

Laurier Parent Advisory Council Meeting – Principal's Report

Date: September 23rd, 2015

Principal: Risha Golby

School News

September News

First off, I would like to thank everyone for being so welcoming. Thank you to all of the parents that have gone out of their way to introduce themselves. Please continue to do so, my door is always open. If it is a particularly busy day you can send an email to rgolby@vsb.bc.ca and we can set up a time to meet. If you have a concern about your child that is related to the classroom please remember to first bring the concern to the classroom teacher so that we can work as a team to better support your child's learning needs.

I would like welcome three new teachers to the Laurier team:

Aimee Boucher – Grade 2/3 teacher

Jennifer Altman – Librarian

Dawn Bryson – Resource

All three teachers bring a wealth of experience in their given areas and we are lucky to have them join our community.

And, last but certainly not least, I would like to say a big thank you to all the continuing Laurier staff who have worked hard to make this year's start up so smooth.

School Updates:

1. **Earthbites:** Earthbites is already up and running and in full swing. This year, thanks to the PACs generosity, every division will participate. There will be five sessions held throughout the year. In each session your child will be working with an urban gardener to learn about seasonal gardening and healthy food preparation.
2. **September ProD and School Goal:** This year we will be focusing on our school goal of "Social and Emotional Learning." Monday's focus will be how, as a staff, we can support all students in all settings to develop important skills in the domain of social emotional learning. Andrea Hardstone from The Centre of Ability will be joining us to lead a morning session on this topic. In the afternoon we will be meeting as a staff to do school wide planning.

District News:

The New Curriculum:

Over the next three years the province of B.C. will be transitioning to a new curriculum, K-12, in all subject areas. There have been many questions, and concerns about how this process will affect schools, teachers and ultimately our students.

The Ministry has released a letter to parents explain the process which provides ways of accessing more information on the topic, and provides web links to sample curriculum etc. Please refer to our website for a copy of the letter.

The key message is that the shift to the new curriculum will happen slowly and thoughtfully over a three year period. Many aspects of the curriculum will look familiar. There will continue to be a strong emphasis on the foundational skills of reading, writing and mathematics.

Shifts you may see are an increased use of a personalized learning – an approach that provides students the opportunity to more deeply pursue their interest and passions while tying that learning back to the given subject areas and learning criteria.

As a staff we will be working towards implementing the new curriculum in phases. We look forward to working with our parent community in exploring ways that we can support teachers, staff and students with these exciting new changes.