



SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Vancouver, BC

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Mackenzie Buzz

At Mackenzie School our goals as set by the SPC and staff are to improve the expressive language development of students through oral and written skills, to improve reading comprehension and to increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.

Newsletter #9

Date: June 28th, 2017

Dear Mackenzie Parents:

On behalf of the staff at Mackenzie I would like to wish all of our families a very safe and happy summer holiday.

Grade sevens, we wish you the very best of luck as you embark upon a new phase of your life journeys. It has been a pleasure to see you develop into fine young people and we know that the best is yet to come.

As most of you know I am retiring after 36 years with the VSB. It has been my honour and pleasure to end my career at Mackenzie in the community where I grew up. The students here are kind and show great social responsibility which is a reflection of fine parenting, good family role modeling and caring staff. I will miss all the smiling faces and enthusiasm but know it is time to start the next phase of my life.

Thank you all for your support over the years and your well wishes.

Principal

SEPTEMBER: What will happen when school reopens in September? That's the number one question from students and parents! The first day of school is Tuesday, September 5th. Returning Mackenzie students report to last year's teacher for one hour, 9:00-10:00. On Wednesday, September 6th, we'll welcome our new students. They should report to the office and will be directed to a temporary class of their peers. It's an exciting day for Kindergarten students because it's also their first day of school - ever! Kindergarten families should refer to the gradual entry schedule in the letter to be mailed next week. Our PAC Executive is hosting a social in front of the school with coffee and treats for parents while waiting. Please come join us! Kindergarten continues on a gradual entry but everyone else is here full days, 9:00-3:00. We'll work on putting together new classes during that first week.

WHO TO CONTACT

Bob Bodden Principal 604-713-4799	Nancy Paget Vice Principal 604-713-4799	Julie Manning Administrative Assistant 604-713-4799
Aaron Davis Acting Director of Instruction 604-713-4594	Dianne Turner Official Trustee official.trustee@vsb.bc.ca	Tracy Noel & David Smythe PAC Co-Chairs mackenziepac@gmail.com

STAFFING NEWS: Each year we have to say goodbye to staff. This year is no different! Leesa Borbely, Megan Casey, Michelle Fierro, Niamh Fleming, and Parm Sandhu have supported students with special needs this year as support workers and are moving on (and someone's having a BABY - you guess who!). Krista Boyes isn't returning to Mackenzie from her leave and her temporary replacement, Rebecca Fulton, will be leaving also. Alex Edwards and Brenda Von Holtum served on our Resource Team. They are moving on to new opportunities. Nico Stephenson is moving on to a high school music job in Langley. And of course, Nancy Paget will be principal at General Brock school while I'm retiring. We are sorry to see everyone leave and wish all these folks the best of luck. Mr. Bruce Murton has been assigned as principal of Mackenzie starting on August 1st. He is an experienced administrator who will add a lot to the school community.

We still have one job to fill on our resource team. We have successfully hired Vanessa Ho in Kindergarten, Naleen Wong for Grade 4/5 and Jessica da Silva returns to us for Music Prep and Resource. Ms. Roijackers has been hired to remain on our resource team. It's been a busy time!

SPORTS NEWS: Thirteen Mackenzie athletes took part in the BC Elementary Track & Field Championships last month. This event is very competitive and sees schools from all over the Lower Mainland in attendance, as well as Track club athletes. Mackenzie was one of only 3 Vancouver public schools. The rest are almost entirely private schools, independent schools and track clubs, all of whom bring large teams every year with dedicated track coaches. This is only the second time Mackenzie has attended.

Despite that, our small team of 13 girls and boys came away with 10 ribbons and a 2nd place medal in girls' grade 7 shotput (Phina). This is an amazing achievement from such a small team, with little practice or experience in competitive meets. Congratulations to all!

