raising for the PAC to generate revenue to support our school.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

From Ms. Lacroix, our Teacher Library: The Scholastic Book Fair will be happening in the library from **April 27 to May 1** and during the parent-teacher conferences. **On Thursday, April 30**, the book fair will be open from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. Scholastic Book Fair is a fun and easy fundraiser for the school library and it helps buy more of the students' favorite books to fill the shelves. Thank you for supporting literacy and the Grenfell library.

LOST AND FOUND



During the parent-teacher conferences, parents/guardians are reminded to take a look at Lost & Found outside the library. Thank you.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, April 20

Wednesday, April 22

Friday, April 24

Wednesday, April 29

Thursday, April 30

Thursday, May 7

Thursday, May 14

Monday, May 18

Friday, May 22

District's Indigenous Focus Day (students will not attend school)

Nature Parks on School student survey

PAC hot lunch (Sushi Taku)

Early Dismissal Day at 2:00 pm (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

Early Dismissal Day at 2:00 pm (Parent-Teacher Conferences)

Big One @2:00 pm

Kindergarten Welcoming Event (11:00-12:00)

Victoria Day holiday

Sports Day (Grizzly Games Day) &

PAC Hot Lunch

Grenfell Outdoor Learning Area concept plan

