



# BRITANNIA ELEMENTARY COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

1110 Cotton Drive, Vancouver, BC V5L 3T5 Phone: 604-713-4497 Fax: 604-713-4603

Principal: Tim Krug

Director of Instruction: Ellen Roberts

Admin. Assistant: Cecilia Mason

VANCOUVER BOARD OF  
EDUCATION

March 2017

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents and Guardians,

After the past weekend one can only wonder if winter will ever give way to spring. That said for myself the snow made the reviewing of report cards much easier. Reviewing the term two reports provides me with an opportunity to get a 'feel' for how the students are progressing and to see the recommendations that teachers are providing to enhance your child's learning.

Three recommendations clearly were repeated throughout all the grades.

- \* The obvious one is that reading should be done daily at home for at least 20-30 minutes. This **reading should be for enjoyment** and provide each student the opportunity to read or have read to them something that they are interested in.
- \* The second recommendation supports our school goal of **'improving each child's basic math facts.'** Again this should not be a struggle but an opportunity to engage with your child on improving their math skills. Flash cards, math programs, math apps will all provide your child a means of improving. The ability to quickly and accurately recall addition; subtraction and multiplication facts will positively impact the ability of students to successfully grasp more complex math concepts.
- \* These two recommendations aside the **most constant recommendation I read was the importance of each student arriving to school on-time** and prepared to learn. When a child is routinely late for school it can impact their learning as they miss out on the day plan or in some cases miss entirely the lesson that the teacher has taught. This can cause students to feel anxious and in extreme cases not want to attend school. This anxiety or not wanting to attend are feelings we strive to reduce as all students are welcomed to the school no matter what time they arrive. As the saying goes: 'Better late than not at all.' Absences and late arrivals are part of each child's school experience but it is important that students are late or away for illness; doctor appointments or other necessary needs. In order to reduce unnecessary absences the establishment of a routine for getting to school has proven to be a positive strategy. Prepare items the night before; have a regular bed-time schedule and talk with your child about the importance of arriving on time will all support your efforts in getting your child(ren) to school on time.

Please don't forget that we are fortunate to have a breakfast program in the high school cafeteria that you are welcome to take advantage of.

In closing I hope that you are able to review your child's report card with her/him and determine a goal that you and your child can strive to achieve in the third term that will support and enhance her/his learning experience.

Have a safe and enjoyable Spring Break

Mr. Tim Krug  
Principal

## OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

- ◆ March 8th—Report Cards Home
- ◆ March 10th Last day of school before Spring Break
- ◆ March 12th—Spring A Head—turn your clocks 1hr ahead
- ◆ March 13-25, 2017—No school Spring Break
- ◆ March 27, 2017—First Day Back
- ◆ April 7th, 2017—Grade 6's to Richmond
- ◆ April 14th—Good Friday No School
- ◆ April 16th—Easter
- ◆ April 17th—Easter Monday No School
- ◆ April 21st—Class and Panorama Photo Day
- ◆ April 22nd—Earth Day



### Students Requiring Medication at School



Please be reminded that students needing to have medication at school need to complete an administration of medication form that is available from the office. Information to be included: doctor's and parent's signatures, name of medication, dosage and instructions for administration. Medication must be kept in the office.

### Parent Teacher Conferences:



Our second term conferences were held on Feb. 23/24 and were pleased that over 100 of our families were able to attend and discuss their child's progress through the second term. You may be hearing of new reporting procedures possibly be presented and one of the proposals is an increase in Parent/teacher meeting time with a decrease or even elimination of letter grades. The Ministry is continuing to receive feedback on reporting and will be releasing their findings later this year. The increased meeting time allows for a more in-depth conversation in regards to each child which should ensure that families have a better insight to their child's learning experience.

### Term Two Reports



From our conferences our Second term report cards will go home on **Wed. March 7**. Students have been busy completing projects and assignments and teachers have been focused on assessment and reporting tasks. We hope you find your child's progress report informative and helpful. If you have any questions/concerns please contact your child's teacher. Reading Mastery teachers are also able to meet if there are any questions in that regard.

