



BRAEFoot ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

1440 Harrop Road, Victoria, B.C. V8P 2S6

Phone: (250) 477-6948 Email: braefoot@sd61.bc.ca

Website: <https://braefoot.sd61.bc.ca>

Braefoot Elementary School Newsletter

Thursday, Sept. 10th, 2026

Dates to Remember

Sept

Sept 10-11	Kindergarten Gradual Entry
Sept 14	First full day of Kindergarten
Sept 15	Individual Picture Day PAC AGM—7pm in the library
Sept 18	Braefoot Spirit Day—Wear Red Terry Fox Run
Sept 21	Pro D Day—School Not in Session-
Sept 24	Welcome Back BBQ Newsletter Day
Sept 29	Orange Shirt Day
Sept 30	National Day For Truth and Reconciliation—School Not in Session

Oct

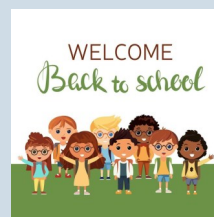
Oct 7	Photo Retake Day
Oct 8	Newsletter Day
Oct 12	Thanksgiving Day—School Not in Session

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

In This Issue

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- PAC AGM
- Website and Newsletters
- Terry Fox Run
- Spirit Day
- Bell Schedule
- VCPAC notice



SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
THANKSGIVING DAY
REMEMBRANCE DAY
WINTER BREAK
FAMILY DAY
SPRING BREAK
GOOD FRIDAY
EASTER MONDAY
VICTORIA DAY

September 30
October 12
November 11
Dec 21—Jan 1
February 15
Mar 15—Mar 30
Mar 26
Mar 29
May 24

NON-INSTRUCTIONAL DAYS

Monday, September 21
Friday, October 23
Friday, November 27
Monday, January 25 (school chosen)
Friday, February 12
Friday, May 21



PARENT TEACHER CONFERENCES

Wednesday, October 21: 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. (early dismissal @ 11:50am)
Thursday, October 22: 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. (regular dismissal @ 2:37pm)

STUDENT LED CONFERENCES

Thursday, April 29: 1:00 – 6:00 p.m. (early dismissal @ 11:50 am)

LEARNING UPDATES (REPORT CARDS)

Friday, December 18
Friday, March 12
Thursday, June 24

Start Up Packages, Forms and Payments

- Looking ahead, we want to let families know what to expect regarding start up packages, forms and payments.
- In the coming weeks, parents will be 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. ****New *this year*****, parents will also be able to update their child’s Student Information Verification form on Parent Connect.
- In addition, each student will bring home 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.

The start up package will contain:

- Student Information Verification form—*please make changes in Parent Connect*
- Emergency Release Form
- Emergency Release Instructions
- Student Planner and online payment instructions. The cost of a student planner is \$8.00. If you are paying cash, please put the form and money in a bag or envelope with your child’s name. No child will be denied a planner because of inability to pay. Planners will be sent home once classes have been set.
- Fruit and Veggie Program (this is a reverse permission form—**ONLY** send back if you **DO NOT** want your child to participate, or if your child has allergies or special dietary needs).

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

ACTION

Parent Connect

ACTION

With Parent Connect, you can give/revoke online permissions, update student verification forms and see report cards. Ensure you use the same email and home address that you provided to the school.

Parent Connect instructional video: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/parent-student-resources/parent-connect>

Here is the link to the sign in page: <https://parentconnect.sd61.bc.ca/Identity/Account/Login?ReturnUrl=%2F>

Parking

Parking can be a bit of a problem here at Braefoot and first and foremost we need to keep our kiddos safe!

In an effort to make our school property safer for our students, staff and community, there have been some important changes made to direct the traffic flow of our parking lot. Please review the map below for details.

VEHICLE TRAFFIC: (indicated by red arrows) Please proceed to our pull-through and parking areas at the far east driveway (by the school's main entrance) to access both the drop off/pick up area as well as the parking lot. The first driveway as you proceed east on Harrop is now an EXIT only.

Reminder that there is NO parking in the drop off lane — even for a minute. If you need to stay with your student, we request that you find street parking. Please do not park in the staff lot, it is for Braefoot School and Braefoot Daycare staff use only.

PEDESTRIAN TRAFFIC: (indicated by yellow arrows) In addition, to make things safer for all, we ask that all pedestrian traffic (indicated with yellow arrows) approaching school from Braefoot Road turn left off the municipal sidewalk, onto the Braefoot sidewalk that takes you past Braefoot out of School Care to access the school campus.

