



## OCTOBER/NOVEMBER 2022 NEWSLETTER

## VANCOUVER MONTESSORI SCHOOL

As a community, together we have again weathered the first month of school during these challenging times. We are forever grateful to our families that have continued on with us and followed the protocols of the VMS. Our dedicated VMS staff have adjusted well along with your children. Our goal is remaining to cautiously take this one step at a time while following recommended guidelines. Our Principal, Prasannata Runkel and Administrator of Operations, Roni Jones continue on ZOOM sessions with FISA as our advisors on Ministry protocols and with VCH, as we did over the past 3 years.

**We want to thank everyone for following the drop off-pick up staggered times.** It is important that families arrive **only at their designated times** to ease the parking on Barnard and facilitate respectful distancing on the school grounds.

Please remember that the [VMS website](#) contains all the school information regarding protocols, newsletters and calendars. Go to the [Parent Login](#) to keep updated.

FSA October testing for years 4 and 7 is underway.

**Terry Fox Run** – Congratulations to all, who participated. We successfully raised **\$975** this time! Thank you all!

**Every Child Matters** was honoured on September 30. **Truth and Reconciliation** is ongoing.

**Wednesday, October 5<sup>th</sup>**, -- Hearing test for Extended Day Children at 1:15 pm

**Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup>** – **NO SCHOOL** – HAPPY THANKSGIVING – Everyone! We will not be sharing food this day but will celebrate gratitude with the children.

**Parent Education Evening**, Thursday, October 13<sup>th</sup> – watch for your classroom email to sign up for this in-person meeting.

**Friday, October 21<sup>st</sup>** – **NO SCHOOL** – Professional Day for staff.

**Thursday, October 27<sup>th</sup>** – Dental screening for Extended Day at 1:15 pm – watch for your notice.

**HALLOWEEN PARTIES – Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup>** (change from original school calendar)  
– Children may wear costumes to school, but please no weapons, or scary faces. Please choose costumes that make it easy for your child to go to the washroom. We will **NOT** be sharing food/treats this day, but will celebrate the children with recognizing the spirit of the event.

**UNICEF pledge** – If you wish to pledge to UNICEF this Halloween, please do so online – [unicef.ca/Halloween](https://unicef.ca/Halloween).

**Friday, November 11<sup>th</sup>** – **NO SCHOOL** – In honour of **Remembrance Day**.

**Friday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** – **NO PM SCHOOL** – STAFF IN SERVICE  
– **Extended Day + Pre-School ends at 11:30**  
– **Room 4, 5, 6 ends at 12:00; Room 9, 11 ends at 12:30**

(Over →)



**November Observations, November 21<sup>st</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup>** – Your classroom teachers will contact you via class email to sign up for in-person observations and conferences.

**Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup>, NO PRESCHOOL PM** classes (Room 2) for conferences

**Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup> – NO SCHOOL** for conferences

**EXTENDED DAY and ELEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORTS** will be handed out in November and March. The final report will go home in June. (4-year-old children receive reports in January and June). The FSA reports will be included for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> year students.

**EXTENDED DAY and ELEMENTARY CHILDREN** are required to bring a note to their teachers if they have been absent from school, immediately upon return to school. This is a requirement under the Independent School Support Act, Ministry of Education for audit purpose. Thank you for your co-operation. Please call or email the school if your child is going to be absent and inform us of the nature of the absenteeism.

**We are pleased to say that Elementary PE** will now resume at the gym at the Scottish Cultural Center. On nice days classes may be at Riverview Park on Angus St / W 63 Ave. or Maple Grove Park on SW Marine Dr. / Yew St.

**Mosaic's Linc program** – Free English Language training: <https://www.mosaicbc.org/services/language/linc/>

**Montessori Parent + Toddler program:** <https://mtcbc-ami.org/courses/parent-infant-program/>

## **CALENDAR REMINDERS:**

### **OCTOBER -- FSA Testing for 4 & 7 students begins**

- 5<sup>th</sup> Wednesday - Extended Day hearing test
- 10<sup>th</sup> Monday - NO SCHOOL - Thanksgiving Day. Enjoy!
- 13<sup>th</sup> Thursday - Parent Education Details will follow
- 17<sup>th</sup> Monday - Tuition Payments are Processed
- 21<sup>st</sup> Friday - No School – Professional Development for all Staff
- 27<sup>th</sup> Thursday - Extended Day Dental Screening
- 31<sup>st</sup> Monday - Halloween parties!**

### **NOVEMBER – Watch for Parent Committee Event coming soon!**

- 7<sup>th</sup> Monday - Immunization clinic for year 6 – watch for notice
- 11<sup>th</sup> Friday - NO SCHOOL – In honour of Remembrance Day
- 18<sup>th</sup> Friday**
  - **NO PM CLASSES – Staff Meeting**
  - **Extended Day and AM Preschool classes end at 11:30 AM**
  - **Rooms 4, 5 and 6 Elementary classes end at 12:00 PM**
  - **Rooms 9 & 11 Elementary classes end at 12:30pm**
- 24<sup>th</sup> Thursday - **Room 2 – No PM Preschool Class** – Parent Conferences (watch for notice)
- 25<sup>th</sup> Friday - NO SCHOOL - Parent/Teacher Conferences - watch for notice

### **DECEMBER**

- 1<sup>st</sup> Thurs. – 2<sup>nd</sup> Fri. - Food Bank Warm Socks Drive
- 16<sup>th</sup> Friday - **Last day of school before the holiday break – Full classes as usual**



