

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #9 **May 2017**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

People often say at this time of the year that the “year must be winding down.” In fact as you will see below it is anything but! May has been a busy month and June will be as well.

Welcome to Sexsmith – Mr Joel Levine!

On May 24, the VSB announced that Mr Joel Levine has been the appointed Principal at Sexsmith effective August 1, 2017. Over the next month Mr Levine and myself will be busy coordinating the transition and he will be visiting the school and meeting the staff and students. Also, Mr Levine will be attending the PAC Meeting on June 8th. Mr Levine has provided us with an introduction of himself below:

It is my great pleasure to introduce myself as the new Principal for Sexsmith starting in September. I have worked for the Vancouver School Board for over twenty years in a variety of roles. I have teaching experience working with preschool children all to senior citizens and everyone in between. I have spent the last five years as an administrator at Secord Elementary and most recently at Collingwood Neighbourhood School. I am thrilled to be coming to Sexsmith and look forward to getting to know all of the students, staff and parents and continuing the great work that is happening here. I hope you have a restful and fun summer break and are ready to resume the learning in September!

Welcome to the Sexsmith School Community, Mr Levine!

On Tuesday, May 2, our school staff hosted our annual Welcome to Kindergarten event for our new Kindergarten students and their families. Forty of our new Kindergarten students and their families attended this event and participated in 5 activities that are intended to help prepare the children for Kindergarten and also provide the parents with an idea of the types of activities and skills the children will be learning about in Kindergarten. Each child received a bag of materials that will help them with their preparation for Kindergarten.

The event really captures the community commitment our school has for our students. Beside school staff, the community health nurse, public librarian and our students were all involved in this event for our students. Also many thanks to one of our parents, Kami H. for coming and speaking to our parents about our PAC activities.

2017/18 School Staffing and Enrollment

In May we received our staffing allocations for next year. Due to an increase in enrollment of 20 students and the restoration of previous contractual language of class size limits and class composition the number of divisions we will be having next year is currently 16. Our resource staffing allotment has also increased by .51 or about a half time teacher. These increases are a reflection of our school demographics as they indicate more school aged children are living in our catchment area. Our Kindergarten enrollment for next year is 44 students whereas this year it is 36.

At this point we have 4 postings for September as a result of the increase of 1, a retirement and other staffing changes.

Safety Drills

This past month we held two safety drills that we do throughout the year to insure our students and staff are as prepared as possible in the event of an emergency. In early May, we practiced our evacuation of the school in the event of an earthquake. All Vancouver schools did a simulated earthquake drill on May 4. This year as well as practicing the evacuation process we also had some parents volunteer to come to the school to simulate picking up their children. I felt all aspects of the drill went well. We also had one of our 6 fire drills that we are required to hold each year this past month. As with the Earthquake Drill, the Fire Drill did go well.

Grade 7 Year End Activities

June is a special time for our Grade 7's as they prepare for leaving for high school. The following is a list of events that the Grade 7's will be involved in during the month of June.

June 2 - Visit to Churchill – Those students who will be attending Churchill in September will be going to Churchill for a visit and to participate in a series of activities that will help prepare them for their transition to Grade 8.

Tuesday, June 27 – Grade 7 Celebration for the Families and Luncheon for the Students. At 10:30 a.m. students and their families will arrive for pictures. At 11:00 the Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony will be held in the gym. Each student will receive their diploma from Sexsmith and some staff will provide many fond recollections of this group of students. At noon, the luncheon for the grads will occur and at 1:00 the day will culminate with a dance until 3:00. We hope to see all the families of our Grade 7 students at our celebration.

Wednesday, June 28 – The Grade 7's are off to Playland for the day.

Sports Day

On May 19, under glorious skies, we held our annual outdoor Sports Day. The children really enjoyed this day and it is the unofficial start to the summer months even though there were 6 weeks of school left. It is also wonderful to see our Grade 8 students currently attending Churchill come back to Sexsmith to help with our Sports Day.

Sports Day is a very positive memory for our students. Many thanks to all the staff for their efforts and especially to Mr Kay for coordinating Sports Day again for us and to all the parents who helped prepare the lunch for our students.

PAC News

There was no meeting during May but the PAC has been busy preparing for their year- end activities. On June 8 the final PAC Meeting of the year will be held. At the meeting the new Principal – Mr Levine - will be in attendance to meet the parents, the 2017/18 PAC Executive Elections will occur, the Filipino Festival which is occurring on June 9 will be discussed, and plans for the PAC Carnival on June 16 will be finalized. Please plan on attending the meeting on the 8th.

