

SIR JAMES DOUGLAS ANNEX
École Primaire Douglas
7668 Borden Street
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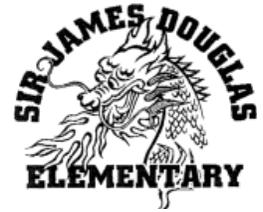
School Website: <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/dgsa>

Administrative Assistants: Mme Monique Nixon & Mme Ainslie Kwan

Vice-Principal: Mme Eve Gagnon Principal at Main School: M. Daniel Bélanger

Director of Instruction: M. Pedro daSilva

Trustee: Ms. Janet Fraser



Bulletin # 1

September 7th, 2018

Bonjour! It is wonderful to see everyone and to meet new faces. It is an honor to be the vice-principal at Douglas Annex this year again. We are off to a tremendous start. After a restful summer we have some exciting new changes to look forward to.

What's New?

Lining up outside. In order to promote a calm learning environment and to be more cohesive with our voice level '0' in the hallways, students will be lining up -outside, under the covered area- morning, after recess and after lunch. After three days, it is already making a positive change to our school.

Our gymnasium is turned into a music and dance studio on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Mme Christina will be bringing music back to our lives with a force during those two days.

Wellbeing lunches: Students are now eating in the classrooms on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This will allow us to talk about calmness while eating, politeness, healthy foods, and also learn how to conduct polite conversation at voice level '1'. We hope that those learnings will translate into a calm and pleasant eating environment on Mondays, Tuesdays, and Fridays when all the students eat with their classmates in the gym.

Monthly themed assemblies will not only be celebrating our 'Bons Dragons' and 'Je parle français', they will also highlight elements from our code of conduct. This month, we are focussing on "What it means to be a Bon dragon who takes care of self, others, and this place". We invite you to spring up the conversation with your child/ren about it.

Teachers and Grades Taught

Division 1 – Grade 3 – Mme Jessica

Division 2 – Grade 3 – Mme Chantal (Mon-Thurs.) Mme Christina (Friday)

Division 3 – Grade 2/3 - Mme Elizabeth

Division 4 – Grade 2 – Mme Anna

Division 5 – Grade ½ – Mme Kate

Division 6 – Grade 1– Mr Ali (until November), Mme Nadja (until the end of the year)

Division 7 – Grade 1 – Mme Emily

Division 8 – Kindergarten – Mme Louise

Division 9 – Kindergarten – Mme Ashley

Resource – Mme Nicole

Music – Mme Christina (Wed. and Thurs.)

Library borrowing – with Mme Eve (Thursday)

Office Assistants

Mme Nixon (Monday through Wednesday)

Mme Kwan (Thursday and Friday)

School Engineer

Mr Jack

Student Support Workers

Mme Skye

Mme Cecilia

Supervision aides

Mme Michelle & Mme Jenn

Area Counsellor

Mme Yee (Tuesday)

Speech Language Pathology

Mme Lauren (Friday)

The Information Package was sent home with your child/ren today. Please look at it right away, fill in the forms, and return all information by **September 21st**.

We have heard that some of you haven't received our first group email, while others found it in their 'spam' folder. Please have a look and make sure to add the following to your contact list sysadmin@myeducation.gov.bc.ca (the names attached may be Eve Gagnon, Monique Nixon or Ainslie Kwan). This is the email address most important communications will be sent to you from.

Reporting Student Absences

Student safety is of paramount importance at the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences. If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on our Douglas Annex school phone at (604-713-4885) **OR** on a dedicated answering service by calling (604-713-5159 Ext. 25). Messages will be received before the office is open. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.

To Report Your Child's Absence – Please call **604-713-4885 OR 604-713-5159 Ext. 25** prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence.

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Student Sign Out Procedure

When you pick up your child during the school day, please ensure that you sign them out at the school office. If you do not sign out your child, they will be unaccounted for, and the school will identify your child as a 'missing' student and will commence a search of school grounds. If the school staff do not locate the child, and are unable to reach a parent promptly, the school will call the Vancouver Police Department. Therefore, clear

communication is essential for ensuring the safety of your child and to prevent unnecessary searches.

Thank you for helping us keep your children safe!

Students on Holiday when School is in Session Please note that teachers will not be providing learning materials for students who are on holidays when school is in session. Learning is experiential and happens in many shapes and forms in the course of the day. If you are on holiday, make sure to engage with your child, have books handy, and encourage your child to keep a journal of memories. Please remember to let the office know of your child's absence.

Scent Free A reminder that we are a scent free school and School District. We have some students who are intolerant to scents. Thank you.

Fair Notice - Please consult the [VSB Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol- Fair Notice](#).

Douglas Annex Meet the Teachers Night – Tuesday, September 18th, 2018 from 5:30 to 6:15pm and Douglas PAC welcome BBQ 3-7pm. This year, **Grade 1 to Grade 3** teachers will host a 'Meet the Teacher(s)' night. Kindergarten classes will be closed for this event as the K teachers have already met with parents.

