

Southlands Community Newsletter

Craig Larson, Principal

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Friday November 15, 2024

Good afternoon, everyone! I'm feeling particularly grateful today; we have been able to start a few student-led initiatives over the last couple weeks and I'm really proud of our students.

Indigenous Veterans' Day and Remembrance Day

This year's assembly for Indigenous Veteran's Day and Remembrance Day was created and led by Grade 7 students. They did an excellent job of communicating the respect and gratitude we have here at Southlands. We also welcomed several students from Grade 4-7 that presented poems. We also had an amazing video by the kindergartens that is attached here. I would also like to acknowledge the entire school for their respectful attendance. Students listened intently and were so patient, especially our youngest students.

Kindergarten Registration – 2025/26

Registration is now open for all Kindergarten students registering for September 2025. K registration is a 2-part process. You can head to this link, <https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5195> to register and once you have received a confirmation email or phone call, you'll come into the school to provide documentation etc. To help the process, please call our office in advance to set up an appointment with Richard to review your documents. Registration is open from today (November 1) until January 31, 2025. You'll find lots of great information on the link I've provided if you have any questions.

Basketball

We started our open gym for Basketball this week. We are hoping to have senior teams for the boys and girls this year for basketball. A huge thank you to Mr. Chan for volunteering his time to coach basketball. Any students in grades 6 and 7 are welcome to come to the gym on Thursdays at lunch. If you've never played basketball, that's ok! The whole point is so that people can have a positive experience.

Eco Heroes

Another program that we were able to support is the Eco Heroes initiative. I have had several students ask me, "when is eco heroes starting?" and my response has been, "I don't know, when do you want to start it?" Well, it turns out that this week was a great opportunity to start it back up. We have some amazing student volunteers that are dedicated to making sure our school grounds are clear of garbage. I cannot thank the members of Eco Heroes enough for the great job they're doing.

On another, related note it has been disappointing to see so much garbage on our school grounds this year. We have had several conversations with the students about "taking care of this place" but we are still seeing a great deal of garbage thrown on the

ground. If you have a chance, it would be great to reinforce this message at home. Thank you!

Mark Your Calendars – Winter Concert!

We are very excited to announce that we will have a Winter Concert here at the school on Wednesday December 18th in the evening. We are looking at a 5:45 start but will confirm exact start time soon. A big thank you to staff; they were very excited to make this event happen this year. We'll be treated to some songs and other delights. Stay tuned for exact start time.

November – IB Learner Trait

For our International Baccalaureate curriculum, we have a different learner trait every month. We focus on this learner trait and try to understand how it connects to the rest of the world. October's trait was Inquirer. November's learner trait is "Communicators; We express ourselves confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. We collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups."

PAC Newsletter

For any new parents/caregivers to Southlands or those that did not know, the Parent committee has a newsletter. You can sign up here https://mailchi.mp/5aeb3e7c025/southlands_pac You'll find lots of info about ongoing fundraisers, hot lunch and more!

Student Quotes

With our learner trait being Communicator this month; we asked classes what makes a good communicator.

Division 5 –

- Using a strong voice
- Being able to talk to small and big groups
- Listening to others and asking questions
- Talking to new friends
- Sharing ideas to express how you're feeling

Division 3 –

- Being accountable for what you say
- Expressing how you feel
- Being helpful
- Listening to the principal ;)

Division 1 –

- Expressing your ideas

- Being comfortable speaking in front of people
- Talking about how you're feeling

Division 10 –

- Talking
- “Would you like to come to my café?”
- Typewriting to each other
- Stories

Upcoming Dates

November 22 – Pro-D Day – School is closed to students

December 18 – Southlands Winter Concert

Thank you,
Craig

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With deep gratitude and respect, I am honoured to be learning and unlearning on the ancestral and unceded lands of the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam Nation)