



We Care for Self, for Others, and for our Surroundings

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Director of Instruction: Mr. Chris Stanger
Principal: Ms. Janine Lamb
Vice Principal: Ms. Kamala Coughlan
PAC Chairpersons: Ms. Maya Toews
School Liaison Trustee: Mr. Alan Wong

Welcome to the New School Year 2020-2021!

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Renfrew Families,

After a school start like no other in history, it is wonderful to see students and families back at Renfrew! It is incredible to have students in classes, and to see how keen they are to be in school learning. Thank you to families for your patience, and your support as we have transitioned back to school in such unusual times. We are excited and committed to high quality teaching and learning and looking forward to working together with parents and the community to support students to thrive emotionally, socially and intellectually. I would like to welcome new families to our Renfrew School community. Kamala and I are often outside at the beginning and end of the day, so please introduce yourselves if you are able to. We look forward to meeting our new families and renewing relationships with our returning families!

We have several upcoming virtual events and areas of focus. Many of our traditional events will look different this year, but Renfrew staff is committed to carry on with a virtual Meet the Teacher night, to participate in some form in the 40th annual Terry Fox Marathon of Hope and to join with others across Canada on September 30th on Orange Shirt Day to acknowledge the harm caused by the residential school system to Indigenous Peoples.

Soon the Parent Advisory Committee will begin meeting and I am looking forward to working collaboratively with parents on a number of different initiatives to help support students and the school.

Finally, a sincere thank you to those of you who have welcomed me to Renfrew. I am honoured to be here, and very much looking forward to more excitement and learning in October and the year ahead!

Sincerely,

Janine Lamb
Principal

We would like to welcome the following new and returning staff members to our school community:

Ms. Jane Hughes, teaching Gr. 2/3

Ms. Laura King-Moino, teaching Grade 1 Monday, Tuesday, Thursday; Ms. Karyn Lee on Wednesday and Friday

Ms. Hayley Enns teaching Grade 1/2/3

Mr. Jason Pedra, primary resource teacher

Mr. Zach Jansen, Student Support Worker

Ms. Elsa Medina, teaching in the Social Emotional Learning Centre (SELC)

Ms. Lisa Litwiller – Community Link Youth and Family Worker, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday

Ms. Kim Nguyen helping out in the office on Fridays

Ms. Arianna Sanelli, Speech and Language Pathologist

Renfrew's Code of Conduct

Renfrew has a set of guidelines for conduct and these are the expectations for all our school community. It is based on our motto and our Renfrew Cares statement: Renfrew's Motto is: **"Renfrew Cares, We think about Others"**

Our Code of Conduct is: **Renfrew Cares for Self, Renfrew Cares for Others, Renfrew Cares for the Surroundings.** Racism will not be tolerated in our school.

These guidelines reflect the school's philosophy. Renfrew is a safe and caring place, where everyone tries their best, treats others kindly, and respects the environment. It is a place where students, staff, families and the community work together to share ideas and create a wonderful place to learn. There is a rising expectation that as students develop with age, they will show increasing maturity, self-responsibility, decision-making ability, and leadership.

Please see the attached Code of Conduct to review with your child.

Renfrew Before and After School Care

If you are looking for Child Care spaces for before and after school at Renfrew School, please make enquires by contacting Collingwood Neighbourhood House at 604-412-3700 or 604-431-6863.

School Forms and Fees

There will be a number of important forms sent home in early September, these include forms that request emergency contact numbers, pertinent health issues, neighbourhood field trip permission, lunch permission and media permission. These forms need to be returned to your child's classroom. If information changes throughout the year, please update the school immediately by calling the office. The school must be able to contact parents at all times.

We sent out information on school fees and how to pay them online in June and again September 14, 2020. School fees for all ages are \$35.00, agendas for Grades 2 to 7 students are an additional \$6.00 and Jump Math workbooks for participating classes are an additional \$26.00. You will be able to access and pay fees online as of Monday, September 14th.



Lunch

Please send lunch to school with your children. At this time, students are eating both recess snacks and lunches in their classrooms.



When packing food for school, please consider the following: Is the lunch nutritious? Is this lunch going to provide a lot of waste for the landfill or recycling? This year we want to cut down on our waste and spend less time having to pick up the waste that is littered on our school grounds!



Please do not send tree nuts to school. Please avoid nut products in your child's lunches. We have a number of students who have severe allergies.

We encourage students not to bring valuable items such as electronics or a large amount of money to school. We do not have student lockers at Renfrew nor secure storage for student use. Therefore, the school will not be responsible for lost or stolen items. We suggest these items remain at home.