The Welcome BBQ begins at **3pm** in the garden if weather allows or under the covered area in case of rain (consult the PAC section for all the details) Kindergarten families are most welcome to attend the BBQ of course!
5:30-5:35 pm Assembly in the gym for a short message and introduction of this year's staff.
5:40-6:15 pm Classroom Meet the Teacher
*Consult your child's classroom teacher(s) to obtain information about the format as well as the exact timing of the sessions. Students are also welcome to come along to help show their families around.

The purpose of this event is to help strengthen our community. If you have concerns regarding your child's learning needs or urgent matters to discuss, please make an appointment with your child's teacher so that they can give you their full attention in addressing these matters at a more appropriate time.

Children's Safety We are pleased to see many families continuing to bike and walk to school, what a great energetic way to begin your day. As we start this new school year, we urge you to be cautious and consider the safety of all children. I would like to offer clarifications regarding parking. Last year,

some of the regulations were not followed and we had to take some measures to make sure our students were safe. This year, hopefully, everyone will have a clear understanding of the signage and dropping off students and picking them up will be done safely.

For all areas marked **No Parking**, the driver cannot leave the car and can only be in the vehicle for **up to 5 minutes**. It is considered a loading or unloading zone. The city would like to remind you that when you are in the no parking zone, you should not idle either, as you could get a fine.

For areas marked **No Stopping**, there is no stopping, nor parking altogether.

You can use the other areas without this signage to walk your child to school and to pick them up after school. There are many available spots around our building where parking is permitted.

Please DO NOT USE the driveway to the parking lot as cars or trucks may use it at any time during the day. Staff will reinforce this safety tip in the next few weeks.

<https://www.tranbc.ca/2015/09/01/prepare-to-be-schooled-bc-is-back-to-school/>

Before and After School Supervision The welcoming bell is at 8:55 am as we would like to start class at 9:00 am sharp. Please try and arrive by 8:55 am so your child/ren can line up with their peers. **Outdoor morning supervision starts at 8:40 am. Please do not bring your child before that time.** School ends at 3:00 pm. We would appreciate parents/caregivers arriving at that time or earlier. However, in case you are detained in traffic, we do have supervision until 3:20 pm. As our custodian must have done his safety tour and lock down our school by 4:00 pm at the latest, we unfortunately cannot allow students to use the bathrooms past 3:30 pm.

At 3:20 pm, the outside supervisor will whistle three times. This is to let the students know to go to the staff supervisor if they have not been picked up. The child/ren will then be brought to the office and we will phone home. If you have designated another adult to supervise your child in case of lateness on your part, please advise the office. We will not let a child stay outside or go with another parent unless you have advised us of such. Please talk to your child about the afterschool procedures.

Our Biggest Oak Tree had a large crack in its middle and was rotten on the inside. We are grateful to Andrew Pereda to have pointed out the tree on Wednesday. The VSB gardening team came rapidly on Thursday and took down the tree on Friday. Many

classes went outside and thanked the tree for all its wonderful years on Douglas Annex's grounds. The ground will need to rest before we can plant another one.

Power Washing and Outdoor Painting will be taking place for the next 6-8 weeks. Our school will be freshly painted this fall so you will see the VSB painting staff with scaffolding, at work for the next little while. The power washing began on Thursday and painting is scheduled to begin on Monday September 10th.

The Library will open its doors to book borrowing on **Thursdays** this year. Many classes came through this week to become familiar with the space. I have almost completed my inventory and am hoping to begin lending books by Thursday September 13th. If you are available to help out in the library on Thursdays or Mondays, it would be appreciated as book traffic will be dense. On September 13th, every student from our school will obtain a gift purchased by PAC; a legacy present that from now on, all K students will receive and keep until Grade 7. We are grateful for the PAC and its support for the love of reading.

Monthly Calendars will be emailed to you to keep you up to date with the happenings of the whole school. Please keep that on hand and **share the changes with your caregivers.**

Photo Day (Individual Student Photos)

Photo day will be on Friday September 28th, 2018. Please note that it is the same day as [Orange Shirt Day](#) – we invite everyone to wear their orange shirt, before or after the picture!

Thursday, September 20th, 2018 is a Professional Development Day, there will be no school for students all day. This date is the same for Douglas Annex and Douglas Main School yet different to other schools in our district.

100 KM Club The new season is coming and we would love to have you on the team! The 100 km running club will begin at the end of September and will continue until the end of the year. The club is open to all students from K to 3. Parents are also welcome to join us. Stay tuned for the starting date.

Cross Country If you are in Grades 1, 2, or 3, you can join our cross-country team. Practices will be held with our 100 km Club from 8:20-8:45 am beginning at the end of September. The start date will soon be shared with you along with more detailed information about each Cross Country meet.

Great Terry Fox Run This year we will be holding our run on Friday, September 14th at 2:30 pm – weather permitting. If it rains we will do it October 5th. Please ensure your child is dressed appropriately with running shoes and comfortable clothing. We will have a short assembly in the gym at 2:00 pm before we head out to run or walk around our school. Please join us for our run from 2:30-2:50 pm. Terry Fox is a true Canadian hero; his story continues to inspire all as cancer has touched so many lives. Let us continue to help fund cancer research and share in Terry's dream.

