Dear Families,

Thanks to all of the families who attended the student led conferences in late January. Your participation in your child’s learning journey was so appreciated! It was exciting to see so many families in the school over those two days.

**February is Black History Month.** Therefore, I have been reading a story and discussing the life of Viola Desmond with students when they visit the library. Viola is the first Canadian woman to be featured on a Canadian dollar bill. As an African-Canadian woman in Nova Scotia, she and many others fought to end racial segregation in Canada in the 1950s. If you would like to borrow the book to learn about her life- please ask me. She’s a largely unknown Canadian hero!

**Lunar New Year is Tuesday, February 5th**

Happy New Year to those who celebrate it! This is the year of the Pig. Our lives are all enriched when we learn about various cultural beliefs and celebrations in our community and the world.

**Thursday, February 14th is Valentine’s Day.**

If your child is giving cards to others please ask for a list from their teacher. Some classes may also be having special events on that day. Please ask the classroom teacher what is planned and if they need any assistance from parents.

On **Wednesday, February 27th** schools across the province will recognize “Pink Shirt Day”. This event started after some boys in Nova Scotia were taunting another boy with homophobic slurs for wearing a pink shirt to school on his first day of Grade 8. In response, to support the affected boy, a group of older students who didn’t even know him all came to school the next day wearing pink. Since then, millions of Canadian school children have participated each year to stand up against homophobia in schools and all forms of bullying.

Please have your child wear something pink on the 27th to participate in the inclusive message that all people deserve to be treated with respect and kindness.

**New Website:** Our school website is being redesigned this month and will be online soon. Please check it out after Monday, February 11th.

It will be much easier for parents and families to view information about the school. We will be emailing you the website link in the coming week.

Sincerely,

Mr. James Chamberlain
Vice-Principal
SCHOOL CLOSURE FOR SNOW AND OTHER EMERGENCIES

Information regarding school closures in the event of snow, or other emergency situations, will be provided to the following radio and television stations by 6:00 a.m. on the morning of the closure. (School closure information is also available online at http://www.vsb.bc.ca/severe-weather.)

CBC (690 AM or 105.7 FM)
CKNW (980 AM)
CKWX (NEWS 1130 AM)
FAIRCHILD Radio (CJVB AM 1470/CKHG FM 96.1)
BCTV (Global) (cable channel 11)
CITY TV (cable channel 13)

CROSS BOUNDARY APPLICATION PROCEDURE

If you are interested in having your child attend an English school that is not your catchment school, then you should apply through the cross-boundary application process which is now an online process. Applications will be accepted at the requested school beginning February 1 2019. The cross-boundary application deadline is February 28, 2019. Cross-boundary applications will only be considered once all catchment students have been accommodated.

FAMILY DAY - MONDAY
FEBRUARY 18 – NO SCHOOL

PAC NEWS- Feb. 13th Meeting

Please join us for our next PAC meeting on Wednesday, February 13th from 6 to 7 pm in the library. Childminding is always provided. We’ll be discussing: fundraising, the school garden and ways to involve more parents within the school. Please come out and share your ideas with us. Any parent is welcome!

Parental Involvement
Parent Advisory Councils

PROFESSIONAL DAY FRIDAY
FEBRUARY 15 – NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS

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.

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.
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

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.

School Sharing Assembly Awards

The following students were given certificates for their positive contributions in their classrooms during the month of January:

Div. 1- Sarah, Borun, Alfonso
Div. 2- Hannah, Giovanna
Div. 3- Julietta, Gavin, Sahib
Div. 4- Evey, Ava
Div. 5- Rebecca, Azim, Shirley
Div. 6- Kaley, Xian, Edwin, Tanvi

Congratulations to all of you for your leadership in our school. You are wonderful role models for your classmates and our youngest students!

IMPORTANT DATES IN FEBRUARY

Lunar New Year          Tues. 5
PAC Meeting             Weds. 13
Valentine’s Day         Thurs. 14
Professional Day        Fri.    15
Family Day              Mon. 18
Pink Shirt Day          Weds. 27

IMPORTANT DATES IN MARCH

Afterschool programs (last day)    Mon. 11
Last Day before Spring Break       Fri. 15
Spring Break                        Mon. 18-Fri. 29
School resumes                      Mon. Apr. 1

Please check our website collingwood.vsb.bc.ca for the regularly updated school calendar