

## GRENFELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

South Hill Swing Space 5987 Prince Albert Street

Phone: 604-713-4844

Website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/sir-wilfred-grenfell/>

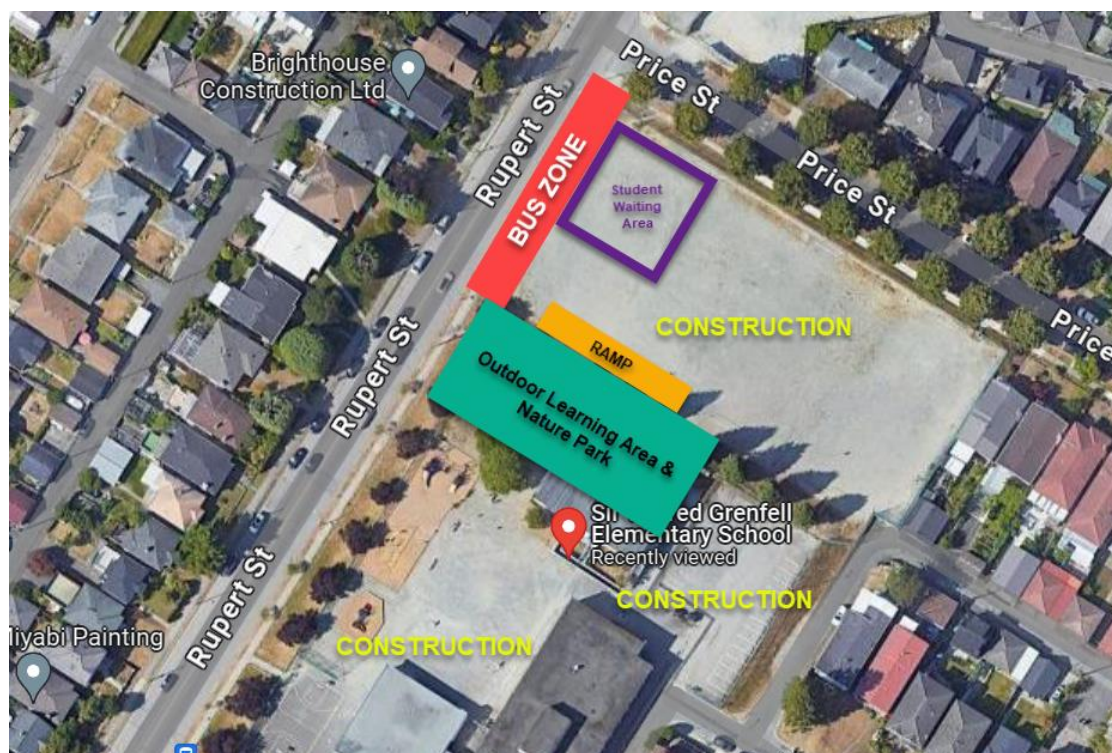
PRINCIPAL: Maureen McDonnell	DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION: Chris Wong
OFFICIAL TRUSTEE: Christopher Richardson	PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC) CHAIR: Caitlin Glass

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

### GRENFELL SEISMIC UPDATE: NATURE PARK CONSTRUCTION AND NEW STUDENT WAITING AREA

The Grenfell seismic upgrade project construction is currently on schedule and will continue through the new year, with anticipated completion in the fall of 2026. In the coming weeks, you'll notice prep work and construction of Grenfell's new outdoor learning area/nature park. We are very pleased to let you know that there will be a permanent ramp that will connect the nature park with the lower field, making the field accessible. The contractor has requested additional space to be able to build the outdoor learning area/nature park and the permanent ramp to the field.

To accommodate this, the current waiting area on the gravel field will need to be reduced in size. The contractor will change the fence configuration during winter break. We have included a map showing the approximate new bus waiting area. The new student waiting area is outlined in purple.



We are excited about the construction of a new nature park and accessibility ramp to the field. To learn more about how the outdoor learning area at Grenfell was designed, please read this article: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/ci/p/84180>.

## ELEMENTARY DISTRICT CHOICE PROGRAMS

VSB is proud to offer a wide range of educational options for different types of learners. Our elementary district choice programs include French Immersion, Mandarin Bilingual, Indigenous Focus, Montessori, and Fine Arts. For further details about each program, please visit the [VSB elementary programs webpage](#). If you'd like to learn more about how these district choice programs are delivered and how they differ from the regular stream, tune in to [episode 13 of the VSB: After the Bellow podcast](#).

Families seeking an overview of the district choice programs and information about the online info sessions are encouraged to visit the [VSB district choice programs webpage](#).

