

# BRITANNIA

## Secondary School

# NEWSLETTER

*Newsletter for Students, Parents and the Community*

**August 2017**

**Issue #1**

Dear Parents/Guardians & Students,

Summer is finally over and it's back to school, and we're super excited about the year ahead! I hope you're all looking forward to returning as much as we are!!

This school year teachers will continue working with students on **The Brit Way - Bravery, Responsibility, Integrity and Tenacity**. When our teachers review course outlines, we will also review expectations in each course, giving all students specific guidance about **The Brit Way** in classrooms, hallways and community. As in past years, we will also be focusing on attendance as a behavioral goal.

For the coming school year, our School's goals are:

1. To improve students' equity of access to opportunities which enhance students' social responsibility and engagement in school.
2. To align planning, resources, communication and practice such that all students attend classes regularly and in a timely manner, ready to learn.
3. To design and implement specific strategies which will enhance learning and success for Aboriginal students, as well as deepen overall understanding and appreciation of students' diverse cultural backgrounds.

I encourage parents to join us at **Parent Advisory Council**, the first Thursday of each month, in the school Learning Commons. If needed you can contact our **Chair, Angelia Ellis** at the school 604-713-8266 or email [britpac1908@gmail.com](mailto:britpac1908@gmail.com). Please, see our website for updates and information.

We have a **Meet the Teacher Night – All Grades on Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup>**, and our **Parent / Teacher interview Night will be on Tuesday, November 07<sup>th</sup>** in our Cafeteria. Again, please see the school website for details.

It is an honor to work with the staff, students and you - the parents/guardians of Britannia. I wish you all a successful school year!

*Andrew Schofield, Principal*



## SCHOOL OPENING:

**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 5<sup>th</sup> - HOMEROOM CLASS!**

**Students entering Grades 8-12 (ELL 8-12, Learning Support Program and Pacific Storm Program students)** are to report to their homeroom/registration class as follows:

**Grade 8 & 9 – 09:00AM**  
**Grade 10 – 10:00AM**  
**Grade 11 – 11:00AM**  
**Grade 12 – 12:00PM**

Homeroom class lists will be posted in the skywalk.

Completion of registration procedures will take place at this time and timetables will be distributed. Payment of general school fees will take place Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, September 7<sup>th</sup> in homeroom/registration classes.

**New Britannia students** who have pre-registered in Grades 8 - 12 should report to their homeroom class on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Students who have not yet registered** should report to the Main Office to make an appointment to register.

Students who do not report on the first day of school, September 5<sup>th</sup>, and who do not notify their counsellor that they will be returning, **will lose their priority** in choice of courses.

## ASSEMBLIES

The following grade assemblies will take place the first day of school in the Historic Britannia Auditorium:

- **Grade 8 & 9 students - Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> 09:30AM - immediately following homeroom registration class.**
- **Grade 10 Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – 10:30AM - immediately following homeroom registration class.**
- **Grade 11 Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – 11:30AM - immediately following homeroom registration class.**
- **Grade 12 Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> – 12:30PM - immediately following homeroom registration class.**

## SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The Britannia office will be open to receive telephone calls from 9:00am - 3:00pm, Monday to Friday, starting August 21<sup>st</sup>. The office will be closed for lunch from 12:30 - 1:00 pm each day.

The administration will be in the school on August 14 to September 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 for consultation and new student registration. It is advised that you telephone 604-713-8266 and make an appointment, if you wish to register your child or speak to an administrator.

**For the 2017-2018 school year, please contact the following administrator if you have specific concerns about your child:**

**Grades 11, 12 – Dr. Andrew Schofield**

**Grades 8, 9, 10 – Mr. Nick Despotakis**

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## STUDENT ABSENCES - EMAIL SERVICE -

Parents, please advise the school of student absences using the following email address:

[britabsences@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:britabsences@vsb.bc.ca)

**Please include in your email:**

1. First name and last name of student
2. Student number
3. Date(s)/time missed
4. Subject(s) missed
5. Reason for absence ie: illness, medical appointment etc.
6. Parent name and phone number



**Stay current by reading the daily  
Student Bulletin at  
<http://britannia.vsb.bc.ca>**

## THREE REPORTING PERIODS

Britannia students will receive **three report cards** and an interim report during the **2017 - 2018** school year.