### 2017-18 School Calendar:



Was approved at the VSB Board meeting on Feb. 27<sup>th</sup>. A colour version is on the Britannia website. Our formal school calendar will be sent home with all students in March.

### 2017-18 School Planning:



Thanks to all of the families that have let us know their plans for the upcoming school year. Knowing how many students will be returning to Britannia allows us to ensure that we have the staff necessary to support all of our students. It is an exciting time as we do expect to get more staffing which will only enhance each students learning experience.

Restored class size and composition numbers (still to be finalized as the BCTF and Ministry negotiate) will be in place in September. Until these numbers are finalized some of the decisions that are usually made in February/March have had to be delayed. As soon as we know of the new numbers that we will be working with we will be letting families know how our school organization will look for next year. Thanks for your patience.



### Div. 5 Writer's Exchange

The student's in Division 5 have been participating in the Writer's Exchange Program. Writer's Exchange is a literacy project that tries to capture children's natural urge to tell stories. During 6 sessions, students will use their literacy skills to write and publish stories about the future. They have already made a Time Machine, brainstormed ideas in small groups and written their first draft. Their final stories will be sent to a publisher for publication. The students are all eager to see the final results and are proud to be seen as professional writers.



Writers' Exchange



### Britannia Community Honouring Ceremony:

On February 28<sup>th</sup> I was able to attend the first ever Salish Honouring Ceremony at Britannia Centre. Gym D was the location and this event brought forth the Reconciliation work that is ongoing at the Britannia centre and honoured residents that have contributed to the Britannia Communities work in Reconciliation. It was a wonderful ceremony that truly brought forth the work that is and has occurred in regards to Reconciliation within the Britannia community. Congratulations to all the Honourees; it was great to learn about each one of you. Hopefully this will become an annual event. (see attached for honouree's information)



### Britannia Renewal:

















The city of Vancouver; Vancouver School Board; Vancouver Public Library, Van. Parks Board and the Britannia Community Services Centre are working to renew and revitalize the Britannia Centre. We were pleased to have Mr. Spencer Lindsay attend our last PAC meeting and provide information on how he and the Community Centre are looking to engage ALL members of the Britannia community. The Britannia Renewal Lab has been set up in the Community Information Centre where you can pop in and learn more about the project and provide your own thoughts on what would enhance your experiences at the Britannia Community Centre. Please see the attached information sheet on this exciting project.





Britannia  
RENEWAL

### Free Parks Canada Pass

If you are planning on any travels this year that will take you to any of Canada's National Parks then you need to take advantage of the Free Admission offer. You can get a 2017 Discovery Pass that will provide you free admission to all Parks Canada Parks throughout 2017. If you have questions regarding the above information, please contact the National Information Service at 1-888-773-8888 or [information@pc.gc.ca](mailto:information@pc.gc.ca).



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>March 2017</h1>						
			1 Div 7 & 8 Symphony	2	3 Gr 7 Tubing Gr 6 Richmond	4
5	6 PAC Meeting	7 Report Cards Home	8	9	10 Last Day	11
12 Full Moon 	13 	14 	15 	16 	17 	18 
19 	20 	21 	22 	23 	24 	25 
26 	27 	28	29	30	31	

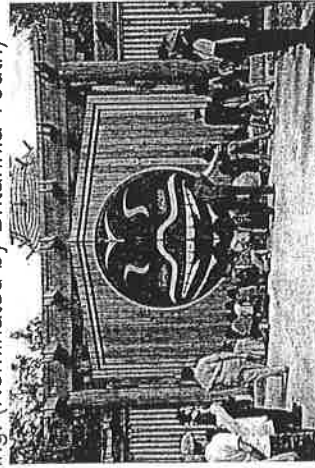
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<h1>April 2017</h1>						
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7 Gr 6's - Richmond	8
9	10	11 Full Moon	12	13	14 <i>good friday</i>	15
16 	17 Easter Monday Easter Monday	18	19	20	21 Class & Panorama Photo day 	22 
23	24	25	26 	27	28	29
_____						
30						

