

# SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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**NEWSLETTER #4**

**December 2016**

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

### Diwali Celebration

Last week we held our annual Diwali Celebration. This tradition is one of the highlights of the school year at Sexsmith for a number of reasons. First our celebration recognizes the positive and long – time relationship our school community has with our South Asian families. We have third generation South Asian students attending Sexsmith and those families have been and continue to be extremely supportive of and active in our school community. Secondly the performance by our students provides those students an opportunity to showcase their talents and to celebrate their culture. This year many of our staff performed for the audience as well. Thirdly, the dancing and the stories that are shared during the performances really educate all of our students and staff about the celebration of Diwali. Finally it is an opportunity for our school community to come together and celebrate an important event in our community. I think one of the students who served as a host for the celebration really captured the significance of the event when she said” My family doesn’t celebrate Diwali but since Kindergarten I have really enjoyed celebrating Diwali here at school.”

Again many thanks to the many current and some past Sexsmith parents who contributed to the staff luncheon and providing samosas to all of our students on that day. I would also like to acknowledge our Multi – Cultural Worker, Ms Nagpal, for organizing this event for our school community. Without all of her efforts in preparing the students, coordinating the decorations and working with the parent volunteers this event would not have been possible.

### Volleyball Teams

Our 3 volleyball teams have completed their seasons. All of the teams had successful and enjoyable seasons. Our Senior Boys team coached by Mr Biln and Senior Girls teams coached by Mr Kay, are not participating in the Zone Championships but are continuing playing after school in co ed teams at our gym. One of our Junior Girls teams did make it to the Zone Finals but lost in the deciding game of their match with the eventual winner, Van Horne. Both of the Junior Girls teams were coached by Mrs Owen, and showed a lot of promise for next year!

I would like to congratulate all the students who participated on the school teams. Making the commitment to be a member of a school team is a big one but by doing so they have learned about teamwork, goal setting and developed memories that will last a life time. Finally I would like to thank the staff for taking the time to coach the teams: Mr Biln, Mr Kay and Mrs Owen.

### Kindergarten Registrations

Our Kindergarten registrations for the 2017/18 school year started on November 1 and to date we have 20 students registered which is an increase of 8 over this time last year. We are hoping that families will register early to help us with our projections for next year. Even if you are considering applying to have your child attend one of the district programs for Kindergarten you must first register at your home school.

## **VSBCross Boundary Policy**

Families who do not live in our catchment and whose children do not currently attend Sexsmith must wait until February 1, 2017, to apply for a cross boundary placement and must submit their application to their requested school by the end of February. All families who apply by the end of February will be informed by the end of March if their child has been accepted as a Cross Boundary placement. As with Kindergarten student who are applying for district programs all students who are applying for a Cross Boundary placement at Sexsmith must register at their home school to be eligible for a Cross Boundary placement at a school other than their home school.

## **Remembrance Day Assembly**

On November 9, we held our annual Remembrance Day Assembly, when we take time to remember those who gave their lives serving our country, and to honour those who are currently serving our country in military duty, as a police officer or fireman. Many students were involved in this ceremony by being part of song and poetry presentations or the laying of the classroom wreaths. Some students also served as the MC's or color guard as well.

Many thanks to all of the students and staff who participated in this very important event at our school. It was obvious from the students' respectful behavior during this assembly that they understood and respected the importance of this assembly. A very special thank you to Mr Coelho, our Fine Arts teacher who did a masterful job of coordinating this assembly for our school community.

## **November PAC Meeting**

On November 22, we held our monthly PAC Meeting. It was great to see so many parents in attendance that night! Our guest speaker was Ms Gear, who did an outstanding presentation on the Critical Thinking Core Competency that we are focusing on this year, and explained some of the work the students are doing in this area of learning. The discussion amongst the parents in attendance was excellent. It was most evident to me that not only were the parents informed about our work in Critical Thinking they were also able to share their perceptions about what they have seen their children doing with Critical Thinking in their learning this year. Some of the key points brought up by the parents were: this is what our children will need when they are older and pursuing a job; they seem to have a deeper understanding of the topics they are learning about; and I was impressed with how well my child was able to explain their thoughts. So remember have your child explain to you what – Hmm; Huh; and Ahh! Means to them as that is our common language for the domains of Critical Thinking.

Our next PAC Meeting is on Thursday, January 12 and our guest speaker is Mr Kevin Land, the Principal at Churchill Secondary who will be providing an overview of that school.

The PAC Chocolate Sales are coming to an end. Many thanks to all those parents, family members and friends for supporting this fundraiser. A reminder that the boxes of chocolates and all money collected is due by Wednesday, December 7. The draw for the wonderful prizes will be held on the last day of school – December 16.

## **First Term Report Cards**

Our first term report cards will be sent home on Friday, December 9. Please take the time to read the reports with your children and discuss with your child what the reports say. It is really important for the child to know how well they are progressing at school and by sitting down with your child it demonstrates to them your interest in their learning.

## **Grade 7 Articulation**

On December 2, each grade 7 will receive a brochure from Churchill describing the programs at Churchill. On January 3, when we return to school the students who live in the Churchill catchment area will receive the registration documentation that needs to be returned to your child's teacher by Friday, January 20. Also the Parent Information Night at Churchill is Tuesday, January 10 from 7:00 to 8:30 in the school cafeteria. In the first week of January all Grade 7 students will be receiving a letter from myself that details the process for articulation.

## **Seasonal Events**

December is always an eventful month at Sexsmith and here are some of the highlighted events that will be occurring as part of our seasonal celebrations:

- December 12/13/14/15 - Seasonal Sing a Long's in the gym @ 9:00
- December 12 – Many classes making Gingerbread Houses
- December 15 – Div 1 to 7; 11/12 to see the Ballet at the QE Theatre
- December 16 – Pancake Breakfast sponsored by the PAC and the Vancouver Arbutus Rotary Club

## **Upcoming Events**

Monday, December 5 – All Students – Pro D Day – School is not in Session for Students

Wed. December 7 – Div. 13 – Field Trip

Thurs Dec 8 – Div. 11/12 – Field Trip

Fri Dec 9 – All Students – First Term Reports Sent Home

Mon Dec 12 to Thurs Dec 15 – All Students – Winter Sing a Longs in the Gym – 9:00 to 9:30

Mon Dec 12 – Certain Classes – Making Gingerbread Houses

Wed December 14 – K Students – Hearing Screening

Thurs Dec 15 – Div 1 to 7 and 11/12 – Field Trips

Fri Dec 16 – All Students – Santa Pancake Breakfast – Sponsored by the PAC and Van Arbutus Rotary Club

Fri Dec 16 – All Students- Last Day of Term 1

Mon Dec 19 to Mon Jan 2 – All Students – Winter Break