



# BRAEFoot ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Braefoot Elementary School Newsletter

Thursday, October 5, 2023

## Dates to Remember

### October

- Thurs. 5      Newsletter Day
- Mon. 9      Thanksgiving Day —School Not in Session
- Fri. 13      PAC Hot Lunch—Pizza
- Tues. 17      PAC Meeting, 7 pm Library
- Wed. 18      Parent/Teacher Conferences 3pm to 5 pm
- Thurs. 19      - **Early Dismissal for students at 11:50 am.**  
- Parent/Teacher Conferences 1 pm to 6 pm  
- Newsletter Day
- Fri. 20      Pro D Day—School not in session
- Fri. 27      PAC Hallowe'en Dance
- Tues. 31      - Costume Day  
- Hallowe'en Howl—Gr. 1 and K

### November

- Wed. 1      Student Photo Retakes
- Thurs. 2      Newsletter Day
- Fri. 3      PAC Hot Lunch—Subway
- Fri. 10      Remembrance Day Assembly
- Mon. 13      Day off in lieu of Remembrance Day  
School Not in Session
- Nov. 14—17      Culture Week

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize the Songhees & Esquimalt Nations on whose traditional territories we live and do our work.

### In This Issue

Important Dates and Information for you to know:

- Principal's Corner
- Terry Fox Run Donations
- Start Up Packages
- Parent Connect
- Parent Teacher Conferences
- Student Drop Off and Parking
- Friday Pick-Up of Students
- Grade 5 Parent Committee
- Food Programs and Supplies
- 1000x5 Books
- PAC Information
- Community Values Coupon Books
- Vikes Kids Programs at UVIC
- Circus Actors Studio

Please check out our SD61 website page at: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/>



# Principal's Corner

## Principal's Corner

Dear Braefoot Community,

What a busy first month of school! Our PAC BBQ was, in my humble opinion, a fantastic success. A huge thank you to our parent volunteers and our staff volunteers for all their efforts to make this a wonderful evening. I would also like to thank our amazing families for what was a great turnout. I have a few things this week to bring to your attention:

- On October 20th, a small piece of our sidewalk on Harrop will be replaced. A crew will be removing a section of the sidewalk between the service road and the pull through starting on that Friday. They are scheduled to complete the pour the same day. As this is also a Professional Development Day, the construction should have little impact to no impact on our school, but I certainly wanted to have our community informed.
- In other news, we are respectfully asking that parents not use the staff parking lot. At this time, there are several designated spots for the out of school care which are clearly marked. Unless you are dropping a child off to attend the daycare in the outbuildings east of the school and use one of their designated spots, please do not use the staff lot. We have had days where staff members have had to park on the street.
- In terms of our pull through, please refrain from leaving your vehicle unattended in the 'drop off' section of our pull through. If all the parking spots are full on the north side of the pull through, please find a spot on Harrop if you need to come into the school.

Have a happy and healthy long weekend,

*Connor McCoy*



## Terry Fox School Run

Our students **raised \$356.58** for this year's Terry Fox School Run . The theme for this year's run was #TryLikeTerry and our Braefoot students really did that! Terry never quit on his dream of a world without cancer, and neither will we.

Well done Braefoot!



REMINDER

## Start Up Packages, Forms and Payment

In September, each family was emailed information with a link to “Parent Connect” regarding online permissions (i.e. for field trips, computer use, etc.) for their child(ren). This only needs to be done once in a child’s time with the Greater Victoria School District.

In addition, each student should have brought home a pack up of paper forms which are not available online. Thank you to the parents who have already returned these forms. If you have not yet returned the forms, could you review, amend, sign and return these papers to your child’s teacher as soon as possible.

These documents are critical in assisting our school to contact families in the case of an emergency.

The package contains:

- Student Information Verification form
- Student Planner with online payment instructions; Please note that the cost of student planners is \$6.00 (not \$8.00). We have not yet received everyone’s contribution. Unfortunately, there was a fire in the warehouse with our printed planners. The planners will be reprinted, but now won’t be here for a couple of months.
- Emergency Release Instructions and form
- Important Authorization Form for PAC and BC Nutritional Program

Please return the envelope **directly** to the classroom teacher. Each envelope is personalized and has a handy checklist within the letter for online forms and paper forms.



## Parent Connect

We are excited to provide a wide selection of assessed digital/online tools to supplement your child's classroom learning. Your informed consent is required prior to signing up and using any district-approved digital/online tool. This is provided through our [Parent Connect](https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/parent-connect/) online tool for students in grades K-8. For more information about signup and use of Parent Connect, please visit <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/parent-connect/>.

This message serves as a reminder to review the consent items in Parent Connect from previous school years and to check the portal for new items that may need your review. You and your child have the choice to grant or revoke consent at any time for each of the digital tools based on the privacy considerations for each specific tool listed. Note that there is a Translate option in the main menu in Parent Connect.

If you have any questions regarding the use of digital/online tools, please reach out to your child's teacher and/or administrator.



## PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Wednesday, October 18, 2023 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm and

Thursday, October 19, 2023 from 1:00 – 6:00 pm

**Student Early Dismissal on October 19 @ 11:50 am**

Please use the link below to set up a time for your Parent Teacher Conference. **\*\*Note: Div . 7 and 10 parents will have a different sign up - the teachers have emailed you\*\***

- Braefoot Parent Teacher Conferences are coming up and, like last year ,the conferences will be held in your child's classroom.
- Below is information on how to book your conference online. You may book or cancel up to 24 hours before the conference.
- Please follow the steps below to make sure your conference gets booked correctly.
- If you have any questions, please contact the office [braefoot@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:braefoot@sd61.bc.ca) or your child's teacher.

### How to book your Parent Teacher Conference time online:

Here is a quick video for parents on scheduling a parent/teacher conference using Microsoft Bookings:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLbr8vhNvYo>

1. To book your parent teacher conference, please copy and paste this link: <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/BraefootElementarySchool@gvsd61.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>
2. Select the date from the calendar for your conference (October 18 or October 19)
3. Select your child's classroom teacher (**This is not optional** – we are unable to change the title the program gave to the section but you must select a teacher to book correctly)
4. Select an available conference time for that day with your child's teacher
5. Fill in your name, your email address, phone number and your child's name as required
6. Check the reminder box that you have selected the correct teacher for your conference
7. Click the Book button to complete the process
8. You will receive a confirmation email confirming your conference time

***You will need to repeat these steps for each of your children***

## Student Drop-Off and Parking at Braefoot

The drive through lane is getting lots of use. Thank you for your efforts to ensure vehicles drive through rather than parking and waiting. We encourage families to use the ample parking along Braefoot Road, with a short walk up to the school. A friendly reminder that the right hand lane of the front drive through is a drop-off only lane as signs help remind us.



Please understand we cannot accommodate large volumes of vehicles in that area before and after school. We have many parent and student walkers, bikers and some with significant mobility issues who require a bit more space, all around the building. The fewer cars we have on campus, the safer it will be for all.

**Please refrain from using the staff parking lot for drop off/pickup of your child. The lot is for staff only.**

## FRIDAY PICK-UP OF STUDENTS



If parents need to pick-up their student early on **any** Friday, please make arrangements **to come before 1:30 pm.**

Our school participates in a community walk/run every Friday afternoon. We leave at 1:45 and are gone for about 30 minutes.

## GRADE 5 PARENT COMMITTEE



Dear Gr. 5 Parents,

We would like to invite you to a Gr. 5 Parent Committee meeting in the library at **6:15pm on Tuesday, October 17th**. This meeting will take place before the regular PAC meeting that starts at 7 pm. We will be discussing plans for the year, including fundraising and the organization of the end of year celebration. There are several large and small jobs that will need to be addressed. We look forward to seeing you there.

*Sue Theim and Gary Bryan*  
Grade 5 Teachers

## Food Programs and School Supplies

The school has access to lunch and food programs for families that could use assistance financially or otherwise. Students can sign up for free daily bagged lunches. We also have backpacks filled with school supplies that can go home with students.

Please let our school counsellor, Maxine Toth ([mtoth@sd61.bc.ca](mailto:mtoth@sd61.bc.ca)), or our administrator, Connor Mccoy, know if your family would like to sign up or take a backpack.



## 1000X5 Books Part of October Fun

### Wee Ones Need Your Books

As you prepare for the end of the month celebrations with fun costumes and food, can you find a minute to locate three gently used books for babies and toddlers and drop them off in the pink bin in the school library. These books will entertain and enrich wee ones long after the October fun has ended. 311,000 books in 12 years!!

Thank you.



# Braefoot PAC



What is PAC?

The PAC or Parents' Advisory Council serves as a platform for parents to actively engage with the school's administration, teachers, and other parents in various ways to support the educational and community-building aspects of the school.

Last year the Braefoot PAC focused on building school community, supporting teachers in organizing field trips, community events, and waste reduction. This school year our focus will be on improving the school's playgrounds by adding a Naturescape and to continue building the school community. Please visit the [BraefootPAC](http://BraefootPAC) website for further information on the naturescape and how far along we are from reaching our fundraising goal.

PAC also provides a forum to meet and discuss topics with Principal Connor McCoy at each of our monthly meetings. Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month at 7 pm and are generally scheduled for 1hr in length. You can come and voice your opinion, ask questions of Mr. McCoy, or just observe and say hello to some super cool parents.



## *Lina Zussino - PAC Co-Chair & VCPAC Representative*

Hello, my name is Lina and this is my 3rd year on the PAC. I have 2 students at Braefoot, Vienna, (gr. 4) and Landon, (gr 1), and my eldest Eva, has now moved on to middle school. As a mom of 3, I know firsthand the importance of "the village" and how community involvement enriches our experiences. I am grateful to be part of this wonderful community and look forward to getting involved in this year's fundraising to improve the playgrounds. Reach out to me if you would like to get involved.



## *Natalie Lord - PAC Co-Chair & Hot Lunch Coordinator*

Hi! I'm Nat, and my two youngest kiddos are at Braefoot this year, in grades 3 & 5. This is my seventh year volunteering for Hot Lunch and my second year as the PAC co-chair. I also regularly lend a hand with the Fruit & Veggie Program. I'm looking forward to a great year ahead and very thankful to be a part of this wonderful school community!!

