

General Brock Elementary Newsletter

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Principal: Hope Sterling

OAA: Tassy Beretanos

Director of Instruction: Janis Myers

Trustee: Carmen Cho

PAC Chair: Scott Walker

Dear Brock Community,

Welcome to our New Staff!

Ms. Catriona Legge is our Division 4 classroom teacher, until Ms. Gabriel Dionne returns from her leave in January.

Ms. Eve Foster is our new Thursday, Social Emotional Learning Teacher. She will be working in classes and with small groups.

Ms. Nelum Sihota is our new temporary school counsellor. She is scheduled to work Wednesday mornings. Referrals can be made through your classroom teacher.

Sensory Room

I am excited to report that Brock will be getting an official Sensory Room! Sensory Rooms are spaces where students can find useful tools to self-regulate. They are designed to develop a person's sense, usually through special lighting, music, and objects. The district will be paying for the equipment and room prep to make this happen. We will be using half of one of the SELC classrooms on the second floor of A Building. We are grateful to SELC for sharing their space. The project will take a number of months but will be a valuable space for any students who need self-regulation support.

September Paperwork

A huge thank you to our families for completing the onerous task of reviewing and signing the September package of notices. We appreciate you smoothly pivoting to the new online portion of the forms! Teachers will be reaching out to those families who still have paperwork outstanding.

Brock Clubs and Teams

We are excited to say that the **Chess Club, Rainbow Club, Choir, Garden Club, Cross-Country and Soccer Teams** are up and running. The **Writers Club** (Grade 6/7 only) and **Peer Helpers** (Grades 5-7 only) will begin in the next few weeks.

After School Programs

I am excited to report that **Yoga Buggy** will be returning to Brock! They will be offering yoga, music, games and more on Monday's after school from Monday, Oct 23rd until December 11th for students in Grades 1 to 4. The cost of the program is \$113 but there is a sliding scale if necessary.



Online Zoom
PAC Meeting
October 12
@6:30pm



Brock Terry Fox Run
Thursday, Oct 6



Also, Little Mountain Neighbourhood House will once again be offering a free program called **School's Out, Thriving Minds** for students in Grades 1-7. The program will run on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursdays and there will be three intakes throughout the year. This program will begin on Tuesday, October 17th. They will have 20 spots available for students who can committee to attend all three days.

Both programs will take place in our school library. Watch for an offer to register for both programs coming to your email in-boxes soon.

Thank you to the Brock PAC!

At the last PAC meeting, on September 27th, the PAC approved \$1000 worth of books for the primaries, \$250 for the Kindergartens and \$1800 for Grade 4 Socials Textbooks! We are overjoyed and want to thank you for these learning materials.

Terry Fox Run – Friday, October 6th

Parents are invited to join us for the run portion at 1:30pm. We have once again set up an online donation link for cancer research. Thank you in advance for your support! See details attached.

FSA

During the month of October, Grade 4 and 7 students across BC will be writing the Foundational Skills Assessment (FSA). (See attachment) The FSA is the only consistent assessment tool that the BC Ministry of Education and the Vancouver School Board have to assess our students in Literacy and Numeracy. This data helps drive the province and district in their decisions and initiatives for BC students. This year the VSB is increasing their budget to support new literacy initiatives. Schools are receiving new professional development, more direct guidance on how to teach literacy and hands-on materials are being supplied to each school. This new initiative is due in part to the drop in our FSA literacy assessment scores.

Each year experienced BC teachers are hired to write or seek out engaging stories and to create colourful graphics for the online components. The FSA assesses students on learning that should have taken place in previous years. So, grade 4 students are assessed on K to grade 3 curriculum and Grade 7's, K to grade 6 curriculum.

Each BC principal is also provided with the data for their school. This allows schools to identify trends and thus further focus their teaching. Finally, the workbooks and the results from the online components are sent home to parents so they can review the results with their child.

Unfortunately, as with many government initiatives, the FSA has been politicized and thus confusion can arise. Because this is public data, there is concern that this data is used to rate or rank schools. I want to make it clear that this is not the intent of the data and that only school names, never individual student names, are assigned to the data. In any industry you need to know your efforts are effective. In education, we need to know that our teaching is working for our students. The FSA is one piece of the puzzle to help guide and direct our focus. In my opinion, the FSA is a useful tool.

Support

One final note...I know the rise in food prices, gas prices, interest rates etc. have taken their toll on many of us over the past few years. If your family is in need of support, please reach out to me. I do not have a grant to support families this year, but I will do what I can.

Warm Regards, Ms. Hope Sterling, Principal

October Dates to Remember

Monday, October 2 nd	National Truth and Reconciliation Day – School Closed
Friday, October 6 th	Terry Fox Run (1:30pm run)
Monday, October 9 th	Thanksgiving Holiday – School Closed
Thursday, October 12 th	Individual Photo Day
Friday, October 20 th	Professional Development Day – No School for Students
Friday, October 27 th	Halloween Safety Assembly for Students
Tuesday, October 31 st	Halloween Parade/Activity

New Government Reporting Order for September 2023

I want to highlight some important changes to the way teachers will be communicating student learning this year. First, you may hear them referred to as “Learning Updates”. Here are the “Coles Notes” on the changes to format, philosophy and frequency.

1) The Purpose of Assessment – to facilitate learning and move it forward in an equitable way. It should help to answer the questions: Where am I now? Where am I going? How do I get there?

2) We are guided by the same ideas found in the **First People’s Principles of Learning - Learning is holistic, reflexive, reflective, experiential, and relational. Learning involves generational roles and responsibilities.**

3) The Provincial Proficiency scale (Now reduced to only 4 areas!)

The Provincial Proficiency Scale	EMERGING	DEVELOPING	PROFICIENT	EXTENDING
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.

***Everyone has a place on the scale but Proficient is the goal for all students.**

4) How we Assess - Learning is continuous. Averaging marks over a term, semester, or year does not provide an accurate picture of student learning. Learning demonstrated close to the communication of student learning will be the most reflective of student proficiency and should be

used as the strongest evidence of learning when deciding on a letter grade and percentage. Assessment should be based on the learning standards alone. Attendance and behavior should not factor into where students land on the proficiency scale.

5) New Possible Mark “IE” – Insufficient Evidence of learning is only used when a student arrives late in the term or is away for an extended period.

6) The Timeline - Teachers will provide feedback on each subject taught in **3 written reports** that will be sent home and there will also be 2 in-person conferences offered. For conferences, teachers may decide to conduct goal setting conferences, student-led conferences or parent teacher conferences. All students will create goals for the year and complete Core Competency Self-Assessments three times per year.

Month	Reporting
November 1 st and 2 nd	Informal Learning Update
December 1 st	Written Learning Update (1 st Report Card)
February 7 th and 8 th	Informal Learning Update
March 12 th	Written Learning Update (2 nd Report Card)
June 24 th	Summary of Learning (3 rd Report Card)

Now Let’s Take a Walk, Down the Halls of Brock!

Featuring ~ Division 9 (Kindergarten)



What colour is your apple?

14

Most kids brought red apples.



There are 17 apples all together.

1

2

Red

Yellow

Green

How old are you?

There are more 5 year old kids in our class.

12

6

Jack
Ethan

Smith
Baxton
Howmeson
AOF
Ethan
Elli
Sara
Kreton
Elli
OAT

I am 4

I am 5



