



September 15, 2017

Graham Bruce School News

Dear Parents/Caregivers of the Bruce Community,

It's great to be back! I have really enjoyed getting the chance to reconnect with Bruce families while welcoming all the new students to the school. We are looking forward to a successful year at Bruce. The new class size limits have produced some challenges for school organization, but the smaller classes will make it much easier to provide either extra support or more challenging work for individual students, depending on their needs.

We are welcoming some new staff members. Nazima Parmar will be at our school as a Youth and Family worker on Wednesday and Friday. We are also welcoming Hadiyah Zahir and Michael Morrison as support workers for some of our new students with special needs. Suzanne Holden is at Bruce Monday to Wednesday as Kelly Lee's teaching partner in Division 7. Finally, we are pleased to have Ronnie Ross a former VSB Principal and Area Counsellor to replace Angela Roguski who is at home with the new baby.

There are several important events coming up in the next few weeks. Meet the Staff night will be on Wednesday Sept. 20. You will get a chance to meet your child's teacher and hear about this year's educational program from 6:00-6:55. We will then meet in the Activity room for drinks and snacks. We look forward to seeing you there.

Two other important events are happening the following week. Sept. 28 is our annual Terry Fox run. Donations for cancer research will be collected during the week of the event and for a few days after the event. Orange shirt day, on Sept. 29, is an event that recognizes the legacy of residential schools and promotes reconciliation between our indigenous people and other Canadians. The event has its origins in the story of a young girl from the Stswecem'c Xgat'tem First Nation who wore her new orange shirt for her first day at the mission school in Williams Lake. When she arrived all of her clothes, including her shirt, were taken away and she was dressed in institutional garb. If possible, please have your child wear an orange shirt or accessory on that day.

If you have questions or concerns my email is smarlynn@vsb.bc.ca. If the concern is about instruction or an event that has taken place in the classroom please contact your child's teacher first to try and resolve the concern. I look forward to working with you to ensure a successful year for your child at Graham Bruce.

**School Office Hours:
8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.**

**PAC Meeting:
September 28
6:30 p.m. Staffroom
Child Minding Available**

IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:

- Sept. 18—Individual Photo Day. Don't forget to wear your smiles
- Sept. 20—Meet the Teacher, 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. for Grades 1 to 7 students only.
- Sept. 25—PRO-D Day—No School for Students
- Sept. 27—Fire Drill
- Sept. 28—Terry Fox Run (pm), Parents/Guardians are welcome to attend and/or participate, 1:45 p.m. will be out warm up on the basketball court at the back of the school. The run will officially start at 2:00 p.m.

LOOKING AHEAD:

- Oct. 9—Thanksgiving. School Closed.
- Oct. 10—12—Scholastic Book Fair in the Library!
- Oct. 11—Parent/Teacher Conferences, students dismissed at 2:00 p.m.
- Oct. 12—Parent/Teacher Conferences, students dismissed at 2:00 p.m.
- Oct. 20—PRO-D Day—No School for Students.
- Nov. 10—PRO-D Day—No School for Students.

GRAHAM BRUCE IS A NUT FREE SCHOOL!

Please do not send your child to school with Peanut Butter, Nutella or any products that contain any type of nuts.

Please check out these websites for food that is safe for all children to eat:

<http://www.nutmums.com/nut-free-food/http://www.peanutfreeplanet.com/>

This is a blog from Vancouver Parents about allergies and anaphylaxis:

<http://vancouvermom.ca/for-kids-you-say-vancouver-moms-food-allergies/>



SCHOOL ORGANIZATION

We are pleased that all of our students have now been placed in their classes for the year.

Teacher	Grade	Div.	Rm.
Ms. T. Haines	6/7	1	008
Mr. V. Tam	6/7	2	105
Mrs. C. David	5/6	3	104
Mr. D. Palylyk	4/5	4	A Deck
Mr. D. Lafond	3/4	5	101
Mrs. M. Mann	3/4	6	A Deck
Mrs. S. Holden/Mrs. K. Lee	2/3	7	103
Ms. D. Dong/Mrs. S. Wasserman	1/2	8	007
Ms. C. Ghislieri	1	9	B Deck
Mrs. C. Ferreira/Ms. C. Tsang	K	10	106

Student Supervision

Supervision is provided by school staff, for students in Gr. 1 to 7 at the following times:

Monday—Friday

8:40—8:55 a.m.

3:00—3:15 p.m.



In order to ensure your child's safety, **students should not arrive before 8:40 a.m.** unless they are participating in a team/sport activity that is supervised by VSB Staff or **be picked up later than 3:15 p.m.** Please note that our library is open Monday to Thursday from 8:40 a.m. to 8:55 a.m.

Supervision is provided for all school-sponsored activities.

