



Beaconsfield Banter

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PAC Chair: Ms. Tracy Cook

Director of Instruction: Ms. Amy Van Vliet

Official Trustee: Ms. Victoria Jung

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

OCTOBER 2025

Principal's Message

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) & səlilwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

It's been a vibrant and productive start to the academic year and we are thrilled to see our students settling in so well. Our teachers and staff have been working hard to create engaging learning environments and help students adjust to new routines.

To support your child's learning at home, here are a few helpful tips:

- **Establish a consistent routine:** Set regular times for homework, reading and bedtime. A predictable schedule helps children feel secure and focused.
- **Create a quiet workspace:** A designated area for schoolwork, free from distractions can improve concentration and productivity.
- **Encourage daily reading:** Reading together or independently for 15–20 minutes each day builds vocabulary, comprehension and a love of learning.
- **Talk about school:** Ask open-ended questions like “What was something interesting you learned today?” or “What was the best part of your day?”

- **Celebrate effort:** Praise persistence and progress, not just results. This helps build resilience and a growth mindset.
- **Support healthy habits:** Ensure your child gets enough sleep (ideally before 9:00 PM), eats nutritious meals and stays active.

We deeply value our partnership with you in supporting each child's success. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress or well-being, please don't hesitate to reach out directly to their teacher. We're here to ensure every student feels safe, supported, and prepared to thrive. Thank you for your continued support during these first few weeks. We're looking forward to a fantastic year ahead!

School Forms and School Fees

Thank you to everyone who has completed their school forms and paid their school fees. If you have not completed our forms, please follow this link: <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> . School fees can be paid using the following link: <https://www.schoolcashonline.com/>

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On Monday, September 29, students and staff were encouraged to wear orange to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. As with all schools in Vancouver, Beaconsfield is committed to integrating Indigenous knowledge into our teaching and providing all students with opportunities to understand and honour the role Indigenous culture and people have played in our shared Canadian history.

Terry Fox

Our Terry Fox Run took place on Thursday, September 25, with students completing their laps on the lower field. A big thank you to Mr. Thomas for organizing this meaningful event. We are proud to share that we have already raised over **\$500** in support of cancer research! Donations are still being accepted through the Terry Fox Foundation website: [TERRY FOX](https://www.terryfox.ca/). Thank you to everyone who contributed to this important cause!



Parent Teacher - Conferences / Goal Setting

The dates for our conferences are set for Wednesday, Oct. 22nd and Thursday, Oct. 23rd from 2:15 onward. On both days there will be an early dismissal at 2:00 pm to facilitate the maximum number of conference spots available. Teachers will be sending out instructions as to how to register and book a conference. Parent – Teacher – Three Way Conferences are the first step in our sharing of how we communicate the learning of your child throughout the year. The dialogue at this meeting is significant as in a 3-way conference the triangle of learning is best articulated with the student present to discuss their goals and challenges that they will work with in the coming year. The conferencing time is short so please be prompt and have your questions and inquiries from yourself and your child ready to go to ensure optimal use of the conferencing session.

Upcoming Foundational Skills Assessments for Grades 4 and 7

In the coming weeks, students in grades 4 and 7 will participate in the Foundational Skills Assessments (FSA). These assessments focus on students' literacy and numeracy development. As shared earlier this week in a message from our Superintendent, the FSA provides valuable insight into how students across Vancouver schools are progressing. Classroom teachers can use the results to better understand individual student needs and identify areas where additional support may be helpful. At the district level, FSA data helps guide decisions about how to best allocate resources and supports to enhance student learning.

To learn more about the FSA, including what it measures, how it works, how results are used and how to support your child, please visit [VSB: After the Bell](#) to watch a podcast featuring experts in the field. The podcast also addresses common questions and misconceptions about the assessment. The Ministry of Education and Childcare has more information about FSAs – available in a variety of languages. Here are links to that information.

- [Foundation Skills Assessment for Parents and Caregivers \(English\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [French \(Français\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Chinese \(Simplified Chinese – 简体中文\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Chinese \(Traditional Chinese – 繁體中文\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Farsi \(فارسی\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Punjabi \(ਪੰਜਾਬੀ\) \(PDF\)](#)
- [Tagalog \(PDF\)](#)
- [Urdu \(اردو\) \(PDF\)](#)

Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The link below is for the Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol that we are required to share with staff and parents each year. Please read through and discuss with your child, where appropriate for their age level. Our goal is always to maintain a safe and inclusive environment.

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5072/student-threat-risk-assessment-vtra>

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 or if your child will be late. **If your child will be absent or late, please phone the school and 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.

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 and to prevent unnecessary searches. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe!

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. Check out this City of Vancouver [link](#) for more specific parking information.

PAC News

Our PAC hosted a very successful Meet and Greet event last week. Parents and students met on the back field and enjoyed refreshments by our under-cover area. A special thank-you to all our parents who were able to help set up and take down this event. The last PAC meeting was held on Tuesday, September 9th, we had a great turnout. Minutes will be posted on the PAC tab of the school website. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 7th at 6:30pm in our staff room. Childcare will be available. All parents are welcome to attend. If you would like to contact PAC or volunteer to help with a program, please email beaconsfieldschool@gmail.com

Digital Literacy and Safety

Digital Literacy refers to the ability to effectively and responsibly use digital tools and technologies. For children from kindergarten to grade 12, this means understanding how to find, evaluate, and create information online, as well as knowing how to communicate and collaborate using digital platforms. Learn more about Digital Literacy in our schools here on the [Ministry of Education and Child Care's website](#).

