



-Britannia OSC Newsletter Summer/Fall 2017



Welcome

A warm welcome to the **O**utdoor **R**ecreation and **C**reative **A**rts Program (**ORCA**). We continue to provide a safe, caring, respectful and inclusive environment for everyone. We will continue to promote the Random Acts of Kindness (RAK) and the Play it Fair programs (see pg. 3 for more program details).

Division of Children

We have divided the children into two groups; Younger (grades K-2) and Older (grades 3-7). On full days we combine both groups in the morning between 7:30-10:30am and later afternoon after 3:30 pm.

For the summer ORCA program, we have fun and exciting activities planned. From exploring & learning about the environment; visual & creative arts; arts & crafts; working together; using our bodies in different ways; being creative and learning new things. We have lined up many great outings and activities please see our calendar for more details.



CLOSURES ON THE FOLLOWING DATES: (WE ARE CLOSED ON ALL STATS HOLIDAYS)

Canada Day Monday – July 3, 2017

BC Day Monday – August 7, 2017

Program Clean/Prep Friday –September 1, 2017

Labour Day Monday– September 4, 2017

OSC Staff Pro D Day Friday – November 10, 2017

DAYS/HOURS OF OPERATION:

SCHOOL YEAR (September to June)

7:30 to 9:00 am Monday to Friday (Britannia School only)

3:00 to 5:45 pm Monday to Friday (Brit and QV)

SUMMER/SPRING/WINTER BREAK & PROFESSIONAL DAYS (drop off at centre between 7:30am- 10:30am)

7:30 to 5:45 pm

CLOSED all Public Statutory Holidays, in addition we are closed for one Staff Pro-D Day & one program clean day per year.

SCHOOL YEAR 2017

For families registered for September 2017, on the first day of school, we will be open for the full day. We will pick up children at Britannia and Queen Victoria schools at 10am. *During the school year, morning care is only provided for children that attend Britannia Elementary school.*

SCHOOL CLOSURE DAYS

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BE AT THE CENTRE BY **10:30AM** AND TO **PACK A NUT- FREE LUNCH.**

**Drop off at the Preteen (Spirit Bear) room (located beside library)

**Pick up your child at the Child Care room (located by Grandview Park).

If you plan on dropping off after 10:30am please check with staff to ensure we will be able to accommodate.

STAFF/CHILD RATIO:

- 1 staff member per 12 children in kindergarten to grade one.
- 1 staff member per 15 children grades 2 to 7.
- We have extra staffing to ensure we include children who are in supported child care spaces.



CHILDREN BEING PREPARED FOR THE DAY

Being prepared for an active play program and the weather is important. When children come inadequately prepared for the program it impacts on their ability to participate. Here are some tips to consider in preparing your child:

- Proper footwear: Shoes that enclose the feet are highly recommended. Foot wear protect children's feet from being injured while participating in the program. Flip Flops are impractical for our active play environment. They often break off the children's feet. While on field trips, flip flops become a safety hazard as children walk out of them, lose their footing, trip and/or have difficulty walking with the group. We have had children lose flip flops while walking, stopping to fix flip flops in the middle of crossing busy roads and entering/exiting public transit.
- Sun protection. **Sunscreen** and long sleeve clothing are the best ways to protect the skin. We encourage all families to pre-sunscreen their children in the morning and send your child with extra sunscreen to reapply throughout the day. Another great sun protection is a hat. **Hats** help shield the face from the sun. **Clothing** is one of the best sun protectors on the market. Consider natural fibres that are light and breathable.
- Extra Cloths. Send **extra clothes**, especially on trips to the great outdoors just in case your child chooses to get wet and muddy when they play.



UPDATE YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION

In order to comply with Licensing we need parents/guardians to ensure that their child's records are up to date. If you have any of the following:

- Changed your address
- Changed your phone number
- Changes in your child's health
- Changes to your child's custody access
- Immunization records

It is critical that you inform us ASAP in writing. You are always welcome to review and update your child's file. Please see a staff if you need to make any of the above changes.