School Supply Fee

If you have not yet paid your 2017—2018 School Fees please see Denise in the office. As a reminder, the Vancouver School Board will not deny a child access to the school supplies required for his or her educational program because of financial hardship. Parents/guardians who would like to request to postpone payment of the **supplies fee** or require the supplies fee to be waived for the current school year, should contact the school Principal directly at the school or in writing.



Student Absence and Late Arrivals

Graham Bruce now has Safe Arrival! What does that mean for your child? It means that when attendance is taken at 9:00 a.m. and a child is marked absent, that child's name will be sent to the office and the Principal or Denise will contact the parents to see if they are away for an appointment or are ill for the day. So it is very important that when your child is going to be absent or late from school, that you call the school office (604-713-4778) before the 8:55 a.m. bell (if no one is available to take your call, please leave a message on our answering machine). **Students are reminded that if they arrive late (after 9:00 a.m.) they must sign-in at the office and take a Late Card to their homeroom.**

Parent Advisory Counsel (PAC) Annual General Meeting

Please consider joining the Graham Bruce PAC. This PAC meeting will be the Annual General Meeting and will take place on Thursday, September 28th, 2017 at 6:30—7:45 p.m. Child minding will be provided free of charge. Please take the time to find out more about Graham Bruce School by attending this meeting.

Mission Statement

To provide a safe and respectful learning environment
For all students to achieve their full potential as lifelong learners and
to become responsible, contributing citizens in our ever-changing society.

School Code of Conduct

At Graham Bruce School we care for and respect:

Ourselves

Others

Our Community

Extended Vacation Requests from Families during the School Year

Just a reminder to families that if you choose to go on an extended vacation during the school year, teachers are **not** expected to provide assignments either before or after, or give any make-up tests or examinations. It is the student's responsibility for learning any content material missed and students will be marked absent during the duration of the time away from school.



Lunches/Students Leaving the School Grounds

Students are to eat their lunches in the lunchroom. **ALL** students must remain on the school grounds at recess. At noon, only students going home for lunch, whose parents have completed the Lunch Form are allowed to leave the school grounds. A note to the Principal is required if students leave. If a student does leave he/she is to sign out in the office. Thank you! This helps us to keep your child safe. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to allow their children to eat and play independently at school over recess and lunch. Parents must check in at the office if they are on school property during instructional hours.



Cellphones, Electronic Devices, Pokemon/Yugioh Cards

Electronic devices (such as cell phones, digital cameras and tablets) are a big part of our lives. They are also very expensive and can be lost or stolen easily. At Graham Bruce School, we encourage students to keep expensive belongings safe at home (this includes Pokemon & Yugioh cards, expensive toys, cell phones and electronic devices). For emergencies, students can access our office phone if they need to call home. Cell phones and electronic devices can be used by students for learning and communicating with adult permission at our school. We encourage students who use cell phones to use them outside of our school building before and after school. **We ask that all members of our school community (students, staff and parents/caregivers) refrain from using cell phones and ear buds in hallways and stairwells.** Hallways/stairwells, as well as recess and lunch breaks are for socializing, face to face communication and physical activity. **We ask that parents refrain from communicating (e.g. calling and texting) students at Graham Bruce during instructional hours.** We also ask that parents refrain from using cellular devices in our hallways so that we "walk the talk" for our children. Thank you for your support.



Hats and Hoodies

All students, staff and parents are expected to take their hats and hoodies off their heads before entering Graham Bruce School. Of course, this does not include head scarves or traditional/religious clothing. Our school needs to be a safe and welcoming place where we can easily identify both children and adults. By hats, we mean baseball hats, decorative hats, and winter toques. Parents, we ask that you support our school staff by reinforcing and reminding your child/children that hats and hoodies are to be worn on heads **outside only**. Thank you.



Bruce Before/After School Daycare

If you wish information regarding this program, please call 604-713-5586. Please remember that only picking up of your child (After 4:00 p.m.) is permitted in the VSB Staff parking lot. No dropping off - thank you for your support!



Superintendent:	Mr. John Lewis
Director of Instruction:	Mr. Aaron Davis
Liaison Trustee:	Ms. Dianne Turner
Principal:	Mr. Sean Marlyn (604-713-4778)
Secretary:	Ms. Denise Meyer (604-713-4778)

September 2017

Thank you for helping us help your child/children have a great day at school by making sure they arrive by 8:55 a.m. each school day!

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

4	5	6	7	8
11	12	13	14	15
18 Photo Day Wear Your Smiles 	19	20 Meet the Teacher 6:00—7:30 p.m. For those students in Grade's 1 to 7 only	21	22
25 PRO-D Day No School for Students	26	27 Fire Drill 10:20 a.m.	28 Terry Fox Run! Parents are welcome to attend or participate 1:45 Warm Up on Black Top at back of school 	29 Orange Shirt Day