



We Care for Self, for Others, and for our Surroundings

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Director of Instruction (Acting): Mr. Aaron Davis

Principal: Ms. Harjinder Sandhu

Vice Principal: Ms. Lorraine Baker

PAC Chairperson: Ms. Angela Giardullo

School Liaison Trustee: Ms. Diane Turner

Welcome to the New School Year 2017-2018!

We hope everyone had a safe, restful, and enjoyable summer. It is wonderful to see all the students and families back at Renfrew. We are enthusiastic and excited about the upcoming school year. We especially welcome new families and new staff to our Renfrew School Community. Please feel free to drop by the office to introduce yourselves after the rush of the first couple of weeks has subsided. We look forward to meeting our new families and renewing relationships with our returning families. All of us at Renfrew are looking forward to working together with parents and the community to provide the best educational opportunities for our students.

This first week of school students will **return to their last year's class each day**. New students will be placed with peers. This will allow the re-establishing of routines, settling in and allow us to quickly determine our school organization for new classes. We will be rotating classes through stations around the theme of 'Social Responsibility' and our school Code of Conduct: Renfrew Cares. We hope we will be placing students into their new classes by Friday and will keep you informed of this. Teachers have looked at many factors to decide which class is best suited for each student using our professional judgment and experience to create the best learning environment for all the children at Renfrew. We ask that once your child is assigned to their new class you help support them in this transition.

This year our school wide goals are: **To continue to improve Literacy and Numeracy skills for K to Grade 7 students where students will engage in personalized learning activities, with a focus on authentic, real world application. To increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students.**

All of our classes will be working hard on these goals in addition to all of the other areas of the curriculum.

Renfrew School is well supported by our Parent Advisory Committee (PAC). The PAC provides wonderful support in many areas of the school— planning and organizing special events, fundraising for fieldtrips and school needs and communicating with parents and the school. They are always open to new members and welcome both new families and returning families to become involved. PAC meetings are held 5 or 6 times per year. PAC meeting times will be announced in future newsletters and our website.

Each month, the school prepares a Newsletter to highlight our students' achievements, informing our

parents of the latest educational developments, and announcing events to come. A lot of time and energy goes into the composition of the school monthly newsletter and we greatly appreciate it if you as parents would take the time out of your busy schedules to read it. It is often emphasized in research that student success in education is dependent on their parents' strong commitment and involvement. Hence, parents being informed of the school's year round activities and projects is one way of showing interest in their children's school life. However, in keeping with your commitment to be socially responsible, we are trying to minimize our paper consumption. In lieu of printed material we will continue to post Newsletters, Calendars and Important updates on our website. Please follow us at: Renfrew.vsb.bc.ca or Twitter @renfrewschool. (A few printed copies will be available at the office if needed). Thank you for helping us in our efforts to "go green".

We as a staff are energized and rejuvenated. We know many new, positive and rewarding learning experiences await! We are excited to see where our curiosity and passions will take us this year!

Our first opportunity to meet as a community will be at the Meet the Staff event on Wednesday, September 13th at 6:00 p.m. We hope to see everyone there!

Thank-you for your on-going support at Renfrew School.

Sincerely,

Ms. Harjinder Sandhu
Principal

Ms. Lorraine Baker
Vice-Principal



Staff Updates

We would like to welcome the following new staff members to our school community:

Ms. Lori Fraser, Grade 4/5 Teacher

Ms. Jane Hughes, Grade 2 Teacher

Ms. Danita Kwong, Kindergarten Teacher

Ms. Madisah Asif, Grade 3/4 Montessori Teacher (Thursday/Friday, alternating Wednesdays)

Ms. Megan Smith, Grade 1,2,3 Montessori Teacher

Ms. Thanh Ngo, Resource Teacher

Ms. Alina Tam, Resource Teacher (Monday/Friday)

