



McBride Annex Elementary

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Vice Principal: Ms. Andrea Greenhalgh
Principal: Ms. Lindsay Thompson
Trustee: Ms. Carmen Cho

OAA: Ms. Betty Hung
Director of Instruction: Mr. Aaron Davis
Website: www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/mcbride-annex

September 2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is hard to believe we are starting the 2020/21 school year and are welcoming our Kindergarten students who were born in 2015. Our school year ended and has now started in a non-typical fashion, but the nervous excitement is still present. It may feel and look different in our schools right now but rest-assured the love and commitment that our staff have for your children remains the same. The staff is excited by the new opportunities for learning that are being presented.



We all welcome you and your family back and look forward to the excitement of the rest of the year ahead of us.

Andrea Greenhalgh
Vice-Principal

STAFF CHANGES

Our tiny school of McBride Annex has seen a significant amount of change this September. We welcome **Ms. Jennifer Lum** who is teaching our Division 3 class of grade two and three students. She is replacing Mrs. Shelley Kayra who is expecting her first child this fall. **Ms. Tamara Fernandes** is joining us in our Kindergarten room on Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday this year while Ms. Sophia Ongley is home with baby Ava. Mrs. Vandana Locket, our Student and School Support Assistant, has taken a position, for this school year, at another school, and in her place, we have **Ms. Prabjhot Mushiana**. Our building engineer, Mr. Jason Li, received a promotion at the end of June and until his job is filled, we welcome **Mr. Sammy Basaran** who is keeping our school safe and clean for us. Our Speech Language Pathologist Ms. Liz Payne was reassigned within the VSB and our new SLP will be **Ms. Eleanor Ruff**. **Mrs. Cheryl Hutchcroft**, who has been one of our Supervision Aides for over 12 years, will be leaving at the end of September. We will miss her dedication and love of McBride Annex and all the families that are here, but she is excited for a new adventure working in a Montessori school and studying to be a Montessori teacher. We wish her well but sure will miss her!

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our school website: www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/mcbride-annex is being updated on a regular basis. The calendar option now has our long-range events entered into it. There is also a COVID-19 document file that the district regularly updates with any new documents / videos.

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. 50. An email can also be sent mbraattendance@vsb.bc.ca

RECESS / LUNCH PROCEDURES

With our increased focus on hand washing and sanitizing all students will eat their recess snack prior to recess at 10:35 and eat their lunch, in their classroom, at 11:30ish. They will be outside for the 15 minute recess (10:35-10:50) and outside for the entire lunch break (12:00-12:47). We are unable to have any hot-lunch programs at the present time but if protocols change, we may be able to bring back our lunch program. All students must have their lunches with them at 9:00am as we are unable to have lunches dropped off during the day.

FORMS TO RETURN TO THE SCHOOL

Over the next couple of school days your child(ren) will be bringing home important documents that need to be returned to the school. All papers photocopied in white need to be returned (plus one yellow) to your child's teacher as soon as possible. Thank you.

SCHOOL CASH ON-LINE

Last year the VSB started using School Cash Online for all payments within the school. If you have not yet registered to pay for your school fees (\$35) and for our grade 2 and 3 students an additional fee of \$8 for their agenda, please do so. The website is <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com> or you can visit the VSB website at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/online-payment>

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT

We normally would be inviting you to our school to meet all our staff, tour your child's classroom, and meet the teachers. Obviously, this year is different, but our staff feel we would still like to reach out to you via TEAMS. We will set up a meeting on **Thursday, September 24th**, through TEAMS and invite you to join at **5:00 pm**. We will introduce the staff, talk a little about the year, and at the end invite the Kindergarten families to stay on, if they'd like, to ask any K based questions. More information about this will be coming via an email closer to the date.

OUTDOOR CLOTHING / CHANGE OF CLOTHES

With the increased focus of being outside our students are expected be outside for all recess and lunch hours regardless of the weather. Please ensure they are dressed appropriately. The teachers will also be conducting as much learning, as possible, in our school garden area as well.

Please ensure your child brings outdoor clothing to school that suits the weather. If the weather is rainy students will need rain boots, a rain coat and a hat or umbrella. If the weather is cold students will need boots, a warm jacket, mittens/gloves and a hat. Children do go outside for recess and lunch on all days so they need to be prepared for the weather. When children return inside after playing outside their shoes are often wet and muddy. If possible, please provide indoor shoes for your child that can remain at school so that they have clean and dry footwear to put on after recess and lunch.



SCHOOL PHOTOS – POSTPONED

All school photos across the district have been postponed. We will find out more information in January about rescheduling.

CITY OF VANCOUVER – New Parking regulations

Vancouver City Council has passed changes to the fees around **stopping violations** which will **double the fines for violations which occur in the vicinity of schools, 8:00-5:00 pm on school days**. This was passed December 3rd, 2019 and came into effect **January 1st, 2020**. The Council report notes that “to support the City’s Moving Towards Zero goals, (City) staff have identified a number of safety related parking offences, in particular those that impact vulnerable road users, where fine amounts should be increased to further discourage unsafe parking behaviour.”

DAILY HEALTH ASSESSMENT

Just a reminder to check your child's daily health assessment prior sending them to school.



PAC MEETING

Our PAC meeting dates have been set for the year. The first three meeting dates are: **Tuesday, September 29th**, **Wednesday, October 21st** and **Tuesday, November 24th**. All meetings will be at 6pm and for now they will be held on Zoom. The Zoom link will be shared prior to the meeting to all parents. We look forward to welcoming our new Kindergarten and new to the school families to our PAC.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

The PAC organizes and runs McBride Annex's hot lunch program but is postponed at this time.

PAC QUESTIONS Any questions regarding PAC events please email the PAC at mcbrideannexpac@gmail.com.



Thursday, September 24th - Meet the Teacher night – via TEAMS 5:00 pm

Friday, September 25th - Professional Day (school not in session)

Tuesday, September 29th - PAC meeting 6pm via Zoom

September 2020– McBride Annex

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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| 13 | 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 |
| 20 | 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 Meet the Teacher Night via Teams at 5:00pm | 25 Pro D NO SCHOOL | 26 |
| 27 | 28 | 29 PAC Meeting via Zoom | 30 | | | |