



February/March Newsletter 2021



Sir Richard McBride Elementary

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Trustee: Ms. Carmen Cho

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



A year ago I was writing this intro comment, leading into a time with so many unknowns. It is amazing how much things have changed and how through this year we have learned a lot about ourselves, our community and our world. Here at McBride, the students continue to amaze and inspire me every day. Their commitment to keep one another healthy, their maturity to follow the expectations and the support they provide to one another is beyond compare. We have an amazing group of individuals here and watching them grow gives me hope for our future.

As Spring break approaches, remember to take the time you need for yourselves and for your family. As of right now, this Spring break we will still be following the restrictions set out and we encourage all families to follow these, but to also find alternate ways to engage with your family and enjoy the time together. We hope that you enjoy the next few weeks as we transition into Spring and we look forward to working with your families for the final term of the year.

Lindsay Thompson

Principal

RETURNING TO MCBRIDE for 2021/2022



We are making plans for the 2021/2022 school year. It is important to know if your child is returning to McBride Elementary in September 2021. Student numbers are critical for us to determine class organization, staffing and ensure all students have spot. Please fill out the survey below if you have already not done so, we are hoping to have them all back by Monday, March 8, 2021.

*IF YOUR CHILD IS CURRENTLY IN GRADE SEVEN PLEASE DO NOT FILL IN A SURVEY FOR THEM.

[Return to McBride 2021/2022](#)

HEALTH INFORMATION



It is March and the whole world is navigating the second year since the appearance of the virus that causes COVID-19. BC continues with the current restrictions that have been extended “indefinitely” and we are all missing our friends, family and various sports, activities and community events.

I thank each one of you and your families for adhering to the PHO restrictions and for completing the Daily Health Assessment and for keeping your children home when they don’t feel well. I am confident that everything you do at home compliments what we are doing at school to keep your children, our students, safe and healthy.

In the Vancouver school district, 75 out of 110 schools have had potential COVID exposures. As more schools experience this, it is more important now than ever for the McBride school community to continue to stay the course and follow the PHO restrictions and guidelines.

I urge you to please read the article in this newsletter about what steps are taken should a potential COVID exposure be discovered. I understand that it would be a concerning event and wish for everybody to know what to expect so that we can reduce the level of anxiety for our students and for you, our families. If you have any questions about our Health and Safety protocols, the Daily Health Assessment or related questions, please contact me at ltompson@vsb.bc.ca.

What to expect when your school has a potential COVID exposure...

When there is a COVID positive case, Vancouver Coastal Health is automatically notified through the testing protocol. Vancouver Coastal Health (VCH) is responsible for informing the school, contacting the

individual and starting the contact tracing process. Vancouver Coastal Health will contact anybody who is determined to be a close contact. Only VCH determines who is a close contact.

If there is a close contact at the school, the close contacts are notified and asked to self-isolate. Lower risk contacts may be asked to self-monitor. This request may apply to an individual or an entire class.

The school then notifies the remainder of the school who has not been exposed, about the case. If you only receive this letter and are not contacted by Vancouver Coastal Health, it is because they have determined you are not at risk and do not need to be concerned.

VCH posts the school's name on the [VCH School Exposures website](#) and continues to monitor the class/division.

As always, if you have questions about COVID-19, please contact your health care provider, call 8-1-1 or see the Vancouver Coastal Health website.

Sometimes, there is a delay in notification. Why may there be a delay?

There are several factors that affect timely notification.

These include:

- Symptom identification by the individual. Sometimes, this takes a few days before the individual recognizes the symptoms and starts to self-isolate
- Access to a COVID test. There may be a delay to complete a test due to scheduling and availability
- Test result turnaround time. This is dependent on the test access point. Once VCH has confirmation of the individual, the notifications and contact tracing starts.

This information was shared at the PAC meeting in February.

For information, please consult:

[BCCDC website](#)

[VCH COVID 19 website](#)

[VSB COVID 19 Updates webpage](#)

[BC Government COVID 19 website](#)

[Government of Canada COVID 19 website](#)

SCHOOL ACTIVE TRAVEL PLAN @ MCBRIDE



Dear Sir Richard McBride Elementary Parent:

ENGINEERING SERVICES

Sir Richard McBride Elementary is participating in the City of Vancouver's School Active Travel Planning program to encourage and promote walking and cycling to school. The program takes place over two years and includes several types of projects to address barriers to active travel:

- Gathering information from students and families about their travel choices
- Creating a school travel action plan
- Upgrading transportation infrastructure near the school
- Promoting active travel education and awareness

To learn more about the program, please visit

<http://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/school-active-travel-planning.aspx>

Every family's feedback is important to the success of the program. Please take 10 minutes to complete the survey found here:

<https://survey.vancouver.ca/s3/Year1-Survey-McBride-Elementary>

This information will help us create a school travel plan that considers the needs of the school's students and families.

