

General Brock Elementary Newsletter

4860 Main St, Vancouver, BC V5V 3R8 ~ 604-713-5245

School Website: Brock@vsb.bc.ca

Safe Arrival – 604-713-5159 #14 or brkAttendance@vsb.bc.ca

Principal: Hope Sterling

OAA: Tassy Beretanos

Director of Instruction: Janis Myers

Trustee: Carmen Cho

PAC Chair: Scott Walker

Dear Brock Community:

Welcome to the 2023/2024 school year at General Brock Elementary!

I hope you all had a restful and enjoyable summer and are ready for a rewarding school year. We moved into our new classrooms on Monday, and now staff are working hard to get the classroom routines in place and their programs running.

The 2023/2024 Brock Staff

Classroom Teachers:

- Div. 1 – Kari Dignum (Teacher D) – Grade 6/7
- Div. 2 – Jansen Mitchell – Grade 4/5
- Div. 3 – Simon Thorn Grade 4/5
- Div. 4 – Gabrielle Dionne – Grade 3/4
- Div. 5 – Jennifer Willoughby/Mary Surilla – Grade 3
- Div. 6 – Angela Ubial Grade 2/3
- Div. 7 – Georgina King/Lilliana Matelich – Grade 1/2
- Div. 8 – Kandice Ansley – Grade 1/2
- Div. 9 – Michelle Jung - Kindergarten
- Div. 10 – Katie Pankratz – Grade 6 Intensive French
- Div. 11 – Jonathan Orange – Grade 7 Intensive French
- Div. 12 – Eddie Cruz – Life Skills Program
- Div. 13 – Sylvia Jackson - SELC

Resource Teacher: Lois Vincent Music Teacher: Sarah Miller

Librarian: Mary Sebastian/Gwen Doran

Support Workers: Mara, Maria, Emmet, Kasia, Laura, Julie and Linda

Supervision Aides: Ms Linn/Ms. Clara and Ms. Kay

OAA: Ms. Tassy Beretanos

Head Engineer: Mike Lemaire

During our first week we focused on teaching/reminding students of our Code of Conduct – **Be Safe, Be Fair, Be Kind**. We appreciate any opportunities you create at home to reinforce our code of conduct.



& Welcome Back PAC Picnic
Tuesday, Sept 19th
Starts at 5 PM
(Meet in the Gym @5)



First PAC Meeting
Wednesday, Sept 27th
@ 6:30 PM
In the Library!



Orange Shirt Day
Friday, Sept 29



Brock Terry Fox Run
Thursday, Oct 6

There is a clear link between consistent **attendance** and overall success in life, so we thank you for doing your best to send your children to school on time each day. However, cold and flu season will be upon us soon. If your child exhibits any symptoms of illness, we ask you to please keep them at home until they are well. If they will be away, please report your child's absence – call us before 9 AM on our **Safe Arrival line 604-713-5159 # 14** or email us at brkattendance@vsb.bc.ca.

Signing students in and out – If your child has an appointment and or arrives late from an appointment, please follow the protocols below:

- 1) Email the office at brock@vsb.bc.ca and include child's first and last name & division and details of absences with pick-up or drop-off times
 - 2) Inform your child's teacher by their preferred method and include all the details
 - 3) Call the office 604-713-5245 once you arrive at school and we will then call your child's teacher to inform them. Any pick-ups or drop-offs will take place in the undercover area.
- New this year** - If you need to drop off something your child forgot at home, you are welcome to go straight to your child's classroom, knock and drop it off.

Regarding before and after school **supervision**, students are welcome to arrive between 8:45 and 8:58 AM. The 8:45 AM bell signifies the start of morning staff supervision. When they hear the 8:58 bell, students are expected to be lined up and ready for their teachers to lead them into the building. After the 3:03 PM dismissal bell, there will be one last bell at 3:15 to signify the end of staff supervision. All students should be heading home by 3:15 PM.

We are happy to announce that our librarian is generously going to **open our library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:45 to 8:58 AM** for student book exchange.

