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Monthly Communication from General Brock Elementary School

We would like to acknowledge that we live, work, and play on the traditional lands of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh Coast Salish People.

Upcoming Events

- **Thursday, December 1—Last day for Literacy Club**
- **Friday, December 2—Report cards go home**
- **Friday, November 25—Friday, December 9—Food Drive**
- **Monday, December 5—Professional Development Day—No School for Students**
- **Wednesday, December 7—Early Dismissal at 2:00 p.m. for Parent Conferences—also please visit the Art displays in the gym and the Scholastic Book Fair in the library**
- **Thursday, December 8—Early Dismissal at 2:00 p.m. for Parent Conferences—also please visit the Art displays in the gym and the Scholastic Book Fair in the library**
- **Monday, December 12—Fire Drill**
- **Wednesday, December 14—whole school field trip to the Vancouver Playhouse to see “Mixed Nuts” 10:30 a.m.—12:00 p.m.**
- **Thursday, December 15—Assembly—Winter Concert and Sing-a-Long at 9:00 a.m.—All parents are welcome**
- **Winter Break—Monday, December 19, 2016—Monday, January 2, 2017**



Intensive French Registration

We are now accepting applications for Intensive French (IF). The deadline for applications is Tuesday, January 31 at 4:00. If your grade five child would like to be in Intensive French, please complete an application and have him or her write a short letter indicating interest in the program. For application forms and more information about IF please visit: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/programs/intensive-french-grade-6-and-7>. Also, please come to our Intensive French information evening which will be on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:00—8:00 p.m. in the Brock library. Your child should also attend so they can hear more about the program too!

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration began on November 1. If you have a child that is ready to start

Kindergarten in 2017 (born 2012) visit <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten> for more information about how to register. If you know families in the neighbourhood with children ready to start kindergarten, please pass on this information to them. In order to help

families prepare for their child starting school, in the spring, we will be sending out information relating to Ready, Set, Learn and Welcome to Kindergarten.



What Does a Report Card Tell Me?

With report cards being just around the corner, you will want to know the answer to that question. There are two different types of reports for students in Grades K-7: Formal written report cards and informal reports. Currently, you will continue to receive three formal written report cards in a school year, You will likely also receive informal reports from

teachers who may contact you to discuss specific items or concerns outside of formal reporting periods.

In different ways, they both tell you about what your child is good at, what he or she needs help with, and how he or she compares with general expectations for students at that age.

Other than reading your child's report card, here are some ways you can keep track of how things are going for your child in school. Talk to your child's teacher or teachers. Teachers can share anecdotes and insights about your child's academics and

social behaviour, and just generally let you know how things are going in the classroom. If you have concerns about your child, please bring them to his or her teacher's attention. The teacher is always the first person to speak to when concerns arise.

To find out more about what is going on at the school, read the newsletters, attend parent evenings and open houses, and attend the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meetings.



New Reporting Guidelines

The Ministry of Education has provided two options for school districts with respect to reporting on the redesigned curriculum. Vancouver is in the process of looking at a variety of reporting options. As there continue to be ongoing updates from the Ministry regarding reporting, and as the Ministry is seeking parent and educator feedback this year, there will be a variety of reports this year throughout the province. In some schools, all or some classes are piloting new reports. In other schools, the reports will look much the same as last year. Most reports at Brock will remain similar to what they were like last year. We do have some staff participating in an inquiry group with respect to communicating student learning through the use of technology. Please note, it has been recommended that Applied Skills, Design and Technology will only be reported on in the third term. As we move through the year we will continue to explore reporting options, receive updates from the Ministry of Education and continue to implement the transformed curriculum and ways of sharing student learning with parents.

****Attendance labels:** *The system for generating attendance labels and "lates" is not generating an accurate printout for students' late arrivals. This has been brought to the attention of the Ministry but it is not likely to be rectified this school year. As such, we are looking at how to best communicate this information to parents. Attendance labels will be attached to reports but there will likely be separate information attached regarding late arrivals—currently, "lates" for all children are displaying zero on the label.*

Vancouver Coastal Health—School Nurse

For everyday bumps, scrapes, and other injuries, Susan Stelmack, Office Administrator, is our primary first aid attendant. Our Vancouver Coastal Health school nurse is one of the many Public Health Nurses who work with school staff, parents and caregivers,

children and community groups to provide health services, deliver health education, and promote healthy environments. Some of the services they provide are:

- School immunizations
- Youth clinic services
- Response to outbreaks of illness/disease in schools
- General health consultation
- Health education on topics such as reproductive health, healthy lifestyles, mental health (such

as body image, stress, anxiety), communicable disease control, anaphylaxis, to name just a few

➤ Supporting healthy environments

If you have concerns about your child and would like to speak with the community health nurse, please contact her through:

Raven Song Community Health Centre
2450 Ontario Street
Vancouver, B.C. V5T 4T7

Food Drive



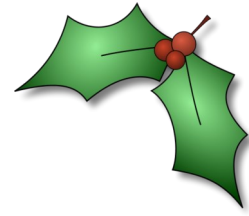
The Brock Leadership Team (BLTs) will be starting to collect food donations to help those most in need during the winter season. Before the break, the donations will be consolidated and organized at Tupper Secondary and redistributed according to the needs within the community.

Donations of non-perishable food items are warmly welcomed, and can be dropped off at the Christmas tree between Friday, November 25 to Friday, December 9. Visit www.foodbank.bc.ca or contact Brian Sampson at the school for more information

Winter Concert and Sing-a-long

On Thursday, December 15th we will be having a school

assembly to celebrate the winter holiday and sing seasonal songs. The assembly will take place in the morning starting after the bell at 9:00 a.m. Parents are welcome to join us.



A Reminder...Dress for the Weather

The cold and rainy weather has arrived and we would like to remind families to ensure that children come to school with an outer-wear jacket (not just a hoodie or sweater). Unless we have a huge downpour, we do

expect students to play outside at recess and lunch. Even when it is raining lightly, students often *choose* to play outside and need to dress for the weather. Please remind your son or daughter to bring a jacket to school. It is a good idea for younger students to have a change of clothes at school that can be kept in your child's cubby in the classroom. If you do not have an outer-wear jacket or

winter boots for your child and could benefit from financial assistance for these items, please see Ms. Hughes. We do have a small fund we are able to access for those families in need. Thank you.



Notification of School Closure



In the event of extreme winter weather, by 6:00 a.m., the VSB will post information about snow closures on its website at www.vsb.bc.ca and will inform local media stations, including :

CKNW(980 AM)
CBC (690AM, 105.7 FM)
CJVB (1470 AM)

CFHG (96.1 FM)
CKWX (1130 AM)
BCTV/Global (cable Channel 11)
CITY TV (Cable channel 13)