

Graham Bruce Elementary News

April 24, 2020

Dear Graham Bruce Families,

We have lots to celebrate as the week comes to an end!

Last week saw the launch of the **Bruce Bears Gallery**, a whole-school Team where all students can share their learning, communicate with each other and Bruce staff, and read Denise's daily morning announcements! If you and your child have not yet accessed the Bruce Bears Gallery Team, I encourage you to take a look! It is one way for our whole community to stay connected, and to celebrate each other's creativity and learning.

Wednesday, April 22nd was **Earth Day**. Several students shared their Earth Day creations in the Bruce Bears Gallery. If your child has something to share, it's not too late! We would love to see what they created!

Wednesday, April 22nd was also **Administrative Professionals' Day** – Our day to celebrate and thank Denise! The staff surprised Denise at home with flowers, messages, and a Door Dash gift card so she can treat herself while she works from home. Students also expressed their gratitude with messages for Denise in the Bruce Bears Gallery Team.

Teachers and their classes are developing routines, and we are so proud of the engagement and learning that we have seen from our students this week. If your child is unsure about a task or requirement, please know that their teachers and support staff are there to help! Please reach out using the method established by your child's teachers.

I hope you are staying healthy and safe as we continue to navigate these challenging times.

Sincerely,
Karen Noel-Bentley

Assessment

Now that students are in regular communication with their teachers and other Bruce staff to engage in their continuity of learning, it is natural to wonder how students will be assessed. Continuation of learning and assessment during the COVID-19 response recognize and reflect the following learning goals:

- **Learning Together:** A partnership between families and educators
- **Learning in a New Space:** A journey with many pathways of curiosity and exploration
- **Learning for All:** An opportunity for engagement and connections for all students

Assessment will include teacher feedback, student self-assessment, and, when possible, parent or guardian feedback.

Students are expected to participate in the learning opportunities provided by their teachers. We understand that, because students are learning at home, their access to resources and support will impact their ability to engage in all learning opportunities. This is why regular communication is so important. Teachers need to know what students are able to do and what supports they need.

For students to grow in their learning, they need to know and be able to express the following:

Where am I now?
Where am I going?
What do I need to get there?

As your child's teachers and support staff communicate with you and your child, these will be the guiding questions to help your child learn, and to help the teacher assess your child's progress.

Report cards will go home in June. They will reflect your child's in-school learning up to Spring Break, and their continued learning from April to June.

We will continue to communicate with you about your child's learning, and will have more information about report cards as we get closer to the end of the school year. Please contact your child's teacher if you have any questions or feedback about your child's learning.

You can also contact me at knoelbentley@vsb.bc.ca if you have questions about how the district is approaching assessment.

Student Accounts – Office 365

As students access and use their VSB Office 365 accounts, please remember the following:

- You can download the Office 365 apps (including Word, PowerPoint, Teams, etc.) for free from your child's online Office 365 account. As long as your child is a VSB student, you will be able to use these resources for free.
- If you have not already done so, please change your child's password from the default, "student". You can change it at <https://studentpass.vsb.bc.ca/>
 - NOTE: You will need your child's 9-digit PEN number (please ask your child's teacher if you do not have it) and birth date.

Microsoft Teams

You have been hearing a lot about Teams. All students are part of the Bruce Bears Gallery, and some classes are using the Teams platform as their online classroom.

Educators around the district have been working together to develop resources and supports for each other, students, and families. Ankie Carswell, the principal of McKechnie Elementary, developed a resource for families, and has generously shared it with the VSB community. It is included with this newsletter, and will be posted on the Graham Bruce website.

School Code of Conduct

At Graham Bruce School we care for and respect:

Ourselves
Others
Our Community

Superintendent: Ms. Suzanne Hoffman

Director of Instruction: Mr. Aaron Davis

Liaison Trustee: Mr. Allan Wong

Principal: Ms. Karen Noel-Bentley (604-713-4778 or knoelbentley@vsb.bc.ca)

Secretary: Ms. Denise Meyer (604-713-4778 or dmeyer@vsb.bc.ca)