## Honourees Cont'd

**Todd DeVries** also known by his Haida name "Giinligigaa" shares his skills, knowledge, and stories with others in Britannia's weaving circles. He welcomes everyone, young and old into his classes and reminds us he does not "own" the skills. His patience, humour, and cultural sharing makes everyone feel welcome and included. (Nominated by Britannia seniors)

**Yukiko Tosa** is the long-time director of the Britannia VPL branch. She is a graduate of Britannia Secondary School, where she began her advocacy as a student, working together with fellow students and her teacher Mr. Minichiello to begin the development of the vibrant community space that Britannia has become. She remains a passionate promoter of the young people in this changing community, working to create opportunities for everyone in the community to feel included and to succeed. (Nominated by Britannia Board)

**Rebecca Jules** is a community advocate. In her work at Britannia, she has connected with and advocated for many of the hardest to reach youth. She has provided opportunities, teachings, and safe spaces, encouraged positive lifestyle choices, and connected youth to services, programs and adult mentors. She also worked with the community to educate in cultural practices and understanding. (Nominated by Britannia Youth)



## Special Thanks

Michael Jacko  
Debbie Krull  
Kat Norris  
Annie Danilko  
RISE Team

# Britannia Community Salish Honouring

## Ceremony



*Community Honouring Community*

**On Salish Territory**



**Britannia**  
COMMUNITY SERVICES CENTRE

## Event Schedule

- 2:30 Blessing of the Gym
- 3:00 Doors Open
- 3:30 Salish Welcome
- 3:35 Britannia Welcome
- 3:45 Out of School Care Performance
- 4:00 Witness Ceremony (led by Sam George)
- 4:20 Honouring Ceremony (Sam George)
- 4:55 Performance by Little Raven Mamalilikala Singers and Food Served
- 5:10 Open Mic
- 5:20 Cake served
- 5:30 End

Thank you for joining us for our first ever Salish Honouring Ceremony. This inclusive, Salish-style ceremony is intended to reflect the spirit of the Reconciliation work currently underway at Britannia which aims to build on local strengths and engage the various parts of our neighbourhood to create meaningful and sustainable change.

Under the direction of Sam George and Kat Norris, the Britannia Community Honouring Ceremony will recognize a diverse group, consisting of 12 residents, staff and volunteers who have been nominated by their peers, fellow community members, friends and/or colleagues to represent the collective achievements of our community through their own valued contributions.

### About the Honourees

**John Pozdik**, or "Tall John," is a lifelong community volunteer, having volunteered since the age of 14 locally in places including Mt. Pleasant Elementary, BYRC, and programs at Britannia. He lives in Vancouver and currently works in construction. (Nominated by Britannia VPL)

**Andrew Coombes** has 12 years experience working in the field of mental health and addictions with at-risk youth. For the last five years he has worked with dedication and compassion doing street outreach to at-risk youths in the Britannia area. (Nominated by Britannia VPL)

**Allan Williams Jr**, or AJ, is well-known and connected in the East Vancouver community. He is a familiar face at Britannia, Raycam, and the Aboriginal Friendship Centre. You might recognize him at community events, sharing his drumming and dancing along with his family as the Four Fires Society. (Nominated by Britannia VPL)

**Annie Danilko** was born in Queen Charlotte City in 1961 and lived in Masset, BC until she was 12. Annie moved to Vancouver in 2003 to be with family and started working for the community at the GY Food Bank. Annie has shared her time mentoring youth at Off The Grill, volunteering and participating in Elder's programs and preparing food to share at community events. (Nominated by Grandview-Woodland Food Connection)

