



WELCOME BACK
To School!



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 Chair: Ms. Kathy Tenta & Ms. Tracy Cook

Director of Instruction: Ms. Janis Myers

Official Trustee: Mr. Christopher Richardson

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 1

SEPTEMBER 2024

Principal's Message

On behalf of SCHOOL staff, we welcome you to the 2024-25 school year and hope your family is well! A special welcome to our new families – we are happy to have you join our community. For returning families, we are delighted to have you back.

We want to assure you that we try our best to create wonderful educational experiences and to foster belonging and independence. The teachers have been busy organizing their learning spaces and creating thoughtful learning opportunities. We look forward to a year of making fond memories.

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 3rd from 9 to 10am for grades 1 to 7 and 9:00 to 9:45am for new Kindergarten students.

- **All returning students**, please line up outside in last year's division
- **All new students in Gr 1-7**, please meet at the front of the school steps at 9 am
- **New Kindergarten students and parents**, please meet in the **gym at 9:00**. Please stay with your child until the end of the presentation at 9:45 am

Student Forms

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 forms and submit the appropriate fees online as soon as you are able to. You can access most of the school forms by following the link below:

- 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

The following two forms will be sent home by the classroom teachers in September and are to be signed and returned:

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

2024-25 School Staffing Updates

There are some staffing changes that we want to make you aware of: Ms. Doyle, Ms. Wilkinson and Ms. Metcalfe have decided to move schools, we wish them all the best in their new assignments. We are happy to welcome Ms. B. Behm as our new grade 2/3 teacher, Ms. S. Chu, as our new resource teacher and Ms. N. Chong as our new area counsellor. Welcome to Beaconsfield!

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. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. **If your child will be absent from school or late, please phone the school Safe Arrival number to report this 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 if your child will be absent or late will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.

To Report If Your Child Will Be Absent or Late – Please call 604-713-5159 school code 11 prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence If your child is late, it is important that they check in at the office upon their arrival to school.

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.

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 10 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 our lunchroom so 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 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 the 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 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 the 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.

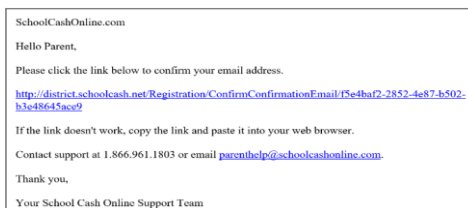
Step 1: Register

- 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 voluntary accidental injury, unexpected medical/ dental expenses and critical illness. The company offering this product is called Study Insured. Families can register online to purchase and participate in this plan by using the URL provided below:

www.studyinsuredstudentaccident.com

Personal Digital Device Usage/ Policy

To foster a safe and focused learning environment for students, the use of personal digital devices, that distract from learning, such as cell phones, tablets and electronic devices, are restricted during school hours and on school property. Educators and school staff will continue to model digital citizenship in the classroom and avoid the use of personal digital devices for non-instructional purposes.

Personal digital devices are restricted for the instructional day. This includes class time, recess and lunch during school hours of 9:00am to 3:00pm. Personal digital devices must be turned off or placed on silent mode and out of sight for the entire school day.

The use of personal devices is permitted under the following circumstances:

- For educational purposes, as directed by the educator in the classroom
- For health and medical purposes as outlined in an Individual Education Plan or Student Safety Plan
- To support special or diverse educational needs, such as assistive technology related to Individual Education Plans or Student Support Plans

The expectation is that students will follow the direction of the educators. Students who repeatedly do not follow the personal digital device policy may be asked to store their personal digital devices with an administrator for the remainder of the day. The Vancouver School Board is not responsible for the loss, damage, or disappearance of personal digital devices that students decide to bring to school.

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

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| Tues. Sept. 3 | First Day of school for students in grades 1-7 (9:00-10:00 am) |
| Tues. Sept. 3 | New Kindergarten Welcome in the gym 9:00-9:45 am |
| Wed. Sept. 4 | First full day for students in grades 1-7 (8:55 am-2:58 pm) |
| Wed. Sept. 4 | New Kindergarten gradual entry begins |
| Tues. Sept 10 | PAC meeting @ 6:30pm in our library |
| Wed. Sept. 11 | First full day for new Kindergarten students (9:00am-2:58pm) |
| Fri. Sept. 20 | Professional Day – school will not be in session |
| Mon. Sept. 30 | National Day of Truth and Reconciliation – school will not be in session |
| Tues. Oct. 1 | Photo Day |
| TBA | Open House / Meet the Teacher |

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

Calendar 2024-2025
Beaconsfield
Elementary School



SCHOOL OPERATION OVERVIEW

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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Number of Days in Session | 187 |
| Number of Days of Instruction | 180 |
| Number of Days of Non-Instruction | 6 Non-Instructional Days 1 Administrative Day (June 27) |

IMPORTANT DATES

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|--|---|
| First Day of School for Students | Tuesday, September 3, 2024 |
| National Day of Truth & Reconciliation | Monday, September 30, 2024 |
| Thanksgiving Day | Monday, October 14, 2024 |
| Remembrance Day | Monday, November 11, 2024 |
| Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation | Friday, December 20, 2024 |
| Winter Vacation Period | Monday, December 23, 2024-Friday, January 3, 2025 |
| School Re-opens after Winter Vacation | Monday, January 6, 2025 |
| Family Day | Monday, February 17, 2025 |
| Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation | Friday, March 14, 2025 |
| Spring Vacation Period | Monday, March 17 – Friday, March 28, 2025 |
| School Re-opens after Spring Vacation | Monday March 31, 2025 |
| Good Friday | Friday, April 18, 2025 |
| Easter Monday | Monday April 21, 2025 |
| Victoria Day | Monday, May 19, 2025 |
| Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance | Thursday, June 26, 2025 |
| Administrative/School Closing Day | Friday, June 27, 2025 |

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS
(SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION)

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|-----------------------------|---|
| Friday, September 20, 2024 | Professional Development Day (Date set by school) |
| Friday, October 25, 2024 | Professional Development Day (Province wide) |
| Friday, November 22, 2024 | Professional Development Day (District wide) |
| Wednesday, January 15, 2025 | Professional Development Day (Date set by school) |
| Friday, February 14, 2025 | Professional Development Day (District wide) |
| Monday, April 28, 2025 | Professional Development Day (District wide) |

PARENT CONFERENCE DATES

EARLY DISMISSAL TIMES

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|-----------------------------|-------------|
| Wednesday, October 16, 2024 | 2:00 – 5:00 |
| Thursday, October 17, 2024 | 2:00 – 7:00 |
| Wednesday, April 30, 2025 | 2:00 – 5:00 |
| Thursday, May 1, 2025 | 2:00 – 7:00 |