

GRENFELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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Phone: 604-713-4844

Website: <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/sir-wilfred-grenfell/Pages/default.aspx>

PRINCIPAL: Maureen McDonnell VICE PRINCIPAL: TBA	DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION: Chris Stanger
OFFICIAL TRUSTEE: Allan Wong	PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS: Janelle O'Donnell, Elicia Hrubizna



Welcome back to a new school year! A very special welcome to our new students, their families and our new staff.

I am honoured to have been chosen to join Grenfell Elementary school as your new Principal. I bring with me over 10 years of administrative experience in four Vancouver elementary schools and over 20 years as an educator. Throughout that time, I have taken it as my responsibility to ensure children receive a quality education within a safe, respectful and caring learning environment. I am a great believer in the link between home and school. Working together with

staff and parents greatly enhances your child's educational experience. Please feel free to contact me at the school with any questions, concerns, or just for an introduction.

Through a close and shared partnership with everyone associated with Grenfell, I am confident our school will continue to be a successful place for our students to learn and grow.

Sincerely,
Maureen McDonnell



COVID PROTOCOLS AT GRENFELL FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

As announced by provincial government, the District is expecting a full return to in-person learning starting September 2021. We are looking forward to a year of learning, sports, music and other extracurricular activities in person.

The health, safety and well-being of students and staff continues to be a top priority. The Vancouver School District's plan will provide for a safe, healthy and supportive learning environment. A variety of COVID-19 health and safety protocols and procedures, as advised by health officials, will be in place again this year to help keep everyone safe.

Daily health assessments

All students and staff are required to complete a daily health check prior to coming to school. Students and staff who have COVID symptoms and/or feel unwell should not attend school.

Parents and caregivers are responsible for assessing their children daily before sending them to school. The [K to 12 Health Check website](#) and app is an easy way to decide if your child should attend school based on their symptoms. You can download the app on your device:

- [iOS devices \(iPhone/iPad\)](#)
- [Android devices](#)

Daily health checklists are available here: [English](#), [ਪੰਜਾਬੀ](#), [عربي](#), [简体中文](#), [繁體中文](#), [Français](#), [فارسی](#), [Tagalog](#)

If your child becomes ill while at school

Any child experiencing COVID-19-like symptoms will be moved to a secluded space, such as a first-aid room or designated health room, where they will be supervised and supported by staff. Parents/guardians will be notified and advised to pick-up their child as soon as possible.

Please ensure that the school has your current contact information, including emergency contact information, to ensure timely pick-up.

Wearing masks

As required in provincial guidelines, all staff, students in grades 4 to 12 and visitors are required to wear masks in all indoor areas, including:

- At their desks
- On school buses

Exceptions include:

- A person who cannot tolerate wearing a mask for health or behavioural reasons
- A person unable to put on or remove a mask without the assistance of another person
- If the mask is removed temporarily for the purposes of identifying the person wearing it
- If the mask is removed temporarily to engage in an educational activity that cannot be performed while wearing a mask.
- If a person is eating or drinking
- If a person is behind a barrier
- While providing a service to a person with a disability or diverse ability (for example, a hearing impairment), where visual cues, facial expressions and/or lip reading/movements are important.

Students in Kindergarten to Grade 3 are encouraged to wear a mask indoors while in school and on school buses.

Hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette

School staff will continue to focus on the importance of frequent hand washing (hand sanitizing) and of proper respiratory etiquette, such as coughing/sneezing into your sleeve or into a tissue. Over the past several months the district has replaced faucets in all Vancouver schools to enable proper hand washing. Schools have also been provided with hand sanitizing stations for common areas, classrooms without sinks and at entry and exit locations.

Cleaning and disinfecting schools

Like last year, enhanced cleaning and disinfecting will take place in every school in the district. This will include ensuring that all frequently touched surfaces are cleaned and disinfected at least once every 24-hours.

School Visitors

Schools in Vancouver will continue to welcome in-person visitors by appointment only. If you would like to make an in-person appointment, please contact the school office. All visitors are required to wear a mask, complete a daily health check, and follow all COVID-safety guidelines.

Keeping your distance

Schools will continue to create space between students. This will include management of the movement of students in common areas such as hallways, in order to prevent crowding. Students will also be reminded to respect the personal space of others, to keep distance between themselves and others, and, to spread out as much as possible. We will also continue to take students outdoors, as much as possible, to engage in learning opportunities.