Thank you for consistently packing a **recess snack, water bottle and healthy lunch** each day. Please don't forget to pack any necessary cutlery. We have already been handing out forks and spoons to a number of students. Soon the PAC will be offering a hot lunch opportunity, so watch for that.

The **September package of notices** have been sent home with your child. Thank you for taking the time to sign, update all the documents and return the paper forms to your child's teacher. You will note that new this year, the VSB is using the MyForms application to capture all online consents. Lastly, please note that all payments are accepted through School Cash Online.

On Tuesday, September 26th we will begin our weekly lunch **Chess Club**. Also, we are offering students an opportunity to join our **Brock Cross-Country Running Team** as well as our **Senior Girls and Senior Boys Soccer Teams** (Grade 6/7). Consent forms have already been sent home soon.

PAC (Parent Advisory Council) - I am looking forward to working with [Scott Walker](#) as your PAC Chair and [Chantelle Poon](#) as Vice Chair. All parents are considered "on the PAC" and I encourage you to attend meetings to hear what is happening in the school, get involved and ask questions. This year the PAC will be use a hybrid approach, with some meetings online and others in-person. The first meeting will be on September 27th at 6:30 PM in the library. Watch for more information coming from your PAC executive on dates of meetings.

Upcoming Events

- **Meet the Staff & PAC Picnic - Tuesday, September 19th Starts at 5 PM.**
We will start at 5 PM in the gym and then you will have a chance to visit your child's classroom and enjoy a picnic on the grass field off Main.
- **Professional Development Day - Friday, September 22rd – No school for students**
- **September 26th and 28th – First PAC Hot Lunch Dates**
- **PAC Meeting – Wednesday, September 27th 6:30 on Zoom** – a link will be sent out
- **Orange Shirt Day – Friday, September 29th** – Students are encouraged to wear orange on this day to honour residential school survivors.
- **National Day of Truth and Reconciliation - Monday, October 2nd – School Closed**
- **Terry Fox Run – Friday, October 6th** - We will be accepting donation through School Cash Online for cancer research from September 25 through October 9. Parents are invited to join us for the run portion, but due to space, can not join the assembly in the gym. Please find notice attached!

Working together to enhance and broaden the learning experiences of our students is a challenge that Brock staff take great pride in. Thank you in advance for your support and contributions in making this school year a consistent, fun and powerful learning journey for your child.

With Gratitude,
Ms. Hope Sterling, Principal

Upcoming Dates to Remember

Tuesday, Sept 19 th	Meet the Teacher Night from 5 to 6 PM
Friday, Sept 22 rd	Pro D Day – No School for Students
Wednesday, Sept 27 th	PAC Meeting – 6:30pm in the Library
Friday, Sept 29 th	Orange Shirt Day
Monday, Oct 2 nd	National Truth and Reconciliation Day – School Closed
Friday, October 6	Terry Fox Run (in the afternoon)
Thursday, Oct 12 th	Individual Photo Day

NEW this year, I am hoping to include a short educational component in my newsletters. I may include topics such as: literacy, math, social emotional support, hygiene or sleep and bedtime routines. I am no expert, so I will be consulting with trusted websites, our school nurse, and other professionals. Our first topic is literacy!

Early Literacy

The Brock primary teachers are teaching the 5 Pillars of Early Literacy this year. The five pillars include: Phonemic Awareness, Phonics, Fluency, Vocabulary, and Comprehension. At home we encourage you to approach reading as a fun time to snuggle in and connect with your child. Here are a few good tips to support young readers.



WAYS TO SUPPORT YOUNG READERS AT HOME

- 1) **Read every day** – Make a commitment to a specific time and make it a priority.
- 2) **Make a space for reading** – Find a comfortable, consistent place to read together.
- 3) **Have fun and be silly** – Choose books they enjoy and use different voices, sing or act it out.
- 4) **Visit the Vancouver Public Library together** – Walk the shelves and maybe meet the librarian. Librarians are a wealth of knowledge.
- 5) **Read books adapted into movies** – Then watch the movie together and compare them!

This year **Raise a Reader** runs from Sept 22 to 29th - <https://decoda.ca/get-involved/raise-a-reader/>

