

GRENFELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Phone: 604-713-4844

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

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



GRENFELL SEISMIC PROJECT UPDATE

The Grenfell seismic upgrade project is moving towards construction. We appreciate the work of our Seismic Advisory Group in discussing various aspects of the school design. Grenfell is being seismically upgraded, which includes:

- Renovations to many parts of the school building where seismic work occurs.
- Seismic upgrades to many of the foundations and walls
- Interior renovation to many areas, such as ceilings, flooring, and lighting.
- Accessibility improvements including an elevator and other accessibility features.

During the project, students and the out-of-school care program will be temporarily accommodated at the South Hill Swing site, located at 5987 Prince Albert Street. Daily bussing from Grenfell to South Hill Swing Site will be offered to all families, at no cost to you. **All families will be invited to a meeting on Wednesday October 30th at 6:30pm in the Grenfell Gymnasium to provide more information about the bus service details, and to answer questions.** After the meeting, we will distribute information and a registration form to all families for you to decide if you would like to use the bus service. We will send another invitation by email later next week.

We anticipate our move to South Hill to occur this coming Winter. We will communicate the date of our move to South Hill once it is confirmed, and update you on the status of the project. Construction is anticipated to begin in Spring 2025. The anticipated completion of the construction is Fall 2026. For more information please visit the [Grenfell Seismic Project Website](#).

GRENFELL SCHOOL ORGANIZATION 2023-2024

We would like to welcome our new staff to Grenfell:

Ms. Su (Kindergarten), Ms. Gay (Grade 2), Ms. Farley (Grade 2/3), Ms. West (Grade 3/4), Ms. Pham (Grade 3/4) who is filling in for Ms. West until Spring Break, Ms. Dubois (Resource Teacher who is filling in for Ms. Fong), Mr. Amar (SSA).

For the 2022-23 school year, students have been organized into 15 divisions:

Division	Teacher	Grade
1	Ms. Segran	6/7
2	Ms. Massis	6/7
3	Mr. Tse	6/7
4	Mr. Walker	5
5	Mr. Macdonald	4/5
6	Ms. West (Ms. Pham)	3/4
7	Ms. Lee/Ms. Paxton-Judge	3/4
8	Ms. Kinzel	2/3
9	Ms. Farley	2/3

10	Ms. Gay	2
11	Ms. Cho	1/2
12	Ms. Tomé	1
13	Ms. Su	K
15	Ms. Ramazzini	K



ORANGE SHIRT DAY AND THE NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Every year on September 30th, people across Canada wear orange and participate in Orange Shirt Day events to recognize and raise awareness about the history and legacies of the residential school system in Canada.

Orange Shirt Day originates from the story of Phyllis Webstad from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation. In 1973, on her first day at St. Joseph's Residential School in Williams Lake, BC, Phyllis's shiny new orange shirt was stripped from her, never to be seen again. 40 years later,

on September 30th, 2013, Phyllis spoke publicly for the first time about her experience, and thus began the Orange Shirt Day movement.

During the week of September 23 to 27, students were learning about the residential school system and the impact that it has had on the indigenous community.

On Friday, September 27, Grenfell students got together for an Orange Shirt Day Assembly. We revisited Ms. Webstad's story. As a whole school, we looked at resources to learn more about the residential schools.



TERRY FOX RUN

Grenfell students participated in the annual Terry Fox Run on Thursday, September 19. Kindergarten students ran inside the lower field. Students in Grade 1 to 7 ran around the school (Wellington-Joyce-Price-Rupert).

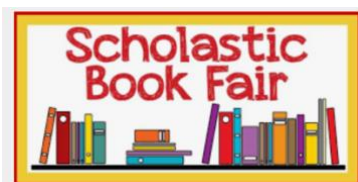
We raised \$510 online! Thank you everyone for your donations to support cancer research. If you have not had a chance to donate and would like to, you can make a donation until

October 25

<https://schools.terryfox.ca/SirWilfredGrenfellElementary>

GOAL SETTING CONFERENCES

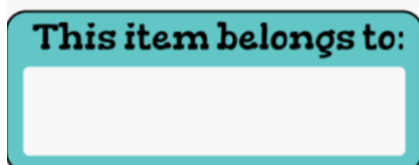
The Goal Setting conferences will be held on October 23 and 24. Your child(ren)'s classroom teacher(s) have sent out letter(s) inviting you to attend the conferences. This is a great opportunity to get an informal update of your child's progress at school. We will have language translators on hand should you require any assistance. Please do not hesitate to contact your teacher for a different meeting time if those dates don't work for you. A reminder that students will be **dismissed at 2:00 pm** on both October 23 and 24.



SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

From Ms. Lacroix, our Teacher Library: The Scholastic Book Fair will be happening in the library **the week of October 21-24** and during the parent-teacher conferences. Scholastic Book Fair is a fun and easy fundraiser for the school library and it helps buy more of the students' favorite books to fill the shelves. Thank you for supporting literacy and the Grenfell library.

PLEASE LABEL YOUR CHILD'S BELONGINGS



A reminder to parents to please label your child's personal belongings such as clothing, water bottles, lunch and snack containers (both the lids and the boxes). A simple way to personalize your child's belongings is using masking tape. Simply put your child's name on a piece of masking tape and place it on their belongings. Thank you for helping us reduce the Lost and Found items. Please feel free to check

the Lost & Found corner to claim your child's lost items. The Lost & Found stand is located in the hall outside the library.

RAINY AND COLD SEASON IS UPON US



Students are reminded to dress warmly for outdoor activities during recess and lunch. Rain gear and warm 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.

FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSA)

The Foundation Skills Assessment is an annual province-wide assessment of all B.C. students' academic skills in grades 4 and 7. FSA is the only standardized test administered throughout the province. This year's FSA will be administered from October 3 to November 8. Please reach out to the principal, Ms. McDonnell, mmcdonnell@vsb.bc.ca if you have any questions regarding the FSA.

DISTRICT CHOICE PROGRAMS INFORMATION FOR GRADE 8

Grade 7 parents who are interested in learning more about our district's mini schools, please check the link below:

Important Dates and Registration Requirements:

General Registry: Apply to the District Mini School General Registry between November 12-December 19, 2024.

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5292/mini-school>

Complete Program Application Processes: Connect directly to each Mini School program site to submit required information and documentation. Deadline: December 19, 2024 (BY 3:00 PM).

VSB: AFTER THE BELL, PODCAST SEASON 3 DROPPED LAST WEEK!



Did you know we have an award-winning podcast called **VSB: After the Bell**? It gives you a direct and inside look at Vancouver's public school system and the people in it. Tune in for candid, intimate and honest conversations about what's happening in schools.

To kick off season three, we look at effective communication strategies for parents/guardians to connect with their child's educators. Featuring an elementary and secondary principal, we hear about best practices, approaches to avoid and so much more!

We also discuss the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA), a hot topic in the District especially for students in grades 4 and 7. We talk to an education expert about what it is, why it's important and debunk common myths about the assessment.

Click the links to listen to episode 1: [effective communications](#) and episode 2: [the Foundation Skills Assessment](#); or find it on Spotify, Apple Podcasts, or wherever you listen to podcasts by searching VSB: After the Bell.

Please share this in your next newsletter to help spread the word to student families!

STUDENT SAFETY

Our school day begins at 9:00 am and ends at 2:58 pm. For your child's safety, please do not leave your child unattended on the playground prior to the start of the school day. Please pick up your child promptly at the end of the school day.

GRENFELL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

PAC MEETING

Our next PAC meeting will be **Tuesday, October 22 at 9:00 am** in Staff Room (next to the school office). All Grenfell parents/guardians are welcome to join.

The PAC meetings are great way for parents to connect with other parents and to learn about pertinent news about the school. Parents' voices are a tremendous value to their school.

The agenda for the upcoming meeting and past meeting minutes can be found at <https://sites.google.com/view/grenfellpac/events-meetings>.



SAFE ARRIVAL

If your child will be absent for school, please call the Safe Arrival line to report their absence. Safe Arrival: (604) 713-5159 Ext. 34 or email: greatendance@vsb.bc.ca. You don't need to call the school office once you have reported on the Safe Arrival line or email. Thank you for your support.



INDIVIDUAL PHOTO DAY

Photo Day will be held on October 15. Retake will take place on November 13.



PARKING/DROP OFF PROCEDURES

A reminder that the staff parking lot is for school staff only between 8:00 AM -4:00 PM. Please do not use the staff parking lot to drop off and pick up students between 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, October 14	Thanksgiving Holiday
Tuesday, October 15	Individual Photo Day
Thursday, October 17	PAC hotl unch
Tuesday, October 22	PAC Meeting at 9:00 am in the school Staff Room
	District Cross Country Meet at Trout Lake (1:00-3:00pm)
October 21 to 24	Scholastic Book Fair in the Library
October 23 & 24	Goal-Setting Conferences (students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm)
Friday, October 25	Professional Development Day (students do not attend)
Wednesday, October 30	Grenfell Bussing Meeting for Families (6:30 pm in the gym)
Thursday, October 31	Halloween Costume Day