

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #3 **November 2017**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy November!

The year is well underway with many programs happening in the school. PAC lunches have started up this past month and I know that the students and parents really appreciate it. A huge thank you to Stan Tam and all the volunteers for making this possible. We have daily intramurals at lunch time organized by Mr. Biln and supported by several staff members. All students enjoy the opportunity to play and/or watch each lunch hour. Sexsmith students were able to attend WE day on October 18. This was a fantastic opportunity to inspire awareness in the world and our community. We want to thank Ms. Conrad and Ms. McHardy for their support for this program. During the month of November we will be having a special assembly to commemorate Remembrance Day led by the students and organized by Mr. Coelho. Later in the month, on November 20 we will also be celebrating Diwali with dancing, music and food. A special thank you to Vandana Nagpal for her help with this special day. Finally one more thank you to all the families that contributed money for Terry Fox. The school was able to raise over \$7000 that will be donated to cancer research on our behalf. Your generosity is admirable! I hope you have a great month.

Student Threat Assessment Protocol

Attached to this newsletter is the Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol. We are required to remind parents/guardians of this process each year. As noted, maintaining a safe, caring and inclusive school is the responsibility of everyone in the school community. We all have a responsibility to report any threat related behaviour immediately and to take it seriously. The school board has developed an organized response system to ensure that threats are dealt with appropriately and that all members of the school remain safe. Thank you for taking a moment to review the protocol and discussing it with your child in an age appropriate manner.

Senior Boys Soccer Report by Coach Leni Loconte

The senior boys' soccer team won the city championship on October 25 at Van Tech. The boys played five games in the round robin and finished with a record of 4 wins and 1 tie. With a strong team effort the boys advanced to the finals against Weir. Saurav was hustling up and down the field causing problems for other teams. The defensive unit of Pritam, Rishaan, and Sajan were shutting down opposing teams all afternoon. Alex and Arjun both dominated on offence contributing with goals that helped Sexsmith reach the finals. In a very close and exciting final game there were a few boys that really took their game to another level. Mike, who was in net, made some dazzling saves and was never beaten, posting 6 shut outs. Team captain, Parwaan who wowed the crowd with his skill, took over the game in the finals and shut down Weir's top players. With 3

minutes left in the final, Jordan buried his shot to give Sexsmith the win! Congratulations to Saurav, Jordan, Rishaan, Pritam, Alex, Arjun, Sajan, Mike, and Parwaan on bringing home the gold.

On behalf of the whole community: A very special thank you to coach Leni and sponsor teacher Mr. Kay for their dedication to sports programming at Sexsmith. Way to go!!!

School Growth Plan

Staff have been discussing the school growth plan for this year. After some consultation, the consensus is that the present goal of focusing on increasing student comprehension is still very relevant. From kindergarten through grade 7 teachers will continue to place a strong emphasis on students utilizing strategies to expand their understanding of material and concepts through reading, discussion, and questioning. We will track their progress through report card data in terms 1 and 2 and report out later in the school year. We also have an ongoing goal to increase knowledge, acceptance, empathy, awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among all students. Teachers are engaged in this work by embedding it into a variety of lessons and activities.

PAC News

The second PAC meeting was held on Thursday October 12 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 November 9 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. **Please watch for chocolate fundraising sale information in your email box later in November.**

Vancouver Chess School Coming to Sexsmith

JOIN US FOR A MAGICAL CHESS ADVENTURE!

This comprehensive and progressive program allows students to learn how to play chess in the optimal manner by gradually increasing complexity. Within 1.5 class hour we will teach our students different chess concepts, solve a large variety of tactical exercises, play practice games and tournaments. In addition, our students can use a wide range of our own unique on-line resources and software for homework, class material and games.

Why Chess?

- Exercise both sides of your brain
- Enhance academic skills of reading and mathematics
- Improve your memory and concentration
- Boost your creativity and problem-solving skills
- Develop long term planning and foresight
- Foster critical thinking and life skills

Program Dates: 10 Wednesdays, Jan 10th - Mar 14th. **Join any time!**

Time: 3 pm – 4:30 pm **Room:** Library **Program Fees:** \$ 15 per class paid in full upon registration

Register online at <http://www.vanchess.ca/groups>

Pick Up and Drop Off Concerns

It has come to our attention that some parents are dropping off or picking up students on 59th avenue and having their child cross the street in the middle of the block. Children are running between cars to cross the street to meet their parents. This creates a very real safety concern because of the amount of traffic at that time of day. **We require the students to cross 59th avenue at the cross walk at Manitoba Street.** 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.

