



February 28, 2017

Graham Bruce School News



Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 12, 2017. Don't forget to "Spring Forward" and set your clocks ahead 1 hour on Sunday, March 12, 2017.

Dear Graham Bruce Families:

The time between Winter break and Spring break always seems to go by in a flash. There are so many events compressed into a very short period. I would like to touch on three of these: our school Pink Day event, our Professional Day on February 24, and the visit of the farm friends from the Landed Learning program on February 22.

Our Pink Day anti-bullying event was ably hosted by student leaders from the Spirit team. They did skits, gave some heartfelt talks, and showed videos. My favourite was the "Boomerang" video which showed how doing a good deed for someone else inspires them to do the same.

At the Professional Day we had an excellent discussion about our school goal of improving the math skills of our students. The staff is investigating different instructional methods and resources to help us improve basic skills, and get students more engaged and motivated. If you have a child in Grades K-5 we are recommending the XtraMath online site or app as a way to help your child learn basic skills. The online site is free and the app costs \$6.99. As a staff we will continue to discuss and work on improving our students' math skills.

On February 22 we were pleased to welcome the "Farm Friends" from UBC farm to our school for lunch and conversation with the students in Division 4 (Mr. Palylyk's class) who are doing the Landed Learning program. This program covers an entire school year. In the fall students learn about the land, soil, and nature's cycles. As spring approaches they plan and plant their gardens out at the UBC Farm, and at the end of the school year they harvest and cook food from their garden.

On March 8 and 9 we will be welcoming you to the school to discuss your child's progress with his/her teacher. I look forward to seeing you on those days.

Sean Marilyn

- IMPORTANT SCHOOL DATES:**
- Mar. 1—Div. 4 to UBC Farm
- Mar. 3—Hot Lunch (Sushi)
- Mar. 7—Term 2 Report Cards Home
- Today
- Mar. 8 & 9—Parent/Teacher Conferences. Students dismissed at 2:00 p.m.
- Mar. 10—Hot Lunch (Subway)
- Mar. 13—17—Spring Break—School Closed
- Mar. 20—24—District Closure Week
- Mar. 29—Div. 4 to UBC Farm
- Mar. 31—NO HOT LUNCH TODAY
- LOOKING AHEAD:**
- Apr. 5—Ready, Set, Learn for 2017 Kindergarteners—Will Stroet
- Apr. 12—Div. 4 to UBC Farm
- Apr. 14—Good Friday—School Closed
- April 17—Easter Monday—School Closed
- Apr. 26—Div. 4 to UBC Farm
- May 1—PRO-D Day. No School for Students
- May 10—Welcome to Kindergarten for 2017
- May 10—Div. 4 to UBC Farm

School Website:
<http://bruce.vsb.bc.ca>

PAC Website:
<https://brucepac.ca/>

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES
 Wednesday, March 8 & Thursday, March 9
 Student's Dismissed at 2:00 p.m. Both Days.

NEXT PAC MEETING
 Tuesday, March 7th, 2017
 6:00—7:30 p.m. Library
 Babysitting Available

School Office Hours:
 8:00 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.
 604-713-4778

Pink Day

Wednesday, February 22nd was **PINK DAY!** The entire school wore pink to raise awareness about acceptance of diversity and respect for all! Thank you for being kind, accepting and respectful of all parents, students and staff in our community and thanks for encouraging your child/children to do so as well. Thank you to Mrs. Dong and Ms. Tsang and our Spirit Leaders for coordinating our school—wide Pink Day assembly.



Scholastic Book Fair

Will be held in the Library from **Monday, March 6 to Thursday, March 9, 2017**. The hours will be Monday **and Tuesday, 3:00 to 3:30, Wednesday 3:00 to 7:00 and Thursday, 3:00 to 4:00**. Come and browse the new books for sale at the Book Fair! This is an important fundraiser for our school library. Come by and pick up some new books for your child/children to read over Spring Break.



Traffic—Safety and Requests

During school time it is requested that parents/caregivers respect the signs at the front of the school that state "No Parking, 8:00—5:00, Monday to Friday" and "No Stopping, 8:00—5:00, Monday to Friday". We have a student attending our school that is in a wheelchair and her bus must have safe access to the school.

As a reminder to all parents and caregivers, the following regulations are in forced during school times (8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Friday).

1. When school is in session, a 30-km/h school zone speed limit is in effect from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. every school day, unless otherwise posted. Also, remember that vehicles approaching from both directions must stop for school buses when their lights are flashing.
2. Do not stop or park on the wrong side of the street to drop off your children. This is becoming an increasing problem and poses significant risk to our children.
3. Always yield to pedestrians (it's the law). Pedestrians should cross at corners. J-Walking or crossing in the middle of the block is very dangerous. **U-TURNS ARE ILLEGAL.**
4. When dropping off children in a school zone, stop and allow them to exit onto the sidewalk side of the car. **Never double park and allow a child to cross mid-block.**
5. If a vehicle is stopped in front of you or in the lane next to you, they may be yielding for a pedestrian, so be prepared to stop.

Please note that our school has partnered with the VPD who will be randomly monitoring and ticketing drivers along Tanner Street and in the surrounding area for road infractions. Thank you to those parents who comply with the rules of the road.