### District Choice Info Session Dates and Meeting Links:

- [Tuesday January 6, 2026 @ 6pm – Mandarin and Early Mandarin Bilingual](#)
- [Wednesday January 7, 2026 @ 6pm – Fine Arts](#)
- [Wednesday January 7, 2026 @ 6pm – Intensive French](#)
- [Thursday January 8, 2026 @ 6pm – Late French Immersion](#)
- [Thursday January 8, 2026 @ 6pm – Indigenous Focus School](#)
- [Tuesday January 13, 2026 @ 6pm – Early French Immersion](#)
- [Wednesday January 14, 2026 @ 6pm – Montessori](#)



## MIDDLE YEARS DEVELOPMENT INSTRUMENT (MDI)

This year all Grade 6 students are invited to participate in the MDI survey. This survey is sponsored by the UBC Human Early Learning Partnership (HELP). The MDI is a self-report questionnaire for students in BC. The questionnaire asks about how students think and feel about their experiences both inside and outside of school. The questionnaire is completed online through the e-MDI and takes 45 to 60 minutes to administer. The MDI questions align with the BC Ministry of Education's K-12 curriculum which includes a focus on promoting children's personal and social competencies. You can learn more about the MDI here: <http://www.discovermdi.ca/what-is-the-mdi/>

A letter has been shared with the Grade 6 parents/guardians informing them of the MDI survey. The MDI will be administered between **January 13 and March 13, 2026**. Please return the Informed Passive Consent Form if you like to **withdraw** your child from participating.

## DISTRICT CHOICE PROGRAMS INFORMATION FOR CURRENT GRADE 7 STUDENTS



Details about each program, information nights, and district timelines are included in the brochure.

Links:

**[Mini School Brochure 2025-2026](#)**

General Registry: Apply to the District Mini School General Registry between November 10-December 18, 2025.

Complete Program Application Processes: Connect directly to each Mini School program site to submit required information and documentation. Deadline: December 18 by 3:00pm, supporting documents can be submitted by January 9, 2026 by 3 pm.

## RAINY AND COLD SEASON IS HERE



Students are reminded to dress warmly for outdoor activities during recess and lunch. Rain gear and winter clothing are recommended at school. For younger students, it's a good idea to send a set of spare clothes to change into in case they get wet. For older students who need to wear shorts for gym classes and after school sports: please have them bring a pair of pants for outside at recess and lunch. Thank you for your support.

### PURDY'S CHOCOLATE FUNDRAISER



Thank you for supporting the Purdy's chocolate PAC fundraiser. We sold over \$2700 worth of chocolate! The PAC's profit was \$724.63! Thank you for to the Grenfell families for supporting the Purdy's Chocolate Fundraiser. Thank you to Grenfell PAC for organizing this fundraising event to support our school. Special thanks to the PAC fundraising coordinator, Patricia Sharma for coordinating this fundraiser. Thank you to Caitlin Glass, Vanni Pheng and Patricia Sharma for sorting and bagging the chocolate.



### MUSIC FUNDRAISER

The Music Program fundraiser Hot Choclocate was a success. We raised over \$500 for a class set of Xylophones. Hot Chocolate orders were sent home with students on Wednesday, December 17. Thank you for your ongoing support!

### COMMUNICATING STUDENT LEARNING (CSL) REPORT CARDS

Students will receive three reports from the teachers. The three reports include two Learning Updates and one Summary Report in June. The first Learning Updates were sent home this past Tuesday, December 16. The next Learning Updates will go home on March 10, 2026. In addition, there are two conferences with families to discuss your child's progress. Please be reminded that you're welcome to connect with your child's teacher or myself anytime regarding your child's progress at school. If you have any questions about the Learning Updates that went home recently, please do not hesitate to connect with your child's classroom teacher.



## Be in the know, winter is coming!

Follow VSB on social media to stay updated about school closures due to severe weather.

During extreme weather conditions (heavy snowfall, extreme cold, freezing rain, extreme heat, etc.) VSB schools will remain open if possible.

If a District-wide closure is necessary, it will be announced by 6:30 a.m.

Stay updated:

Facebook: Vancouver School Board

Instagram: @vsb39

X: @vsb39

VSB website: vsb.bc.ca



### SNOW CLOSURES DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS

When the school is closed due to the bad weather, the Board will post information about snow closures by 6:00 am on the website at [www.vsb.bc.ca](http://www.vsb.bc.ca) and will inform local media stations, including:

- CKNW (980 AM)
- CBC (690 AM, 105.7 FM)
- BCTV/Global (Cable channel 11)
- CITY TV (Cable channel 13)
- CIVB (1470 AM)
- CFHG (96.1 FM)
- CKWX (1130 AM)

Parents are encouraged to check the VSB website or listen to the radio/TV stations listed above to learn about school closures.

### **DATES TO REMEMBER**

Friday, December 19

Monday, January 5

Monday, January 12

Friday, January 23

Last Day of instruction before winter vacation

School re-opens after winter break

Pro-D Day (students do not attend)

PAC hot lunch (Sushi Taku)



**We wish you a peaceful and joyful holiday season.**

**All the best for 2026!**