**Report Card/Interim dates are as follows:**

- Day 1 Interims sent home Wednesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>**
- Day 2 Interims sent home Thursday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>**
- Tuesday, December 05 Report Cards sent home**
- Friday, March 16 Report Cards sent home**
- Thursday, June 28 Report Card sent home**

**GRADE 8 STUDENT & PARENT ORIENTATION – Thursday, August 31<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am Gym A/B**

**MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT – ALL GRADES - Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> - 5:30 – 8:30pm**

Come and meet your child’s teacher! This will be a relaxed, informal event that allows you to find out what your child will be learning. This is also an opportunity to connect and meet with other parents! There will be refreshments served. Stay tuned for more information!

### PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCE

The Administration and Teachers have organized an opportunity for parents to meet their child’s teachers on:

*Tuesday, November 07<sup>th</sup> - Parent Teacher Interviews*  
*6:00 - 9:00 p.m. - School Cafeteria*

### **BIP - BRITANNIA INSTRUCTIONAL PLANNING DAYS**

(Period One begins at 10:08 a.m.)

Instructional planning time allows for teachers to meet for 60 minutes, ten times a year, to work together collaboratively on curriculum related issues.

Wednesday, September 13	Wednesday, February 14
Wednesday, October 18	Wednesday, March 14
Wednesday, November 15	Wednesday, April 18
Wednesday, December 13	Wednesday, May 16
Wednesday, January 17	Wednesday, June 13

### **STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE**

Industrial Alliance Pacific Life Insurance Company is the provider of 2017-18 Student Accident Insurance plan, (IAP Kids Plus), for the Vancouver school district for September 2017. This coverage is not restricted to school time, but covers accidental injuries, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 12 months a year.

This insurance is voluntary on the part of parents. Enrollment materials and information will be distributed to students in September.

# The Britannia Community Code



## RESPECT

All Britannia community members - staff, students, volunteers, visitors, and parents - shall RESPECT one another and the environment we share.

### RIGHTS

We have the **RIGHT** to be treated with respect and dignity and to be free from any form of discrimination.

We have the **RIGHT** to feel safe and secure both physically and emotionally.

We have the **RIGHT** to learn.

We have the **RIGHT** to have all personal property treated with respect.

We have the **RIGHT** to a clean environment in a welcoming school.

### RESPONSIBILITIES

We are **RESPONSIBLE** for accepting the differences of others including race, religion, sexual orientation, customs, ideas and appearances.

We are **RESPONSIBLE** for behaving in a manner that promotes a safe and comfortable environment free of fear, threat, intimidation and emotional or physical harm.

We are **RESPONSIBLE** for attending all classes on time, prepared to work to the best of our ability.

We are **RESPONSIBLE** for respecting the property of others, the school and community.

We are **RESPONSIBLE** for keeping our environment clean and making Britannia a warm and friendly community.

## RECOGNITION

All Britannia community members are entitled to **RECOGNITION** of their achievements, accomplishments and contributions towards making Britannia a positive learning environment.



Please go to the Britannia website at <http://britannia.vsb.bc.ca> to view the Britannia Secondary School Code of Conduct - Statement of Purpose.

