



Office Hours & Info:

Principal: Ms. Karen Noel-Bentley

Secretary: Ms. Denise Meyer

Hours: M-F 8:30 - 3:30

Phone: 604-713-4778

Website: bruce.vsb.bc.ca

Email: bruce@vsb.bc.ca

Safe Arrival Info:

Phone: 604-713-5159

School Code: 15#

Email: bruattendance@vsb.bc.ca

Upcoming Events

First Day of School (Gr. 1 – 7)

9.6 | 9:00 – 10:00 (one hour)

First Day of School (Gr. 1 – 7)

9.7 | 9:00 – 3:03 (full day)

Kindergarten Full Day Begins

9.14 | 9:00 – 3:03

Professional Development Day

9.23 | No school for students

Photo Day

9.28 | Individual Photos

Goal-Setting Conferences

9.28 & 9.29 | 2:00 Dismissal

Truth and Reconciliation Day

9.30 | School not in session

OUR VSB

OUR VSB Bruce News

September 2, 2022

We are honoured to be living and learning together on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the xʷməθkʷəyəm | Musqueam, Skwxwú7mesh | Squamish & səliiwətał | Tsleil-Waututh Nations



Welcome back to school!

Dear Graham Bruce Families,

As I write this, it is a beautiful, warm, sunny summer day. A new school year is upon us, and Graham Bruce staff have been working hard to prepare for the start of school. I am so looking forward to seeing our returning students and meeting all our new students!

We enter this school year with cautious optimism. As vaccines are available to all, and we have learned strategies to keep ourselves and our community safe, we are able to return to school activities that we missed over the past couple of years: field trips, school teams, assemblies, and more. More details about health and safety are in the newsletter below.

There will be some changes this year, as some staff members have left and we welcome new staff. Although we will miss our former teachers and support staff, I know that our new staff will be valuable members of our school community!

Please read below for more details, and reach out anytime if you have any questions.

Karen Noel-Bentley (“Ms. Karen”)
Principal

Outdoor Supervision

Outdoor supervision is provided by school staff for grades 1 – 7 at the following times:

- ◆ Before School | 8:40 – 8:55
- ◆ After School | 3:03 – 3:20

Parents are responsible to supervise their children when they are on school grounds outside the supervision times.

Bell Schedule

Warning Bell: 8:55 am

Start of School: 9:00 am

Recess: 10:30-10:50 am

Lunch: 12:05-12:52 pm

Dismissal: 3:03 pm

Staff Updates

We say good-bye to Teacher-Librarian/Resource Teacher **Dee Mochrie**, and SSA **Kirby Allen** as they move on to new opportunities. We welcome **Kathryn Kingsland**, who will be our Teacher Librarian/Resource Teacher for at least the first two weeks of school, and our two new SSAs, **Julian Ocampo-Toban** and **Johnny Tran**.

Class Organization

During the first weeks of school, we may have to reorganize based on school and district student placement needs. Our anticipated organization is as follows. Please be aware that this may change.

Teacher	Grade	Division	Room
Ms. Amrit Hundal	7	1	A Deck
Ms. Stephanie Roberts	6/7	2	A Deck
Mr. Vincent Tam	5/6	3	105
Mr. Paul Parungao	5/6	4	008
Ms. Tanya Conley	5	5	007
Ms. Leslie Learmonth	4	6	104
Ms. Suzanne Holden / Ms. Kelly Lee	3/4	7	103
Mr. David Lafond	2/3	8	101
Ms. Dana Dong / Ms. Clara Tsang	1/2	9	B Deck
Ms. Celisa Ghislieri	1/2	10	B Deck
Ms. Corie Ferreira / Ms. Clara Tsang	K	11	106

First Week of School

As we confirm our numbers at Bruce and in the district, returning students will be with last year's teachers, and new students will be placed with temporary teachers. **Ms. Hundal** will be with **Ms. Wasserman's** class and **Ms. Roberts** will be with **Ms. David's** class.

