

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #23 **November 2019**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy November

School Plan Update: We are in year two of our three-year school plan. For several years, Sexsmith worked on a plan to improve critical thinking skills in our students. That work will continue, but we identified a need to also concentrate on social emotional learning. There is a tremendous amount of research that indicates that when educators focus on social emotional skills and provide direct instruction, students overall academic success increases. SEL skills encompass many aspects but can be characterized into five main areas:

- Self-awareness, to reflect on one’s own thoughts and feelings
- Self-management, the ability to self-regulate and control one’s own behaviour
- Social awareness, the ability to recognize social cues, adapt to various situations and empathize with others
- Relationship skills, the ability to communicate, make friends, work cooperatively, and manage conflict
- Responsible decision-making, the ability to make healthy choices and consider the consequences of one’s actions

Staff are continuing to deliver lessons focused on these key areas. We will continue to track literacy achievement through report card data. This year we are introducing an assessment tool called the Mini-Dessa to assess these skills in the fall and spring. **Additionally, and in conjunction with the Heart and Mind Well Being organization, we will be surveying intermediate students and parents of all students to gather more data on social emotional skills.** The goal is that over the next three years the added attention to the skills mentioned above result in an overall improvement in academic performance for all students. A summary of the plan and the results of our second year will be published in June/July.

Diwali Celebration

On Monday October 28 Sexsmith had its annual Diwali Celebration. Students worked with Vandana Nagpal to practice for the event. We want to extend a huge thank you to Vandana for managing this event and to all the parents who helped. Sharing cultural events with the whole student body is a tradition at Sexsmith that adds to the positive and inclusive culture that everyone should be very proud of.

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 respect the parking rules and keep our kids safe.
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 registration for children born in 2015 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 **Friday November 1st and closes at 4 pm on Friday January 31st.** Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

Applying for Kindergarten is a **2-Step process**:

Step 1: Completion of an online application form.

Step 2: Bringing supporting documentation, along with your neighbourhood English catchment school.

Supporting Documents Needed:

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



child, to your



If you want 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 begin to be accepted in early 2020.

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than available space* at the school, 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.

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

A reminder that gift cards can be purchased all year long and a percentage will be given to Sexsmith for future school projects. There is no additional cost to the purchaser. Please use this link: <https://www.fundscrip.com/Sign-Up.aspx?IID=2CBHHR>

PAC News

The last PAC meeting was held on Thursday October 10 at 6:40pm. Several parents attended. Minutes will be posted on the PAC tab of the school website. The next meeting is on **Thursday November 7** 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 .

Hosting an International Student

Host an International Student - Join Langara Homestay



Langara College invites you and your family to join our highly regarded Homestay Program by hosting a VSB international student this year. Students come from Europe, Asia and South America - usually stay for five to 10 months, and are keen to experience life with a Vancouver family. Generous reimbursement is provided. Please call 604.323.5696 or email homestay@langara.ca for more information.

www.langara.ca/homestay

Practical Interactive Chinese Programs

Practical Interactive Chinese Programs in J. W. Sexsmith Elementary School starting from October 2019, in Tuesday afternoon, 3:45 pm - 5:45 pm

Red Apple Learning Paradise (紅蘋果樂園)

Red Apple Learning Paradise is a non-profit Chinese School offering practical Chinese programs in Greater Vancouver.

Its goal is to promote students to learn and master Cantonese and Mandarin in a more interesting and practical studying environment. Students are also trained in people’s skills by developing a correct value concept, self-awareness, mutual respect and correct attitude to incorporate with other ethnic cultures so as to achieve a multicultural understanding and harmony.

Please direct your inquiries/registration to Principal Tang (604-874-9318 / 604-828-6668 / email: ratesprincipal@gmail.com)

如有查詢/註冊, 請聯絡鄧校長 (604-874-9318 / 604-828-6668 / email: ratesprincipal@gmail.com)

Important Dates in November

Mon. Nov. 4	Chocolate sales start for grades 2-7
Wed. Nov. 6	Immunization clinic for grade 6 and new students
Thurs. Nov. 7	Remembrance Day Assembly @ 11:00am
Thurs. Nov. 7	PAC meeting @ 6:40pm in library
Fri. Nov. 8	Professional Development Day – no school for students
Mon. Nov. 11	Remembrance Day - no school
Fri. Nov. 15	Picture retakes (am)
Fri. Nov. 15	Performance - Uzume Taiko @ 1:30pm
Mon. Nov. 25	All unsold chocolates and money returned to classroom teacher

Upcoming Important Dates in December

Wed. Dec. 4	Kindergarten Hearing Screening
Thurs. Dec. 5	PAC meeting @ 6:40pm in library
Fri. Dec. 6	Prizes announced for chocolate sales
Wed. Dec. 11	Several classes attending “Mixed Nuts” performance
Fri. Dec. 20	Breakfast with Santa
Fri. Dec. 20	Last Day before Winter Break
Dec. 21 – Jan. 5	Winter Holiday
Mon. Jan. 6	Classes resume at 9:00am

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