

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #2		October 2017

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy October!

September was a very busy month as we organized classes and began another school year with many new staff and a new administrator. Staff, students, and parents have been incredibly kind and supportive, as all the new additions to Sexsmith have figured out how things work. October will start with student goal setting conferences on Wednesday October 4th and Thursday October 5th. These meetings are great opportunities to sit with the teacher and set learning objectives for the coming year and to share any concerns you may have about your child. **A reminder that regular classes end at 2:00pm both days.** At the end of the month, we will celebrate Halloween with teachers planning several in-school activities for the students. We encourage everyone to come to school in costume that day but a reminder that everyone's face needs to be visible and the costume must not include any weapons. I hope you have a great month.

2017/18 School Staffing Updates

We have been very fortunate to have had all of our classes covered from the first day with qualified teachers and have not had to reassign teaching staff within the building for this purpose, as has happened at many other schools in British Columbia. Ms. Agnes Pang has been hired to cover the grades 3/4 class filling in for Ms. Pallen (Keo) at least until the spring although more likely for the full year. Ms. Lindy Liu has accepted the continuing position as a resource/prep/2/3 teacher and will be working with Ms. Wong in the grade 2/3 class on Thursdays and Fridays. Ms. Laura Mould accepted the grade 4 position; however, she currently has a position in another school and will not start until next September. As a result the grade 4 position for this year was reposted and we are happy to inform you that Mr. Markus Beutel accepted the position. Welcome to everyone!

Terry Fox

On Friday September 29, students participated in the Terry Fox run. We took the opportunity to consider the contributions that Terry's marathon continues to make towards cancer research and Canadian pride. Intermediate students ran around the golf course and younger students utilized the school grounds for their run. All funds that Sexsmith students and families raise will be donated to cancer research. A big thank you to families for your generous donations.

Learning Grant Funds

In February 2017, the Ministry of Education announced the Student Learning Grant, which provided one-time funding to school districts. The purpose of this grant is to provide for learning resources, supplies and equipment, and with the intent to help defray costs to parents. After consultation with the District Parent Advisory Committee, the funds were allocated to each

school based on the enrollment data from September 2016. School Staff have now undertaken a review of needs and have identified several areas where they feel the money will be of most use. Primary and intermediate teams will be purchasing resources to support the implementation of the new curriculum, additional technology resources (i.e. projectors), and to give immediate assistance to parents **this year only** the cost of all Jump Math workbooks will be covered by the learning grant funds.

New Safe Arrival Procedures for 2017-18 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 604-713-5159 extension 80.** 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 **604-713-5159 extension 80** 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!

PAC News

The first PAC meeting was held on Thursday September 14 at 6:30pm. Many parents attended. Minutes have been posted on the PAC tab of the school website. The next meeting is on Thursday October 12 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.

Fees and Forms

This is just a reminder to return all forms and fees to your child's teacher as soon as possible. It is very important that the office always have updated contact information for each student. Please ensure that during the year if your email or phone number changes or if your emergency contact information changes that you let us know as soon as possible.

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. Your cooperation with this requirement would be greatly appreciated.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Esmé Gandham who will be visiting Ottawa to represent Sexsmith at Young Citizens of Canada. Esmé completed an amazing Heritage Fair Project on BC's Klondike and will be presenting it in our countries capital city at the end of October. Good Luck Esmé!

Kindergarten Registration for 2018-19

Registration for next school year begins in November and continues on until January 31.

For more information: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>



Important Dates in October

Tues. October 3	Div. 9 field trip to Vancouver Art Gallery
Wed. October 4	Goal Setting conferences - dismissal at 2:00pm conferences 2:15 – 6:00pm
Thursday Oct. 5	Goal Setting conferences - dismissal at 2:00pm conferences 2:15 – 6:00pm
Thurs. Oct. 5	Div. 10 field trip to Vancouver Art Gallery
Monday Oct. 9	Thanksgiving – school closed
Thursday Oct. 12	PAC meeting @ 6:30 in Library
Friday October 13	Individual Photo Day
Wed. Oct. 18	Div. 5 & 6 Port of Vancouver field trip
Wed. Oct. 18	Me to We Day
Thurs. Oct. 19	Great BC Shakeout – earthquake drill @ 10:19am
Friday October 20	Professional Day – no school for students

Important Upcoming 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

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