Ventilation

Over the past year, significant improvements to ventilation systems have been made at all schools. This work has included making repairs and upgrades to mechanical systems, replacing and upgrading filters, setting controls to

maximize the intake of outside air into learning spaces. Work has also been done to make sure windows in learning spaces can be opened to provide good ventilation.

More information

More information about plans and guidelines to keep schools in British Columbia open and safe can be found [here](#). The district continues to encourage everyone who is eligible to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Details about vaccinations are available [here](#).

STAFFING UPDATE

Ms. Van Wyck, the vice principal for the past three years has been promoted to principal at Lord Elementary. Congratulations Ms. Van Wyck! You will be missed.

I am excited to introduce several new staff members to our staff: Mr. Perry Buchan, Resource Teacher; Ms. Kerri Moore, Student Support Worker; Mr. Inderjeet Sandhu, Student Support worker; Mr. Mark Wong, Student Support Worker and Mr. Milo Wu, School Counsellor.



THE FIRST WEEK OF SCHOOL

The first day of school for students will be **Wednesday, September 8th**. Students from Grade 1 to 7 will attend school from 9:00 to 10:00 am. Students are reminded to line up outside (same line up spots as last year) to meet their teachers. Students will be with their last year's teachers during the first week of school. We are anticipating moving students to their new classes the second week of school. More information will be communicated to parents when we are ready to move students to their new classes.

KINDERGARTEN STUDENTS



Kindergarten students will be following a gradual entry schedule. The schedule was sent to all families, but please contact the office if you need a copy. **NEW KINDERGARTENERS WILL REPORT TO SCHOOL ON THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 9TH.** Please refer to your child's gradual entry calendar for start and end time. Please meet the teachers at the designated cone along the windows near the basketball court for drop off and pick up.

NOTICE OF LATE RETURN

In order to maintain a space for your child, be sure to inform the school if your child will not be at school during the week. Please note that we cannot save a space for your child past September 24th, 2021.

SEPTEMBER 30TH NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Following federal legislation to mark September 30 as the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, and the provincial government announcement to make it a day of commemoration, all schools and work sites in the Vancouver School District will be closed on this day. This is a day to reflect on the impact of past practice that resulted in the establishment of the residential school system in Canada and the deaths of countless Indigenous children. Students do not attend school on Thursday, September 30th.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Newsletters will be published monthly and will be emailed during the first week of each month. You can also check our website for information and events at <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/sir-wilfred-grenfell/Pages/default.aspx>. As newsletters and other important correspondence will be sent out via email, please be sure to update us if you change your email address over the school year. This first newsletter is the only one that will be distributed as hard copy.

STUDENT SAFETY

Our school day begins at 9:00 am and ends at 3:03 pm. For your child's safety, please do not leave your child unattended on the playground prior to the start of the school day. Please pick up your child promptly at the end of the school day.

SAFE ARRIVAL



If your child will be absent for school, please call the Safe Arrival line to report their absence. Safe Arrival: (604) 713-5159 Ext. 34 or email: greattendance@vsb.bc.ca.

PARKING/DROP OFF PROCEDURES

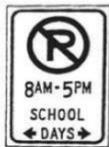
A reminder that the staff parking lot is for school staff only. Please do not park your vehicle in the alley next to the school. Thank you for your support.

*For the safety of the children, please drive carefully and obey traffic signs around school grounds
The following are traffic signs that are typically posted around Vancouver schools.*



“NO STOPPING 8am - 5pm SCHOOL DAYS”

These signs designate the zones where vehicles are not permitted to stop under circumstances. These zones are kept clear to provide good sight lines for drivers: see students and students to see drivers.



“NO PARKING 8am - 5pm SCHOOL DAYS”

These signs designate the zones for active picking up and dropping off of students. Do not park and leave the vehicle in these zones.



School Area Signs

This sign is used in advance of school to warn drivers that children may be walking along or crossing the road. On local streets 30 km/hr signs are posted and speed limit is 30 km/hr from 8am - 5pm on school days.



School Crosswalk Signs

A school crosswalk sign indicates where children will be crossing the road. Vehicles must yield to pedestrians at all intersections and crosswalks. Vehicles must remain stopped until children are safely across and on the curb. Please remember children are playful and impulsive and may enter the roadway suddenly.



Tuesday, September 7	In-Service day for staff. Students do not attend
Wednesday, September 8	First day of school (9:00 to 10:00am - Grade 1 to 7)
Thursday, September 9	First day of school for Kindergarten students
Monday, September 27.	Pro-d Day (students do not attend)
Thursday, September 30.	National Day for Truth and Reconciliation (school closed)