

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #36		February 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy February!

We have been continuing our monthly Startificate assemblies online this year. At each “assembly” I highlight a virtue which connects with our school goal of improving social emotional skills. This past month I spoke about “Getting along with others” This is also one of the concepts from the Heart and Mind program, which the school has been utilizing. We have amazing students who are responsible and kind, but from time to time some do have difficulty with peer relationships. This is a normal part of growing up and is really a teachable moment for staff and parents. When your child tells you about a conflict with a friend it is an opportunity to unpack how it started and how to move beyond anger toward repairing the relationship. Conflict always involves different perspectives, focusing on that instead of trying to immediately blame others will support positive development towards a healthy approach to dealing with conflict now and in the future. Please take a moment to look at this important [district resource](#) on this topic.

On January 15 many Sexsmith staff and students wore a black shirt to take part in a new initiative to commemorate Dr. Martin Luther King’s birthday by speaking out against racial injustice. The students put up posters and wrote messages of hope on a hallway bulletin board. We look forward to making this a yearly event. Thank you to Ms. Litsa for organizing the hallway display.

Intermediate students typically have a science fair at this time of year. Several teachers have chosen to continue this inquiry project work by having students work on their experiments and then film the results to be shared with families.

Our Sexsmith Lunar New Year celebration cannot be held this year, but we will be celebrating with some decorations in the hallway and a special treat given out to the students. Thank you to the PAC for organizing our COVID safe celebration.

I hope you have a great month.

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

Pink Shirt Day

On **Wednesday, February 24th** 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 24th to participate in the positive message that all people deserve to be treated with respect and kindness.

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)



Happy Lunar New Year – February 12

Kindergarten Registration for 2021-22

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 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>

New 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>

Family Day Extra-Long Weekend

The Family Day long weekend will be extra-long for students with a professional day on Friday, February 12th followed by the Family Day holiday on Monday, February 15th.



PAC News

The last PAC meeting was held on Wednesday January 13 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. February 10 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 February

Wed. Feb. 10	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm on Zoom
Fri. Feb. 12	Lunar New Year
Fri. Feb. 12	Professional Day – no school for students
Mon. Feb. 15	Family Day – no school
Wed. Feb. 24	Pink Shirt Day

Upcoming Important Dates in March

Wed. March 10	Student Conferences – dismissal at 2:00pm (These will be online)
Thurs. March 11	Student Conferences – dismissal at 2:00pm (These will be online)
Fri. March 12	Last day before Spring Break
March 15-26	Spring Break – no school
Mon. March 29	School resumes @ 9:00am

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