

BROOKSBANK

Compassion in our thoughts, words, and actions

Ski and Snowboard Programme

After six successful years, Brooksbank's Ski & Snowboard Programme has come to an end due to increased costs associated with bus transportation. It has become too costly a programme to continue as a school-offered activity.

We have appreciated the professionalism and service at Mount Seymour over the years we've offered our program, and they've tried to help us through this current financial challenge by being accommodating from their end. However, the increased transportation costs have proven to put our costs too high for this year.

Thank you to families that participated and supported the skiing, and staff for being so cooperative in making the session work over the last six years.

We are looking at the opportunity to possibly restart next year.



Runners at the first Cross-Country meet.

Remembrance Day

Our Remembrance Day Assembly will be held on Thursday, November 8 at 11am.

As part of the assembly, we would once again, like to honour the family members of our Brooksbank community, who past or present, have served as a Commonwealth soldier, or as part of the war effort. If you would like your friend or family included in our "In Remembrance" slideshow, please email a photo, along with the person's name and rank, to Laura Kristensen at lkristensen@sd44.ca by November 1.

Photos that were submitted last year will remain in the slideshow again this year, unless the family wishes them to be removed.

Thank you,

Laura Kristensen

Professional Day

Friday, October 19th is the Provincial Professional Development Day for staff. Students are not in session.

Earthquake Drill

Brooksbank's first Earthquake Drill will be held on the afternoon of Thursday, October 18th. Staff will introduce the drill and procedures to students before commencing the drill.

Chess Club

Please check [this link](#) for registration for the Chess Club, starting Monday, November 19th.

Smoking

As per North Vancouver School District [Policy 804](#) (include link), smoking and vaping is prohibited on school grounds. Please refrain from smoking while at Brooksbank.

Family Photos

We are scheduling a Family Photo Night. Please watch for more information.

Halloween

This year we will be holding our annual Halloween Parade on Wednesday, October 31st. Children can choose to dress up and join the parade with their class, culminating with a school wide Halloween Line Dance in the gym, led by the Grade 7's. Dressing up is voluntary.

Please have a discussion with your child about taking care of their costume, given that Trick-or-Treating will occur, and we do not want your child to damage, or forget important parts of their costume at school.

We ask that all costumes are:

- appropriate for elementary school, where we have students aged 5 to 12. Though we know many students' costumes may have "dark" or macabre elements and/or intonations
- free of weapons, gore and excessive blood - this is scary for many students!
- not complicated in terms of make-up needs - perhaps the complicated version can be reserved for the evening so that there's no issue if it "gets messed up"?
- non-discriminatory
- easily managed without adult support (transporting into school, putting on, and transporting home)
- easily stored in a backpack or suitable bag

Parents are welcome to watch in the hallways as we have our parade, but ask you to refrain from taking, sharing and/or posting on the Internet photos or videos of other students.

School Fees

A reminder to parents that School Fees are now due. Please sign onto your School Cash Online account and submit payment.

Extended Absences & Vacations

Each year we are approached by an increasing number of parents who wish to take their child out of school for extended periods of time. Usually, this is associated with family plans or family business. We do not have a procedure for granting students a “leave of absence.” Rather, it is assumed that parents will make decisions in the best interests of their child. We are respectful of the fact that many of our families have family members who live far away, and spending time with them is important. Difficulties arise, however, when parents wish to have some sort of reassurance that their child will not be “behind” in their work when they return. Children who are absent from school for extended periods of time will miss valuable learning time at school. While they will enjoy other cultural and travel experiences that contribute to their overall development, the varied daily classroom learning activities missed cannot be duplicated through worksheets or workbooks. To this end, we are not in the position to provide assignments for children who have extended absences due to family plans. Rather, we are providing below some suggested activities that are designed to assist parents to plan for their child’s educational needs while traveling.

- Set aside a time each day for reading books. As school textbooks and library books cannot be taken on extended absences, you may wish to acquire several novels, ebooks, or children’s magazines suitable for your child’s age and reading ability.
- Talk to your child about their reading, and have them keep a reading response journal as a means to record thoughts about what has been read that day.
- Keep a scrapbook of special experiences, encounters and places. This can include postcards, pamphlets, drawings, etc., with some student writing or labeling. Maps with routes marked on them and short paragraphs about the historical significance of certain landmarks are suggested additions.
- Have your child keep a “math journal” or ledger, dealing with changes in time and currency (see if older students can help you keep track of trip expenditures?), distances travelled, cost of fuel and meals; lots of real life practice with numbers. You may wish to provide your child a math workbook to facilitate daily practice with basic math skills.

Engage your child in discussions and learning experiences related to topics at school. For example, have them compare living and non-living things that interact in the ecosystem you visit to those in BC. Or, have them learn about cultural customs and societal systems elsewhere to be able to compare them to what they know from where they come from and where they live.

We will be happy to see what your child has accomplished upon return to the school, but will not be evaluating or marking these activities. It is your right to take your child out of school due to family circumstances and choices. Once you have exercised that decision, thank you for accepting the responsibility for your child’s education during that absence.