

# Brock Elementary School

4860 Main Street, Vancouver, B.C. V5V 3R8  
Telephone: 604-713-5245 <http://brock.vsb.bc.ca>

**Principal: Mrs. Nancy Paget**  
**PAC Chairperson: Mr. Ken Armstrong, Co-Chair: Ms. Sarah Dumont**  
**Director of Instruction-Field Services: Mr. Aaron Davis**  
**Liaison Trustee: Ms. Carmen Cho**

這是重要的通告, 希請人譯讀。  
Important information, please translate

**October 6, 2021**

Dear General Brock School Community,

It is hard to believe that September has come and gone. Students and staff have settled in nicely to the routines of the school year. Many exciting learning activities and experiences are being implemented for our students. Thank you to those families who were able to join the Virtual Meet the Staff event with the teachers. Teachers have also posted their presentations on Class Teams for parents to access. If you have additional questions, please feel free to contact the teacher directly.

I am very pleased to announce the return of two of our beloved school-wide programs, Nature Sketch with the Robert Bateman Foundation and SPEC Ecological Literacy Garden Program. Our first Nature Sketch lessons with artist, Maggie, began earlier this week and SPEC will begin later this month. Students will be participating in lessons outdoors, both on and off the school grounds, and should be dressed appropriately for the weather. Nature Sketch takes place in our outdoor classroom and may involve walks in the community and to nearby parks. SPEC will take place at our school gardens and at the Riley Park Community Gardens. To help supplement the cost of these programs I was successful in receiving grants totaling \$11,000.00. Thank you to the Robert Bateman Foundation and Vancity Community Funds for their generous donations and continued support of our school.

Typically, newsletters will be published and emailed the last week of each month. The September newsletter was sent out mid-month and as there is a lot of information to share an early October newsletter is being sent. Newsletters can also be found on the Brock Website under the Announcement and About Us – Publications.

Regards,

Nancy Paget

Principal

<b>Important Dates to Remember</b>	
<b><u>October</u></b>	
Thursday, October 7 <sup>th</sup>	PAC Meeting Virtual via Zoom, 6:30 pm
Monday, October 11 <sup>th</sup>	Thanksgiving. School Closed
Tuesday, October 12 <sup>th</sup>	Conference Notice Sent Home
Thursday, October 14 <sup>th</sup>	Photo Day
Monday, October 18 <sup>th</sup>	Conference Request Due to Teachers
Tuesday, October 19 <sup>th</sup>	Immunization Day, Grades 6-7
Thursday, October 21 <sup>st</sup>	Conference Confirmation and Teams Invite Sent to Parents
Friday, October 22 <sup>nd</sup>	Pro-D Day. No school for students.
<b><u>November</u></b>	
Monday, November 1 <sup>st</sup>	Conferences. <b>Students dismissed at 2:00 pm</b>
Tuesday, November 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Conferences. <b>Students dismissed at 2:00 pm</b>

## EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

Each year, Vancouver schools review emergency procedures with students and staff. Throughout the year, we will hold a variety of drills (fire, earthquake, hold and secure, shelter in place and lockdown) and teachers review the drill procedures with students. The purpose of a drill is to practice safety procedures and prepare staff and students in the event of a real emergency. It is helpful for parents to review emergency procedures with their children as well.

If the school was in a “Hold and Secure” position this means that there is an incident occurring in the neighbourhood that is deemed a risk to the community (eg: police incident in the neighbourhood, suspicious strangers on the school grounds). Exterior doors of the building are locked and staff and students are not permitted to leave the building until the risk is cleared. A “Hold and Secure” sign would be posted on the exterior door. “Shelter in Place” is when the school is locked due to an environmental risk, such as a chemical spill or coyotes on the playground. A “Shelter in Place” sign would be posted on the exterior doors. A “Lockdown” would be initiated if a threat was occurring on the school grounds or in the building. There would be no sign on the door and all staff and students would be secured behind locked doors until the police deemed it was safe to resume our regular activities.

**Please note, that in the event we needed to evacuate the school or grounds our offsite location is General Wolfe Elementary School located at 4251 Ontario Street.**

## VSBC EDUCATION PLAN 2026

The Vancouver School District's Education Plan 2026 will be a roadmap that will lead the District to improve outcomes for students. VSB is asking students, families, staff, and the public to share their expectations and aspirations for Vancouver schools. The plan will focus on the District's core goals to support student achievement and well-being.

