



BRAEFOOT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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Braefoot Elementary School Newsletter

Thursday, October 3, 2024

Dates to Remember

October

- Thurs. 3 - Newsletter Day
- Link opens to book Parent Teacher meetings at 1:00
- Mon. 14 Thanksgiving Day —School not in session
- Thurs. 17 Newsletter Day
- Tues. 22 PAC Meeting, 7 pm
- Wed. 23 Parent/Teacher Conferences 3 pm to 5 pm
- Thurs. 24 - **Early Dismissal for students at 11:50 am**
- Parent/Teacher Conferences 1 pm to 6 pm
- Student photo retakes
- Fri. 25 Pro D Day—School not in session
- Tues. 29 PAC Hallowe'en Dance
- Thurs. 31 - Newsletter Day
- Costume Day
- Hallowe'en Howl for Gr 1 and K

November

- Fri. 8 Remembrance Day Assembly
- Mon. 11 Remembrance Day—School not in session
- Nov 12 to 15 Culture Week
- Wed. 13 Dress Your Culture Day
- Thurs. 14 Newsletter Day
- Fri. 22 Pro D Day—School not in session

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

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





PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Wednesday, October 23, 2024 from 3:00 – 5:00 pm and

Thursday, October 24, 2024 from 1:00 – 6:00 pm

Student Early Dismissal on October 24 @ 11:50 am

Please use the link below to set up a time for your Parent Teacher Conference. The link opens at 1:00 pm today (Thursday, October 3).

- 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 at 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 (Div 1 to 10), please copy and paste this link: <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/BraefootElementarySchool@gvsd61.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/>
For Div 11 parents, please copy and paste this link: <https://outlook.office365.com/owa/calendar/BraefootElementarySchool@gvsd61.onmicrosoft.com/bookings/s/8UuVAHTBpUOEQ5zs4Xlycw2>
2. Select the date from the calendar for your conference (October 23 or October 24)
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 and a reminder the day before

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



Library Learning Commons Updates

Student Book Exchange

We have had a very busy beginning to our library book exchange program. It is so wonderful to see how excited our students are about reading! Our library policies have been reviewed with all divisions, including how to take proper care of library books to keep them in good condition.

As a reminder, regularly scheduled class book exchange days are as follows:

Mondays – Divisions 4, 5, 9, 10, and 11

Thursdays – Divisions 2 and 3

Fridays – Divisions 1, 6, 7, and 8

The schedule will be adjusted accordingly on weeks when there is no school on a Monday or a Friday so that students do not miss out on choosing new books to read!

Book Fair

There have been some changes to our upcoming book fair, and I am excited to announce that we will be hosting local business School House Teaching Supplies to run our upcoming October book fair. The book fair is scheduled to take place on October 23rd-24th during parent-teacher interviews, with times to be confirmed soon. School House carries a wide variety of high-quality and engaging books, puzzles, games, and other educational materials, and we are looking forward to seeing the selection they bring to our book fair! A portion of the proceeds from all sales during the book fair will go to our school library learning commons program, and we thank you in advance for your generous support.

If you would like to know more about what is taking place in the Braefoot library learning commons, follow our Instagram @thecuriousllc

If you have any questions or would like more information about the library learning commons and our programming, please contact Mrs. Caitlin Baker

cbaker@sd61.bc.ca.



Currently, pertussis is increasing in Canada as part of the expected cyclical peak of the disease (occurring every 2-5 years). Pertussis, or whooping cough, is a very contagious (easy to catch) disease of the respiratory tract. It is caused by a bacterium (germ) found in the mouth, nose and throat of a person who is infected. In Aug 2024, BC saw 72 cases of pertussis, 16 of which were on Vancouver Island and the majority of the 16 cases were unimmunized or under immunized. Cases of pertussis are expected to increase this fall/school year.

The best way to protect your child against pertussis is to get them immunized. In British Columbia, the pertussis vaccine is part of the routine childhood immunization program, and is given at 2 months, 4 months, 6 months, and 18 months old, and again at age 4 to 6 years (before kindergarten). A pertussis vaccine is also given to teens at 14 to 16 years of age (Grade 9). Children who are currently in Grade 6 or 9 will be offered all immunizations they are due for through school-based immunization clinics. Information and consent forms will be distributed through the school this fall or early 2025.

The [ImmunizeBC Vaccination Status Indicator](https://immunizebc.ca/vaccination-status-indicator) (<https://immunizebc.ca/vaccination-status-indicator>) can also be used to find out if your child's immunization records are in the Provincial Immunization Registry. If your child was immunized at a public health unit, community health centre, school, or pharmacy, their record should already be in the registry. If your child was immunized at a First Nations community health centre, doctor's office, or outside BC, their record might not be in the registry yet.

- If the Vaccination Status Indicator shows that your child's vaccination status is **complete**, you do not need to do anything.
- If the Vaccination Status Indicator shows that your child's vaccination status is **incomplete**, please drop off a copy of your child's immunization record at your local public health unit, upload a copy to <https://www.immunizationrecord.gov.bc.ca/> (records must be in English or French or a certified translation), or call your local public health unit for support.