## **ACADEMIC HONESTY**

We at Britannia feel that all of our partners - administrators, teachers, parents and students - share in the responsibility for academic honesty. To help students pursue their studies in an honest and profitable manner, the following policy has been put in place:

Academic dishonesty is defined as: Any attempt by a student to complete an examination or assessment by unfair means. Unfair means may include any one or more of the following:

1. Plagiarism - "Plagiarism is a serious academic offence. It is intellectual theft. Any use of another's research, ideas, or language without proper attribution may be considered plagiarism." (Gordon, S.D., p.1).
2. Obtaining or providing unauthorized information during an examination through verbal, visual, or unauthorized use of books, notes, text, or electronic devices.
3. Obtaining or providing information concerning all or part of an examination prior to the examination.
4. Taking an examination for another student, arranging for another person to take an exam in one's place.
5. Altering or changing test answers after submission for grading, altering or changing grades after grades have been awarded, or altering or changing other academic records.
6. Making any other attempt to improve grades using means that have not been or would not be approved by your teacher.

### **Consequences for Academic Dishonesty:**

After a complete investigation of the situation and in consultation with the appropriate grade administrator, the teacher will contact the parent to inform them of one or more of the following consequences:

1. The student will receive a "0" for the work.
2. The incident will be recorded and placed in a central file.
3. The incident may be recorded in the student's file.
4. The student may not be eligible for honour roll.
5. The student may not be eligible for a reference letter from staff.
6. The student may not be eligible for school scholarships.
7. Students in Venture or IB may not be allowed to continue in the program.

# VANCOUVER SCHOOL BOARD POLICIES

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## ALCOHOL & DRUGS

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The Vancouver School Board has a policy which states that students who have consumed or are in possession of drugs and/or alcohol at school functions are subject to disciplinary action which can include suspension, transfer or dismissal from school.

## RACE RELATIONS

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The Vancouver School Board condemns and opposes any expression of racial/ethnic prejudice within the school system. There is a well-defined procedure for resolving any unjust behavior shown against people because of their ethnic origin, language, colour, race or religion. This policy applies to all employees as well as students. Students or staff who believe they have been subjected to racial or ethnic prejudices should report the incident to the school Administration immediately.

## VIOLENCE

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"Violence is characterized by verbal or written threats; physical, emotional, sexual abuse or harassment; or racial harassment by an individual or group of individuals."

Students, parents or guardians and employees should be advised that the Vancouver School Board shall not tolerate violence of any kind in the premises, on its property or during any school sanctioned activity.

Any behaviour or actions deemed to be within the above definition must be reported to the Administration. Persons involved in such incidents will be subjected to disciplinary action. The Administration may call the Vancouver Police Department for assistance.

## WEAPONS

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"Weapons" are defined as any objects that can be used to threaten or harm another person. Severe disciplinary action will be taken against any student who possesses or threatens to use anything that can be construed as a weapon.

Possession, threatening or use of weapons can lead not only to transfer, suspension or expulsion from school, but also to the laying of criminal charges.



## NON-SMOKING

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Vancouver School Board has a smoke free policy. Smoking is not permitted in any school building or grounds. This policy is enforced by all school personnel.

In conclusion, we want you to know that our schools are safe places where interference to student learning is not tolerated. We intend to keep it that way. There is no need for alarm on your part, but we feel it is important to keep you informed about the measures we are taking to ensure the safety of your children.



## LOCKERS

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This year lockers have been reserved for students in Grades 8, 9, 10 and 11. These will be assigned by first period class teachers.

A bank of lockers is available for Grade 12's on the third floor adjacent to and across from Rooms 302, 303, 304, 305 and 306. Grade 12's can select a locker. The fee to select a locker is \$5 and you can choose your locker on Tuesday, September 05<sup>th</sup>, Wednesday, September 06<sup>th</sup> or Thursday, September 07<sup>th</sup> (first come, first served) at 8:30am.

Please note that neither the school nor the Vancouver School Board has insurance to cover loss by theft or damage of personal property of students or staff. Although supervision by staff and the cooperation of students minimize the possibility of theft, students are advised to leave valuables at home and to ensure that personal property left in the school is covered by their own insurance.



