



NOOTKA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

3375 Nootka Street, Vancouver, BC V5M 3N2 604.713.4767

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

Hello Nootka Families!

Happy Valentines Day! I hope the start of this lunar new year has been good to you and your family.

Nootka continues to buzz with lots of learning and positive vibrations. For me, February is a month to think about kindness, diversity and inclusion. Learning around Black history, caring for others, and anti-bullying are just a few of the important topics Nootka students are learning about this month. Our hope is that these key themes and their lessons don't just take place in the month of February but should be taking place and referred to continuously. When in doubt, just remember the Nootka code of conduct...take care of yourself, take care of others, and take care of this place!

Enjoy the rest of Valentine's Day, Palentine's or Tuesday if that's what you call it.

Take care,

Mr. Bemister (he/him)
Principal

Pink Shirt Day

Wear pink on Wednesday, February 22nd for Pink Shirt Day, to support kindness and inclusion. Pink Shirt Day is recognized worldwide and started in Canada when a student in Nova Scotia was made fun of by his peers for wearing pink. The next day, the student's friends wore pink in solidarity and Pink Shirt Day was born. At Nootka we care for others and it's important to remember that it isn't just for one day a year. I'm proud of the work that the students, staff, and families have done to make Nootka a safe and inclusive place for all. Hope to see you wearing pink on the 22nd!

Drumming Workshops

This week we started school wide drumming with Daniel Duggan from Rhythm Resource. The primary group will have sessions from Feb 13-16 with a performance on Thursday at 1:30pm. The intermediates start next week on Tuesday, February 21st, and will have a performance on February 24th at 1:30pm. Seating will be first come first served for anyone hoping to watch.

Nootka Art Crawl

On Tuesday, February 28th, Divisions 1-5 will be hosting a Nootka Art Crawl. The crawl will showcase a mix of auditory, visual, digital and physical art. All are welcome to attend the event but please note it will only feature work from Div. 1 - 5 students. Entry will be at 5:00pm through the gym. Hope to see you there!

February 17th Pro-D and February 20th Family Day

A reminder that on February 17th and 20th there is no school for Pro-D day and Family Day Holiday. Have a great long weekend.

Lost and Found

The lost and found is getting even more full (again). Please come by the front of the school on Friday morning from 8:30 am – 9:15 am to look for any of your child's lost items. We have dozens of jackets, gloves, water bottles, hats and even a few single shoes and boots.

Basketball at Nootka

The basketball season is coming to an end. The students did an amazing job representing Nootka to the fullest...and they looked great in their new jerseys. It's been awesome to see the students enthusiasm for the sport grow over the course of Nootka intramurals and the league season.

I always tell my teams that winning is great but it's not the most important part of sport. Working hard and learning grit, developing team-work and communication skills, and creating healthy habits for life are just a few of the many benefits that sport has to offer. Recognizing that a game is just a game, and that pride should come from effort, development and class displayed during competition are all lessons that we work on here at Nootka.

A big thank you to all the volunteer coaches and referees (parents and staff – you know who you are) who make the teams happen. Without their time and dedication, we wouldn't be able to field all the teams. Thank you for your time. Next up badminton...

PAC Meeting Wednesday, February 23 at 6:30 via ZOOM

Thank you to everyone who has been active with the Nootka PAC this year! The next meeting is online through ZOOM on Feb 23rd at 6:30pm. Please head to the Nootka PAC website for more information and a link to the meeting. We hope to see you there.

Safe Arrival to report student absences

Parents should leave a message on a dedicated answering service by calling **604-713-5159 ext. 60**. 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.

When an absence isn't reported to the office in advance, your child will be marked absent by the teacher and that information gets sent to the office. From there, the OA, Mrs. Carollo, will notify the main contacts that we have on file. We do this to confirm that the students are in fact away. If you do not want to receive the contact from the school, please notify the office in advance. This is the ideal scenario as it is less work for us.

To Report Your Child's Absence – Please call 604-713-5159 ext. 60 prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence.

When reporting a student absence, please provide the following information:

- The first and last name of your child – please spell the last name
- Grade and/or division number
- The reason for the absence
- The date of the absence and the length of the absence if your child will be away for more than one day.

Cross Walk on 18th and Nootka

It has been reported to the office that some people have been stopping, to drop kids off, very close to the intersection on 18th and Nootka. When cars are stopped too close to the intersection it cuts off sightlines for our student crossing guards and cars driving down Nootka Street. This creates a dangerous crossing situation for Nootka students. Please help keep Nootka students safe by stopping or parking a legal distance away from the crosswalk. Alternatively, you might consider a mode of active transportation. Walking and wheeling are both excellent alternatives.

Important Upcoming Dates

Friday, February 17th, 2023

- *Professional Development Day – No School for Students*

Monday, February 20th, 2023

- *Family Day – No School*

Wednesday, February 22nd, 2023

- *Pink Shirt Day – Wear pink*

Thursday, February 23rd, 2023

- *PAC Meeting @ 6:30 online*

Tuesday, February 28th, 2023

- *Nootka Art Crawl – Div 1-5 @ 5:00pm*

For up-to-date information please see our Nootka Website @
<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/nootka/Pages/default.aspx>

