



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

3315 E. 22nd Ave. · Vancouver, BC · V5M 2Z2 · ☎ 604.713.4851 · 📠 604.713.4854

Director of Instruction: Mr. Aaron Davis

Principal: Ms. Harjinder Sandhu

Vice Principal: Ms. Katy Homeniuk

PAC Chairpersons: Ms. Angela Giardullo and Ms. Maya Toews

School Liaison Trustee: Mr. Alan Wong

Welcome to the New School Year 2018-2019!

After an enjoyable and restful summer, it is wonderful to see all the students and families back at Renfrew. We are enthusiastic and eager to begin our exploration of learning this year. We especially welcome new families 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 continue to provide great learning opportunities that enable our children to thrive emotionally, socially and intellectually. We want the learning to allow our students to build their creativity and critical thinking.

This first week of school students will **return to their last year's class each day**. This will allow the re-establishing of routines, settling in, building relationships and allow us to quickly determine our school organization for new classes. We will be rotating classes through stations around the theme of 'Renfrew Cares' or the core competencies. We hope we will be placing students into their new classes by Friday and will keep you informed of this. Teachers look 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 inquiry question is: **How can we use reading data to improve instruction in the area of reading comprehension?** Also we will continue our work on the district goal: **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 and core competencies.

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, a Newsletter will be prepared to highlight our students' achievements, informing our parents of the latest educational developments and announcing upcoming events. A lot of time and energy goes into the composition of the school monthly newsletter and we greatly appreciate the effort it takes to read it. It is often emphasized in research that student success in education is dependent on their parents' strong commitment and involvement. Parents being informed of the school's year round activities and projects is one way of

showing interest in their children's school life. This year we are continuing to be environmentally responsible by posting Newsletters, Calendars and Important updates on our website. We will also be emailing them out to all parents/guardians that have provided an email address. Please continue to keep involved by reading our newsletters and follow us at: Renfrew.vsb.bc.ca or Twitter @renfrewschool. (A few printed copies of newsletters and notices will be available at the office if needed).

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 12th 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. Katy Homeniuk
Vice-Principal



Staff Updates

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

Ms. Katy Homeniuk, Vice Principal and Teacher Librarian
TBA, Area Counsellor (Ms. Nicole Paley is still on leave)
Melisa Pizzolato, Grade 6/7 Montessori Teacher
Nataliia Kudryk, Grade 4/5/6 Montessori Teacher (Ms. Alyssa Lee is still on leave)
Ms. Eliza Hoang, Grade 3/4 Teacher
Ms. Joanne Lambert, Grade 1 Teacher
Ms. Laura Moino King, Kindergarten
Ms. Janet Baker, ExSEL Program Teacher
Ms. May Yu, Supervision Aide
Ms. Kirsty Babcock, Youth and Family Worker, Community Schools Team

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 enquires 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 and they sign in and out of the office. Students who remain at school will eat their lunch in the lunchrooms.



When packing lunches we want you and your child to think about your child's health: Is the lunch nutritious? And we want you to think about the environment: Is this lunch going to provide a lot of waste for the landfill or recycling? This year we want to cut down on our waste and spend less time having to pick up the waste that is littered on our school grounds!



Please avoid nut products in your child's lunches.

Outdoor Play

We value our outdoor play time and encourage students to be outside as much as possible. Please make sure your child is dressed appropriately for the weather and being outside. When the weather is terrible we will have 'Inside Day/Rainy Day' options but would prefer to see students get fresh air and exercise outside as much as possible. It would be great to see all our students with rain gear!

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 am and from 3:00 to 3:30 pm. You are responsible for your child after your pick them up. If a student wishes to play on the school grounds at 3:30, they must be accompanied by you or have gone home and get permission from a parent/guardian before returning. It is the parents'/guardians' responsibility to supervise play after 3:30 pm.



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 only for VSB employees and school deliveries. Do not enter or drop off your child in this area.** 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.

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?”

Safe Arrival

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 a dedicated answering service by calling 604-713-5159 ext. 70. 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 Childs Absence – Please Call 604-713-5159 ext. 70 prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence.

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 with Mrs. Barts. 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.

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.