

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #7 **March 2017**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

One Chapter Ends – Another Begins

Just before Spring Break I submitted a letter to the Vancouver School Board indicating that after 31 years with the Board as a teacher, Vice Principal and for the past 19 years as a Principal, I intend to retire effective July 31, 2017. I have found my career very rewarding and have enjoyed immensely my final 3 years at Sexsmith but it is time for me to set out on the next stage of my life. The biggest hesitancy I had in this decision was leaving Sexsmith. The students, staff and parents have been wonderful during my tenure here and I will truly miss you all. I will share more of my memories in a later newsletter but in the meantime I am really looking forward to our and my final term these next 3 months.

Science Celebration

In late February our intermediate students hosted the Science Celebration for our school community. The celebration was the culmination of our Grade 4 to 7 students working in groups researching a topic of their choice. The students then created displays about what they had learned about their topic and they provided oral presentations as well. Fifty-two of our students participated in the District Science Celebration at Science World at the end of February where they were able to showcase their work to the public. All of the students are to be commended for their outstanding efforts with this project and their presentations. A special thank you to Mr. Kay for all of his work coordinating this event for our school community as well as for our school district.

This type of learning activity is in concert with one of the key components of the new Education Plan. Having students going out and exploring a topic and then providing them with a variety of ways to demonstrate their learning is something that will continue to be prevalent in their school experiences in the future.

Intending to Move

If you know that your children will not be returning to Sexsmith next year and you have not already informed our office staff, please do so as soon as possible. This will assist us with our planning for next year. Further, if you are moving and know what school your children will be attending next year, please inform our office as it will help us in getting your child's file transferred as soon as possible.

Spring Weather and Coming to School

Hopefully the cold, wet weather will soon stop and warmer, sunnier weather will become the norm. When the weather does improve I encourage the children and family members if needed, to walk to school or ride their bikes to school. Not only is this a healthy way to start and end the school day, it will also help to alleviate the traffic congestion around the school.

VSBC Summer School Programs

The VSBC offers a variety of excellent programs in July and August through their summer school programs. Registration for these program begins May 5. A description of the programs: <https://summer.vsb.bc.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

Term 2 Report Cards

Our term 2 report cards were sent home just before the break. I hope all parents had an opportunity to discuss their child's report card with them. The reports provided by all the teachers gave the parents detailed descriptions of what the children were learning at school as well as a good account of how well the child is progressing in all areas of their learning. In my opinion the staff is to be commended for the very thorough and professional manner in which the reports were written.

PAC News

On March 9, we held our monthly PAC meeting. Many thanks to the 20 parents who were in attendance at this meeting. We had a special guest in attendance, Mr. Sam Wong from the Vancouver Arbutus Rotary Club. Mr. Wong shared some exciting news with us when he indicated that the Rotary Club is wanting to enhance our already strong relationship with them by providing support with our Home Reading, Kindergarten Literacy and Technology programs on an ongoing basis. Hopefully in the next few months the specifics of this support will be developed.

Another highlight of the meeting was Mrs. Mumford's presentation to the PAC about our school's ambitious technology plan. The staff Technology Committee has spent the past few years developing this plan and did a tremendous amount of research and discussions before formalizing the plan. As you are aware, the importance of technology as a learning tool for our students and as an instructional tool for teachers and support staff is increasing dramatically. Whereas previous generations have learned or been taught using pens, pencils and books primarily, today's students need learning activities to use a variety of technological devices and programs in order to meet their potential.

The staff and students are very appreciative of the decision by the PAC to provide \$ 31 368 to support our Technology Plan. The funding will be used to purchase 20 basic Macbook Airs, a laptop cart that will allow us to easily transport the lap tops around to classrooms (the same type of cart we currently use with our 30 I pads and 6 I pad Minis). I look forward to seeing all of this technology in use with our students and staff.

I also wanted to thank the parents who were at the meeting for the excellent discussion we had about our plan. The questions and comments that the parents provided really demonstrated an awareness of the topic.

Other topics discussed at the meeting were the following:

– Sports Day to be held on Friday May 19th (just before the Victoria day long weekend)– an order form for lunches will be sent home soon with the students as there will be no concession stand this year; a call out will be coming soon for parent volunteers

- Filipino Festival always a highlight of the year will be held on Friday, June 9th at 1:30.

We hope to see as many parents as possible at our next PAC meeting on Thursday, April 6th in the Library at 6:30.

Indoor Track Meet

One of the great traditional events we hold every year at Sexsmith is the Indoor Track Meet for our intermediate students on the last day before Spring Break. The gym was filled with lots of excitement as the students participated in a variety of fun races and cheers. The emphasis on that day for the students is not winning or losing but having fun and judging from the noise coming from the gym that day they certainly had lots of that!

Restoration of Contractual Language in the Teachers Contract

Recently the provincial government and the BCTF came to an agreement on the restoration of contractual language primarily in the areas of class size and class composition. The language being restored is the limits that were in place in 2002. We will find out our staffing allocations in May and that is when we will know the impact the restoration of the contractual language will have on our school staffing and school organization for next year. This year we did receive some additional resource team staffing in February as part of this agreement that we are using to provide additional support to our resource team members and the students they support.

Third Term Activities

Below in the newsletter is a calendar of events for April and the rest of the school year. As you will see there are many school and classroom events for the third term including: the Heritage Fair, Sports Day; school wide dance program; Filipino Festival; Grade 7 Farewell and year end assembly. Please refer to these dates and they are also recorded on our school website as well.

Upcoming Events

Wed April 5 – All – Aboriginal Dance Assembly

Thurs Apr. 6 – Div 7 – TEGS Cooking Program

Fri. Apr 7 – Div. 6/7 – Field Trip

Thurs Apr. 13 - All – School Assembly – 10:00

Fri Apr. 14 – All - Good Friday – School is Not in Session

Mon Apr 17 – All – Easter Monday – School is Not in Session

Wed Apr 19 – Grade 7's – Tour of Churchill High

Tues May 2 – New K Parents and Students – Welcome to K

Thurs May 4 – Div. 4/5 TEGS Program; All – Big One at One Earthquake Drill – 2:00

Tues May 9 – Provincial Election Voting Station in the Gym all day

Thurs May 11 – Div 1/4/5/6/7 – Heritage Fair

Thurs May 18 – Div. 5/6 – Field Trips

Fri May 19 – All – Sports Day

Mon May 22 – Victoria Day Holiday – School is Not in Session

Wed May 24 to Wed May 31 – All – School Wide Dance program

Thurs June 1 – Track Team – District Track Meet at Swangard Stadium

Mon June 5 – All – Pro D Day – School is not in Session for Students

Fri. June 9 – All – Filipino Festival at 1:30pm in the gym

Thurs June 15 – Div. 4/5/6/7 – Field Trips

Tues. June 27 – Gr 7 Families – Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony – 11:00

Wed June 28 – Div 1/2/3/4 – Field Trips

Thurs. June 29 – All- Year End Assembly – 11:00; Last Day for Students

Fri. June 30 – Last Day of the 2016/17 School Year

Please note this is a partial list of events and there will be many other activities occurring before the end of the school year – especially field trips so please read future newsletters and refer to our school calendar on the website for those dates.