Team:

Grade 5 Rachael, Sehaj, Aryan

Grade 6 Aaliyah, Amitesh, Ayman, Maxz, Zosia, Sofija

Grade 7 Cory, Nathan, Roko, Phina

Ribbon/medal results:

Grade 5 girls: Rachael 9th in 1000m and 12th in 600m

Grade 5 boys: Sehaj 14th in 1000m

Grade 6 girls: Aaliyah 13th in 300m

Grade 6 boys: Amitesh 8th in 1200m; Maxz 14th in 300m

Grade 7 girls: Phina 2nd in shotput

Grade 7 boys: Nathan 4th in shotput and 13th in 300m; Roko 5th in shotput;

Cory 9th in 300m

Mr. Coe (coach)

Walk-a-Thon: A big thank you to PAC Executive members, all other parents, community members, staff and students who made our Walk-a-Thon so successful this year. The actual event took place on May 19th. Everyone had a good time and exercised a lot. PAC raised \$19,422.96 with this event. These funds are used to support the school in many ways. Some examples of PAC support include: Sports Equipment, Technology, Playground Improvements and Treat Days to name a few. We would also like to thank the following businesses and people for their generous support of this event:

ANAF Unit 26

Bard on the Beach

BC Lions Football Club/Telus Community

Cactus Club

Capilano Suspension Bridge

Choices Market
 Commodore Lanes & Billiards
 Dairy Queen - Victoria Drive
 Dominos Pizza - Kingsway
 Grouse Mountain
 Randhill Construction
 London Drugs - Victoria Drive
 Moira Kenny
 Nester's - Main Street
 Norm Flockhart Real Estate
 Oakridge Mall
 PNE/Playland
 Purdy's Chocolates
 Remax - Team Nickerrson
 Richmond Go Karts
 Science World
 Starbucks - Fraser & 49th
 Stella & Dot - Nadia Mann
 Studio D - Fraser
 Teresa Yip
 Theresa Evans
 Vancouver Symphony Orchestra
 White Spot - Oakridge

The Mackenzie Me to We Club: We are a group of kids who like to volunteer our time to make a difference in the world. We meet each week and plan different events. We plan a local and global fundraiser each year.

We want to thank you for giving us food donations in October. We donated over 400 food items to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. Each year we run a We Scare Hunger campaign.

Thank you for bringing in your batteries. We recycled over 600 double A batteries keeping them out of our soil. We charities will donate the amount of zinc in each battery to save the lives of children who need zinc to fight illnesses. One battery contains enough zinc to save the lives of six children.

Thank you for supporting our We Bake for Change sale. All the money is going to health care in developing communities in India.
 Thank you for your donations to the We Create Change campaign. We collected spare change and gave out stickers and buttons for you to show your support. We made around \$80 for the We Charity to support health care in India.

If you are interested in more information about WE Charity or WE Schools please look at their webpage (<https://www.we.org/>). There are many ideas on how children can take an active role in making the world a better place.

Have a happy summer from the Mackenzie Me to We club

FEEES FOR NEXT YEAR

GENERAL \$25.00 SUPPLY FEE: The Vancouver School Board offers the service of purchasing basic school supplies in bulk at wholesale prices and passing the cost savings on to families. The School Supply Fee for 2017 - 2018 is \$25.00 per student.

This fee covers basic consumable school supplies used for students' personal use such as paper, writing tools, glue sticks, erasers, exercise books and art supplies. Supplies are provided for the full year.

****** The 2017/2018 school year is the final year that school supplies will be purchased for a set fee by the school district. Starting in September 2018, parents will need to purchase items on their own, or arrange directly with a supplier to purchase supplies in a 'bulk' format. More information will be available to parents about this change.

SUPPLEMENTARY FEES:

Student Agenda/Planner - \$10.00

Students at Mackenzie will be using an Agenda/Planner in grades 2 to 7. School agendas/planners are a valuable tool for teaching children how to organize and plan for school. While students are not required to have an agenda/planner it is designed to assist students with the skills of organization and time management and is a very useful communication tool often used between teachers and families.