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2013 begins 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 November

Thursday Nov. 9	Remembrance Day Assembly
Thursday Nov. 9	PAC meeting @ 6:30 in library
Friday Nov. 10	Curriculum Implementation Day – no school for students
Monday Nov. 11	Day in lieu for Remembrance Day – no school for students
Monday Nov. 20	Diwali Festival
Tuesday Nov. 21	Grade 6 immunization clinic
Friday Nov. 24	Div. 2 field trip to Arts Umbrella
Monday Nov. 27	PAC chocolate sales start (handed out throughout the week once permission slips returned)

Important Upcoming Dates in December

Friday Dec. 1	Professional Day – no school for students
Dec. 4 - 8	Scholastic Book Fair in library (Monday – Friday)
Thurs. Dec. 7	PAC meeting @ 6:30 in library
Wed. Dec. 13	Money and remaining chocolates from sale must be returned to the school
Dec. 18-22	Winter Sing a long (Monday – Friday 9:00-9:30am)
Wed. Dec. 19	Performance – Dance @ 1:45
Friday Dec. 22	Pancake Breakfast with Special Guest
Friday Dec. 22	Last Day before Winter Break
Dec. 25 – Jan. 5	Winter Break (school resumes Monday January 8)

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



STUDENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT PROTOCOL: *Notice to our students and parents/guardians/ caregivers*

The Vancouver School District and our community partners are committed to having safe, caring and inclusive schools. In the event that a student makes a threat of violence or harm to other students, staff or the school community the school will initiate the VSB student risk threat assessment process.

THE VSB STUDENT THREAT RISK ASSESSMENT PROCESS

What behaviours initiate a student threat risk assessment?

A Student Violence Threat Risk Assessment will be initiated for behaviours including:

- Serious violence or violence with intent to harm or kill;
- Verbal/ written/ drawn threats to harm or kill others;
- Online threats to harm or kills others;
- Possession of weapons (including replicas);
- Bomb threats;
- Fire setting;
- Sexual intimidation or assault; sextortion
- Gang related intimidation and violence

What is a threat?

- An expression of intent to do harm or act out violently against someone or something.
- Threats may be verbal, written, drawn, made through gestures or posted on the Internet.

Duty to report threat making behaviour

Maintaining a safe, caring and inclusive school community is the responsibility of everyone in the school community. Students, staff, parents/ guardians/ caregivers and community members **must report** all threat related behaviours to their school administrator.

Duty to Respond

All threats must be taken seriously and require a response that includes investigation and intervention. Our goal is to respond to threats quickly and in a professional manner, so that we can maintain a safe and caring learning environment.

The school administrator will initiate the threat risk assessment process, according to district protocol. Each school has a multi-disciplinary School Threat Risk Assessment Team which includes the School Administrator(s), Area or School-based Counsellor(s), and School Liaison Police Officer. A school may also involve district resource staff and community partners such as Child and Youth Mental Health in the threat assessment process.

What is the purpose of a Student Threat Risk Assessment?

The VSB student threat assessment process is used to:

- To ensure the safety of students, staff, parents and others.
- To ensure a full understanding of the context of the threat.
- To understand factors contributing to the threat makers' behaviour.
- To be proactive in developing an intervention plan that addresses the emotional and physical safety of the threat maker.
- To promote the emotional and physical safety of all.

What happens in a Student Threat Risk Assessment?

- Information is gathered from multiple sources including open source digital publically available data. This may include interviews with the threat-maker, student(s), staff and parents/ guardians/ caregivers to assess the level of risk.
- The School Threat Assessment Team examines the information collected and in consultation with community partners, determines the level of risk.
- Appropriate intervention plans are developed, implemented and shared with parents/guardians, staff and students, as required. Information shared throughout the risk/threat assessment process will respect the individual's right to privacy and the safety of all.

Can I refuse to participate in the threat assessment process?

It is important for all parties to engage in the Threat Risk Assessment process. However, if for some reason there is a reluctance to participate in the process, by the threat maker or parent/guardian, the threat assessment process will continue in order to ensure a safe and caring environment for all.