Digital Safety involves protecting oneself and others from online risks. This includes understanding privacy settings, recognizing and avoiding scams, and knowing how to report inappropriate or harmful content. Reliable resources can be found here on this page to help guide parents in supporting their child's digital safety.

KEY RESOURCES:



[Digital Literacy Parent Resources - Media Smarts](#)



[Raising Digitally Resilient Kids Parental Workshop - Media Smarts](#)

Digital Citizenship means using technology responsibly and ethically. For children, this includes understanding the impact of their online actions, respecting others' rights, and promoting positive online behavior. Parents can find resources here to help teach these values.

- [Digital Citizenship Guide for Parents - Government of Canada](#)
- [Tips for Building Empathy in Children and Teens - Media Smarts](#)
- [Parent's Guide for Cyberbullying - Connect Safely](#)

Disinformation and Misinformation refer to false or misleading information spread intentionally or unintentionally. **News Literacy** is the ability to critically evaluate news sources and identify credible information. Parents can access resources here to help their children develop these critical thinking skills.

- [Help Kids Spot Fake News and Decode Media Messages - Media Smarts](#)
- [News Literacy 101 - Common Sense Media](#)
- [How to Help Kids Spot Misinformation and Disinformation - Common Sense Media](#)
- [Parent and Educator Guide to Media Literacy and False Information - Connect Safely](#)

Healthy Use of Devices means balancing screen time with other activities and establishing healthy habits with digital devices. This includes setting limits on screen time, encouraging breaks, and promoting a variety of offline activities. Parents can find resources here to help guide their children in developing responsible and balanced digital habits.

- [Family Guidelines for New Tech Devices – Media Smarts](#)
- [Digital Media and Screen Time - Canadian Pediatric Society](#)
- [Parent Guides \(Includes Social Media guides and Tech\) - Connect Safely](#)
- [Helping Kids Get a Healthy Start with Phones - Media Smarts](#)
- [Helping Our Kids Use Their Smartphones Safely - Media Smarts & GetCyberSafe](#)
- [Four Tips for Managing Your Kids' Screen Time - Media Smarts](#)
- [How Are Screens Affecting My Kids' Sleep - Common Sense Media](#)

Online Exploitation and Bullying Reporting Tools and Resources provide ways to report and seek help for both online exploitation and bullying. These tools help protect children from predators, inappropriate content, and harmful interactions. Parents can access reliable resources here to understand and use these tools effectively, ensuring their children's safety online.

- [Need Help Now \(Canadian Centre for Child Protection\)](#) - *This is a link for kids to report CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) or sextortion
- [Report It Tool \(Gov of BC - ERASE Expect Respect & A Safe Education\)](#) - *This is an online, anonymous reporting platform designed for students to report any concerns or worrisome behavior they observe at school.
- [Cybertip \(Canadian Centre for Child Protection\)](#) - *This is a link for kids to report CSAM (Child Sexual Abuse Material) or sextortion
- [Cybertip - How to Talk to Youth About Sextortion](#)

- [Protect Kids Online - Canadian Centre for Child Protection](#)
- [Sexting Safety Agreement – Safer Schools Together](#)

Counselling Corner

Hello Beaconsfield Parents/Guardians:

I wanted to introduce myself. I am Nancy, the school counsellor. I am a counsellor at three schools (Collingwood Neighbourhood School & Cook Elementary) and I am at Beaconsfield Elementary on Thursdays all day and Friday mornings. Here is this month's featured resource I'd love to share with you:

Confident Parents: Thriving Kids is a *free, phone-based program* from the Canadian Mental Health Association (BC) that supports parents of children aged 3–12.

- The Anxiety stream uses short videos and 4–8 weekly coaching calls based on Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (CBT).
- The Behaviour stream offers 6–14 weekly sessions using proven parenting strategies.
- An Indigenous stream blends CBT with Indigenous perspectives for families seeking culturally grounded support.

All sessions are flexible (day, evening, weekend), and resources are available across BC. Referrals can be made by doctors, school counsellors, or parents themselves. Learn more here: welcome.cmhacptk.ca
If you have any questions, feel free to contact me at nchong@vsb.bc.ca.

With warmth,
Nancy Chong
Area Counsellor

Important Dates in October

Tues. Sept. 30	National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (school not in session)
Mon. Oct. 6	Foundation Skills Assessment window for grades 4 and 7 students begins
Tues. Oct. 7	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm in our staff room
Mon. Oct. 13	Thanksgiving – school closed
Thurs. Oct. 16	Earthquake drill (province wide)
Wed. Oct. 22	Parent/teacher/Student conferences beginning at 2:15, dismissal at 2:00pm
Thurs. Oct. 23	Parent/teacher/Student conferences beginning at 2:15, dismissal at 2:00pm
Fri. Oct. 24	Professional Day – no school for students
Fri. Oct. 31	Halloween

Please check our website Beaconsfield.vsb.bc.ca for the regularly updated school calendar