Looking at the map, you can see that this sidewalk allows our students/parents/staff to completely avoid the parking lot by walking on the sidewalk in front of the BOSC and turning right to continue walking on the sidewalk that is adjacent to the outdoor classroom/school field.

We would like to also request that all those riding to school (students/parents/staff) dismount and walk their bikes and scooters as soon as they are on the school grounds.



Picture Day at Braefoot!

Save the date, picture day is **NEXT WEEK** on Tuesday, September 15th.
Remember to bring your brightest smile!

Individual Photo Day: Tuesday, September 15

Retake Day: Wednesday, October 7



No Increase to Photo Package Pricing

As families continue to manage rising costs, Lifetouch powered by Everest has chosen to maintain their current photo package pricing. They remain committed to providing quality photography products and services at a reasonable price.

Lifetouch Customer Care

For questions regarding photo orders, package status, corrections, or online ordering, families may:

- Call Customer Care: 1-866-457-8212
- Visit www.mylifetouch.ca and access the live chat feature

*****Please note that they will no longer accept cash or cheque orders. Customers can contact their team to enquire about ordering options.

Shutterfly Gift with Online Purchase

Families who order their school photos online at www.mylifetouch.ca will receive:

- 50% off a Shutterfly purchase
- A free 8x11 photo book



NEW FACES!



We're thrilled to introduce you to our new staff members. Mr. Ben Preston will be our school counselor, Ms. Rachael Willson will be teaching the grade 4/5 class, Ms. Kailyn Bell will be our new teacher-librarian and Ms. Teagan Hunt will be teaching music and choir.

Welcome to Braefoot Mr. Preston, Ms. Willson, Ms. Bell and Ms. Hunt!

BRAEFOOT STUDENT ATTENDANCE SYSTEM

What should I do if my child will be ABSENT from school?

If your child will be absent from school, please either:

email the school at **braefoot@sd61.bc.ca**, or

phone the **attendance line at 250-477-6948** and leave a message.

Please let us know the student's full name, division or teacher's name and reason for the absence (ie. Illness, vacation or appointment, etc.).

What should I do if my child will be ARRIVING LATE to school?

If your child will be arriving late to school, please either:

- email the school at **braefoot@sd61.bc.ca**, or
- phone the **attendance line at 250-477-6948** and leave a message.

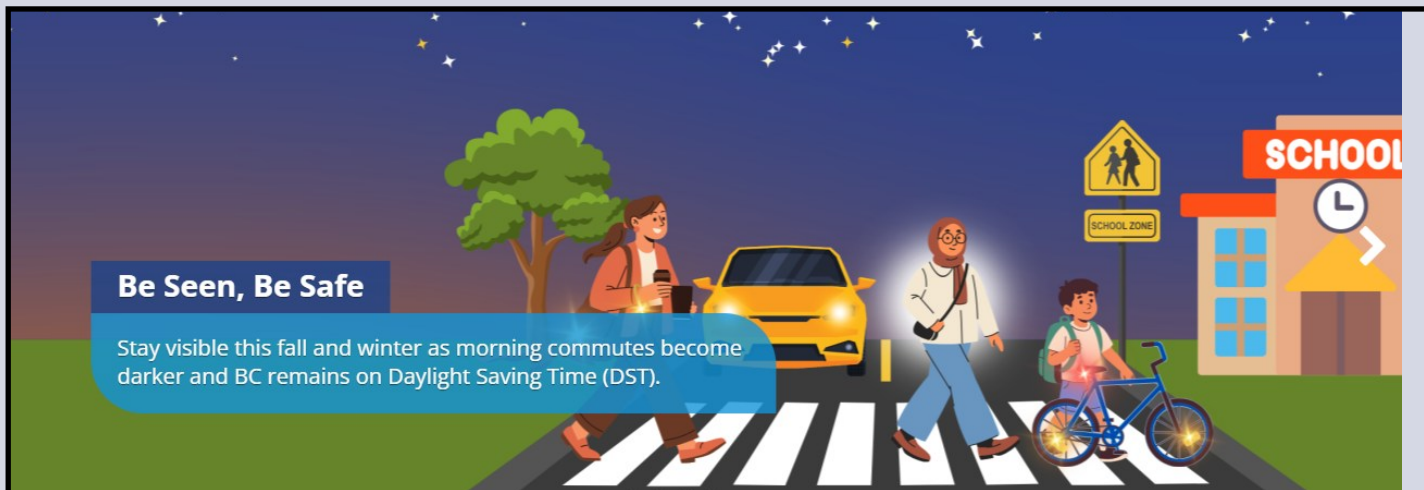
Please let us know the student's full name, division or teacher's name and estimated time they will arrive at school.