Outdoor Play

We value our outdoor play time and encourage students to be outside as much as possible. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and being outside. When the weather is terrible we will have 'Inside Day/Rainy Day' options but would prefer to see students get fresh air and exercise outside as much as possible. It would be great to see all our students with rain gear!



Bell Schedule

- 08:55 a.m. Warning Bell
- 09:00 a.m. Class
- 10:30 a.m. and 10:45 a.m. two recess breaks; one for Group A and one for Group B
- 12:00 p.m. - 12:45 p.m. During this time Group A and B students will have time to eat and have some outdoor playtime
- 12:47 p.m - 3:00 p.m. Class

Student Supervision

Please do not send your children to school early and please pick them up at 3:00 as we have limited supervision from 8:40 to 8:55 am and from 3:00 to 3:20 pm. You are responsible for your child after you pick them up. If a student wishes to play on the school grounds at 3:20, they must be accompanied by you, or have gone home and received permission from a parent/guardian before returning. It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to supervise play after 3:20 pm. It is very important that families that are picking students up after school are here on time at 3:00 pm.

Student Safety and Traffic



We encourage families to walk or bike to school to reduce automobile congestion. Students can bring a lock and secure their bikes in the bike storage area. Please go over the traffic safety rules with your children. With the “back to school” excitement, children can forget these important pedestrian rules. If you are dropping children off, please make sure that it is on the school side of the street and use 22nd Street as it is safest. If walking to school, please do not walk through the parking lot/ driveway—use the path. The **staff parking lot is only for VSB employees and school deliveries. Do not enter or drop off your child in this area.** It can be dangerous as vehicles back up and small children are difficult to see. Also please do not jaywalk, as this models illegal and dangerous behaviour for our children.

Safe Arrival

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 a dedicated answering service by calling 604-713-5159 ext. 70. Messages will 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 ext. 70 prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence.

Student Sign In/ Sign Out Procedure:

It is very important that your child arrive on time to start school each morning with his/her peers. The morning routine helps your child stay connected to his/her classmates and sets a positive tone for the day. When your child is late for school, it not only disrupts his/her learning, but also the learning of his/her classmates. Please do your best to ensure your child

arrives to school on time each day. If you are going to be late please contact the Safe Arrival number and let us know. When your child arrives at school, please ensure he/she signs in at the office. Any time you are bringing your child in after 9:00 am please have your child check in at the office.

If you need to pick your child up early or during the school day, please coordinate this with the classroom teacher. Parents are reminded that at this time they are not able to enter the school. Staff will arrange for you to meet your child at the main entrance of the building.

Thanks for your help in keeping our students safe.

MEET THE TEACHERS NIGHT



In the coming weeks, Renfrew staff will be connecting with families about our virtual Meet the Teacher night.

ASSEMBLIES

Assemblies are an important part of the Renfrew culture. Due to the Stage 2 re-opening restrictions, we are not able to have in-person assemblies at this time. We have a team of staff members working hard to come up with an alternative format that adheres to Vancouver Coastal Health guidelines, while keeping this valuable tradition alive. We are planning for our first assembly to take place next week.

SCHOOL PHOTOS

Individual school photos have been postponed until January 2021. More information will be shared as it becomes available.

NEWSLETTER

We will be sending out a newsletter on a monthly basis. It is important that parents and guardians read the newsletter as we use it to communicate information about all the exciting and interesting events occurring at the school and in the community. It is often emphasized in research that student success in education is dependent on their parents' strong commitment and involvement. Parents being informed of the school's year-round activities and projects is one way of showing interest in their children's school life. This year we are continuing to be environmentally responsible by posting newsletters, calendars and important updates on our website. The electronic version of the newsletter will be emailed to



parents and guardians, so please ensure that your email and contact details are up to date. Some paper copies will be available at the school office by request.

PAC

All parents whose children attend Renfrew Elementary School are members of the school's Parent Advisory Committee. At the moment, Maya Toews is our PAC chair. For the time being, PAC meetings will be virtual, and through the Zoom platform. The PAC will be sending further information regarding meeting dates etc. in the near future.

Terry Fox Run – 40th Anniversary

This year is the 40th Anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope.

This month students will be involved in learning about Terry Fox, and individual classes may participate in a run. Although our annual event will look different this year, we are hoping to inspire students from the way Terry Fox rose above the many challenges that met him on the Marathon of Hope.

Renfrew Elementary has participated in this run for the last 33 years, and to date has raised more than \$120,000!

Please join us and support this wonderful cause by donating

to: <http://www.terryfox.ca/RenfrewElementary>. Together, we can all make a difference!

