

BRITANNIA

Secondary School

NEWSLETTER

Newsletter for Students, Parents and the Community

August 2018

Issue #1

Hello Britannia Parents/Guardians & Students,

As the beginning of the school year arrives, we hope the summer break has provided time for you to refresh and reflect on the previous school year. All of us at Britannia look forward to sharing with you the numerous and exciting learning possibilities and successes to be experienced over the course of this coming year, be it academically, athletically, artistically and socially!

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 **Co-chairs, Angelia Ellis or Karen Lam** at the school 604-713-8266 or email britpac1908@gmail.com. Please, see our website for updates and information.

We have a **Meet the Teacher Night – All Grades on Tuesday, September 25th**, and our **Parent / Teacher interview Night will be on Thursday, January 24th, 2019 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!

Alec MacInnes, Principal



SCHOOL OPENING:

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 4th - HOMEROOM CLASS!

Students entering Grades 8-12 (ELL 8-12, Learning Support Program and Pacific Storm Program students) are to report to the following areas:

Grade 9 to 12 – Homeroom class - 09:00AM

**Grade 8 – Gym A/B - 10:00AM
Homeroom class – 10:30AM**

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 4th to Friday, September 7th in homeroom/registration classes.

New Britannia students who have pre-registered in Grades 8 should report to Gym A/B at 10:00am and homeroom class at 10:30; Grade 9-12 students report to their homeroom class on Tuesday, September 4th.

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 4th, 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 in the Historic Britannia Auditorium:

- **Grade 8 - Tuesday, September 4th - 11:30AM**
- **Grade 9 & 10 Monday, September 10th - 10:30AM**
- **Grade 11 & 12 Thursday, September 13th – 10:30AM**



SUMMER OFFICE HOURS

The Britannia office will be open to receive telephone calls from 8:00am - 3:00pm, Monday to Friday, starting August 20th. The office will be closed for lunch from 12:30 - 1:00 pm each day.

The administration will be in the school on August 21 to 31, 2018 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 2018-2019 school year, please contact the following administrator if you have specific concerns about your child:

Grades 11, 12 – Mr. Alec MacInnes

Grades 8, 9, 10 – Mr. Nick Despotakis

STUDENT ABSENCES - EMAIL SERVICE -

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

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 **2018 - 2019** school year.

Report Card/Interim dates are as follows:

- Interims mailed home Friday, October 26th**
- Term 1 Report Cards sent home Tuesday, December 11**
- Term 2 Report Cards sent home Friday, March 15**
- Term 3 Report Card sent home Thursday, June 27**

MEET THE TEACHER NIGHT – ALL GRADES - Tuesday, September 25th - 6:30 – 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:

Thursday, January 24th - 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.

Tuesday, September 11	Wednesday, February 13
Wednesday, October 17	Tuesday, March 12
Wednesday, November 14	Tuesday, April 16
Tuesday, December 11	Tuesday, May 14
Tuesday, January 15	Wednesday, June 12

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE

Industrial Alliance Pacific Life Insurance Company is the provider of 2018-19 Student Accident Insurance plan, (IAP Kids Plus), for the Vancouver school district for September 2018. 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

ALCOHOL & DRUGS

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

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

"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

"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

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

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 04th, Wednesday, September 05th or Thursday, September 06th (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!**

ELECTRONIC DEVICES POLICY

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

Student photographs will be taken on Tuesday, September 18th. Students should make every effort to be present that day. Students will be issued Student Photo Identification Cards to replace the 2017-2018 school year issue. The photo card is required for identification at various school events and facilities including bus passes.

Photo package information pamphlets will be distributed prior to photo day. Students who wish to purchase one of the photograph packages can order online at www.artona.com.

LUNCH PROGRAM

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 will 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 mail 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

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 04
School Photographs	Tuesday, September 18
Non-Instructional Day	Friday, September 21
Thanksgiving Day	Monday, October 08
School Photo Retakes	Tuesday, October 16
Grad Portrait Sessions	October 17-18
Non-Instructional Day	Friday, October 19
Non-Instructional Day	Friday, November 09
Remembrance Day Holiday	Monday, November 12
Last Day of instruction before Winter Vacation	Friday, December 21
Winter Vacation Period	December 24 to January 04
School Re-opens after Winter Vacation	Monday, January 07
Parent Teacher Conferences	Thursday, January 24
Non-Instructional Day	Monday, January 28

Event	Date
Non-Instructional Day	Friday, February 15
Family Day	Monday, February 18
Last Day of Instruction before District Closure and Spring Vacation	Friday, March 15
Spring Vacation & District Closure	March 18 to March 29
School Re-opens after Spring Vacation and District Closure	Monday, April 01
Good Friday	Friday, April 19
Easter Monday	Monday, April 22
Non-Instructional Day	Monday, April 29
Non-Instructional Day	Friday, May 17
Victoria Day	Monday, May 20
School Leaving Ceremony	Tuesday, June 11
Final Report Cards Issued	Thursday, June 27
Last Day of Pupil Attendance	Thursday, June 27
Administrative/School Closing Day	Friday, June 28



JOIN BRITANNIA'S PAC

Our PAC meets the first Thursday of every month beginning October 4th, 2018.

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

BRITANNIA SECONDARY SCHOOL

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

PRINCIPAL: MR. ALEC MacINNES

DIRECTOR OF INSTRUCTION

Mr. Richard Zerbe — 604-713-4594

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL CO-CHAIRS:

Ms. Angela Ellis and Mrs. Karen Lam - 604-713-8266 - britpac1908@gmail.com