

## GRENFELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

3323 WELLINGTON AVENUE, VANCOUVER, V5R 4Y3

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

With deep gratitude and respect, we are honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the x<sup>w</sup>məθk<sup>w</sup>əyəm (Musqueam), Sḵwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).



### WELCOME BACK TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

We hope you have had a wonderful summer! We are excited to welcome you back to school. To our new students and families, we would like to extend a warm welcome, and look forward to getting to know you.

Our school will soon fill with new and returning students, and the hallways and classrooms, abandoned, empty and silent over the long summer, will spring back to life, filled with excited voices reconnecting with old friends, telling stories of their summers.

For children, every school year, whether its kindergarten, grade 1, or any grade, is a milestone year. In a way impossible for adults, for whom years can pass as a blur, for children, school years are indelible. For them every year is a distinct, unforgettable chapter in the story of their young lives. It's for us to make those individual chapters unique, productive, and special.

We are looking forward to working with your child(ren)!



### GRENFELL SEISMIC PROJECT

As you know our school is going through the Seismic Upgrade Project. The project will include structural upgrades to the East, West and South classroom blocks, multi-purpose room and gymnasium. We are excited that our building will be safer for our students and wheelchair accessible after the project has completed. Once again, here's the information on our school website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/66911/grenfell-elementary> and a project [Fact Sheet](#) which includes pertinent information.

During the construction (winter 2025), Grenfell students and staff will be relocated to a temporary site at South Hill swing site at **5987 Prince Albert Street**. VSB will organize school buses (at no cost to parents) to pick up students from Grenfell in the morning (approximately at 8:45am); school buses will drop students off back to Grenfell at the end of the school day (approximately at 3:15pm). We will share more busing information in

the coming month. We are in the process of organizing a meeting to inform parents of transporting students on the school bus. More information about the meeting will be shared once we have the finalized details.



### THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

The first day of school for students will be next **Tuesday, September 3<sup>rd</sup>**. Students from Grade 1 to 7 will attend school from 9:00 to 10:00 am. Students are reminded to come into the classrooms at the 8:55 am bell or line up outside (if this was the routine last year). Students will be with their last year's teachers during the first week of school. More information will be communicated to parents when we are ready to move students to their new classes. Kindergarten students and families will meet the Kindergarten teachers in the school gymnasium at 9:15 am.

We are looking forward to welcoming our new and returning students!

### KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS



Kindergarten students will be following a gradual entry schedule. The schedule was sent to all families in June, but please contact the office if you need a copy. We will send an email reminder this week. **NEW KINDERGARTENERS WILL REPORT TO SCHOOL ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4<sup>TH</sup>**. Please refer to the information of your child(ren)'s gradual entry schedule for start and end time. Please meet the teachers at the designated cone along the windows near the basketball court for drop off and pick up.

### PERSONAL DIGITAL DEVICES

As you may know, in January 2024, the Provincial of BC mandated all school boards to update their Codes of Conduct to limit students' use of personal digital devices during school hours. Personal digital devices are now restricted throughout the instructional day (9:00am to 2:58 pm). This includes class time, recess and lunch. **Devices must be turned off or set to silent mode and kept out of sight for the entire school day. At Grenfell, students must keep their digital devices in their backpacks once they are at school.** Please know that your child does not need a digital device at school for educational purposes as we have student laptops and ipads for students. And finally, please refrain from contacting your child on their phone during school hours (9:00 am to 2:58 pm).

### STUDENT AND FAMILY AFFORDABILITY FUND

Since 2022, the Ministry of Education and Child Care has allocated funding directly to school boards in support of families who may be struggling to pay for cost associated with school activities. This year, the funding guidelines have changed. Funding can be used to offset costs related to basic school supplies, fieldtrips, and clothing/footwear required for school sports. If your family is experiencing financial hardship and would like to access the affordability fund, please contact the school principal, Ms. McDonnell [mmcdonnell@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:mmcdonnell@vsb.bc.ca). All requests will be kept confidential.

### NOTICE OF LATE RETURN

In order to maintain a space for your child, be sure to inform the school if your child will not be at school by September 6<sup>th</sup>.

### SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Newsletters will be published monthly and will be emailed to parents and guardians. You can also check our website for information and events at <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/sir-wilfred-grenfell/>. As newsletters and other important correspondence will be sent out via email, please be sure to update us if you change your email address over the school year.

### 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.



### 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. (code) 34 or email: [greatattendance@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:greatattendance@vsb.bc.ca).

### MEET THE TEACHER EVENT

All parents and care givers are invited to meet their child (children)'s teacher(s) in the classroom after school on **Thursday, September 19**. More information will be emailed out to families.

### Grenfell PAC Executive 2024-2025

During the AGM in June, new executive was elected. We would like to thank those who attended the meeting and the newly elected PAC executive for their time serving the PAC.

**Chair:** Caitlin Glass; **Secretary:** (to be filled); **Treasurer:** Vanny Pheng; **Hot Lunch Coordinators:** Jasmine Sanchez and Holly Zimmerman; **Fundraising Coordinator:** Patricia Sharma; **PAC website manager:** Tony Niu.

For those who would like to learn more about the Parent Advisory Council (PAC ) in Vancouver public schools, please click on this link posted on our school website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/sir-wilfred-grenfell/page/3743/parent-advisory-council>



### 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.

### SCHOOL AREA SIGNS



This sign is used in advance of school to warn drivers that children may be walking along or crossing the roads. On local Streets 30 km/hr signs are posted and speed limit is 30 km/hr from 8:00am to 5:00 pm on school days.

