

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) & səliłwətał (Tsleil-Waututh Nation).

IT'S BACK TO SCHOOL TIME!

It's time for school! Hallways and classrooms empty and silent for the summer months, hosting nothing but the faint echos of footsteps of students past, now, ringing with the laughter and joy of students reunited with their friends and excitedly exchanging stories about their summers. It's a wonderful time.

GRENFELL SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

For the 2025-26 school year, students have been organized into 13 divisions:

Division	Teacher	Grade
1	Ms. Segran	6/7
2	Mr. Tse	6/7
3	Ms. Massis	5/6
4	Ms. West	5/6
5	Mr. Macdonald	4/5
6	Mr. Walker	3/4
7	Ms. Lee	3/4
8	Ms. Kinzel	2/3
9	Ms. Farley	2/3
10	Ms. Tomé	1/2
11	Ms. Cho	1
12	Ms. Ramazzini	K
13	Ms. Su	K

MEET THE TEACHER AND FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT

All students from K to 7 and their family members/care givers are invited to come meet the Grenfell staff and join in some activities that promote family literacy. The event will be held next **Tuesday, September 23 from 5:30pm to 6:30pm** in our current South Hill site at 5987 Prince Albert Street. We are looking forward to seeing you!

GRENFELL OUTDOOR CLASSROOM

We are excited to share that the District has received a grant from the BC Parks Foundation to design and construct a nature park/outdoor learning space on the Grenfell School site. The project is currently at the design stage. As part of the ongoing design process, and in keeping with our commitment to incorporate student voices, we have planned an

engagement session with some students from Grenfell. We will gather student feedback based on their lived experiences as students at Grenfell and as future users of the new outdoor space. Our teaching staff will also have an opportunity to share their thoughts and suggestions regarding features that they would like to see incorporated in the Outdoor Classroom. Thank you to the Outdoor Education committee: Ms. Lee, Ms. Tome and Ms. Cho for their work on this very exciting project.

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). **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 when riding the bus and at school.** Please be aware 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, we request that parents and caregivers please refrain from contacting your child on their phone during school hours (9:00 am to 2:58 pm).

TERRY FOX RUN



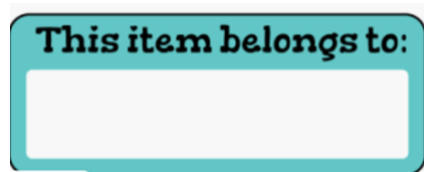
This year marks the 45th Anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope, and we're going to honour Terry's legacy and raise funds for cancer research in Canada. Grenfell students will participate in the annual Terry Fox Run this **Friday, September 19 from 11:00-12:10 pm.**

Students will run in the South Memorial Park, a route carefully mapped out by the Grenfell Terry Fox Run Committee. This event will be supervised by the school staff. Families are encouraged to donate and support cancer research. Please donate online by visiting our school's fundraising page: Visit our school's fundraising page: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/SirWilfredGrenfellElementary>

Let's make this year's event unforgettable and show our students the power of determination and community. Every dollar raised brings us closer to Terry's dream of a world without cancer.

Thank you for your continued support!

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 simply 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.

FOUNDATION SKILLS ASSESSMENT (FSA)

Students in Grade 4 and 7 will write the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) during the month of October. FSA is the only scandalized test administered to Grade 4 and 7 students in BC. The result of the FSA provides information to parents/guardians and school staff about how students are progressing in key academic skills. Together with other information about a student's learning, it helps teachers and educators respond to students' learning needs for the rest of the school year. The FSA also helps us as an education system to better understand how we can help improve student progress in literacy and numeracy – one of the goals in our new Education Plan. This year's FSA will be administered from October 1 to November 10. Please reach out to the principal, Ms. McDonnell, mmcdonnell@vsb.bc.ca if you have any questions regarding the FSA.

PREPARING FOR GRADE 8

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/77517/preparing-for-grade-8-what-to-know-during-the-grade-7-year>

GRADE 7 CHOICE PROGRAMS INFORMATION:

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

Links:

Mini School Brochure 2025-2026

VSb: AFTER THE BELL, PODCAST SEASON 4 EPISODE 37: SUPPORTING STUDENT SUCCESS AT HOME



<https://creators.spotify.com/pod/profile/vsbafterthebell/episodes/Ep--37---After-the-Bell-Supporting-Student-Success-at-Home-e38adib/ac5lh2l>

Welcome back to school! In this episode, two school principals are talking about how families can support their child's learning journey at home and how we can work together to help students thrive.

GRENFELL PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL (PAC)

PAC MEETING

Our next PAC meeting will be **Wednesday, October 15 at 9:00 am** in Staff Room. All Grenfell parents/guardians are welcome to join us at South Hill (5987 Prince Albert Street).

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: greattendance@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.



DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, September 19	Terry Fox Run
Tuesday, September 23	Family Literacy/Meet The Teacher Night 5:30-6:30pm
Wednesday, September 24	Pro-D day. Students do not attend.
Tuesday, September 30	National Truth and Reconciliation Day. Students do not attend school.
Monday, October 13	Thanksgiving holiday
Wednesday, October 15	PAC Meeting/ Individual Photo Day
Friday, October 17	PAC Hot Lunch (Sushi Taku)

Calendar 2025-26
GRENFELL
Elementary School



SCHOOL OPERATION OVERVIEW

Number of Days in Session	187
Number of Days of Instruction	180
Number of Days of Non-Instruction	5 Professional Development Days 1 Non-Instructional Day 1 Administrative Day (June 26)

IMPORTANT DATES

First Day of School for Students	Tuesday, September 2, 2025
National Day of Truth & Reconciliation	Tuesday, September 30, 2025
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 13, 2025
Remembrance Day	Tuesday, November 11, 2025
Last Day of Instruction Before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 19, 2025
Winter Vacation Period	Monday, December 22, 2025-Friday, January 2, 2026
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 5, 2026
Family Day	Monday, February 16, 2026
Last Day of Instruction Before Spring Vacation	Friday, March 13, 2026
Spring Vacation Period	Monday, March 16-Friday, March 27, 2026
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation	Monday March 30, 2026
Good Friday	Friday, April 3, 2026
Easter Monday	Monday April 6, 2026
Victoria Day	Monday, May 18, 2026
Last Full Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 25, 2026
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 26, 2026

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

Wednesday, September 24, 2025	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, October 24, 2025	Professional Development Day (Province wide)
Friday, November 21, 2025	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Monday, January 12, 2026	Professional Development Day (Date set by school)
Friday, February 13, 2026	Professional Development Day (District wide)
Monday, April 20, 2026	Non-Instructional Day (District wide)

PARENT CONFERENCE DATES

EARLY DISMISSAL TIMES

Wednesday, October 22, 2025	Students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm
Thursday, October 23, 2025	Students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm
Wednesday, April 29, 2026	Students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm
Thursday, April 30, 2026	Students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm