



Beaconsfield Banter

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 2

OCTOBER 2026

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 has been an exciting and productive start to the academic year. We are delighted to see our students settling into their classrooms and school routines so successfully. Over the past few weeks, students have been building relationships with their teachers and classmates, becoming familiar with classroom expectations and engaging in meaningful learning experiences. We are proud of how students have embraced new challenges, demonstrated resilience and shown kindness toward one another as they adjust to a new school year. We look forward to building on this positive momentum and continuing to provide learning opportunities that support the growth and success of every child.

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 are 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 your child’s school forms, please follow this link: <https://myforms.vsb.bc.ca/> . School fees can be paid using the following link: <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>. School fees pay for your child’s school supplies for the entire year.

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 help us guide decisions about how to best allocate resources and supports to enhance student learning.

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 \(اردو\) \(PDF\)](#)

National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

On Tuesday, 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 24, 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 **\$877** in support of cancer research! Donations are still being accepted through the Terry Fox Foundation website: [TERRY FOX](https://www.terryfox.org) . Thank you to everyone who contributed to this important cause!



Parent Teacher - Conferences / Goal Setting

The dates for our Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences have been scheduled for **Wednesday, October 21** and **Thursday, October 22**, beginning at **2:15 p.m.** On both days, students will be dismissed early at **2:00 p.m.** to allow for the greatest number of conference appointments. Teachers will be providing families with instructions on how to register and book a conference time.

These three-way conferences are an important first step in communicating your child's learning progress throughout the school year. Having students participate in the conversation allows them to share their strengths, reflect on their learning, and discuss personal goals and challenges they will be working toward in the months ahead. This collaborative approach helps strengthen the partnership between home and school and supports student growth and success.

Conference times are limited, so we encourage families to arrive promptly and come prepared with any questions or topics they would like to discuss. We also encourage students to reflect on their learning beforehand so that they can actively participate in the conversation. We look forward to meeting with you and working together to support your child's learning journey throughout the year.

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

The last PAC meeting was held on Tuesday, September 15th, we had a great turnout. Minutes were posted on the PAC tab of the school website. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 13th 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

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

Important Dates in October

Fri. Oct. 2	Photo Day in the am
Mon. Oct. 5	Start of FSA testing window
Mon. Oct. 12	Thanksgiving (school not in session)
Tues. Oct. 13	PAC Meeting at 6:30
Wed. Oct. 21	Early Dismissal – 2pm conferences
Thurs. Oct. 22	Early Dismissal – 2pm conferences
Fri. Oct. 23	Pro D School (school not in session)

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