TOYS/ELECTRONICS/CELL PHONES FROM HOME

All toys and electronics need to stay home. We have a huge selection of toys and games. OSC is not responsible for lost/broken toys from home. Children who have cell phones will need to keep the phones in their bags and are only allowed to use them with permission from staff.



STAFFING

Senior Supervisor

(Britannia Preschool and OSC)



Lorraine completed the Child and Youth Care Counseling (CYCC) program at Douglas College and third year CYCC courses at the University of Victoria. She has completed countless hours of professional development courses in the CYC and ECE field. In addition to coordinating and planning many events, Lorraine has been at Britannia for many years and is honored to work in such a diverse, exciting and ever changing environment. She looks forward to getting to know all of your beautiful children.

Regular staff

Program Assistant III



Michelle has been working in child care for over 20 years and is qualified with her Early Childhood Education (ECE) license. She has two children but somehow finds time for hot yoga and healthy living. Michelle's nurturing personality is best shared with the OSC children through art, cooking and exploratory walks.

Children Activity Leader

Robert has been working in Child Care for over 15 years. He started working with children with Autism while studying at Langara College. He is a certified Education Assistant. Robert loves working in a diverse and ever-changing environment.



Elaine has worked in a variety of positions at Britannia Community Centre. Elaine looks forward to working with all the children, new and old in utilizing her artistic and culinary skills.

Elaine has her Fine Arts degree from Emily Carr University and presently is a member of the Britannia Arts and Cultural Committee. *Elaine will be on a medical leave starting August 4, 2017 for knee surgery. We wish Elaine a speedy recovery. Elaine will be back in October/November.*



Minori has a unique and diverse background. She has been a live sound engineer, professional makeup artist, director of art & fashion shows, teacher/practitioner of Reiki Healing and

ESL teacher. In becoming allergic to chemicals and fragrances, she did some soul searching and decided to use her passion for art, teaching, healing and giving, which she believed would be ideal in a Child Care. Her life work is to create opportunities for others to find the joy of creation to spice up their lives.

Program Cook

Shirdene has been working as a cook for the past few years and held the first Britannia OSC summer cooking school for children. It was a great success. Shirdene also facilitated the garden mosaic project for the garden located beside the preteen room.



Auxiliary staff



Patricia has been at Britannia OSC since 2012 as a casual staff. She is joyful and shares her enthusiasm with our children.

Patty volunteered for 8 years as a mentor with PLEA and was a Child Minding Assistant volunteer at the Grandview Terrace OSC program. Patty is adventurous and loves the outdoors. It is very rewarding to her to be a daily part of the children's preliminary education experiences. It is her purpose to make each day a great day for every child.

Paula has been working in Child Care for over 8 years. She loves to be creative, artistic, and fun. Paula studies design and architecture at Kwantlen Polytechnic University. She has been a Britannia auxiliary staff member since early 2015 and is very happy to be a part of the Britannia family.



Estrella is a proud mother and a grandmother. She has her ECE from MTI College and has been an auxiliary worker at Britannia Childcare since 2010. Estrella also works for the Vancouver School Board as a CTA 1. Estrella has supervised and coordinated the Kidsafe program at Grandview Elementary School. She also supervised the KidsFirst Project where she facilitated baking projects for students. She volunteers at Kiwassa Neighbourhood House, teaching ESL to new immigrants. Estrella has many years of experience working with children and families; "working with children is my passion".



Auxiliary staff

Shams has been working at Britannia Child Care as an Auxiliary since 2016. He has his Early Childhood Educator Assistant &, Responsible Adult Certification. He has successfully completed a twelve weeks course on guiding and caring of special need children at BC Children Hospital. He is a certified soccer coach who is currently coaching a U10 soccer team at South Burnaby Metro Club. He has a master's degree in engineering and certificate in computer science. Moreover, he has Power Engineering Certificate from BC Safety Authority. Shams enjoys utilizing his design, IT and engineering knowledge in creative child care projects. He strongly believes in guiding and caring with respect and empathy. Shams loves to work with children and considers fun with kindness, compassion and safety as the priority for a good child care environment.



