



Mackenzie Buzz

SIR ALEXANDER MACKENZIE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

960 East 39th Avenue

Vancouver, BC

V5W 1K8

Tel: 604-713-4799 Fax: 604-713-4801

Respect for self, others and the environment

Newsletter #1

Date: October 5th, 2017

Dear Mackenzie Parents:

Happy New Year and welcome back to returning students and a special acknowledgement to new students and our kindergarteners. Personally, it is a pleasure to be joining the crew at Mackenzie and all of us are looking forward to an interesting and enriching year.

Welcome to new staff members Ms. Unlacay in Resource, Ms. Wong in a gr. 4/5 class, and Ms. Ho with Kindergarten. Also, a big welcome back to Ms. Smyth from her maternity leave with a job share in a gr. 2 class. Finally, our new Life Skills district program with Ms. Szeto as the teacher and Julie, Amanda, Michelle, and Lauren as support staff. Though there are significant challenges at the District level with staffing, we have been very fortunate with our team here.

Regards,

Bruce Murton

Principal

CONFERENCES & EARLY DISMISSAL: It will be conference time again very soon. We will be dismissing students at **2:00pm** on both **Thursday, October 19th** and **Wednesday, November 22nd**.

You can arrange an appointment to see the teacher by following the instructions on the form your child's teacher will send home.

TERRY FOX: Thank you all for your support again this year as we celebrated the 37th Annual Terry Fox Run. On September 21st students, staff and family members walked/ran in support of cancer research. A big thank you to Mr. Martin's class who collected and counted donations. We raised \$814.00, more than double last year! Many thanks to Ms. Chu for organizing us.

WHO TO CONTACT

Bruce Murton Principal 604-713-4799		Julie Manning Administrative Assistant 604-713-4799
Rob Schindel Director of Instruction 604-713-5097	Dianne Turner Official Trustee official.trustee@vsb.bc.ca	Tracy Noel & David Smythe PAC Co-Chairs mackenziepac@gmail.com

SPORTS NEWS: With one mini-meet at Douglas Park remaining before the district cross country meet at Trout Lake on October 19, the cross country running team at Mackenzie has been having a great season so far. The coaches have been very pleased with the positive attitudes, sportsmanship and improvement since starting a few weeks ago and look forward to that continuing until the end of the season. With soccer and cross country coming to a close in the coming weeks, students in grade 5-7 can begin to look forward to the volleyball season, which should be starting up after Thanksgiving. We hope to see many students out to practice and play for our school.

Many thanks to our coaches, Mr. Martin and Mr. Coe, volunteer parent drivers, and best wishes to all the athletes as they improve their skills, play fairly, and have lots of fun.

Parkour: Students thoroughly enjoyed the sessions. Thanks to the PAC for providing this opportunity.

TRAFFIC: As the weather turns, please make sure that you practice safe driving near the school. Poor visibility coupled with children and adults running to drier areas could lead to accidents. The speed limit is 30km/hour around the school. There are also designated no stopping and no parking areas. Ensure that your headlights are on. It would also be helpful to have your children wear bright visible clothing and to teach your children not to cross the street in between vehicles. Only cross at designated intersections. Also, please don't use the staff parking lot as a walking shortcut as this is also unsafe. Often before and after school, the streets around the school are very congested with cars and pedestrians. It is imperative



that the highest degree of caution be used by drivers to ensure the safety of our students. In an effort to address this issue, I encourage you to either walk or bike to school with your children. Please be as considerate of others as you expect them to be of you & put SAFETY FIRST!

City of Vancouver By-Law Enforcement officers do make regular rounds. They will be ticketing those drivers who are not following traffic and parking laws.

Me to We Club: Mackenzie's Me to We club meets at lunch on Wednesdays in the Library. We follow the We Schools program by participating in a local action and a global action during the school year. This will be our seventh year participating in WE Schools, <https://www.we.org/we-schools/>

During the month of October we will be collecting non-perishable food to donate to the Greater Vancouver Food Bank. Our campaign is called We Scare Hunger <https://www.we.org/we-schools/program/campaigns/we-scare-hunger>

If you would like to donate please bring your food items to the library and we will box up and deliver your donations in early November.

GVFB Most Wanted Items

- Canned fish, chicken or turkey
- Canned black beans, chickpeas & kidney beans
- Dried Lentils
- Nuts and/or seeds
- Natural Peanut butter
- Brown rice, barley and whole wheat pasta
- Powdered skim milk
- Canned vegetables
- Canned fruit
- Hearty stews with 10g or more protein

Please note, due to health and safety issues the GVFB is not able to accept the following items:

- Homemade items
- Expired food
- Open packages of food

Thank you from the Me to We club

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

Keep this
somewhere safe!

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.

Upcoming Events

DATE			Participants	EVENT
Friday,	13 th	October	Divisions 16, 17, 18	Field trip to Aldor Acres all day
Wednesday,	18 th	October		We Day at Roger's Arena 8am-3pm
Thursday,	19 th	October	Parents	2pm early dismissal. Parent teacher conferences 2-6pm.
			Cross Country team	District Meet at Trout Lake p.m.
Friday,	20 th	October	Everyone	Professional Development Day NO SCHOOL
Tuesday,	24 th	October	Students	Photo retakes - a.m.
			Whole school	Theatre performance 1:30pm
Thursday,	9 th	November	Whole school	Remembrance Day Assembly 11am
Friday,	10 th	November	Whole school	Curriculum Implementation Day NO SCHOOL
Monday,	13 th	November	Everyone	Remembrance Day (in lieu) NO SCHOOL



Scan the QR code to go straight to our website where you can make us your home page!

Information from the Library Resource Room

Access to the Mackenzie Library has changed this year please use <https://library.vsb.bc.ca>. Click on Sir Alexander Mackenzie Elementary School to access our online catalogue. Click on log in and enter the student number (not pen number) as the user name and student as the password. This will give you access to the databases and the books that are checked out. Please stop by the library after 3pm if you have any questions about the library or books that may be overdue.

Thank you
Mrs. Boardman

MEET THE STAFF NIGHT: We enjoyed a very successful **Meet the Staff** evening, again many thanks to PAC, senior students, and Ms. Manning.

First Student Assembly was held early in September to welcome new and returning children, review Code of Conduct, & introduce staff.

Fire Drills: Two completed so far. We'll have our first Earthquake Drill on **Thursday, October 19th**