We welcome to a new school year all our returning families, and special greetings to our new families! All of us at Vancouver Montessori School look forward to the new year. Newsletters similar to this one will be sent home with the children approximately once per month and/or as needed. You will receive separate newsletters to keep you updated on the activities of the individual classes. Please read your Parent Handbook for school procedures and go weekly to the Parent login on the website for message and updates. If you have any questions or concerns that need clarifying, please do not hesitate to email the office at [vancouvermontessorischool@telus.net](mailto:vancouvermontessorischool@telus.net) or phone the office at 604 261-0315. If parents have business with the office, please knock on the door and follow hygiene protocols. The child's teacher will email parents with class newsletters and class updates. **Please note masks are required indoors for all visitors and are recommended for children. Respectful distancing is strongly encouraged.**

**Administration & Staff Open Door Policy**

The administration and staff are available to you, our parents. We are more than happy to meet with individual parents regarding the children's progress, classes, school policy, volunteer committees and to answer any concerns, challenges or questions that parents may have, or that may come up during the year. Please do not hesitate to make an appointment with the office to meet with us. Our goal is to address, individually, privately and positively, any concerns or questions, in the spirit of co-operation; and to create an environment that fosters harmony, teamwork and good faith within a community that is evermore educated about Montessori principles and practices. When emailing the school, please include your child's full name and room number in the subject area.

**Staff updates:** We said a warm but sad good-bye to French Teacher assistant, Robin Greenwood, and to Dahlia Kerr and Debbie Lawson from room 2. We wish them all the best. We welcome Anna Donesa, an AMI Teacher and parent. We also welcome Kate Tao, who will be assisting in Room 6 under the direction of Kirsten Holkestad while she is in AMI Elementary Teacher Training. Janice Lee (AMI) is now the Room 4 Elementary teacher. We welcome French assistant Megane Faivre Chalon. Welcome all!

**New Children** do experience a transition time while getting used to school routines. It is in the best interest of the new child for the parent to say a quick good-bye and tell the child you will be back at the agreed time and leave the school. **Please do not look in the windows,** as this can be very upsetting for the children.

**Being on Time for Class:** We appreciate the children arriving by their designated class time. Class lessons begin right on time and the class doors are closed. An occasional late is understandable.

**Arrival Times: Please arrive at these designated times**

AM Preschool & Extended Day – drop-off is 8:20 – 8:30 **class starts at 8:30.**

- Rooms 1+2 at walkway doors.

- Rooms 3+8 at playground gate.

Elementary – drop-off is 8:35 – 8:45 – Children line up in front to enter on their own. **Class starts at 8:45.**

PM Preschool – drop off is 12:50 – 1:00 – at the walkway door. **Class starts at 1:00.**

(Unless the teachers have instructed new children differently).

Thank you so much, your efforts are greatly appreciated and therefore the children do not miss part of their lesson time.

**Dismissal: Please quickly leave at these times to allow for the next pick-up time.**

AM preschool Rooms 3 and 8 -11:30 at the playground gate.

AM preschool Rooms 1 and 2 at walk way class door.

Rooms 3 and 8 Extended Day - 3:00 at the playground gate

Rooms 4,5,6, - 3:15 at the playground gate.

Rooms 9 - 3:30 at the playground gate

Room 11 - 3:30 at the front Barnard Street door.



After your child has been dismissed, please have him/her walk/stay with you directly to your car. **For safety concerns, please do not allow your child to play in the parking lot or gardens;** (our playground is for classes in session.) Enjoy the parks close to the school. (William Mackey or Fraser River Parks). An occasional late is understandable, however, please make arrangements with another parent if you are unable to pick-up on time. We appreciate parents arranging for out-of-school activities after school hours, as constant leaving early is a disruption to the class. Thank you for your efforts to do this.

### **Absences**

Please note excessive absenteeism from school may affect the child's placement for the following year. A planned lengthy vacation/absence must be in writing to the school. You may call the school to report your child's absence. 604 261 0315.

**The Student Verification Sheets** are attached to the newsletter. They are not posted on the website. Please have them returned to the office **by September 20<sup>th</sup>** with any corrections or additions.

**A Daily Health Check** from home before coming to school is expected. Children should be kept home if unwell and the school be informed.

**Pictures at school** – With technology today, picture-taking is difficult to control. Pictures taken by staff at school functions are solely for internal school use and **NOT** posted or shared on the internet. Parents do take pictures at special events i.e., parties, concerts, graduation, etc. If you do **NOT** want your child to be in any pictures, please indicate this on your verification sheet. Please note that when parents attend school social functions, it is the responsibility of the parent to monitor their child's participation.

### **Communication:**

- Please visit our website weekly to get updated school & parent committee messages, calendar dates, class school newsletters, Parent Education information and Parent Handbook etc! Keep informed!

**Updated Class Email Lists** are available from the office just ask us!

**Donations:** Vancouver Montessori School wishes to express gratitude to those who graciously made donations to the school. Your receipts will be mailed shortly. Thank you!

**Health Department: Regular Immunization Clinics** for 6<sup>th</sup> year children are confirmed for November 7<sup>th</sup> and May 23<sup>rd</sup> afternoon. Only children with signed consent and permission forms will be immunized. If your child has immunizations due, you will be given a form. Clinic for Kindergarten aged children is May 23<sup>rd</sup> afternoon – watch for notices

**Class Parent Volunteers** – Your child's teacher appreciates your help. Each class will email asking for parent's help and contributions throughout the year. This may include contributions to craft projects (e.g., plants, material, yarn, etc.), flowers, compost, and laundry etc.! Parents can get involved with these class activities by helping their child gather what is needed to be contributed. Please pack lunches in reusable containers as everything in the lunch kits will be sent back. You may want to include a small bag in the lunch kit for your child's disposables. And remember to have the child's daily water bottle (labelled with their name).

**Calendar for 2022/23 is attached and available on the Parent Login on the website.**