VSB Summer School Registration Has Begun

Registrations for the VSB's Summer School programs has begun. There are brochures available outside the office that detail the many different programs that are available for students to participate in over the summer. As you will see there is a great variety of activities and courses to choose from.

Intending to Move If you know that your child will not be returning to Sexsmith next year and you have not informed the office, please do so as soon as possible. This will assist us with the planning for next year. Further, if you know what school your child will be attending next year please include that information as it will help in getting your child's file transferred to their new school.

Late Return

If your child will be returning to school after the first day back to school being Tuesday September 5 but returning before September 29, 2017 please fill out the “2017 Notice of Late Return Form” at the end of the newsletter. Please return the “2017 Notice of Late Return Form” to the office by June 9th. There is no need to fill out this form if your child will be returning back the first day of school.

Heritage Fair

Recently many of our students researched topics that had to do with some aspect of Canadian history; it could have been a famous Canadian or an event or a significant achievement. On May 11, we held our Heritage Fair when all of the students who had developed projects showcased their work to our students and staff. Some students had their projects selected to also participate in the Heritage Fair at the Kerrisdale Community Center on May 20. Congratulations to all of our students for their excellent work on their projects. It was a great way to be part of the Canada 150 Celebration.

Track Team

On June 1, the Sexsmith Track Team, will complete its season by participating in the District Track Meet at Swangard Stadium. This year we had over 100 Grade 3 to 7 students represent our school as members of the track team. Again the students had a very successful season! Many thanks to all the students who participated on the team this season. For the Grade 7's I hope you continue to be interested in track at high school and for those in grades 3 to 6, we hope to see you out again next year. Many thanks to the coaches – Mr Biln, Ms Chu, Mr Kay, Mrs Owen and her husband Mr Owen for coaching the team this year.

Books

The VSB is working with all school libraries to update and upgrade the library systems. This is exciting but requires a lot of support from staff, students and families. Please send in any and all school library books as soon as possible. We hope to have all materials accounted for by June 9th. Please expect letters home to be followed quickly this year by invoices to help make this process as efficient as possible. At this time, we encourage all students and families to enjoy the Vancouver Public Libraries. Please see Mrs. Matterson if you need any additional help or information.

Upcoming Events

Thursday, June 1	Track Team – District Track Meet at Swangard Stadium	Wednesday, June 21	Div 13 – Field Trip
Monday, June 5	Pro D Day – School is Not in Session for Students	Thursday, June 22	TEGS Luncheon
Tuesday, June 6	Div 1 to 5 – Improv program	Friday, June 23	Div 11/12 Field Trip
Thursday, June 8	Battle of the Bands Finale; PAC Meeting at 6:30	Tuesday, June 27	Grade 7 Farewell Celebration and Luncheon; Div. 11/12 Field Trip
Friday, June 9	Filipino Festival	Wednesday, June 28	Div 1/2/3/4/5 – Field Trips
Thursday, June 15	Div. 4/5/6/7 – Field Trips	Thursday June 29	Year End Assembly - 11:00; Last Day of School for Students
Friday, June 16	PAC FUN FAIR – 3:00 to 5:00	Friday, June 30	Admin Day – School is Not in Session for Students
Monday, June 19	Div. 5/6/10 – Field Trips		

2017 NOTICE OF LATE RETURN FORM

This form is to be completed for any student expecting to return to school LATER THAN noon on **Tuesday, September 5, 2017** but prior to **September 29, 2017**.

Due date to the office by June 9th, 2017.

Please note: If, by 12:00PM on Wednesday, September 6th, 2017, the school cannot verify that your child will be in attendance by Friday, September 29, 2017, your child's space will be given to another student on the school's waitlist.

The School Phone is 604-713-4901

The School Fax is 604-713-4903

PLEASE PRINT

Dear Principal:

My child(ren) will be attending J.W Sexsmith School for the 2017-2018 school year, but **will NOT be in attendance in the school before noon on Tuesday, September 5, 2017. Please reserve a space in your school for my child(ren).**

_____, in Grade _____ (Sept. 2017)
Last Name First Name

_____, in Grade _____ (Sept. 2017)
Last Name First Name

_____, in Grade _____ (Sept. 2017)
Last Name First Name

The expected DATE OF RETURN for our child(ren) is _____

Reason for late return: _____

Please note: Space will not be held beyond September 29, 2017.

Father's Name: _____ Mother's Name: _____

Or Legal Guardian's Name: _____

Address: _____

Home Phone: _____ Day Phone (F) _____

Fax: _____ Day Phone (M) _____

Date: _____ **Parent Signature:** _____

Alternate Contact/Phone Number or e-mail _____