**NO  
MONEY OR  
VALUABLES  
SHOULD BE LEFT  
IN LOCKERS**

Please give serious consideration to purchasing one of our extra secure locks. The peace of mind is well worth the \$15.00 cash outlay.

## ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

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Students are requested to make sure that cell phones, iPods etc. are turned off and kept out of sight during class time. We appreciate that parents/guardians want their children to have cell phones for safety reasons. However, given the sophistication of technology available to students, it is requested that during any exam in class that

students not bring any electronic device to the exam. Teachers will inform students which type of calculator is permissible during math and science tests/exams.

## SCHOOL PHOTOS

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Student photographs will be taken on Tuesday, September 19<sup>th</sup>. Students should make every effort to be present that day. Students will be issued Student Photo Identification Cards to replace the 2016-2017 school year issue. The photo card is required for identification at various school events and facilities including bus passes.

Students who wish to purchase one of the photograph packages must have the correct change or a cheque made payable to The Artona Group Inc. Order envelopes will be available during the first couple of weeks of September.

## LUNCH PROGRAM

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The Vancouver School Board and Britannia Secondary are pleased to offer a subsidized lunch program at our school. All students are eligible for this program.

**The cost of the program varies each month as it is based on the number of days school is in session.** If you wish your son or daughter to receive lunch for the month, a registration form is enclosed and will also be handed out with contribution envelopes the first week of school for September. However, we appreciate if parents could apply ahead of time so that we can coordinate with cafeteria staff. Lunchsmart Registration forms and contribution envelopes are also available from the main office for October to June. If you have any questions regarding this program, please do not hesitate to call the Vice Principal, Nick Despotakis.

## BUS PASSES

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Bus passes are only assigned to District or Alternative Programs, not including IB or Venture. Any student requesting transportation assistance must live over 4.8kms from Britannia.

# CALENDAR

Event	Date
School Opening Day	Tuesday, September 05
School Photographs	Tuesday, September 19th
Non-Instructional Day	Friday, September 22
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 09
Grad Portrait Sessions	October 17-18
Non-Instructional Day	Friday, October 20
School Photo Retakes	Monday, October 23rd
Parent Teacher Conferences <i>Note changed date from June Newsletter</i>	Tuesday, November 07
Non-Instructional Day	Friday, November 10
Remembrance Day Holiday	Monday, November 13
Non-Instructional Day	Friday, December 01
Last Day of instruction before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 22
Winter Vacation Period	December 25 to January 05
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 08
Non-Instructional Day	Monday, January 29

Event	Date
Family Day	Monday, February 12
Non-Instructional Day	Monday, February 19
Last Day of Instruction before District Closure and Spring Vacation	Friday, March 16
Spring Vacation & District Closure	March 19 to March 29
Good Friday	Friday, March 30
Easter Monday	Monday, April 02
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation and District Closure	Tuesday, April 03
Non-Instructional Day	Friday, April 27
District Closure	Friday, May 18
Victoria Day	Monday, May 21
School Leaving Ceremony	Tuesday, June 12
Final Report Cards Issued	Thursday, June 28
Last Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 28
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 29



## JOIN BRITANNIA'S PAC

Our PAC meets the first Thursday of every month beginning October 5th, 2017.

PAC— 6:00pm in the Learning Commons #304, third floor. Please see website for details.

**BRITANNIA SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**1001 COTTON DRIVE**

**VANCOUVER, BC V5L 3T4**

**TELEPHONE: 604-713-8266 FAX: 604-713-8265**

**WEBSITE: <http://britannia.vsb.bc.ca>**

**PRINCIPAL: DR. ANDREW SCHOFIELD**

**DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION**

**MS. ELLEN ROBERTS - 604-713-5994**

**PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL CHAIRPERSON:**

**Ms. Angelia Ellis — 604-713-8266 — [britpac1908@gmail.com](mailto:britpac1908@gmail.com)**