When your child arrives at school, please sign them in on the clipboard located in the front hallway outside the office.

You are welcome to email your child's teacher as well, but it is important that the office staff knows of any absences or lates as we update the student attendance system.

Our attendance system sends an automated email and/or phone call to the parent(s) if the office has not received a phone call or email from a parent regarding their child's absence.

This is to ensure all students are accounted for!



Darker mornings call for:

- **Light Coloured Clothing**
- **Reflective Gear**
- **Flashlights**

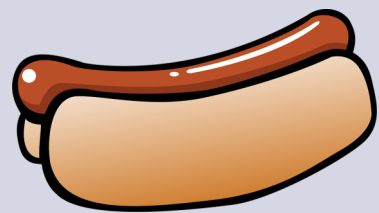
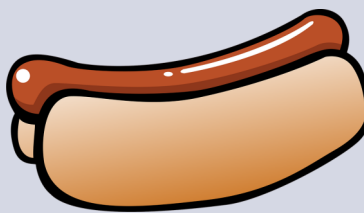
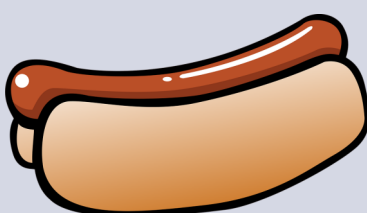
There are some reflective zipper pulls in a basket at the office, please come help yourself to one per student.

Welcome Back BBQ and Meet the Teacher

Please save Sept 24 as the date for our annual Welcome Back BBQ and Meet the Teacher Evening.

5:00-5:30 Meet the Teacher will happen in your child's classroom

5:30-6:30 BBQ on the basketball court at the back of the school



PAC AGM

Our PAC AGM is September 15th at 7pm in our library. If you've ever wondered how the PAC works or thought of volunteering, this is the perfect opportunity to come and check things out!



BRAEFOOT WEBPAGE AND NEWSLETTERS

The Braefoot School newsletters are emailed to families every second Thursday. We want to remind parents that our Braefoot School webpage has copies of our newsletters as well as other information of use to our entire school community.

We would encourage parents to check the webpage any time you are looking for information about what is happening at the school.

Go to: <https://braefoot.sd61.bc.ca/>



Terry Fox Run— Friday Sept 18th

Our entire school will be participating in the Terry Fox run on the afternoon of September 18th. We will start with an assembly to talk about Terry, his dedication to finding a cure for cancer, and his incredible perseverance. In addition, we will be collecting loonies and toonies (or a bigger cash donation) or if you'd rather! Alternatively you can make an online donation by visiting: <https://schools.terryfox.ca/BraefootElementary>



Braefoot Spirit Day—Sept 18

On Friday September 18th, please remember to wear something red, to celebrate our community spirit at Braefoot Elementary. Let's make the school a sea of red and cheer for Braefoot.

BELL SCHEDULE AT BRAEFOOT SCHOOL

8:30 am	Basic Outdoor Supervision Begins
8:45 am	All teachers meet students at their pre-arranged spots and enter the building together to begin their day
10:05 -10:20 am	Morning Recess Outdoor Playtime
11:50 -12:05 pm	Lunch Eating Time
12:05 - 12:35 pm	Lunch Recess Outdoor Playtime
2:37 pm	Dismissal Bell



PAC 101

CONNECT, LEARN, COLLABORATE

Hosted by VCPAC (Victoria Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils)

Whether you are curious about PACs, considering volunteering, or have just joined your PAC executive, this session will help you understand how PACs work, meet other parents across the district, and explore ways to get involved.

Learn about the roles of school PACs and VCPAC, discover the resources available through VCPAC and BCCPAC, and find out how families can contribute in ways that fit their time and interests. Enjoy pizza and light refreshments, then join a friendly round-table discussion to share ideas about what helps families participate, the challenges and opportunities your school faces, and the resources PACs can share.

Experienced PAC members are especially encouraged to attend. Your insights will help shape the round-table conversations, and this is a great opportunity to brainstorm with other schools.

Thursday, October 1st | 5:45 - 8:00 PM

SJ Willis Education Centre

(923 Topaz Ave, Victoria, BC) | Meeting Room A

5:45 PM	PAC 101 presentation
6:15 PM	Pizza and light refreshments
6:45 PM	Round Table Group Discussions
7:45 PM	Next steps & wrap up



Please **RSVP** with your dietary restrictions here:
<https://forms.gle/kMpoNw4bWzQ24ffYA>

No prior PAC experience is required. All parents and caregivers in the district are welcome.

If you have any questions, please email kendalls@vcpac.ca.