# Braefoot PAC



## Kanoux Larsen - PAC Treasurer

My name is Kanoux Larsen and buffet provider to Oliver (gr 6 @ CedarHill) and George (gr 4) Blades. I am a bookkeeper by day and a kids sporting event driver by night, LOL! I love getting together with friends to share meals and laughs. The PAC is a great place to volunteer and make a difference to the greater Braefoot community and I'm looking forward to a fun year!



## David Anderson - PAC Secretary

Hi, my name is David Anderson and I am returning this year as the PAC Secretary and Co-Hot Lunch Coordinator. My son is currently in grade 3 and our daughter has just started kindergarten. I'm looking forward to a year of fun events and if you're interested in joining the PAC, I'm always happy to discuss what it is we do.



## Stacey Cronin - PAC Communications

I'm a dedicated parent at Braefoot Elementary School, navigating my son's final year here while supporting my middle schooler. With a knack for communications, I've been an active member of PAC, ensuring our school events are memorable and inclusive.



## Angela Erickson - PAC Hot Lunch & Food Coordinator

Hi, all I'm Angela Erickson. I run the fruit/veggie/milk program and help with hot lunch! It's so great to see all the excited faces when they get something delivered to their classes! Being on PAC doesn't mean having a time consuming role. There's lots of little things that can have a big impact on different events!



# Braefoot PAC



*Caitlin Baker - Parent Education Coordinator*

Hi, I'm Caitlin Baker. My middle child is in Grade 4 this year at Braefoot, and my eldest is a Braefoot alumni now in middle school. I am also the teacher-librarian at Braefoot. This is my first year on the Braefoot PAC executive as Parent Education Coordinator. I am looking forward to organizing some great speakers and supporting our parent community!

## PAC FUNDRAISER

### Braefoot Parents

Your support is needed for our COMMUNITY VALUES fundraiser to help us achieve our goal to raise money for the NATURE ESCAPE (PLAYGROUND),  
Visit: <https://www.braefootpac.ca> for more information.

Community Values is a new take on the traditional coupon book. For only \$35...this book features:

1. Over \$5,000 in Savings at businesses in the Greater Victoria area.
2. A stamp page that will allow NEW merchants to offer deals throughout the year
3. Custom Coupon Templates to make your own coupons to share with family and friends
4. Weekend Jar Coupons to experience local things to do for free with your family
5. Bonus Savings and Contests year-round on Instagram @community\_values\_victoria

**This is NOT a free book if you choose to not buy or sell it, please return it ASAP**



Sale Dates: Sept 29 th – Oct 13 th , 2023

### Braefoot Parents' Advisory Meeting

Braefoot PAC meeting will take place, Tuesday, October 17 at 7:00pm in the Braefoot library. Our PAC meetings represents a wonderful opportunity to meet new parents and to become involved in the school at the "grassroots level."

# VIKES CROSS-COUNTRY & TRACK KIDS PROGRAMS

at UVic!



## MINI VIKES TRACK & FIELD

A great introduction to track and field development skills! Children are given instruction on all basic motor skills through running, jumping and throwing with an emphasis on FUN and PLAY. This program also develops physical literacy, promotes Long Term Athlete Development and will be led by trained Vikes varsity athletes as the coaches.

**AGES 5-8 / SUNDAYS 11:30AM-12:30PM / SEPT. 17-NOV. 18**

**Location: CARSA Fieldhouse sprint lanes**

## JUNIOR VIKES ENDURANCE RUNNING CLUB

Middle to long distance running training for kids age 9-13 and 14-17. Build endurance through age appropriate training on and off the track through drills, running workouts and technique training. No need to come to both weekly practices – come as often as it works for you! Everyone gets a shirt and a chance to participate in organized races with the club.

**AGES 9-17 / WEDNESDAYS 4:30PM-5:30PM, SUNDAYS 11:30AM-12:30PM / SEPT. 14-NOV. 22**

**Location: Centennial Stadium**

SUPPORTED BY



**RUNSPORT**



**MORE INFO & REGISTER**  
at [vikesrec.ca/youth](https://vikesrec.ca/youth)

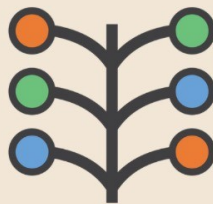




# CIRCUS

ACTORS STUDIO

BUILDING AWARENESS FOR



*curemps*

\*50% OF PROCEEDS FROM OUR KIDS INTRO TO ACTING CLASS  
WILL GO TO CUREMPS, MUCOPOLYSACCHARIDOSIS (MPS) TYPE 4A,  
CALLED MORQUIO SYNDROME - A RARE, PROGRESSIVE GENETIC  
DISEASE OCCURRING IN ABOUT 1 IN 300,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

VISIT OUR WEBSITE [CIRCUSACTORS.COM](http://CIRCUSACTORS.COM) OR REACH OUT TO  
[INFO@CIRCUSACTORS.COM](mailto:INFO@CIRCUSACTORS.COM) FOR FURTHER INFORMATION!