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

Let's Talk About Safety

We are responsible for the safety of the students at Graham Bruce. **When the bell rings at 3:00 most students go home with their friends or are picked up by a family member.** However, some children are still on the playground, the undercover area or in the office long after supervision has ended at 3:15 p.m. Please arrange for your child to go home or to a friend's house after school. If they are in an after school program that does not start until much later (e.g. 4:00 Music Lesson), they should go home at 3:00 and return at 4:00. Thank you for your cooperation.

VPL—Collingwood Branch

Please see the Spring Break Flyer for the Vancouver Public Library's Collingwood Branch which is attached to the email!

BRUCE PAC NEWS:

The **next PAC Meeting** will be on Tuesday, March 7, from 6:00 to 7:30 pm in the school library. Join us! We will be discussing goals and funding objectives for our PAC.

Carnival Raffle Donations: We have some great sponsors for our Carnival.

Grand Prize: Trip for 2 by air from Vancouver to Victoria: includes 2 roundtrip airfare tickets for Pacific Coastal Airlines, 2 exclusive sightseeing tickets by CVS Tours to Butchart Gardens and the Butterfly Gardens and 2 IMAX Victoria Theatre tickets. Other notable prizes include: tickets for The Whitecaps, Fly Over Canada, Science World, and a Weber BBQ from Home Depot. We are grateful for the parents who contacted all these companies to obtain donations. We are still looking for more donations. If your employer can donate a prize to our Carnival, please let us know. See <https://brucepac.ca/donations/> for details.

Carnival Volunteers: We need parent volunteers for our Carnival on Friday May 26. This is a wonderful annual event that is much loved by our kids and community. It is also Bruce PAC's main fundraiser of the year which makes it possible to pay for everything from a new scorekeeping clock for the gym, to special programs like rollerblading. If you have a couple of hours to spare, please volunteer - if we don't have enough parent volunteers we will have to reduce the size of our event. We will have free food for volunteers and a special volunteer draw. There will be a sign-up list at school during parent-teacher conferences on March 8 and 9.

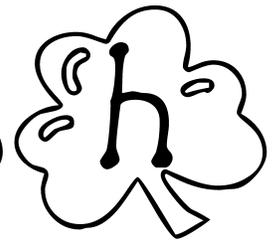
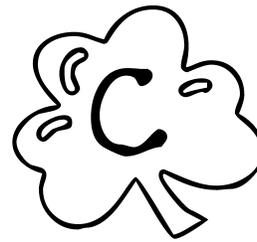
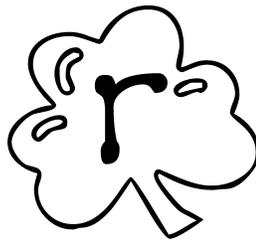
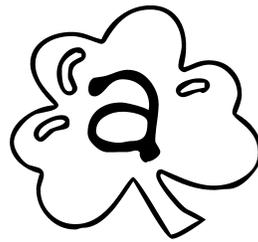
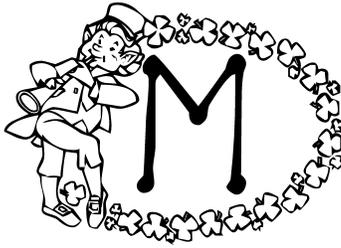
FSA Results: According to the most recent Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) results released by the BC Ministry of Education this month, **Bruce Elementary students scored the 2nd highest academic test results out of all of the 91 public elementary schools in Vancouver.**

The FSA results are controversial, particularly because the Fraser Institute uses them to rank schools according to just test scores without taking into account socio-economic factors and the other things happening in schools. Schools in more affluent areas usually rank the highest. That's why these results for Bruce Elementary are so remarkable. 70% of families in our community are English language learners, and we live in one of the most ethnically diverse areas in all of British Columbia. Families here are typically working class with modest incomes. Despite all of these barriers, Bruce students scored top marks on the recent FSA.

The reason for Bruce students' success is simple: it's a great place to learn. The teachers genuinely care about the school and the students. All staff have a collaborative approach towards their students, the parents and each other and they are true professionals. Although parents' resources are limited, we work together actively to support the teachers and provide additional programs and learning opportunities for the students. It's more than just a school - it's a hub in the community.

Please visit the Bruce PAC website: <https://brucepac.ca/>

Superintendent:	Mr. Scott Robinson
Director of Instruction:	Ms. Ellen Roberts
Official Trustee:	Ms. Dianne Turner
Principal:	Mr. Sean Marlyn (604-713-4778)
Secretary:	Ms. Denise Meyer (604-713-4778)



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

		1 Div. 4 to UBC Farm	2	3 Hot Lunch—Sushi
6	7 Report Cards Home Today	8 Parent/Teacher Conferences. <u>Students Dismissed at 2:00 pm</u>	9 Parent/Teacher Conferences. <u>Students Dismissed at 2:00 pm</u>	10 Hot Lunch—Subway Last Day of School before Spring Closure
Library Book Fair - Mon. to Thurs. after school				
13	14	15	16	17 St. Patrick's Day
Spring Break Week				
20	21	22	23	24
District Closure Week				
27 School Re-Opens	28	29 Div. 4 to UBC Farm	30	31 NO HOT LUNCH