

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #2 October 2021		

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy October!

The fall is upon us as the weather is getting cooler and the rainy season has arrived. Please make sure that your children are dressed appropriately for the weather with rain jackets, boots and umbrellas as students go outside to enjoy the fresh air rain or shine! We appreciate how many students are arriving at school wearing masks as the guidelines have changed recently and masks are mandatory for K-12 students. Although we have paper masks for emergencies, we request that all students come to school with a re-useable mask from home to reduce the number of discarded masks daily and help the environment.

Thank you to everyone who have filled in all the school forms and paid school fees. If you have still not sent in the forms and paid the fees, please do so as soon as possible. The fruit and veggie program is up and running and a permission form was sent home to families. Please return this form if you want your child to participate in the program.

Next week we will have student goal setting conferences on **Wednesday October 13 and Thursday October 14** for students in grades K-7. These **online** meetings are a great opportunity to meet 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 2:00 pm both days for all students.** Teachers will be in contact with families with specific details about meeting times.

On October 21, we will be participating in the Great Shakeout Earthquake Drill at 2:00 pm. This will be an opportunity for the school to practice our Emergency Preparedness Plan which will include student reunification. We will be asking for some Kindergarten parent volunteers to come to pick up their children at 2:30 to assist us in practicing this very important part of our drill.

September 30 was the first Truth and Reconciliation Day in Canada. Schools were closed in order for all of us to take some time to think about and remember the children who were part of the residential school system and to work towards being allies on the path to reconciliation. Students have been making orange poppies which have been placed on the grass hill around the school as a sign of support.

Thanksgiving is upon us and I'd like to take a moment of gratitude for your support and trust in sending your children to school and for the staff of Sexsmith school for all you do each and every day in support of children and their families.

Wishing everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and a restful long weekend!



2021/22 School Staffing Updates

Congratulations to Simon Thorn who will be staying on in the grade 5 class at Sexsmith for the remainder of the school year. Welcome to Isabel Wong who will be with us covering Ms. Choy's grade 1 class until further notice.

Terry Fox Run

The weather cooperated and we had a very successful Terry Fox Run on Oct. 1. Intermediate classes ran around Langara golf course, and the primary classes ran around our field. Thanks to the generosity of the community, we raised \$2575.00 to support Cancer research and to keep Terry Fox's dream alive.

Pumpkin Patch

The Sexsmith school grounds will be transformed into a pumpkin patch on Tuesday, October 26. Thanks to the generosity of the PAC, pumpkins will be available for all of our preschool and primary students who will have the chance to go outside with their classmates throughout the morning to pick the pumpkin of their choice. Please provide your child with a bag to put their pumpkins in to take home.

Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The link below is for the Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol that we are required to share with staff and parents each year. Please read through and discuss with your child, where appropriate for their age level. Our goal is always to maintain a safe and inclusive environment. Please check out the second link for other important student safety information.

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Safe_Caring/Student_Threat_Risk_Assessment/Pages/default.aspx

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 (prior to 9 am). 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

Student Sign out Procedure:

When you pick up your child during the school day, please call the school office to arrange for pick up. If you do not do this and the child leaves without the office knowing, 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!

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. Traffic in the Roundabout** – There is **NO PARKING** allowed in the roundabout. This access is for Emergency Vehicles (Fire Truck, Ambulance), school deliveries and staff entry to the parking lot.

We allow **drop off and pick up only** as a convenience and to alleviate traffic congestion. Parked cars prevent traffic from moving and causes a backlog with cars making U-turns at the end of Columbia St. which is a safety concern for pedestrians on the trail and students walking to school. It also blocks the entry for emergency vehicles that need immediate access to the school.

There are also concerns with vehicles speeding and going in the opposite direction in the roundabout. These concerns were addressed with our School Patrol and Traffic Liaison Officer. To ensure the safety of our students who use this entry point to get to school, we have trained and assigned our school patrol to assist our students to walk safely across the entrance to the parking lot. A staff member who will also be on duty each morning and after school to supervise and monitor the traffic.

We encourage all of our students to walk, bike, scooter to school each day to get their daily physical activity. If you must drive your child to school and the traffic is busy, please park 1-2 blocks away and have them walk.

A little patience and co-operation will help to keep all our students safe while meeting the needs of the community.

School Photo Day

Individual student photos will resume this year. The date for school photos is on Friday, October 15.

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP)

The kids plus student accident insurance program has changed and is now called **The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP)**. This coverage is still provided by Industrial Alliance and is a voluntary plan which offers coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is ideal for supplementing costs not covered by provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans

Families can register online to participate in the Plan by using the URL provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

Phone: 1.800.266.5667

Email: solutions@ia.ca

PAC News

The first PAC meeting was held on Wednesday Sept. 22 at 6:30pm on Zoom. Several parents attended and it was nice to put a face to some of our PAC executive and other members. Minutes will be posted on the PAC tab of the school website. The next meeting is on Wed. October 20 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 out with a program, please email sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com.

Important Dates in October

Mon. Oct. 11	Thanksgiving – no school
Wed. Oct. 13	Student Conferences – dismissal at 2:00 pm (These will be online)
Thurs. Oct. 14	Student Conferences – dismissal at 2:00 pm (These will be online)
Fri. Oct. 15	Individual Student Photos
Wed. Oct. 20	PAC meeting @ 6:30 pm on Zoom
Fri. Oct. 22	Provincial Professional Development Day – no school for students

Upcoming Important Dates in November

Tues. Nov. 2	Diwali Celebration
Wed. Nov. 10	Remembrance Day Assembly
Thurs. Nov. 11	Remembrance Day – School is closed
Wed. Nov. 17	PAC meeting @ 6:30 pm on Zoom
Fri. Nov. 26	Professional Development – Indigenous Focus Day - no school for students

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