



Tyee Newsletter

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<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/schools/tyee>

December 22nd, 2023

Dear Tyee Families,

It was heartwarming to see everyone who could attend the Magee Winter Concert. 2023 has been a marvelous year, filled with joy, happiness, hard work, perseverance, and determination. Each one of us has come a long way, and we've grown together as a school community. As we step into 2024, we welcome new hopes, dreams, and opportunities. We look forward to reconnecting with everyone in the coming year, ready to embrace the challenges and successes that lie ahead.

From the Tyee staff, we wish you all a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year!



"Honoured to be working together on the traditional, ancestral, and unceded territories of the *xwməθkwəy̓ə* m|Musqueam, *Sḵwxwú7mesh*|Squamish & *səlilwətał* |Tseil-Waututh Nations"

Information Items:

1. Lunch time Olympics

Upon returning from the break, there will be lunchtime games open to students of all ages. These activities will encompass various sports, promoting physical fitness, social interaction, and the principles of fair play.

A special thank you to Mike Kulik, who will be overseeing these games. Grade bands will receive invitations to participate in the gym on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, or Thursdays. Each session can accommodate up to 24 students.

Let the games begin!

2. Thank you for supporting our Scholastic Book Fair this past October

Tyee achieved sales of just over \$3800! Our school received a percentage of the net sales, which were redeemed in Scholastic dollars. We used the Scholastic dollars to acquire a many new books for the library including a variety of graphic novels, picture books, chapter books, SEL books, grammar books, and National Geographic readers.

We also purchased several new sets of guided reading materials, eight new novel sets for the intermediate classrooms, and provided each primary classroom with a set of 75 non-fiction decodable readers featuring real photographs to enhance their classroom collections.

A heartfelt thank you to the entire Tyee community for your unwavering support and incredible generosity.



3. Kindergarten and Choice School Registration Information

Registration for District Choice Kindergarten programs is between **January 8, 2024 and February 2, 2024**. Information about Registration can be found at:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5317/montessori-elementary>

The Montessori information session, beneficial for new applicants, will be held virtually on the evening of January 17th, 2024 from 6:00 p.m. – 6:45 p.m.

Dates and links for the 2024 District Choice School Information Session Nights can be found here:

<https://www.vsb.bc.ca/page/5318/information-sessions>

4. Upcoming Dates:

- January 8th – Schools Re-open – Welcome back staff and students to school!
 - January 9th – Saleema Noon Parent Information Session @ 6:30 p.m. (zoom link to come)
 - January 11th – Virtues Assembly
 - January 12th – Saleema Noon Presentations K-7
 - January 17th – Pro D day (No School for Students)
 - January 17th – Montessori District Choice Information Night (new families)
 - Tyee bookings for skating sessions at Trout Lake. Teachers will be informing families of the sessions their class will be attending.
 - Thursday, January 18, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, February 1, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, February 15, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, February 22, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, February 29, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
 - Friday, March 1, 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
 - Thursday, March 7, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
 - Thursday, March 14, 1:30 - 2:30 p.m.
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5. Saleema Noon Body Science Sessions for Tyee Students – January 12th, 2024 (PAC Sponsored event):



Dear Parents/Guardians of Tyee students,

Each year, students in all elementary grades throughout BC receive instruction in sexual health education. This information is included in the Physical and Health Education program mandated for all BC students by the Ministry for Education. From time to time, schools bring in experts in the field to address this topic with the school community. We are excited to inform you that this year Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators will be visiting our school to work with parents and students in **K to G7**.

In their Body Science presentations, Saleema Noon and her team of experienced educators work with children of all ages, teaching them about healthy bodies and healthy sexuality in ways they find non-threatening and entertaining. In their own language, children learn about how their bodies change, and what those changes mean.

Based on research and many years of experience as sexual health educators, they identify three reasons why providing this information starting in kindergarten is crucial:

1. Most importantly, studies from all over the world consistently show that children who are educated about healthy bodies, healthy boundaries and healthy sexuality are at reduced risk of child sexual abuse. Even if children are not asking questions yet (some never will) we need to give them information about their bodies and help them to develop strong personal boundaries. Sexual offenders (the majority of which are known to the victim) prey on children who aren't educated about their bodies and therefore lack the skills to differentiate between appropriate and inappropriate touching. These children find it hard to say "no", especially to an adult, and may not report abuse for fear of getting in trouble.
2. Young children are easiest to teach. They are excited to be body scientists, and accept the information very matter-of-factly. Older children and teens, however, often find it difficult to talk about sexual health openly, especially with their parents! This means we have to navigate the embarrassment barrier before they can accept the information they need. The good news is that young children only absorb information they are ready for...everything else just goes over their head. More good news, studies show that children who learn about healthy bodies at an early age from reliable adults in their life delay sexual activity.
3. Children today are exposed at earlier and earlier ages to all things involving sex and sexuality. We, as responsible adults, need to stay one step ahead of this by arming our children with accurate information about sexual health before they get their questions answered on the playground, by older friends or online. We need to teach them to think critically about what they hear, and this allows parents need to establish themselves early as their child's number one source of sexual health information throughout their development.

Please join us for an informative **Parents Workshop** via Zoom on **January 9th, 2024 6:30-8pm**. In this session, Saleema or a member of her team will give an overview of student presentations and, using humor and straight talk in an open, interactive environment, will show parents how easy it is to convey healthy, meaningful messages about sex and growing up to young children.

Student sessions will take place in person during the school day January 12th, 2024. The content of the presentations is supported by current research as being age appropriate and we believe that it contributes to healthy child development. Some of the topics Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators cover in their workshops extend beyond the content of the BC Physical and Health Education curriculum. For this reason, parents may choose to have their children OPT OUT of the Body Science workshops. If you do not wish your child to attend, we ask that you notify your child's teacher and our office by January 11th, 2024. Attendance at the parent presentation before making this decision is strongly encouraged.

Please also feel free to phone me at the school if you have any questions and/or concerns about Saleema Noon Sexual Health Educators' presentations.

Sincerely,
Melanie Monrad

Principal, Tyee Elementary School



www.saleemanoon.com

6. Thank you for supporting Circle Craft

Thank you, Tyee, for supporting our Grade 7 students in their Grade 7 leaving ceremony fundraiser. The Grade 7s successfully sold a total of \$1700 worth of goods. After deducting expenses, \$1100 will be allocated to their Farewell events.