Performance Fee - \$15.00

We are pleased to enrich your child's learning through a wide variety of performances this year. This supplementary fee supports the

school in bringing in talented and professional theatrical and musical performers that align with a particular educational theme. Parent support has made these opportunities possible and we appreciate your continued contribution.

Field Studies - To be determined throughout the school year at the classroom level
Throughout the school year your child's teacher may plan supplementary learning opportunities at locations outside of the school and request monies towards entrance fees, transportation or equipment rental. Your child's teacher will communicate this information to you directly.

FINANCIAL HARDSHIP: 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. Nor will any child be excluded from activities where a fee is charged. If at any time there is a financial challenge, please contact the school Principal, Mr. Murton. All requests will be treated confidentially.

**SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL
2017-2018 CALENDAR**

Keep this somewhere
safe for next year!

DATE			ACTIVITY
September	5 th	Tuesday	School opens. Students present 9:00-10:00am
September	15 th	Friday	Individual student photos
September	21 st	Thursday	Meet the Teacher - evening (details to follow)
September	22 nd	Friday	Professional Development Day (District Wide) NO SCHOOL
October	9 th	Monday	Thanksgiving NO SCHOOL
October	19 th	Thursday	Parent/Teacher Conferences 2-6pm All students dismissed at 2:00pm
October	20 th	Friday	Professional Development Day (Province Wide) NO SCHOOL
October	24 th	Tuesday	Individual student photo retakes
November	10 th	Friday	Curriculum Implementation Day NO SCHOOL
November	13 th	Monday	Remembrance Day holiday NO SCHOOL
November	22 nd	Wednesday	Parent/Teacher Conferences 2-6pm All students dismissed at 2:00pm
December	1 st	Friday	Professional Development Day NO SCHOOL
December	22 nd	Friday	Last day of school before Winter Vacation
December 25 th to January 5 th			School closed for Winter Vacation
January	8 th	Monday	School reopens
January	29 th	Monday	Curriculum Implementation Day NO SCHOOL
February	12 th	Monday	Family Day NO SCHOOL
February	19 th	Monday	Professional Development Day (District Wide) NO SCHOOL
February	28 th	Wednesday	Parent/Teacher Conferences 2-6pm All students dismissed at 2:00pm
March	1 st	Thursday	Parent/Teacher Conferences 2-6pm All students dismissed at 2:00pm
March	16 th	Friday	Last day of school before Spring Break
March 19 th to March 29 th			School closed for Spring Break NO SCHOOL
March	30 th	Friday	Good Friday NO SCHOOL
April	2 nd	Monday	Easter Monday NO SCHOOL
April	3 rd	Tuesday	School reopens after Spring Break
April	27 th	Friday	Professional Development Day (District Wide) NO SCHOOL
May	1 st	Tuesday	Class photos
May	18 th	Friday	SCHOOL NOT IN SESSION NO SCHOOL
May	21 st	Monday	Victoria Day NO SCHOOL
June	28 th	Thursday	Last day of school for students
June	29 th	Friday	Administration Day NO SCHOOL

School Operation Overview

Number of days in session..... 187
 Number of days of instruction..... 179
 Hours of Instruction in a School Year:..... 874 Hours
 Number of Days of Non-Instruction. . . 7 Non-Instructional Days
 1 Administration Day (June 29)

2017-2018 SCHOOL HOURS

8:55am Bell rings at 8:55 a.m. - 1st period begins at 9:00a.m.
 Recess Recess break is from 10:35 - 10:55 a.m.
 12:10pm All students are dismissed for lunch at 12:10 p.m
 Lunch Lunch is from 12:10 p.m. - 12:57 p.m.
 12:57pm The afternoon bell rings at 12:57 p.m.
 3:00 pm All students are dismissed at 3:00 p.m.