#terryfoxschoolruns @terryfoxfoundation



GEARING UP FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR

As we start the new school year, it is important that students are prepared in order to have a smooth transition back. Here are a few ideas and tips to start off on the right foot:



- Getting back to a school routine can be challenging so consider shifting bedtime and wake-up routines right away. Sleep experts recommend not using any technology for at least one hour prior to bedtime.
- Set up a homework center at home away from distractions (TV, laptop, iPad, phone etc.) Keep an assignment calendar nearby so you and your child know upcoming due dates. You will be teaching them valuable time management skills too!
- Please be sure to bring your child/children to school on time. Students have a better day at school when they arrive before the 9 am bell. They learn more and begin the day feeling calmer and less anxious.

Don't forget to check out some useful information & resources for the start of the 2020-2021 school year
https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/General_Resources/Back_To_School/Pages/default.aspx

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT DAY

Mark your calendars! Our first Professional Development Day is Friday, September 25th, 2020. School will not be in session for students on that day. The next Professional Development Day will take place on Friday, October 23rd, 2020



MARK YOUR CALENDARS

WHAT'S GOING ON AT RENFREW

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| Friday, September 25 th | PRO D Day – No School for Students |
| Wednesday, September 30 th | Orange Shirt Day |
| Monday, October 12 th | Thanksgiving – School Closed |
| Friday, October 23 rd | PRO D Day – No School for Students |
| Wednesday, November 11 th | Remembrance Day – School Closed |
| Wednesday and Thursday November 18 th and 19 th | Virtual Goal-Setting Conferences with teachers; School is dismissed at 2pm both days |
| Friday, November 27 th | PRO D Day – No school for students |
| Friday, December 18 th | Last day of school before winter break |

StrongStart

StrongStart is currently operating on a sign-up basis. **Please, no drop-ins at any time.** Please email the program facilitator to sign-up for a spot, or to obtain registration information if you are new to the program.

Facilitator: Ruth Sepulveda

Email: strongstart@vsb.bc.ca

Thank you for your cooperation!

Safe and Inclusive Schools: Student Threat-Risk Assessment

NOTICE TO OUR STUDENTS AND PARENTS/GUARDIANS/CAREGIVERS

The Vancouver School District and our community partners are committed to having safe, caring and inclusive schools. In the event that a student makes a threat of violence or harm to other students, staff or the school community the school will initiate the VSB student threat-risk assessment process.

What behaviours initiate a student threat-risk assessment?

A student violence threat-risk assessment will be initiated for behaviours including:

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill
- Verbal/ written/ drawn threats to harm or kill others
- Online threats to harm or kills others
- Possession of weapons (including replicas)
- Bomb threats
- Fire setting
- Acts of racism, discrimination or hate
- Sexual intimidation/sexortion or assault
- Gang related intimidation and violence

What is a threat?

- An expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something
- Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, made through gestures or posted on the Internet

Duty to report threat-making behaviour

Maintaining a safe, caring and inclusive school is the responsibility of everyone in the school community. Students, staff, parents/ guardians/ caregivers and community members must report all threat-related behaviours to their school administrator.

Duty to respond

All threats must be taken seriously and require a response that includes investigation and intervention. Our goal is to respond to threats quickly and in a professional manner so that we can maintain a safe and caring learning environment.

The school administrator will initiate the threat-risk assessment process, according to district protocol. Each school has a multi-disciplinary School Threat Risk Assessment Team, which includes the school administrator(s), area or school-based counsellor(s), and School Liaison Police Officer. A school may also involve district resource staff and community partners such as Child and Youth Mental Health in the threat assessment process.

What is the purpose of a student threat-risk assessment?

The VSB student threat-risk assessment process is used to:

- Ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others
- Ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat
- Understand factors contributing to the threat-makers' behaviour
- Be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat-maker
- Promote the emotional and physical safety of all

What happens in a student threat-risk assessment?

- Information is gathered from multiple sources including open-source publicly-available data. This may include interviews with the threat-maker, student(s), staff and parents/guardians/caregivers to assess the level of risk.
- The School Threat Assessment Team examines the information collected and, in consultation with community partners determines the level of risk.
- Appropriate intervention plans are developed, implemented and shared as required with parents/guardians, staff and students. Information shared throughout the threat-risk assessment process will respect the individual's right to privacy and the safety of all.

Can I refuse to participate in the threat-risk assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the threat-risk assessment process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat-maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring environment for all.

VSB Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol - Fair Notice

The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan

As we communicated out last August the kids plus student accident insurance program has changed and is now called The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP). This coverage is still provided by Industrial Alliance and is a voluntary plan which offers coverage for students and their families against accidental injury,

unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is ideal for supplementing costs not covered by provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans.

Families can register online to participate in the Plan by using the URL provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc> If families have questions about the program please contact Industrial Alliance directly using the following contact information: Phone: 1.800.266.5667. Email: solutions@ia.ca