

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #4		December 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy December!

The days are shorter and the rains are here but at school we are going full steam towards winter break. During November we had the opportunity to celebrate Diwali with dance and food. Thank you again to Vandana Nagpal and all the parent helpers for facilitating this great event. During the month of December, students will be bringing home their first report card on Friday the 15th. This is a great opportunity to discuss with your child how they are doing in the different subject areas. You can celebrate accomplishments and make a plan for continued development in areas that they are struggling in. A notice to parents that the report card process is being re-evaluated this year in light of the revised curriculum. Sexsmith staff opted to continue with the traditional model until a new one is mandated from the district. It is very likely that the new model will be in place for the 2018-19 school year. We will send more information regarding this change to parents as it becomes available. Winter celebrations will start early in the month with many classes attending the Nutcracker performance on December 7 and culminate with a daily sing-a-long the week of December 18 and a special pancake breakfast on the 22nd hosted by the PAC. I hope you have a great month.

Staffing update

As mentioned in an email message, Sandy Lowe, our office administrative assistant, moved schools in November. A new temporary employee, Ms. Winnie Ng will be filling the position until April 2018. Welcome Ms. Ng!

Pick Up and Drop Off and Parking Concerns

Our parking lot is for **staff parking only**. Please do not park in the spots or use the lot to pick up or drop off your child. Also a reminder that we require students to cross 59th avenue at the cross walk at Manitoba Street and not run between cars. Additionally, if you use our circular driveway to pick up or drop off your child please do not block access to our parking lot or stop in the roundabout creating a traffic jam. Your cooperation with these requests would be greatly appreciated.

Internet Safety/cyber bullying

The use of the internet by children is both a fantastic learning opportunity and an activity that has many possibilities for problems to occur. We regularly emphasize with students that online and in school behaviour needs to be safe, respectful and friendly but this does not always happen. We encourage parents to monitor home computer use and set firm limits on the use of the internet. We have organized an internet safety talk for all intermediate students in January facilitated by the Vancouver Police Department. For more specific information on home use of the internet by children please see the article/brochure links below:

<http://www.parenting.com/article/keeping-your-child-safe-on-the-internet>

<http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/blogs/sxs/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=100>

MoreSports is coming to Sexsmith for a new Primary afterschool program

We are happy to inform you that MoreSports, VSB Community Schools Team, and the Vancouver Parks Board are supporting an afterschool program at Sexsmith for our primary students. The program will run for 8 weeks on Fridays starting on January 19, 2018 until March 9, 2018. Kindergarten and grade 1 students will be offered a minisport program from 3:15-4:00. Grades 2 and 3 students will be offered a beginners basketball program from 4:00 – 5:00pm. The program cost is \$40.00 for 8 sessions. **Registration** will happen at the school on Wednesday December 13 8:15 – 9:00am and Thursday December 14 2:45 – 3:30pm. Please make cheques payable to the City of Vancouver. To register over the phone with Visa or MasterCard contact Marpole-Oakridge Community Centre at 604-257-8180 ext.1

Helping Children Learn to be Adaptable

As I am sure you are aware, life often challenges us to be adaptable to changing situations. For children and parents, school is perhaps the first opportunity where they have to face that challenge. It may involve different teachers and support workers, different programs and classrooms, or changing peer relationships. Parents often want to step in and adjust the circumstances to minimize the change experienced by their children. Although the instinct to support your child is strong, please consider that school, particularly elementary school, is a great supportive environment to help your child learn to be adaptable. Together we can support them through the problem to help them build resilience in the face of adversity. This link has an interesting article on this subject: <http://theconversation.com/coping-with-change-teaching-adaptability-will-help-kids-grow-19726>

PAC News

The last PAC meeting was held on Thursday November 9 at 6:30pm. Many parents attended. Minutes have been posted on the PAC tab of the school website <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/sxs/Parents/PAC/Pages/default.aspx>. The next meeting is on Thursday December 7 at 6:30pm in the library. All parents are welcome to attend. If you would like to contact PAC or volunteer to help out with a program please email sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com.



DIWALI 2017

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2013 began on November 1st.



All Kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (French Immersion, Montessori, etc.) and/or a cross boundary placement.

The priority registration period for Kindergarten opens on **Wednesday November 1st and closes at 4 pm on Wednesday January 31st**. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than the school can accommodate the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1st and January 31st

1. In-catchment Kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a **random draw** for the remaining Kindergarten spaces.
3. Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name was drawn.
4. Between January 31st and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31st

In-catchment Kindergarten students who apply **after** January 31st will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist.

Note: There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31st.

When registering your child please bring:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records

If you wish to apply for a Choice program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice programs and cross boundary placements will be accepted in early 2018.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

* Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the district. (Policy Regulation JECC-R)

Important Dates in December

Friday Dec. 1	Professional Day – no school for students
Thurs. Dec. 7	Several divisions attending Nutcracker performance
Thurs. Dec. 7	PAC meeting @ 6:30 in library
Wed. Dec. 13	Money and remaining chocolates from sale must be returned to the school
Wed. Dec. 13	Onsite registration for MoreSports 8:15 – 9:00am
Thurs. Dec. 14	Onsite registration for MoreSports 2:45 -3:30pm
Fri. Dec. 15	Report cards go home
Dec. 18-22	Winter Sing a long (Monday – Friday 9:00-9:30am)
Tues. Dec. 19	Performance – Dance @ 1:45
Wed. Dec. 20	Kindergarten vision testing
Friday Dec. 22	Pancake Breakfast with Special Guest
Friday Dec. 22	Last Day before Winter Break
Dec. 25 – Jan. 5	Winter Break

Upcoming Important Dates in January

Monday Jan. 8	School resumes
Wed. Jan. 10	Performance – Theatre @ 1:00pm
Thurs. Jan. 11	Internet Safety Presentation for grades 4-6
Friday Jan. 12	Internet Safety Presentation for grade 7
Friday Jan. 19	MoreSports programs begin for grades K/1 -3:15pm and grades 2/3 -4:00pm
Tues. Jan. 23	Kindergarten hearing testing
Mon. Jan. 29	Curriculum Implementation Day – no school for students

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