Please complete ONE survey per child by March 12th, 2021.

If you have any questions about the survey or the School Active Travel Planning program, please contact our team at schoolactivetravel@vancouver.ca.

Thank you,

Liliana Quintero

Senior Transportation Engineer Engineering Services

City of Vancouver

schoolactivetravel@vancouver.ca

CONFERENCES



As we look forward into the first week of March 2021, I want to remind parents of the virtual Parent Teacher Conferences taking place on March 9 and 10th. Particular teachers are providing different formats for these conferences, due to the inability for parents to come inside the school. Please watch for an email from your child's teacher to see what type of conferences they will be conducting. Students will be dismissed early, at 2:00pm on both Tuesday and Wednesday. Any type of conference is always a wonderful opportunity for parents to see what progress their child is making!

Option 4 Learn from Home Transition Support



Option 4 has been extended until June 29, 2021. Any students who are currently in Option 4 are welcome to return to in-person instruction on March 1 or any following Monday going forward. Please let the school know the Thursday prior to the Monday your child will return.

The decision to return to in-person instruction is a personal one. Respectfully, I encourage all families to send their child(ren) back to in-person instruction to finish the school year. I recognize this may not be possible as there are many factors to consider in each of your families and I understand completely.

Thank you for supporting your children at home – teaching and being primarily responsible for the delivery of curriculum while balancing daily tasks or work outside the home takes dedication. I

appreciate your commitment to the education of your children. In the upcoming weeks, I will be reaching out to Option 4 families to touch base.

Please contact me if you have any questions. ltompson@vsb.bc.ca

RED CROSS COURSES ARE HERE AGAIN



Once again, the McBride PAC has partnered with First Aid Hero to offer both the Red Cross Babysitting Course and the Stay Safe Course for McBride families at a discounted rate. The McBride PAC will subsidize \$20/per student until June 30th.

First Aid Hero has moved all courses online and offer a variety of dates and times for each course, including weekends, Pro D days and Spring Break. McBride families can choose the dates and times that work best for them.

Please visit <https://firstaidhero.com> to register. Include the promo code MCBRIDE when you register to ensure your fee is discounted

[Babysitting Course](#)

[Stay Safe Course](#)

PINK SHIRT DAY



"Pink shirt day is celebrated annually around the globe. It began in Canada in 2007 when two students took a stand against homophobic bullying, after a peer was bullied for wearing a pink shirt. Anti-bullying day is a day when people wear a pink shirt to symbolize a stand against bullying. It is celebrated on various dates around the world.

We wear a pink shirt to show our support to those two innocent boys, and to take a stand against bullying. It is meant for others to know that our society does not tolerate bullying. This day is meant to abolish gender stereotypes because the colour pink was usually related to "females." It was believed that pink was for "females" and blue was for "males". Since the boy wore a feminine colour, he was penalized for it. This day was created to show our gratitude for these two civilians."

Wednesday February 24, our focus was kindness and inclusion. The COVID-19 pandemic has affected us all and shown the importance of helping one another and advocating for those who need it.

PAC News

PAC MEETING

The next meeting date is: April 28th @ 6:00pm. All meetings will be at 6pm and for now they will be held on Zoom. The Zoom link will be shared prior to the meeting to all parents. We look forward to welcoming our new Kindergarten and new to the school families to our PAC.

HOT LUNCH PROGRAM

The PAC organizes and runs McBride's hot lunch program but is postponed at this time.

PAC QUESTIONS Any questions regarding PAC events please email the PAC at mcbridelementary@gmail.com

SCHOOL PHOTO UPDATE



Currently, the VSB has postponed school photos for the time being. There has been no other dates given about when this may happen.

CAMP READ- FRIDAY, MARCH 12, 2021



Friday March 12th is Camp Read at McBride. Students and staff may dress in their pyjamas, bring a blanket and bring books of interest from home as well as from the school and public library to read during the day. Camp Read will look different in each classroom. Some classes may participate in reading activities for the entire day while other classes may do so at designated times in the day. Happy reading!

IMPORTANT DATES TO TAKE NOTE OF



March 9,10- Virtual Conferences-Early Dismissal @2:00pm on both days

March 12- Camp Read-all day

March 15-26th-SPRING BREAK

March 29th-School Reopens

April 2- Good Friday-NO SCHOOL

April 5th-Easter Monday- NO SCHOOL

McBride PICS











