

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
SCHOOL TRUSTEE: Jennifer Reddy	PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIR (PAC): Caitlin Glass



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone back from the winter holidays. I hope you and your family were able to have some quality time together during the winter break.

We are settling in nicely at the South Hill Swing Space. I would like to thank all the families for your supporting with the bussing. We know getting the children ready for the bus pick up can be challenging at times. But you did it! Our staff look forward to welcoming our students at the bus every morning when they arrive. Students seem to enjoy their bus rides. The bus

drivers are all very impressed by the behaviour of Grenfell students. They said Grenfell students are the best they have seen among all schools! They elaborated that our students are polite, well behaved on the bus and never leave any garbage on the bus. You should be very proud of your child(ren) as we are all very proud of them!

ROAD SAFETY

Parents and caregivers who drive students to the swing site are reminded not to park in the bus zone in front of the school. Please do not make U-turns on Prince Albert Street as it is unsafe. We sometimes see the school buses stop on the street while waiting for the drivers to finish their U-turns.

IS YOUR CHILD SAFE ONLINE?



Our children live in a challenging world that is unfamiliar to us. When we were their age there was of course no Internet- and the Internet is hazardous.

It is important to talk to your child(ren) and be aware of their on-line activities – including games they may play (Minecraft, Roblox, GTA etc.) programs they may watch, chat-rooms they may be in and social media sites they may access. Although many on-line games are very appealing to children, they all carry age ratings because of possible graphic content.

When talking with our students, we found out that some of our students are playing online games that are rated for age groups far old than they are- ratings from 15 to 18. Often, chatrooms on games such as **Roblox** are open to anyone on the internet. In addition, social media sites such as **Tik-Tok** and **Instagram** have age restrictions (13 years old) and some ask for parental consent for under-18's to access accounts. However, these age limits are not strictly enforced. Many students can access those sites at home.

Another platform which is very popular among students is **YouTube**. While this is a great platform for students to explore and can help them in many ways; unfortunately, it can be very easy for a child to access videos and content which are very definitely age inappropriate. We are seeing many students using swear words and making sexually explicit comments – often with no understanding of the words. When students are asked where they have learned this language they reply with ‘YouTube’.

We strongly encourage you to sit down with your child(ren) and talk to them about the programs/videos they watch on YouTube, and screen them to make sure that the content and language are right for your child.



Our advice: please monitor your child’s use of the Internet at home. Talk with your child(ren) about what sites they visit and limit the amount of screen time at home. Our recommendation is 30 minutes to 1.5 hours (for older students) daily maximum. Sitting next to your child or in the room while your child is using the internet is also recommended.



SAFER SPACE WORKSHOPS FOR GRADE 4 TO 7

All Intermediate students will participate in Safer Space workshops in the coming weeks. Safer Space defines and discusses online exploitation in an engaging and accessible way. By using real life examples, activities, videos , and interactive role-playing, the presenters walk through online exploitation in a relatable and age-appropriate way. Safer Space workshops identity: online exploitation and

sexortion, red flags for online exploitation, digital citizenship, online safety tips for using apps and video games, safe adults and ways to reach out for help. Parents/care givers are welcome to reach out to me if they have any questions regarding Safer Space workshops.

VAPING PRESENTATIONS

It is reported that about one out of every four young people in BC has tried vaping. Vaping nicotine has special risks for young people. To better inform students, we will be holding workshops held next week will help our students learn more about vaping. All Grade 6 and 7 students will participate in these workshops, presented by the Vancouver Coastal Health staff.



WINDERMERE SECONDARY SCHOOL INFORMATION NIGHT FOR GRADE 7 FAMILIES

All Grade 7 students and families are welcome to attend the Grade 8 information meeting on **Tuesday, January 21 at 6:00 pm**. The meeting will be held in the school auditorium. The length of the meeting is expected to be an hour. Please note that

there will not be an online meeting this year. Students who are going to Windermere and their families are encouraged to attend this meeting.

GRENFELL PAC NEWS

PAC HOT LUNCH

Thank you to our PAC member, Jasmine, who tirelessly contacts vendors and organizes a variety of lunches for our students and fundraises for the school. The next round of PAC hot lunch ordering is now open. If you have not received a link from the PAC, you can still place your orders using the following link: <https://grenfell.hotlunches.net/admin/> What’s for lunch? **January 30:** Sushi Taku, **February 13:** Domino’s, **February 27:** Hi Five Chicken. Please order by **January 22nd**.

NEXT PAC MEETING

Our next PAC meeting is next **Tuesday, January 21 at 9:00 am in the Staff Room at South Hill (5987 Prince Albert St)** . We will start our meeting with a tour of the South Hill Swing Space. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend.

PAC EMAIL SYSTEM



Just a reminder that all PAC communication has moved to another platform and will come directly from the PAC. The hot lunch information will be sent out directly from Grenfell PAC. If you have not received any hot lunch information, and would like to order hot lunch for your child, please visit the PAC website <https://sites.google.com/view/grenfellpac/home> to add your email address to the PAC list, please scroll down and press the subscribe button to receive PAC emails. You can unsubscribe anytime.

SNOW CLOSURES DUE TO WEATHER CONDITIONS



When the school is closed due to bad weather, the Vancouver School Board will post information about snow closures by 6:00 am on the website at 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

Tuesday, January 21

PAC meeting at 9:00am in the school staff room

Wednesday, Jan 22

Windermere information meeting for Grade 7 students and families at 6:00 pm

Wednesday, Jan 29

Last day to order PAC Hot Lunch

Thursday, Jan 30

The first day of Lunar New Year

Thursday, Feb 13

PAC Hot Lunch (Sushi Taku)

Friday, Feb 14

PAC Hot Lunch (Domino's)

Monday, Feb 17

Pro-D Day (Students do not attend)

Family Day holiday