

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #38		April 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy April!

Spring is here and we hope that warmer temperatures will allow classes to get outside for more learning opportunities. Since we know that it is safer to be outside, teachers have been encouraged to find ways to move the learning outdoors. With additional funding from the government, we were able to purchase binoculars and magnifying glasses to support outdoor science lessons. We also purchased pop up canopies that can be used to create an outdoor learning space. In the fall, we were fortunate to have 8 classes take part in a fully subsidized outdoor sketching program from the Bateman Foundation. We will be bringing them back this spring for the remaining 10 divisions at a small cost, which will be covered by the governments' outdoor learning grants. We also have our school garden that several classes take care of and provides a venue for learning about nutrition and sustainability. While our focus is on increased health safety for students and staff, there is a lot of research that demonstrates that moving learning outside increases student engagement with environmental issues and their community. We hope your child shares their outdoor learning experiences with you as we move towards the end of the year.

I hope you have a great month.

Welcome to Kindergarten Update

For the information of parents with kindergarten students beginning next September, we will not be holding a large Welcome to Kindergarten event this May. In its place, we will be handing out the bags of materials in June along with links to videos that will support families during the summer to understand how to use the materials with their child. During the first days of school in September we will host families in small group sessions where the teachers will get a chance to meet the children as they do some activities. Gradual entry to Kindergarten will begin on Thursday September 9. More detailed information will be sent directly to families with students registered in kindergarten for September 2021.

Summer School Opportunity – Knowledge Infusion

For many years Moberly and Henderson have been hosting an in-house summer school program, known as *Knowledge Infusion* for their students. This year we would like to invite students at Trudeau and Sexsmith Elementary School to register for a FREE summer school course at either Moberly or Henderson school. Summer courses at these two schools are not being advertised in the regular summer school brochures or on the VSB website.

Online registration information will be sent out on April 26. There is no fee for this program.

Language Arts and Mathematics Grade 1-6 (Remedial)

Students will review Language Arts and Mathematics skills taught in this past school year. Emphasis will be on reading, writing and basic computation skills appropriate for the child and grade level. The summer environment is motivating and enables students to be successful with their learning. Students must register in their grade level as of June 29, 2021.

Getting ready for Grade 1

Help your child get prepare for grade one! Get ready to spend some time reviewing concepts learned in the past year and learn what to expect for Grade 1. This preview course will cover concepts such as reading, writing, math, and art. This course is for children who completed Kindergarten in the 2020/2021 school year.

Getting Ready for Highschool:

The transition from grade 7 to grade 8 is one of the most important phases of a young student's life. In this course, students will prepare themselves in learning experiences that focus on academic and social skills preparation in a new environment and long-term management for life in high school. We will also be learning to use various technologies to help organize ourselves and be prepared for the challenges ahead.

PROGRAM DETAILS

Times: **8:40 am to 12 noon**

Dates: July 6th to 21st, 2021

Location: **Moberly Elementary School** (1000 E 59th Ave)

Times: **8:30 am to 11:50am**

Dates: July 6th to 21st, 2021

Location: **Henderson Elementary School** (451 E 53rd Ave)

Safe Arrival Procedures Reminder

Reporting Student Absences:

Student safety is of paramount importance at the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences. **If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on the answering service by calling 604-713-4901 choose option #1.** Messages can be received before the office is open. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.

To Report Your Child's Absence – Please call **604-713-4901 choose option #1** prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence

Student Sign out Procedure:

When you pick up your child during the school day, please ensure that you notify the school office (by phone). If you do not sign out your child, they will be unaccounted for, and the school will identify your child as a 'missing' student and will commence a search of school grounds. **If the school staff do not locate the child, and are unable to reach a parent promptly, the school will call the Vancouver Police Department.** Therefore, clear communication is essential for ensuring the safety of your child and to prevent unnecessary searches.

Thank you for helping us keep your children safe!

Online School Fee Payment System (including school fees)

Please register for online payments– a simple process that takes only a few minutes – by visiting <https://vsb.schoolcashionline.com> or visiting our website at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/online-payment> and following directions to the School Cash Online page. You will need your child’s usual first name, last name, and birth date to register. A “Pay Fees” button is now installed on our school website for easy access to the system. Cash and cheques will continue to be accepted for school fees, but we encourage everyone to use the new system as it is more secure and efficient. Please note that field trip permission notices will continue to be sent home for a signature and to indicate that you have paid online.



Pick Up and Drop Off Concerns (students use assigned doors to enter building)

Check out this link for an explanation of the rules for no parking in school zones.

<https://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/school-zones.aspx>

Please note that as of 2020 parking fines have doubled in school zones.

1. There is NO parking on 59th avenue in front of the school between 8:00am – 5:00pm on school days.

Parents who violate this rule are forcing other parents to stop in the middle of 59th avenue to pick up or drop off students creating a dangerous situation where children need to exit vehicles into oncoming traffic and run between cars. Parents are allowed to drop off and pick up their children but they are not allowed to park and leave their vehicle unattended.

2. **Please do not go past the roundabout adjacent to our parking lot when dropping off or picking up students and do not park in the limited spots we have available for school staff.**

PAC Gift Card Fundraiser

Gift cards are the perfect gift but can also be used to pay for things that you would have used cash for **and** you can help support your child’s school when you buy one!

Shop from the comfort of your home when you purchase gift cards through Fundscrip, and **Sexsmith** will receive a percentage of the gift card sale.

Choose from over 100 popular retailers like **Toys R Us**, **Gap**, **Cineplex**, **Metropolis at Metrotown** etc.

Please use this link: <https://www.fundscrip.com/Sign-Up.aspx?IID=2CBHHR>

Ongoing PAC Fundraiser – Oliver Labels

Keep your items out of the lost and found pile by labelling your personal items with Oliver's labels. Custom labels can be printed with your child's name to use on all their belongings. When you purchase labels from Oliver's Labels, 20% of the purchases will support Sexsmith PAC's fundraising efforts. <http://www.oliverslabels.com/sexsmithelementary>

PAC News

The last PAC meeting was held on Wednesday March 31 at 6:30pm on Zoom. Several parents attended. Minutes will be posted on the PAC tab of the school website. The next meeting is on Wed. May 5 at 6:30pm on Zoom. All parents are welcome to attend, registration information will be sent out. If you would like to contact PAC or volunteer to help with a program, please email sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com .

Important Dates in April

Fri. April 2	Good Friday – no school
Mon. April 5	Easter Monday – no school
Mon. April 26	Professional Day – no school for students
Mon. April 26	Knowledge Infusion – summer school registration information sent to Sexsmith families

Upcoming Important Dates in May

Wed. May 5	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm on Zoom
Thurs. May 6	Schoolwide Earthquake Drill @ 2:00pm
Fri. May 21	Sports Day – classroom focused/regular 3:00pm dismissal
Mon. May 24	Victoria Day – no school

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