

General Brock Elementary Newsletter

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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: Shannon Burton

Trustee: Carmen Cho

PAC Chair: Sarah Dumont

Dear Brock Community:

I want to start by thanking our community for their generous donations to the Brock **Terry Fox Fundraiser** this year. We smashed our \$2000 goal and donated \$3212 to cancer research. Well done!



Our next big school wide challenge is to **recycle as many batteries as we can!** Earth Rangers is a kids' conservation organization. They are running a contest for the month of October and schools that donate the most batteries can win cash or a free assembly! (See attachment) So, please send all your old batteries from home, work, family or friends with your child and their Teachers will collect them to help Brock win a prize.

On Friday, September 29th we honoured Orange Shirt Day with a walk around the school property. Thank you to Ms. Chelsea Miller for organizing this. Orange Shirt Day was created as an opportunity to discuss the effects of residential schools and their legacy. It honours the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, celebrates resilience and affirms a commitment that every child matters. Our nation is on a long journey of reconciliation and our Friday walk was a small step of reconciliation. It was powerful to see so many students able to wear orange. Thank you for your support.

Thank you to families for promptly attending to **the large package of forms** sent home in early September. We understand this is yet another item on your "to do" list, but we appreciate your time in ensuring your child's safety. Most have been returned but we are still awaiting a few.



We now have a new sign on the washroom next to the office, designating it as an **"All-Gender" washroom**. This washroom has one stall and a lock on the door, so only one person can use it at a time.



Please help support our Earth Rangers battery recycling contest this month!



Next PAC Meeting
Thurs, Oct 27th
@ 6:30 PM
In the library!



It has been exciting to see our **Brock sports teams** starting up again! Both Cross Country and Soccer are underway. A huge thank you to all our coaches: Mr. Orange, Ms. Tassy, Ms. Vincent, Ms. Pankratz, Mr. Cruz, Mr. Emmet and Ms. C. Miller, as well as the many volunteers who are driving to meets & games. Go Brock Bulldogs!



Duffle Bag Theatre ~ Peter Pan

We are also excited to get back to holding **in-person assemblies**. It is our goal to find at least one time each month to gather as a school. We are also thankful for all the special speakers and performances that our PAC has funded. Our students and staff will be treated to Duffle Bag Theatre's performance of **A Christmas Carole and Peter Pan!** Our first school-wide performance will be on Oct 27th. It is a free performance by Dream Rider Productions entitled Zero Hero!

Also, compliments of the PAC, we have booked sessions with **Saleema Noon**. Saleema Noon is an amazing sexual health educator. Growing up today can be exciting, challenging and stressful. Saleema Noon's body science sessions look at some important questions: How do we help our children and teens make sense of their world? How do we empower them to make smart decisions on their way to becoming sexually mature, healthy and happy adults? And how can parents feel more confident and comfortable talking about sexual health with their kids? The first session is for parents and will be in the evening on Jan 30 via Zoom. Then we have two student sessions on Feb 1 and 2. We will email details closer to the date. For more information visit <https://www.saleemanoon.com>



We now have a designated room for students who need to chill and have a break. We call it the "**Calm Room**". It is on the second floor of Building C. To help our students self-regulate, we are working on purchasing items such as fidget tools, bean bag chairs, calming lighting etc. Please let the principal know if you have any ideas or would like to support in any way.

Staff News - Congratulations to not one, but two of our Brock staff. Hannah Zallen had a baby boy and Daniel Butcher also had a baby boy! Our unhappy news is we are saying goodbye to one of our resource teachers, Ms. Chelsea Miller. She is sad to leave Brock but is excited to be moving into a full-time classroom position. Next week will be her last week with us. With heavy hearts, we thank you for your service and wish you well Chelsea!

There were several great lessons we learned during the pandemic – the importance of thorough hand washing, being more mindful of how we spread germs and staying home when we are ill. Although we no longer enforce the "daily health check" **we encourage all families to continue to check in with your children before they leave each morning to ensure they are feeling well.** If they do have any symptoms of illness, please call our Safe Arrival line **604-713-5159 #14** before 9 AM and keep them safe at home until they are well enough to rejoin us.

The Importance of Assessment – Assessment can answer many questions for students, teachers, parents, the VSB and the province. It can tell us where our students are at, where they are going and guide us to where we want to go. From Oct 3 to Nov 25 schools across the province will be

administering the Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA) for grade 4 and 7 students. Grade 4 and 7 Students and families will receive results, teachers and schools can use this to guide instruction and it can inform the district and province on trends and advise on curriculum development.

With Gratitude,
Ms. Hope Sterling, Principal

October Dates to Remember

Monday, Oct 3rd First delivery of our Fruit and Veggie Program

Monday, Oct 10th School Closed for Thanksgiving

Thursday, Oct 13th Individual Photo Day (Retakes are Nov 16th)

Friday, Oct 21st Pro D Day – No School for Students