This year we have received a 20-year pennant representing the number of years our community has been contributing to raising money for cancer. A special thank you to Mme Monique, Mme Louise, and Mme Nadja for leading the Terry Fox Run every year.

We will continue our practice of running our Mini-Terry Fox Run every Friday throughout the year- weather permitting- between 2:30 and 2:50 pm.

Lost & Found is located in the hallway on the South wall by the girl's washroom on a table. Note that we will throw away all food and drink containers every **Friday** in order to avoid having rotten food in the school and all unclaimed, unnamed clothes will be given to charity at the end of each **term**. *Please label your child's items (shoes, jackets, lunch bags, backpack, etc.)* so that we can return them to their proper owner. Thank you.

Healthy and Wrapping-Free Snacks are encouraged healthy snacks and lunches. Please help us promote nutritious eating and reduce our ecological footprint!

Fruit and Vegetable Program plus Milk

We will be continuing the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program this year. For this program and for the safety of your child, please let us know of any allergies or other health concerns as soon as possible. If you are not interested in this free Nutritional Program please advise Mme Nixon at the office.

Peanut/Nut Free Policy We have been advised by Safe Schools that we cannot guarantee a nut free building but we encourage all parents to continue to avoid nut products in food you send to school. We have several students who have life threatening allergies and are at great personal risk if exposed to these products. Please take the time to read labels and carefully monitor what you send to school.

Mabel's Labels A reminder that we are doing an ongoing fundraiser with Mabel's Labels - labels for the items kids lose! You can place

an order any time and the labels we be mailed directly to you. A portion of each sale goes to the school. Check out http://mabelslab.com/c/?type=fundraiser&b=5584&cur_website=base or go to <http://mabelslab.com/support-a-fundraiser> and look for Douglas Annex in the pull-down menu.

Message from Kids Plus Accident Insurance

"Thank you for your support of the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program. It has been a long and rewarding partnership and is truly appreciated. Over the years, Kids Plus™ has helped many families, providing much needed reimbursements for out-of-pocket costs. We appreciate your support and we are truly grateful for the part you have played.

We have big news: the Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance school distribution program is moving online!

All partner school boards can now access kidsplus.ca/resources for information about Kids Plus™ which they can use on their respective websites, e-newsletters and social media. The main website at kidsplus.ca will continue to be available for parents to purchase coverage, access claims forms and full plan information online. Additionally, for 2018 we've decided to take our mission to be green one step further by discontinuing distribution of all Kids Plus™ Notices (Brochures) to reduce our overall paper use. These changes are part of our ongoing commitment to continuously provide superior and meaningful service to our partners and clients while reducing our impact on the environment."

If you have any questions or would like to learn more about our new promotional landing page, our Kids Plus™ Client Service Specialists would be happy to assist you. You may contact us toll-free at 1-800-556-7411 or email kidsplus@ia.ca.

Sincerely,



Ed Bender
National Vice-President, Special Market Solutions

Kids Plus™
Accident Insurance

Sir James Douglas Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) News

(1) Our first General Meeting is on Sept 17th

from 7-8:30 pm, at the Main school library (2150 Brigadoon Avenue). Please note that the PAC meeting is not at the Annex but at our larger school (with larger facilities).

(2) AGM and execs nomination - our AGM will be in October 2018 (Tentatively Oct. 15th @ 7pm). Please consider joining our executive team. Some job descriptions and nomination forms are located here: <https://thedouglaspac.wordpress.com/volunteeropportunities/>.

(3) Want to know what PAC is all about, if and how to get involved, and what you can do as parent/guardian? If our general meeting isn't sufficient, try coming to a district wide PAC 101 session (<https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/pac-101-tickets-49766562127>) on Thursday Sept 27th from 7-9pm. Note: All parents & guardians of VSB students can participate in any DPAC events. However, only DPAC executives can vote at Executive meetings and only official DPAC representatives can vote at General meetings.

(4) The Douglas PAC kicks off the school year by hosting a welcome back BBQ on Sept. 18th, 2018 between 3-7 pm at Douglas Annex. **Please RSVP by September 14th**. More information can be found at https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdYpyyY6E_heDX8cWqiEdsTwmK98hER62wn5t8fALe841Yk6A/viewform?c=0&w=1.

(5) The municipal election is coming up. If you want more info re the VSB trustee candidates feel free to attend the DPAC VSB Trustee Candidate Forum on Thursday Oct. 4th from 6:30-9:00pm. <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/dpac-vsbt-trustee-candidate-forum-tickets-49766682487>

(6) The PAC are in the implementation stage of using munchalunch for our hot lunch programs and other fundraising initiatives. Please stay tuned for more information (via e-mail and in paper form). Note that hot lunch forms will still be available for pickup in your child's class but we do encourage you to pay securely through the munchalunch website. FYI -- hot lunch has not started yet.

(7) The school and PAC are seeking the following volunteers (you can choose to volunteer for these positions and be involved in the exec team):
- veggie & fruits co-ordinators for the Annex

(8) Please feel free to browse the PAC's website and join our mailing list (<https://thedouglaspac.wordpress.com/join-our-mailist/>). You will get good info without having to commit to volunteer hours!