Please click on the link below for more information on the EdPlan2026

[https://www.vsb.bc.ca/District/Initiatives\\_Plans\\_Reports/EducationPlan2026/Pages/default.aspx](https://www.vsb.bc.ca/District/Initiatives_Plans_Reports/EducationPlan2026/Pages/default.aspx)

Share your input as we develop goals and objectives that will guide the Board for the next five years. **Complete the survey at** <https://survey.alchemer-ca.com/s3/50120540/VSBCedPlan2026-Public>

## WHAT'S THE SAME? WHAT'S DIFFERENT?

We still have many COVID protocols in place this year, however, there are a few things (some COVID related and some not) that I would like to bring to your attention.

Although we adhere to the schedule, you may have noticed that not all children entered the school at the same time. Entry and exit is staggered to an extent. The reason for this that we are still required to wash/sanitize hands during transition times and throughout the day and to maintain physical distance. We do, do our best to get the children in their rooms and seats as quickly as possible, however, the hand-washing/sanitizing time does impact this timing.

Again this year, we thank you for your support in remembering to pack healthy snacks and lunches for your child and for having them remain at school for the entire day, including recess and lunch times. School hours are from 9:00 am – 3:03 pm and the reduction of coming and going to school has resulted in a calmer learning space. The children are eating their snacks and lunches in the classroom and each teacher is using that time for different learning opportunities (read-alouds, mindful eating, learning videos, etc). The outside breaks provide opportunities for children to socialize and make friends outside of their learning environment. This is a time when children start to develop solid friendships and learn many problem-solving skills. Each classroom teacher determines what time the children eat based on the schedule that works best for their students' learning. Some classes eat their recess snacks prior to 10:50 am while others eat after 11:10 am and at lunch, some classes eat before 12:05 pm and others eat after 12:52 pm.

Again this year, we ask that if you have to pick up your child you notify the teacher and the office, in advance. Upon arrival, please wait near the undercover area, call the office and we will arrange for your child to be brought to you. We understand that there are some circumstances when children need to leave the school for appointments and/or other extenuating circumstances. We respectfully request and ask for your support in helping to minimize the disruption to the learning environment. Thank you!

This year, as announced by the Ministry of Education in August, there are no cohorts in schools and therefore, recess and lunch breaks are not staggered. The district directive was also that we will no longer have staggered entry/exit to the school. Although classroom doors are opened at 9:00 am., some of the children remain waiting outside in their line to allow for classes to single file into the building and for hand sanitizing/washing of hands to get ready for the day. During break times, primary students' play time is designated to the primary playground/outdoor classroom and on the north east field area below the primary play apparatus. Intermediate students' play area designations are the Intermediate playground, basketball court (south side of the C building, undercover area and below the bike rack area), and the gravel field directly below the garden boxes to the south side of the field. Additionally, all students are dismissed at the 3:03 pm bell and not before.

At Brock, we are proceeding carefully and slowly with all our programs and activities. As you are aware, safety for all members of our Brock community is paramount. Currently, the staff is considering how we, as a school, can support extra-curricular activities for students. Any plans that may be put in place will be shared with students and parents once finalized.

We thank you for your understanding, patience and support as we follow the guidelines of our communicable disease plan to keep everyone safe and healthy in our school setting.

## DRESS FOR THE WEATHER

As a reminder, as the weather starts to turn cooler and wetter, please ensure your child comes to school dressed for the weather (rain jacket, rain boots, warmer clothing and footwear).

All recess and lunch playtime will be outside "rain or shine". Please ensure your child has a change of clothes, socks, shoes included, in the event they get very wet playing in puddles or have an accident.

## COVID-19 HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

The Vancouver School District continues to take the lead of our public health authority, Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH). As we continue to work through our new normal as a school community we would like to provide you with a few updates and reminders.

All students in Grades K to 12 are now required to wear a non-medical face mask or a face shield while indoors. There are some exceptions to wearing a face mask (eg: a person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons, a person engaging in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask - playing an wind instrument, engaging in high intensity physical activity that makes it difficult to speak, when eating or drinking). Every child has received a VSB re-useable masks. As a reminder, it is important to wash the masks every day and dry overnight for those students who choose to wear a mask. Hand washing in soap and water or machine washing are both effective. Mask lanyards are also extremely helpful as our younger children tend to misplace or lose their masks throughout the day.