**Bill Lightbown** is a Haida-Kootenay Elder who has lived in the Commercial Drive area on and off since he first moved here at the age of 15. Bill attended high school at Britannia and was a regular at the Grandview Pool Hall. Bill recalls how some of his first encounters with racism in this neighbourhood motivated him to get involved in politics and dedicate his life to improving the conditions for Indigenous peoples in Canada, alongside his partner, Lavina. In April, Bill will be turning 90. Some of his accomplishments include helping to create the BC Association of Non-Status Indians (later the UNN), Vancouver Native Housing. He was also a prominent figure in the 1995 Gustafsen Lake Standoff. Bill continues his service to this neighbourhood, sharing his vast knowledge with younger generations, combatting social isolation (if you sit next to him on the bus, be prepared to have a conversation) and volunteering as a director for ALIVE and the North West Indigenous Council. Haida Gwaii is home to Bill. (Nominated by "Our Place")

**Lori Snyder** works as our resident Indigenous herbalist and on the carving Pavilion Garden. Lori is also working closely with the Britannia garden program and Outreach Alternative in the carving pavilion garden and in class. Lori leads Britannia towards innovative food practices with her strong vision of a re-Indigenized food system. Her projects include the planting of indigenous berry bushes all around the site and the community where people can freely harvest healthy Indigenous food. (Nominated by Grandview-Woodland Food Connection)

**Anne Prince** – also known as 'Annie' is Residential School Survivor from the Takla Lake First Nation. She is Beaver clan and her traditional name is Kqueast. She is a mother, grandmother, and great, great, great aunt. She has been a resident of metro Vancouver since 1965 and dedicated her life and career to helping people. Today Anne continues to work as an Urban Aboriginal Learning Outreach Facilitator where she assists people, of Aboriginal ancestry, prepare for higher learning and employment and is a valued member and leader in the Britannia 55+ Centre. (Nominated by Britannia Seniors)

# Britannia ♥

## RENEWAL

# Open House and Ideas Fest

MARCH 4<sup>TH</sup>, 12 - 4 PM



*Come and learn about  
the Britannia Renewal  
project.*



*Visit the B-LAB!  
(Britannia Renewal LAB),  
our project living room  
and info centre.*



*Provide your ideas and  
feedback about what you  
LOVE about Britannia  
today, and what you  
would like to SEE and DO  
at Britannia in the future.*

***Activities, entertainment, food, and fun!***







The City of Vancouver and Partners—Vancouver School Board, Vancouver Public Library, Vancouver Park Board, Britannia Community Services Centre—are working together on a project to renew and revitalize Britannia Community Services Centre and the larger Britannia site.

This community-guided project will result in a plan for the evolution of the site and its facilities for the next 30 years. When completed in March 2018, the Britannia Renewal will include:

- **A community vision guiding Britannia Renewal**
- **A functional program identifying the types, sizes and relationships of spaces required to meet current and future needs at Britannia**
- **A master plan with phasing, outlining which components and features will be developed where and when over the Renewal Plan's 30-year planning horizon**

Over the next few months, we want to hear from people who use and visit Britannia to learn what makes it the special place it is.

The timeline illustrates the general project phases:

2017 March to July

**VISIONING**  
Listening to Your Ideas

April to September

**EXPLORING**  
Britannia Renewal Options

October to March 2018

**CREATING**  
Britannia Renewal Plan

## GET INVOLVED!



**BLAB!**  
(**Britannia Renewal LAB**)  
Drop by our community living room in the Britannia Info Centre to learn about the project and provide your input and ideas.



**FOCUS GROUPS**  
An opportunity to participate in an in-depth visioning session in a focused, smaller setting with project consultants. Look for the sign-up sheets at the B-LAB!



**SPACES & PLACES WORKSHOPS**  
Workshops focusing on specific program needs and space components – recreation, public space, cultural services, lifelong learning, community services. Like the focus groups, the workshops will provide an opportunity to participate in in-depth sessions in a smaller setting. Look for the sign-up sheets at the B-LAB!



**SPEAKER SERIES**  
Come hear from passionate, visionaries speaking about the exciting issues and topics that make up Britannia Renewal. Look for a schedule at B-LAB! or on-line.

