

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



7410 Columbia Street Vancouver, BC V5X 3C1	Mr. Joel Levine Principal	PHONE: 604-713-4901 FAX: 604-713-4903
Ms. Magdalena Kassis Director of Instruction 604-713-5097	Ms. Winnie Ng Office Admin Assistant	Mr. Gurmit Sangha PAC Chair
NEWSLETTER #6		February 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The second term of the school year is well under way with students quickly resuming their studies after the winter break. At the beginning of this month we will have parent/student/teacher conferences on Wednesday February 7 and Thursday February 8. **Dismissal for both days is at 2:00pm** with conferences running from 2:15 – 6:00pm. This is another great opportunity for you to meet with your child’s teacher and understand their successes and areas where growth is still needed. Please be on time for your appointment as teachers often have a tight schedule in order to make time for all parents.

The internet safety talk by the Vancouver Police department unfortunately had to be rescheduled from the beginning of January. It is now scheduled to take place on Thursday February 8 and Friday February 9 for grades 4-7.

Later in the month we will be recognizing Lunar New Year with a student presentation on Thursday February 22 at 11:00am. Thanks in advance to Stan Tam for organizing this event.

Towards the end of the month the intermediate students will have an opportunity to display their science research during the Science Fair scheduled for the evening of Wednesday February 28.

February is also the time for the cross boundary application process which runs from February 1 – 28. More detailed information can be found on the VSB registration page <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/school-registration>

I hope you have a great month.

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)



HAPPY LUNAR NEW YEAR!!

Pick Up and Drop Off Concerns in the Roundabout

After monitoring the situation, we feel that we can leave the roundabout open at this time for pick up and drop off of students but again we ask parents to **not double park, not block access to the parking lot and not park in staff parking spaces at any time during the school day**. An extremely important reminder is to **go slow** and use the utmost caution when driving anywhere near the school, particularly during the morning and afternoon drop off periods. Your cooperation with these requests are greatly appreciated.

Extended absences

Throughout the year some parents make requests for students to leave school for extended absences. The staff and I want you to be aware that an extended absence from class instruction does have an effect on student learning, particularly at the primary level, for English language learners, or for all students who struggle with their learning. While teachers can make suggestions for general activities that students can do while away, this will not be a complete substitute for in class learning. We urge parents to consider carefully the implications of their decision to take extended holidays during instructional time.

Pink Shirt Day

On **Wednesday February 28** the school will recognize "Pink Shirt Day". This event started several years ago after some students in Nova Scotia were teasing another boy about wearing a pink shirt. In response and to support the affected boy, a group of students at the school all came the next day wearing pink. Pink Shirt Day has evolved into an opportunity to speak to children about respecting each other and emphasizing that bullying, homophobia, and gender stereotyping behaviour is never acceptable. If possible, please have your child wear pink on the 28th to participate in the positive message that all people deserve to be treated with respect and kindness.

Technology at Sexsmith

Through the generous donations from PAC and with help from the one time Learning Grant from the government, we have been able to move forward with purchasing more technology resources to benefit all the students. All classrooms are now equipped with projectors and apple tvs. In combination with new laptops from the district, all teachers will be able to quickly access and display information as part of their lessons. We are in the process of filling our MacBook laptop cart so that an entire class of students can be working on their own device at one time. We are also in the process of purchasing additional

devices (ipads, windows laptops, desktops) to increase student access to technology during class time. We cannot thank the parents enough for their work in fundraising to make these purchases possible!

PAC News

The last PAC meeting was held on Thursday January 11 at 6:30pm. Several 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 February 8 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 .

Family Day - Monday February 12



Important Dates in February

Wed. Feb. 7	Parent teacher conferences dismissal at 2:00pm
Thurs. Feb. 8	Parent teacher conferences dismissal at 2:00pm
Thurs. Feb. 8	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm in library
Mon. Feb. 12	Family Day – no school
Tues. Feb. 13	Performance – music @ 9:30am
Mon. Feb. 19	Professional Day – no school for students
Thurs. Feb. 22	Lunar New Year Celebrations
Wed. Feb. 28	Pink Shirt Day
Wed. Feb. 28	Science Fair at Sexsmith

Upcoming Important Dates in March

Sat. March 3	Science Fair at Science World
Sun. March 4	Science Fair at Science World
Mon. March 5	Ready Set Learn event with Angela Kelman
Thurs. March 8	PAC meeting @ 6:30 in library
Mon. March 12	Term 2 reports sent home
Fri. March 16	Last day before spring break/district closure/Easter
March 19-23	Spring Break – no school for students
March 26-29	District Closure – no school for students
Fri. March 30	Good Friday – school closed
Mon. Apr. 2	Easter Monday – school closed
Tues. Apr. 3	School reopens@ 9:00am

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