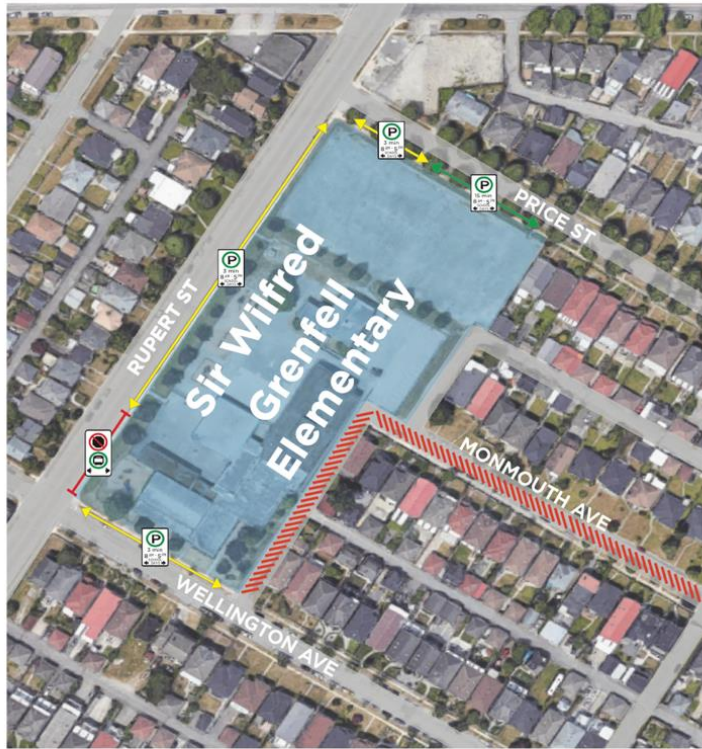
### SCHOOL CROSSWALK SIGNS



A school crosswalk sign indicates where children will be crossing the road. Vehicles must yield to pedestrians at all intersections and crosswalks. Vehicles must stop until children are safely across and on the curb. Please remember children are playful and impulsive and may enter the roadway suddenly.

Please see below the Grenfell parking map. **No pick-up or drop-off** in front of the school parking lot on Monmouth Ave and the lane (red line marked in the map).

Please use Wellington Ave, Rupert Street or Price Street instead. There are 3-minute parking signages on Wellington Street (in front of the school).



Disclaimer: This map is produced as a public resource for general information purposes only. The City, its employees, officers, directors and representatives do not guarantee the accuracy of the information contained therein nor warrant the safety of any route, highway, road, street, designated cycling route or other shown in the map information.

## LEGEND



### 3 mins Parking (School Days)

These spots are for quick pick-ups and drop-offs. Park your vehicle in this zone for no more than 3 minutes.



### 15 mins Parking (School Days)

For longer school visits please park your vehicle in this zone for no more than 15 minutes.



### Transit Bus Zone

Vehicles cannot park or stop in a bus zone and must yield to buses. Only buses may park here with the exception of emergency vehicles.



### School Drop Off/Pick Up Zone



### No Drop-Off or Pick-Up

Use Wellington Av, Rupert St, or Price St for drop-off and pick-up instead.

## Support Active Transportation

Keep the area around your school a safe place to walk, cycle and roll by following the posted signs. If you are driving, consider the "Drive to Five" initiative. Park five minutes away and walk to school. It is an active way to start and end the day.

January 2021

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## DATES TO REMEMBER

Tuesday, September 3

Wednesday, September 4

Thursday, September 19

Friday, September 20

Monday, September 30

Monday, October 14

Thurs & Fri, October 23 & 24

Friday, October 25

First Day of School (students Grade 1 to 7) attend from 9:00 -10:00 am

First Day for Kindergarten students

Meet The Teacher after school

Professional Development Day (students do not attend)

National Day of Truth & Reconciliation (school not in session)

Thanksgiving holiday

Goal Setting conferences (students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm on both days)

Professional Development Day (students do not attend)

**PLEASE FIND THE PAGE BELOW OUR SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR 2024-25**

# Calendar 2024-2025 Grenfell Elementary School



## SCHOOL OPERATION OVERVIEW

Number of Days in Session	187
Number of Days of Instruction	180
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	6 Non-Instructional Days 1 Administrative Day (June 27)

## IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of School for Students	Tuesday, September 3, 2024
National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	Monday, September 30, 2024
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 14, 2024
Remembrance Day	Monday, November 11, 2024
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 20, 2024
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 23, 2024-Friday, January 3, 2025
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 6, 2025
Family Day	Monday, February 17, 2025
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 14, 2025
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 17 – Friday, March 28, 2025
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Monday March 31, 2025
Good Friday	Friday, April 18, 2025
Easter Monday	Monday April 21, 2025
Victoria Day	Monday, May 19, 2025
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 26, 2025
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 27, 2025

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS (SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION)

Friday, September 20, 2024	Professional Development Day (School-based)
Friday, October 25, 2024	Professional Development Day (Province wide)
Friday, November 22, 2024	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Wednesday, January 15, 2025	Professional Development Day (School-based)
Friday, February 14, 2025	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Monday, April 28, 2025	Professional Development Day (District wide)

## PARENT CONFERENCE DATES

## EARLY DISMISSAL TIMES

Wednesday, October 23, 2024	Early dismissal at 2:00 pm
Thursday, October 24, 2024	Early dismissal at 2:00 pm
Wednesday, April 30, 2025	Early dismissal at 2:00 pm
Thursday, May 1, 2025	Early dismissal at 2:00 pm