Meranda is originally from Thailand; she has been in Canada since 2013. She completed her Early Childhood Education Assistant certification in Canada in 2014. She has over 10 years of child care experience, internationally. Meranda has worked at many child care centres in Vancouver, with both toddlers and school age children. She enjoys working with all ages of children

MANAGER OF CHILD CARE SERVICES AT BRITANNIA

Rachel Day is our new Child Care Manager at Britannia Community Services. She has been with us since March 2017. Rachel manages and supports the five independent Child Care societies within the Hub, Britannia Child Care, Eagles in the Sky, Lord Nelson Out of School care, Mount Pleasant Child Care and Grandview Child Care centre.



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Rachel comes to Britannia with over 25 years' experience in the education and child care field. Originally from the United Kingdom she started out as an Elementary teacher, specializing in Early Years education, successfully working in schools in the North of England and South East London. She quickly progressed to leading and managing infant and intermediate departments, then Principal and Education Consultant roles in large urban elementary schools. Most recently she has worked as an Executive Director in a large non for profit preschool on the North Shore.

Rachel brings much experience and success in teaching, leadership and management, staff training, coaching & developing teams, program design, maximizing centre performance and community development. She has much experience of working with non for profit and school boards. Rachel is highly knowledgeable about child care and is passionate about the important role it plays for our future citizens and communities.

Rachel lives on the North Shore with her husband and two daughters aged nine and twelve. She is an avid kickboxer, loves singing and enjoys the outdoors.

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FEES

Summer (Jul-Aug)

Full time \$550

Weekly \$150

School Year (Sep-Jun)

(Fees are inclusive for all schools closures)

Full time \$355

(4 days is the same cost as full time)

3 days \$230

2 days \$210



To apply or renew your subsidy contact the Child Care Subsidy Service Center at 1 888 338-6622.

You can pay for your child care fees at the Britannia Information Centre by CREDIT, DEBIT or CASH.

CHILD CARE STAFF ARE NOT ALLOWED TO TAKE CASH

You can also have your payments deducted from your personal bank account on the 1st of each month.

SIGN UP FOR PAD (Pre Authorized debit)

Forms for PAD are located on the parent bulletin board in the child care room.

PAD is only available for school year fees.

Your monthly fees enable the program to operate. There are substantial costs to running a quality child care program and we hope that you are satisfied and happy with the care and learning that your children receive.

*One month's written notice on the last day of the calendar month is required to change your child's registered days. (Limited part time spaces available)

* One month's written notice, on the last day of the calendar month, is required when withdrawing your child from the program or one month's fee payment in lieu of one month's notice.

For families on subsidy, your subsidy will be billed for the entire month.

Families are provided receipts, for all payments, at time of payment. We do not issue year-end tax receipts. Please keep your receipts for your taxes. A \$25 fee is charged for duplicates of receipts. For families on Pre-authorized account debit (PAD) payments, receipts will be issued for January to June months in June; and for September to December in January. PAD is not available during the summer months. PAD is only valid for the school year - September to June. A new PAD form is required with VOID cheque for each school year at time of registration.

THE OSC ENTRANCE DOORS

We ask all families **NOT to open the door for others**. Please call a staff person to do so in order to ensure that staff can keep track of all those who enter and exit. All children must leave with their authorized person to safeguard custody agreements. Having staff open the door ensures that proper identification occurs and that staff are aware that a child has been picked up and signed out. **Please make sure you sign your child out; children are not allowed to sign themselves out.**



PLAY IT FAIR!

Play It Fair! Toolkit



The ORCA program will be using the Play It Fair- Human Rights Education Toolkit for Children throughout the summer months and beyond. All RPT staff has been trained and will incorporate activities each day.

What is the goal of the Toolkit?

*The Toolkit helps to promote **human rights, nondiscrimination and peaceful conflict resolution** within non-formal education programs for children, such as summer camps or after school activities.*

What are the values promoted by the Toolkit?