If your child is not up to date for their routine immunizations or if you have questions about their immunization status, please contact your [local public health unit](https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-locations/health-unit-locations) (<https://www.islandhealth.ca/our-locations/health-unit-locations>) to schedule an appointment or speak to a Public Health Nurse.

For additional immunization information you can also refer to <https://immunizebc.ca/> or <https://www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/immunizations>

FALL CROSS COUNTRY

The Fall Cross Country season has begun!

The first meet was held on Tuesday at Beckwith Park. The Braefoot runners did a great job running on the slippery grass and the gravel pathway.

It was another successful meet and we are looking forward to the next meets: Lansdowne Middle School on October 7th, Lambrick Park on October 15th and 21st and the Finals at the UVic Cross Country training park on October 28th!

Cross country practices are at the school at 11:35 am on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.



ORANGE SHIRT DAY

On Friday, September 27, Braefoot students recognized Orange Shirt Day.



On this day, the students gathered in the gym for a land acknowledgement that was written by the Grade 2/3 students in Mrs. Thompson's class. Following this, Mrs. Theim's Grade 5 students drummed the Residential School Dedication song that was written by the Late Kwikwsutineuk - ahkwamish Chief, Frank Nelson and gifted to School District 61. Mr. McCoy spoke to the students about the importance of knowing the true history of Canada and understanding the ongoing impacts of the Residential School system.

The students learned what Orange Shirts symbolize to us today in the spirit of healing and reconciliation. The whole school walked past the Every Child Matters art installation in the Naturescape while thinking about important children in their lives before continuing on the Community Walk.



REMINDER

Start Up Packages, Forms and Payments

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

For more information about signup and use of Parent Connect, please visit <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/parent-connect/>.

In addition, each student was sent home with a start up package of paper forms which are not available online. You will need to review, amend, sign and return these forms 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.

Please return the completed forms in the envelope provided **directly** to the classroom teacher. Each envelope is personalized. A checklist is included within the letter for online forms and paper forms.

THANK YOU THRIFTY FOODS



A big shout out to Broadmead Thrifty Foods and Tuscany Village Thrifty Foods for providing our Welcome Back BBQ with hotdog buns.

Between these two stores all our bun needs were met and we paid less than \$100 dollars for 552 hotdog buns!!!

Brown Bag Lunch Program

Braefoot School has access to a brown bag lunch program run through Kids Klub Victoria. This program provides free daily lunches to students whose families who can use assistance packing lunches. Please let Maxine Toth (mtoth@sd61.bc.ca) or Connor McCoy (cmccoy@sd61.bc.ca) know if you would like your children added to the list to start receiving lunches here at school.



TERRY FOX SCHOOL RUN WELL DONE BRAEFOOT!

Braefoot students raised \$723.80 for this year's Terry Fox School Run. The motto of this year's run was "No Matter What" and our students exemplified that theme by running to support Terry's dream of a world without cancer.



Student Photos

In the next couple of weeks students will bring home their student photo proofs. Families who wish to order photos of their student will be able to do that through Lifetouch Photography.

Lifetouch Customer Care Contact: Questions about fall photos? Package status, errors, how to place orders, etc., Please call Lifetouch Customer Care at **1.866.457.8212** or visit the Lifetouch ordering website: www.mylifetouch.ca to access the online LIVE chat agent.



1000X5

1000 Books by Age Five

Children's Book Recycling Project Greater Victoria

Looking for Gently Used Books



As you prepare for the end of the month celebrations with fun costumes and food, can you find a minute to locate 3 gently used books for babies and toddlers and drop them off in the pink bin in the Library. These books will entertain and enrich wee ones long after the October fun has ended. **345,000 books in 14 years!! Thank you.**

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.

PAC HOT LUNCH PROGRAMME

2024-2025 Hot Lunch Schedule

The hot lunch site is now available for orders: <https://braefoot.hotlunches.net>

- You need to create a new account to be able to place orders for your children.
- The required access code is **BRAEFOOT**.
- Order cutoffs will be one week prior to each hot lunch day to ensure our suppliers can process the orders in time.



The schedule for hot lunches will be:

October 18 – Pizza & Booster Juice	November 1 - Subway
November 15 – Pizza & Booster Juice	November 29 – Subway
December 13 – Pizza & Booster Juice	January 10 – Subway
January 23 – Pizza & Booster Juice	February 7 – Subway
February 21 – Pizza & Booster Juice	March 7 – Subway
April 4 – Pizza & Booster Juice	April 16 – Subway
May 2 – Pizza & Booster Juice	May 23 – Subway
June 6 – Pizza & Booster Juice	



For the caffeine enthusiasts, Level Ground coffee is also available for order through the site.

This Hot Lunch Programme is a fundraiser for the Braefoot PAC, which supports Braefoot students' activities such as field trips, busses for beach day, the Welcome Back BBQ and many other things.

We are looking forward to another year of tasty lunches!

If you have any questions, please send an email to braefootevents@gmail.com