VICE PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

Dear Families,

We hope that you enjoyed your spring break and are ready for the fast pace of the spring term.

Report cards go home on April 9th and there are conferences on April 11th and 12th. Some teachers are hosting student-led conferences and others are hosting parent-teacher conferences. These are important meetings for you to hear from either the teacher about how your child is doing and to ask questions about their progress or to hear from your child about what they are learning at school and what they are enjoying. Teachers schedule meetings throughout the two days so please be on time for the spot that has been reserved for you. **A reminder that students will be dismissed at 2:00pm both conference days.**

With spring upon us we are looking forward to getting outside more for walks and field trips. Divisions 3 and 4 are excitedly anticipating their field trip to Van Dusen Gardens on April 24th. Also, Division 6 have had UBC students come teach their class about composting and worms and students have been learning lots about living things and what they require to thrive. This spring, they are excited to roll up their sleeves and get going with our school garden and to take advantage of the lovely picnic tables outside the activity room to enjoy lunch while taking in the fresh air.

At the end of April, GymSense will be coming to Collingwood to do gymnastics instruction with all classes for two weeks (April 25- May 7). We’d like to thank the PAC for committing half of the cost of the gymnastics instruction for all students. The PAC money will come from the Community Gaming Grant.

Finally, some very exciting personal news that I would like to share with you. I am pregnant and due in May and I will be going on maternity leave at the end of April. I hope to return to Collingwood School once my maternity leave is over. I have had the most wonderful experience as an administrator and teacher here at Collingwood. This school is an awesome place to work and learn! I’ve enjoyed connecting with the staff and students and had so much fun leading our sharing assemblies and promoting new books in the library and popping into classes to hear what the students are learning. I hope to be back next year as your vice-principal and I wish you a wonderful rest of the year.

All forms of communication will be regularly updated as much as possible along with our school website (collingwood.vsb.bc.ca).

I hope you have a great month!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Evelyn Harcus
Vice-Principal
Did you know that summer school is free for VSB students? There are six locations for summer school and the closest one to our school is Nootka Elementary (3375 Nootka). There are a variety of courses to choose from including skill development courses like story writing, coding and science based inquiry classes. As well there are English-language learning classes and remedial English and Math classes. Getting ahead courses like “Getting Ready for Grade One” and “Getting Ready for Grade Four” are smart options to prepare your children for what to expect the following school year. Check out the website to peruse the course listings. [http://summer.vsb.bc.ca](http://summer.vsb.bc.ca)

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT CONFERENCES

Conferences will be held on Wednesday April 11 and Thursday April 12 from 2-6 pm. (Early dismissal both days at 2:00pm)

Please be on time for your conference.

READY SET LEARN APRIL 11, 18, & 25

This year, our Collingwood Ready, Set, Learn Program will consist of three workshops, scheduled on three consecutive Wednesdays in April. The workshops will be facilitated by Evina Mak, our Strong Start Coordinator.

Evina will be leading the students through fun and meaningful learning experiences so that the children and their parents may become acquainted with the readiness skills needed for a successful entry into Kindergarten. This year we are specifically targeting the children who will be coming to Kindergarten at Collingwood starting in September 2018.

The workshops will be held on April 11, 18, & 25. Each workshop will run from 1pm to 2:15pm. We are looking forward to seeing many families.

Please RSVP at the office or call 604 713 5340.

WELCOME TO KINDERGARTEN WEDNESDAY MAY 9

Our “Welcome to Kindergarten” event will be held on the morning of Wednesday May 9th. If your child is registered for Kindergarten at Collingwood for the 2018-19 school year you are invited to attend this event. Registration begins at 9:00 am with the program starting at 9:30am in the Activity Room. Please contact the office to RSVP.

PAC NEWS

Thank you to the PAC for committing money from the community gaming grant to pay for Teddy Anderson’s hoop dancing performance. We enjoyed it tremendously!
We are looking for a new PAC chair for next year. Zainab Mapara’s son, Ayaan is going to grade four and moving along to the main school. If you are interested in this role, please speak to the Vice-Principal in the office. Parent representatives will meet again in April to discuss details around organizing a movie night and a multicultural potluck, an email with an exact date and time for our next PAC meeting will be sent out shortly. Parental Involvement Parent Advisory Councils

A REMINDER THAT IF YOU ARE DROPPING OFF LUNCH FOR YOUR CHILD IT SHOULD BE LEFT IN THE BINS OUTSIDE THE LUNCHROOM AND NOT IN YOUR CHILD’S CLASSROOM.

FEELINGS CORNER: SOME TIPS FROM OUR COUNSELOR, DR. EMI GARZITTO

The Label is Not the Solution

It is important families and schools learn and appreciate a child’s challenges. It is information we use to match the teaching practice with the learning profile. Children with autism still need to practice self-regulation. Students with ADD still need to train their brain’s to delay gratification. Children with Fetal Alcohol Syndrome still need to work on patience. Children with autism or learning disabilities or attention disorders are not immune from social emotional pitfalls – they can be spoiled, risk averse, practice unkind, disrespectful or selfish behaviour. Just like any child in a classroom, designated children need social emotional practice. In my opinion, more practice, not less. It may be in smaller increments, the expectations match the learning profile, but we practice it nevertheless.

