

# BROOKSBANK BULLETIN

## School Fees

Please remember to pay your child's school fees if you have not yet done so. Please log into the Cash Online system to check if a balance is owing. If you are unable to pay at this time, please contact Mr. Kelly or Mrs. Robertson.

## Weather

Please keep an eye on the weather when packing clothing with your child. Regardless of weather conditions, students will go outside for recess. On very inclement days we may shorten the outside portion of lunch. Having a dry change of clothes at school is helpful.

## Extra Curricular Offerings

Red Cross Babysitting Course is coming to Brooksbank on Friday, February 23rd. Registration information is on the website.

Karen Magnussen is hosting a Youth Event on February 16th. Registration can be completed online at [NVRC.ca](http://NVRC.ca).



## Extended Absences

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.





## Please Park Responsibly

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Over the past weeks, we have noticed an increase in parking violations around the school. In order to help us maintain a smooth and safe drop off and pick up for your children, please ensure the following:

- Please do not stop in the cul-de-sac on 13<sup>th</sup>. Cars stopping even for a couple of minutes to drop off children interrupt the flow of traffic, with cars behind them backing up and going around them, making the area unsafe for children and parents.
- Please do not leave your vehicle unattended in the designated pick-up and drop-off zones along the alley and on 14<sup>th</sup> Street. You are welcome to stop there in the morning to drop off your child, or wait after school for them to meet you there.
- Please do not park in the teachers' lot, **including** in the spot designated to the Brooksbank Spring Fundraiser (see sign above). The PAC auctions off this spot on an annual basis to earn funds for the school, and the winning family has the rights to that spot for the entire year.

*We appreciate your cooperation!*

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, 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.

- 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.



## PAC News

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### Welcome from your PAC Executive

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Dear Brooksbank families,

As of January 2018, the Brooksbank PAC has voted in its new Executive:

- Chair – Corinna Bork
- Vice Chair – Allison Anderson
- Treasurer – Ruth Bach
- Secretary – Rosalie Vlaar

A big thank-you goes to Pat Link and Chandra Junck, our past Chair and Vice Chair, who successfully led the Brooksbank PAC this past year.

Being a parent of a Brooksbank student automatically means you are a Brooksbank PAC member. Your opinion is important, your vote counts, and we hope to continue to hear from you as the year unfolds. We are very lucky to have an active school community, and for those of you who are looking for ways to get involved, two easy options are:

#### *Attend PAC Meetings*

These happen on the first Wednesday of every month and are a great opportunity to receive school and classroom updates from our Principal and staff, and hear about some of our unique school programs and fundraising activities. Bring the kids, we always have free babysitters available.

#### *Volunteer Your Time*

We undertake a variety of fundraising initiatives each year which support school programs and activities at Brooksbank. None of these would happen without the help of countless volunteers. Please reach out to any of our fundraising and event coordinators listed on our website ([click here](#)). Your contribution can be small or large, we always appreciate your help.

We thank for your continued support and look forward an exciting and successful 2018.

Corinna Bork and the Brooksbank PAC Executive

#### *Programs & Activities sSupported by the PAC*

For the 2017/2018 school year, the PAC is funding or contributing to the following programs and activities:

- Teacher classroom funds
- Library books
- Art, Science, PE and Music Supplies
- New AV Screen
- A variety of cultural events and performances
- Field trips
- Loutet Graden Programme



As we start the budgeting process for the 2018/2019 school year, the school and the PAC are always looking for programs to enrich the student experience at Brooksbank. Please email us or attend the next PAC meeting to contribute your ideas.

### *Donation and Sponsorship Opportunities*

Do you work for an organization that frequently supports its community? Do you own a business that is able to donate a product or service? We are always looking to partner with organizations who can contribute auction items or prizes for our various fundraisers. In return, we'll make sure your organization's name and logo are featured prominently during events, on our website and in newsletters, providing visibility to our parent community. Please email [bbpacchair@gmail.com](mailto:bbpacchair@gmail.com) for more information!

### *Upcoming PAC Events*

- Feb 7 at 7pm – First PAC Meeting of 2018. Free babysitting available!
- Apr 10 – Staff Appreciation Lunch. Email us if you're able to help out.
- May 7 (Pro D Day) – Stay Safe! Program in the Brooksbank gym. Registration to open after spring break.
- May 25 – Parents' Night Out. Save the date for our biggest party of the year!