All parents/guardians have the responsibility to conduct a Daily Health Checklist Assessment of their child each day before sending them to school. Thank you to our parents who are keeping their child home when they are sick. As we enter the cold and flu season it is important, now more than ever, that parents keep their child home from school if they are sick. Even if your child is not exhibiting symptoms on the Daily Health Checklist we still ask that if he or she is sick with a common cold, upset stomach or the flu that they stay home from school. Children who arrive to school sick or become sick part way through the day will be required to go home. Staff are also required to stay home if they are sick. If we all do our part we will hopefully not have to call parents mid-way through the day to pick up children. Please ensure that the school has your current contact information or that of an alternate, in the event that your child does become sick during the school day.

## SAFE ARRIVAL AND ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

### 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 the school, we ask parents to notify the school of student absences. If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school safe arrival line to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on the dedicated safe arrival answering service by calling **604-713-5159** and using Code **14**. 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 **604-713-5159**, Code **14** prior to **9 am**, on the first day of the absence. Please report your child's first and last name, division number and teacher's name. It is important to call this number, even if you have sent your child's teacher a message via email. This lets the office know your child is safe at home. Teachers do not necessarily check their e-mail or may be away themselves and we would not have access to the information. Thank you for helping us keep your children safe!

## STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS/PACKAGE

A huge thank you to our families for your quick response in returning your child's forms to their teachers! Almost all of our student forms have been returned! Way to go Brock community! If you have not yet returned your child's verification forms/package please do so as soon as possible.

## ALLERGY ALERT

Brock School is "allergy-aware" and "scent aware"! We have students and/or staff in the school that do have life-threatening allergies to certain foods (peanuts, seafood/fish, tree nuts, scents). People with a severe food allergy must not eat even tiny amounts of the food that cause them to have an allergic reaction. A severe allergic reaction can come on quickly and this can occur if the person is simply in the same room as the allergen. To help reduce the risk of an accidental exposure, please *do not* send snacks containing peanuts, seafood/fish or tree nuts. Also, please remind your child not to share food, drinks or eating utensils with others and if your child does have an allergy, please help them to ensure their own safety by teaching them not to share food with others at school. We cannot guarantee a nut-free environment, but we can all do our part to help one another.

## STUDENT MEDICAL ALERTS

If your child has a life-threatening medical alert, please report the necessary information to the office immediately. The school also requires a copy of your child's medical plan, if they have one, along with non-expired medications or EpiPens.

## TRAFFIC SAFETY REMINDERS/BROCK STAFF PARKING LOT



Please help us keep our children safe by following the rules of the road and review pedestrian safety with your child. As the weather worsens and the days become darker and wetter, it is important to take extra caution when walking and/or driving around the school. For the safety of our children, please drive safely and obey the traffic signs around the school grounds. Thank you!

We recommend parking a couple of blocks away from the school and walking for fresh air and to avoid traffic congestion near our school. If you are driving, please drop students off quickly and safely, at the drop off and pick up zones, and have your child exit the car on the curb side of the street.

- Remember the staff parking lot is for VSB staff and IS NOT to be used to drop off and pick up students
- Park in designated parking areas only
- Do not walk through the staff parking lot
- Do not park in front of or block the chained driveway area outside the gym
- Please obey traffic rules and remember to:
  - Drive on the right side of the street
  - Park on the right side of the street
  - Let your child out on the curb side of the street
  - Cross at crosswalks and don't jay walk
  - No u-turns in the middle of the street
  - Do not pull into driveways and back out onto East 32<sup>nd</sup> Avenue
  - Do not drive into the staff parking lot to turn around

## Bike/Scooter Safety



Many of our children enjoy riding their bikes and/or scooters to school. Please review bike/scooter safety with your child and remind your child that riding a bicycle/scooter on the school grounds is not permitted. Discuss with your child the importance of riding safely on city streets and being extra diligent and alert as they cycle to and from school. If you are cycling to school with your child, please continue to serve as role models by dismounting before entering the school grounds. RIDE SAFE!