The Toolkit helps to reinforce the positive values that derive from the fundamental principles of human dignity and equality contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The human rights values promoted by the Toolkit are:

- **Cooperation**
- **Respect**
- **Fairness**
- **Inclusion**
- **Respect for diversity**
- **Responsibility**
- **Acceptance**

Excerpt from Play It Fair Human Rights Education Tool Kit For Children

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS

"RAK4Kids is a social emotional learning (SEL) program that creates a common language among mentors and kids with kindness concepts. SEL is important in developing respectful, responsible, and caring kids and mentors who know themselves, express and manage their emotions, and relate well to others. Put simply, SEL helps kids understand who they are, how they feel, and how they get along with others."
© The Random Acts of Kindness Foundation, 2015 | Educator Guide



Using the curriculum from the Random Acts of Kindness throughout our programming, our goal is to continue to create an environment of mindful interactions with each other; Integrations of kindness, sharing, respectfulness, thoughtfulness and inclusion. By understanding what our rights are, we respect the rights of others despite our differences



DONATIONS OF TOWELS AND SWIMSUITS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED. SWIMSUITS AND TOWELS ARE WASHED AFTER EACH USE.



Britannia RENEWAL

THE RENEWAL PROJECT

After years of discussion and anticipation, the Britannia Community Services Centre renewal project has officially begun. Following approval in 2014 by the City of Vancouver, capital funds have been earmarked to complete a new and revitalized 18-acre Britannia site.

Community consultation is the initial focus of the redevelopment project. The Britannia Planning & Development Committee, under the direction of the Britannia Board of Management, will work closely with the Britannia Centre partners — the City of Vancouver, the Vancouver School Board, the Vancouver Public Library, and the Vancouver Park Board — to envision a new and exciting Britannia.

HOW YOU CAN GET INVOLVED

The Planning & Development Committee meets monthly and is always open to new volunteers. Community planning events and other information-gathering activities also need your support.

If you would like to join, please contact us at 604.718.5800 or info@britanniarenewal.org.

Britannia Child Care would like to encourage families to get involved in the renewal process at Britannia. Britannia Child Care understands that while our Preschool and Out of School Care programs are vital to the families in our community, there is a great need for full time daycare (3-5yrs) and infant/toddler care spaces. We hope that as Britannia goes through a renewal phase that daycare & infant toddler care will be a welcome addition to the Britannia Community. New child care spaces at Britannia for the next 30 plus years is only possible if community members advocate for the spaces.



Britannia Child Care is a NUT-FREE ZONE due to allergies; please ensure no nuts or nut products are sent to program with your child.
Thank you!

DURING THE SCHOOL YEAR

PLEASE CALL THE CENTRE IF YOUR CHILD WILL NOT BE ATTENDING THE PROGRAM.

We follow our missing child procedure, which leads up to and includes calling 911. We are unable to take the VSB's word that your child was picked up or not in school. Please ensure you call 604.718.5822 every time your child will not be attending OSC.



CHILD CARE BACK YARD/PLAY SPACE RENOVATIONS

The Child Care backyard space is finally complete and open for play. We are all so excited!!



We would like to Thank the City of Vancouver Social Policy Small Capital Grant for helping us rebuild and repair the issues in the play space. We would also like to thank **Marathon Surfaces** who did the ground work and **Dirks Landscape Design Build Ltd**, who built the play and wooden structures in the play space. We greatly appreciate all the hard work that went into creating a safe play space for our present and future children.

HOW TO CONTACT US



DIRECT LINES

5 – 8 Room 604-718-5822 (voicemail)
Preteen Room 604-718-5839 (No voice mail)
Supervisor 604-718-5843 (voicemail)

For all messages regarding child attendance, pick-up schedule changes etc., please call: 604-718-5822

Staff will check messages daily to ensure we know if any child will be absent or if there are any changes regarding pick-up.

To contact the **Senior Supervisor** (for other inquires) Call 604.718.5843 or email **Lorraine at lorraine.evans@vancouver.ca**



Photos taken by Robert Lee and Barry Skillin