



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 Chairs: Mr. Tim Bottomer and Ms. Kathy Tenta

Director of Instruction: Ms. Janis Myers

Official Trustee: Mr. Christopher Richardson

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

NEWSLETTER NO. 3

NOVEMBER 2023

Principal's Message

October was a very busy and exciting month at Beaconsfield Elementary as our students continue to learn new curriculum and work to complete assignments. Outside the classroom, both our soccer and cross-country team's seasons came to an end. Our cross-country team had their final meet at Trout Lake. A special thanks to Mr. Thomas and Ms. Bredin for volunteering to coach this team. Our soccer team closed out the season with a series of games at Vancouver Technical Secondary. A special thank you to Mr. Myers and Mr. Thomas for volunteering to coach this team.

The PAC initiative to bring the Vancouver Extracurricular Music Society to our school has been very successful. Both our junior and senior choirs have been a huge success at our school with enrollment at near capacity. Our PAC also sponsored a very successful movie night on Friday, October 27. This was a fun community building event and our students had a great time. A special thank you to our PAC for organizing this event! The last week of October included Halloween activities such as pumpkin carving and a costume parade. Thank you, Ms. Wallace for organizing our Halloween activities.



Our students will now begin to prepare for our winter performance. This year's winter performance will feature a Bollywood theme. We are hoping to have a night performance for parents just before the winter break. More information to come as we get closer to December. Our teachers are also busy working on first term report cards. You will also receive your child's first report card on December 1.

As we move into the Fall, our children tend to spend more time indoors, so it is important that we monitor our children's screen time. Your child is never too young for a screen-time plan. Consider the following as a guideline from the American Academy and Adolescent Psychiatry:

- Until 18 months of age, limit screen use to video chatting along with an adult (for example, with a parent who is out of town)
- Between 18 and 24 months screen time should be limited to watching educational programming with a caregiver
- For children 2-5, limit non-educational screen time to about 1 hour per weekday and 3 hours on the weekend days
- For ages 6 and older, encourage healthy habits and limit activities that include screens
- Turn off all screens during family meals and outings
- Learn about and use parental controls
- Avoid using screens as pacifiers, babysitters, or to stop tantrums
- **Turn off screens and remove them from bedrooms 30-60 minutes before bedtime**

Screens are here to stay and can offer many positives. It's never too early to develop a screen-time plan with your family. Let your children share their ideas and concerns.

Students and Online Behaviour

Each year we deal with situations involving student online behaviour, typically these events happen outside of school hours but involve students at our school. Giving your child access to online platforms and devices requires supervision as young students may write and send inappropriate or offensive material to other students. At school we are trying to have an ongoing conversation with students about responsible behaviour both in school and outside of school hours, even when online. We encourage parents to also have ongoing conversations with their children about their online activities and monitor it closely. This resource from Safer Schools Together may be of help to families <https://saferschoolstogether.com/resources/parent-resources/>

Kindergarten Registration for 2023-24

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2019 begins on November 1st.

All Kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (French Immersion, Montessori, etc.) and/or a cross boundary placement.



Registration is a two-part process:

Step 1: **Complete an online application form**

Step 2: Verifying Documentation

- **Contact** your catchment school to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation
- **Bring supporting documentation** to your catchment school during your scheduled appointment
 - **FOR CHILDREN BORN OUTSIDE OF CANADA:** Book an appointment with a Registrar at the Newcomer Welcome Centre (NWC) to complete your registration (an appointment booking link will be provided in the confirmation email after submitting your application - step 1). Please note, NWC visits are by **appointment only**. Please email the NWC at nwc@vsb.bc.ca if you do not receive a link to their bookings page to book an appointment.

The following original documents must be presented to complete your application:

- Proof of British Columbia residency
- The original birth certificate of the child
- Applicable Immigration/Citizenship/Permanent Resident Documentation
- Immunization Records if available

[Note: Some schools may request additional identification as proof of residency.]

NOTE: Some catchment schools do not have space for all students even if you apply before the January 31 deadline. In these cases, there will be a draw for student placement mid-February and the school will contact you by late April to confirm your enrolment.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31st

In-catchment Kindergarten students who apply **after** January 31st will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist.

Note: There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31st.

BEACONSFIELD SPIRIT WEAR FUNDRAISER

Just in time for the cool weather, the PAC is launching a Spirit Wear Fundraiser. Bundle yourself and your family up in some of the old Beaconsfield favourites or go with the new hoodie and toque selection. Spirit Wear is never out of style. All products are subject to vendor availability.

- Order Deadline: Wednesday, November 15th.
- Delivery: Week of December 18th

Please see the click on the PFD of the flyer attached for pricing and order details, or go to:

<https://www.paddlevancouver.ca/collections/beaconsfield-elementary-spirit-wear>

PASSWORD: SPIRITWEAR2023

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. **If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence 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 of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine. To Report Your Child's Absence – Please call **604-713-5159 school code 11** prior to **9 am** on the first day of the absence

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. On either side of the **No Stopping** area there is a **No Parking** zone where people can stop for five minutes to pick up and drop off children.

PAC News

The last PAC meeting was held on Tuesday, October 10 at 6:30 pm in the staffroom. Several parents attended. Minutes will be posted on the PAC tab of the school website. The next meeting is on Tuesday, **November 14 at 6:30 pm** in the staff room. Childcare will be available. All parents are welcome to attend. If you would like to contact PAC or volunteer to help out with a program, please email beaconsfieldschool@gmail.com

Important Dates in November

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| Fri. Nov. 10 | Remembrance Day Assembly |
| Sat. Nov. 11 | Remembrance Day |
| Mon. Nov. 13 | No school - In lieu of Remembrance Day |
| Tues. Nov. 14 | PAC meeting @ 6:30pm in the staff room |
| Fri. Nov. 24 | Indigenous Focused Professional Day – no school for students |

Important Upcoming Dates in December

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| Fri. Dec. 1 | First term report cards go home |
| Tues. Dec. 12 | PAC meeting @ 6:30pm in the staff room |
| Dec. 18-20 | Bollywood dance workshops |

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| Wed. Dec. 20 | Bollywood student performance afternoon and evening (time TBA) |
| Fri. Dec. 22 | Last Day before Winter Break |
| Dec. 23 – Jan. 7 | Winter Break |
| Mon. Jan. 8 | Students return to classes |

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