

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #26		February 2020

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy February!

Today you will receive the written mid-term report for your child. The format is similar to last year with some slight changes. We hope it makes sense to you and contributes to your understanding of how your child is progressing. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your child's teacher for more information.

Later in the month we will be recognizing Lunar New Year at the school with a special presentation on Monday, February 10th at 11:00am. Thanks in advance to members of the PAC for helping to organize 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 afternoon and early evening of Wednesday, February 26th. This is a celebration of learning and we encourage families to attend from 5-6pm.

I hope you have a great month.

Staffing Update

There have been some staffing changes that we want to make you aware of. Ms. Marshall has gone on maternity leave and Mr. Andre Van Vliet has taken over for the rest of the year. We have to say goodbye to our OAA, Erin Fowler, she has accepted a position at another school closer to home. We really appreciate her dedication and organizational skills and wish her well. We will now welcome Tassy Beretanos to Sexsmith as our new OAA.

Cross-Boundary Registration during the month of February

The cross-boundary application process runs from February 1st – 28th. Students must be registered at their home school before any cross-boundary applications can be accepted. **The application process is now online.** More detailed information can be found on the VSB registration page https://www.vsb.bc.ca/School/School-Registration/Cross_Boundary/Pages/default.aspx

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.
- 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)

Pink Shirt Day

On **Wednesday, February 26th** 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 26th to participate in the positive message that all people deserve to be treated with respect and kindness.

Pick Up and Drop Off Concerns



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

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

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.** Please note that as of 2020 parking fines have doubled in school zones.
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.**
3. Go slow anywhere near the school and respect all parking and traffic rules.

Kindergarten Registration for 2020-21



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.

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. (Administrative Procedure 300)

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 sign them out at the school office. 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)

A reminder to 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.

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>

Family Day Extra-Long Weekend

The Family Day long weekend will be extra-long for students with a professional day on Friday, February 14th followed by the Family Day holiday on Monday, February 17th.



PAC News

The last PAC meeting was held on Thursday January 9 at 6:40pm. Several parents attended. Minutes will be posted on the PAC tab of the school website. The next meeting is on **Thursday February 13** at 6:40pm 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.

Important Dates in February

Feb. 3-6	Curling program during gym time
Mon. Feb. 10	Lunar New Year Celebration (performance @ 11:00am)
Thurs. Feb. 13	PAC meeting @ 6:40pm in library
Fri. Feb. 14	Professional Day – no school for students
Mon. Feb. 17	Family Day – no school for students
Tues. Feb. 18	Zero Heroes – environmental themed performance (K-7)
Mon. Feb. 24	Special make up hot lunch because of missed lunch on Wed. Jan. 15
Mon. Feb. 24	Term 3 hot lunch orders distributed
Wed. Feb. 26	Science Fair 5-6pm
Wed. Feb. 26	Pink Shirt Day

Upcoming Important Dates in March

Mon. March 2	Term 3 hot lunch orders due by 3:30pm (no late orders accepted)
Thurs. March 5	PAC meeting @ 6:40pm in library
Fri. March 13	Last day before Spring Break
March 16-27	Spring Break
Mon. March 30	First Day back @ 9:00am

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