Returning Students – Please line up at last year's line-up spot on the first day of school. Your teacher will let you know where to line up for the rest of the week.

New Students – Please line up at the front door. Your teacher will let you know where to line up for the rest of the week.

A Safe and Healthy School Year

The Vancouver School District and Graham Bruce Elementary continue to follow the guidance of the Ministry of Education and Child Care, the BC Centre for Disease Control and Vancouver Coastal Health in putting in place measures to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. The BC Centre for Disease Control updated [guidance](#) for the K-12 sector indicates that, “Transmission within K-12 schools settings accounts for a minority of COVID-19 cases even amongst students and staff.”

Measures that will continue to be in place for the coming school year include reminders to all staff, students and their families to monitor their health daily and to stay home if they are ill. Information about COVID-19 symptoms can be found on the [BCCDC website](#). Students who become ill during the school day will be asked to wear a mask and wait in a supervised area, away from other students, until they can be picked up by a parent or guardian.

Staff will continue to remind students of the importance of regular hand washing/hand sanitizing and of coughing/sneezing into their elbow or a tissue. We will continue to ensure school sinks are well stocked with soap and that hand sanitizer is available. Staff will also continue to remind students to be respectful of others’ personal space while going through daily school activities.

Wearing a mask, other than what is recommended by public health, is an important personal health choice for students and families. Some staff and students will choose to wear a mask throughout the day or for certain activities. Others will choose not to wear a mask. Individual decisions around mask wearing will be supported and respected at Graham Bruce.

Clean air and proper ventilation is an important part of the prevention measures in all Vancouver schools. During the past months, District staff have undertaken the refurbishment and rehabilitation of ventilation equipment in all schools and will continue to install new ventilation and heating equipment in portables. Air filters in schools have been upgraded and are replaced three times per year.

More information on COVID-19 prevention measures in Vancouver schools can be found [here](#).

Mission Statement

To provide a safe and respectful learning environment for all students to achieve their full potential as lifelong learners and to become responsible, contributing citizens in our ever-changing society.

Code of Conduct

At Graham Bruce Elementary School we care for and respect:

Ourselves

Others

Our community

VSB Contacts

Superintendent:

Helen McGregor

Director of Instruction:

Aaron Davis

Trustee:

Allan Wong

OUR VSB

Reporting Student Absences

In the past, it was common practice to email Denise directly to report absences or ask questions. On days that Denise is away, we may not receive your message until later in the day or later.

To ensure that we receive your message in a timely manner, please use the following to report absences by phone or email:

Phone: To report your child's absence please call **604-713-5159**

- Enter 15
- Press # when prompted

Email: BRUAttendance@vsb.bc.ca

Late Arrival

We encourage all students to arrive no later than **8:55** so they are settled and ready to learn at the start of the school day.

If a student arrives after the 9:00 bell, please sign in at the office and bring a late slip to your teacher.

Early Pick-Up

If your child needs to leave early (e.g., for an appointment, etc.), please do the following:

1. Inform your child's teacher
2. Inform the office
3. Sign out at the office



Graham Bruce PAC

(Parent Advisory Council)

The Parent Advisory Council (PAC) is a legally recognized voice of parents at the school level. A school PAC advises the school board, principal, vice-principal and staff of the school regarding *any* matter relating to the school. All parents are welcome to and encouraged to attend the monthly meetings.

PAC Executive:

Chair: Vince Sharma

Co-Chair: Jerilynne Luna

Treasurer: Tracy Major

Secretary: Anjula Joshi

Please reach out to any member of our executive if you have any questions.

Email: grahambrucepac@gmail.com

Next PAC Meeting:

Monday, September 19 @ 6:30 p.m.

Useful Links

[\\$ Pay a School Fee](#)

[School Calendar of Events](#)

[BCCDC Website for COVID 19 Information](#)

[Vancouver School Board](#)

[How To Register](#)

[VSB Newcomer Welcome Centre](#)