TBA, Area Counsellor

Ms. Wendy Ryan, Aboriginal Enhancement Worker

Renfrew's Code of Conduct

Renfrew has a set of guidelines for conduct and these are the expectations for all our school community. It is based on our motto and our Renfrew Cares statement: Renfrew's Motto is: "**Renfrew Cares, We think about Others**"

And our Code of Conduct is: **Renfrew Cares for Self, Renfrew Cares for Others, Renfrew Cares for the Surroundings**

These guidelines reflect the school's philosophy. Renfrew is a safe and caring place, where everyone tries their best, treats others kindly, and respects the environment. It is a place where students, staff,

families and the community work together to share ideas and create a wonderful place to learn. There is a rising expectation that as students develop with age, they will show increasing maturity, self-responsibility, decision-making ability, and leadership.

We have also added a “**We are caring Digital Citizens**” code. More information regarding Renfrew’s Code of Conduct will be sent home with your child.

Renfrew Before and After School Care

If you are looking for Child Care spaces for before and after school at Renfrew School, please make inquiries by contacting Collingwood Neighbourhood House at 604-412-3700 or 604-431-6863.

School Forms and Fees

There will be a number of important forms sent home in early September, these include forms that request emergency contact numbers, pertinent health issues, neighbourhood field trip permission, lunch permission and media permission. These forms need to be returned to your child’s classroom. If information changes throughout the year, please update the school immediately by calling the office. The school must be able to contact parents at all times.

We will be sending out information on school fees with collection envelopes with-in the next 2 weeks. School fees for all ages are \$25.00, agendas for Grades 2 to 7 students are \$5.00 and Jump Math workbooks for participating classes are \$20.00.

Please do not send money to school until you receive your collection envelopes.

Lunch



Full school days begin tomorrow. Please send a lunch with your children. If students would like to go home for lunch, it can provide a pleasant break in their school day. Students who are going home for lunch should be picked up at 12:10, if older students are going home unaccompanied by an adult, we request a note of permission. Students who remain at school will eat their lunch in the lunchrooms.

Please avoid nut products in your child’s lunches.



Bell Schedule

- 08:55 a.m. Warning Bell
- 09:00 a.m. Class
- 10:30 a.m. 10:50 a.m. Recess
- 12:10 pm. 12:57 pm. Lunch break
- 01:00 pm. 03:00 pm. Class

Student Supervision

Please do not send your children to school early and please pick them up at 3:00 as we have limited supervision from 8:30 to 8:55 and from 3:00 to 3:30. Once students are dismissed to parents or parent designate, they are their parents' responsibility. It is the parents' responsibility to supervise play after 3:30.



Student Safety and Traffic

We encourage families to walk or bike to school to reduce automobile congestion. Students can bring a lock and secure their bikes in the bike storage area. Please go over the traffic safety rules with your children. With the “back to school” excitement, children can forget these important pedestrian rules. If you are dropping children off, please make sure that it is on the school side of the street and use 22nd Street as it is safest. If walking to school, please do not walk through the parking lot/ drive way—use the new path that was recently put in. **The staff parking lot is for VSB employees and school deliveries only.** Parents should not be driving in this area. **Dropping off your child in this area is not permitted** as it can be dangerous as vehicles back up and small children are difficult to see. Also please do not jaywalk, this models illegal and dangerous behaviour for our children.

Parent/guardians are requested to sign in and sign out their child if they are arriving late or leaving early. The sign in book is the office and Mrs. Barts can show you the location.

To help our staff keep track of adults who are on our school grounds and in our school. If you are coming to visit/observe your child at play at lunch or recess, please come to the office and get one of the guest badges. These will help our supervision aides see who belongs and save you many inquiries of “how can we help you and who are you?”

Thanks for your help in keeping our students safe.

We encourage students not to bring valuable items such as electronics or a large amount of money to school. We do not have student lockers at Renfrew nor secure storage for student use. Therefore, the school will not be responsible for lost or stolen items. We suggest these items remain at home.