“Oh she’s on the spectrum”, “my son is highly anxious”. This is not the end of the sentence, it is the beginning of one. It means we give the child even more practice with their social emotional skills not less. It means we meet them where they are at, and then move them forward. It means we hold them accountable for their feelings and actions, in whatever way they are able to understand and appreciate.

A label is not a solution. It should never be used to excuse bad behaviour or minimize social emotional learning. If we do not do the hard work of laying down the groundwork of repeated social emotional practice, we run the risk of handicapping the student even further. And that is not a good thing. Not for the teacher, not for the parent and especially not for the child.

AFTER-SCHOOL CHILD PICK-UP POLICY

As a reminder, please be advised Vancouver School Board policy states that students must be picked up as close to 3pm as possible, as student supervision ends at 3:15pm each day. Please ensure that your child is picked up from school prior to that time every day.
If on any day you cannot pick up your child before 3:15pm, please make arrangements with a family member, or trusted friend or neighbour. It is also crucial that you provide the office with updated contact information because we do call if children are left after 3:15.

**COLLINGWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY NEWS**

The Collingwood branch of the public library has several programs available for adults and children. Fun, literacy-based programs at the Collingwood Branch Library, 2985 Kingsway. Call 604-665-3953 for information or registration. [Visit vpl.ca/events](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-the-risks/earthquakes)

**WHEN CONSIDERING OPTIONS FOR GRADE 4, PLEASE REMEMBER THAT IN CATCHMENT STUDENTS ARE ELIGIBLE TO ATTEND OUR MAIN SCHOOL -GRAHAM BRUCE –FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT THE OFFICE.**

**EARTHQUAKE DRILL: THURSDAY MAY 3RD @ 2 PM**

On Thursday May 3rd at 2pm we will be conducting our annual ‘Big one at two’ earthquake drill. This is an important drill in preparedness and this year we will allow students to be released early if parents/caregivers are able to come pick up early. This in fact is an important practice step in our drill: reunification.

In April the school will be sending home a student release form. We ask that you carefully fill this out and return it to the school promptly. On this form you will be asked to write down FOUR authorized guardians to pick up your child in the event of a catastrophic event like an earthquake. You MUST select four different people who are adult-age and can care for your children. They can be: grandparents, siblings that are 18 years and older, trusted neighbours, trusted family friends and of course parents and/or legal guardians.

We ask that if parents would like to pick up their child early, they arrive no earlier than 2:20 pm, this will allow the staff time to set up the operation. Once parents arrive on site, they will be met by a ‘greeter’ and moved along through the appropriate procedures in order to pick up their child. Thank you for your support in helping us practice this very important drill. If you haven’t already, please take some time to talk about your family plan with your own family. Preparedness is key.

https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/emergency-preparedness-response-recovery/preparedbc/know-the-risks/earthquakes

**IMPORTANT DATES IN APRIL**

- Term 2 Report Cards go home Mon. 9
- K Vision Screening Mon. 9
- Performance- Mr. Fish Wed. 11
- Parent/teacher conferences Wed. 11
- Parent/teacher conferences Thurs. 12
- CST Afterschool Programs begin Mon. 16
- Performance about recycling Thurs. 19
- Gymnastics program Wed. 25 – May 7

**UPCOMING IMPORTANT DATES IN MAY**

- Earthquake Drill Thurs. 3
- Welcome to K Wed. 9
- K Dental screening Thurs. 17
- Dance Program May 14-28
- Dance Performance Tues. 29
- School Closure Day Fri. 18
- Victoria Day – no school Mon. 21

Please check our website [collingwood.vsb.bc.ca](https://collingwood.vsb.bc.ca) for the regularly updated school calendar

**STUDENT BOOK REVIEWS**

“*The World According to Humphrey*”

By: Betty G. Birney

A Book Review by Cameron, Division 1

Humphrey is a hamster that was first at Pet-O-Rama. Then Ms. Mac bought him and took him to Room 26 at Longfellow School where she is a teacher.
Humphrey becomes the class pet in Ms. Mac’s class and he has to stay in the classroom. But then Ms. Brisbane comes back. Ms. Brisbane and the teachers decide that a student will be able to take Humphrey home for the weekend. Sayeh, Miranda, AJ and other students get to take turns. Also, Ms. Brisbane takes Humphrey home. Read the book to find everything out!

Amazing facts about Ocean Animals
By Ayaan

Did you know:

- A Whale Shark’s eye is the size of a grape fruit!
- Pygmy seahorses live in a type of coral named Pygmy. The seahorses live in a Pygmy coral only because they can camouflage with the coral.
- Copepod, floating in the ocean there is a soup of teeny tiny plants, eggs and creatures called copepods. Fishes and other big marine creatures feed on them.
- Scarlet Skunk Cleaner Shrimps, they have the ability of cleaning eels and once the eels are cleaned it’s a win win situation because the eel gets cleaned and Scarlet Skunk Cleaner Shrimp gets to eat the garbage on the eel.

Reference used: Life size Ocean by Anita Ganeri and Stuart Jackson-Carter

DIVISION 1 IN-SCHOOL WORKSHOP
TEA MAKING