

# SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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<b>NEWSLETTER #8</b>		<b>April 2018</b>

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

April is here and I hope everyone is ready for the fast pace and full agenda of the last term. This month we will start off with an exciting presentation from Earth Rangers for grades 1-7. Thank you to Sexsmith parent, Kim Lum for nominating our school and to HSBC's Sustainability Group for sponsoring this event.

A reminder that class and team photos will be taken on Wednesday April 11.

On Thursday April 12, after a shortened PAC meeting at 6:30pm with pizza and child minding available, Sharon Selby will be facilitating a talk on child anxiety at approx. 7:15pm. Sharon is a registered clinical counsellor with 20 years of experience. Her talk will focus on information and strategies to address anxiety in children. All parents are welcome.

On Friday April 20, Sexsmith will be celebrating Earth Day with several activities planned. A huge thank you to Ms. Jones for coordinating this event. Our Heritage Fair will take place on Wednesday April 25. This is another opportunity for students to engage with inquiry learning as they investigate a topic and create written and oral presentations to share their learning. Thank you to Ms. Greig for leading this program.

Finally on the April 27 professional day while staff are engaged in work discussing our progress with the school goal plan, some students will have the opportunity to practice their logic and problem solving skills. Community Schools Team along with Awesome Escape Room 4 Kids are bringing a unique and exciting program to Sexsmith for grades 1-4 students. For more information see this [link](#). For more information about afterschool programs at Sexsmith this spring click on this [link](#).

I hope you have a great month.

### Pick Up and Drop Off Concerns

Please remember to **not double park, not block access to the parking lot and not park in staff parking spaces at any time during the school day**. It is extremely important to **go slow** and use the utmost caution when driving anywhere near the school. Your cooperation with these requests is greatly appreciated.

### Earthquake Drill May 3

This is advance notice that on Thursday May 3 at 2:00 pm we will be having our annual earthquake drill. We will once again be practicing our reunification process with a select group of parents. This is an important exercise that involves verifying the identity of each person picking up a student after a catastrophic event and quickly reuniting them with their child. We will be asking a small number of families to practice with us so that in the event of a real emergency we are better prepared.

## Vancouver School Board Extended Absence Policy

On occasion families may request that their child be absent from school for an extended period of time due to a family emergency, a family death, an opportunity to travel, temporary work out of the city, etc.

It is practice within Vancouver Schools that space be held for **up to 30 school days** at the written request of a parent/guardian. Families requesting an absence of more than 30 school days will be informed that space at the school/program cannot be held but that of course should space be available upon their return their child would be re-enrolled.

Please note that these absence requests are NOT the same as extended absences due to student health issues.

## SACY Workshops for Parents and Caregivers (for more info on SACY <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/sacy>)

### Building Bridges with your Teen (grade 6 and 7 parents)

May 24, 2018                      Lord Byng Secondary    7-9 pm

### SACY Adult Tool Kit: Understanding Youth and Substance Use

May 31, 2018                      SACY Step Portable @ Tupper Secondary    6:30 -8:30 pm

(Portable on the corner of Prince Edward St. and East 23<sup>rd</sup>)

Seating for all events is limited. Please register on Eventbrite: [www.sacy.eventbrite.ca](http://www.sacy.eventbrite.ca)

## Vancouver Chess School returns for the spring term

JOIN US FOR A MAGICAL CHESS ADVENTURE!

This comprehensive and progressive program allows students to learn how to play chess in the optimal manner by gradually increasing complexity. Within 1.5 class hour we will teach our students different chess concepts, solve a large variety of tactical exercises, play practice games and tournaments. In addition, our students can use a wide range of our own unique on-line resources and software for homework, class material and games.

Why Chess?

- Enhance academic skills of reading and mathematics
- Improve your memory and concentration
- Boost your creativity and problem-solving skills
- Develop long term planning and foresight
- Foster critical thinking and life skills

Program Dates: 11 Wednesdays, April 11 – June 20. **Join any time!**

Time: 3 pm – 4:30 pm    Room: Library    Program Fees: \$ 15 per class paid in full upon registration

Register online at

<http://www.vanchess.ca/groups> ->Vancouver->Chess in Schools -> J.W. Sexsmith ES

## Welcome to Kindergarten

On Tuesday May 1, Sexsmith will host our annual Welcome to Kindergarten event. Registration starts at 10:30am, with the program starting just before 11:00am. This is a government sponsored program to introduce school readiness skills to our incoming kindergarten students. Participants rotate through several stations doing activities and receive a goody bag of materials to take home to practice over the summer. The Vancouver Public Library and the South Community Health Centre will both be available to present information. The program is open to all kindergarten students registered at Sexsmith for September 2018.

## PAC News

The last PAC meeting was held on Thursday, March 8 at 6:30 pm. Several parents attended. Minutes have been posted on the PAC tab of the school website <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/sxs/Parents/PAC/Pages/default.aspx>. The next meeting is on Thursday, April 12 at 6:30 pm in the library with a special presentation to follow (see item in "From the Principal"). All parents are welcome to attend. If you would like to contact PAC or volunteer to help out with a program please email [sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com](mailto:sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com).

## Important Dates in April

Mon. Apr. 2	Easter Monday – school closed
Tues. Apr. 3	School resumes @ 9:00 am
Wed. Apr. 4	Earth Rangers Presentation @ 9:30 am
Mon. Apr. 9	Afterschool programming starts this week
Wed. Apr. 11	Class photos
Thurs. Apr. 12	PAC meeting @ 6:30 pm in library/ child anxiety talk to follow at 7:15pm
Fri. Apr. 20	Earth Day activities
Wed. Apr 25	Heritage Fair
Fri. Apr. 27	Professional Day – no school for students
Fri. Apr. 27	Awesome Escape Room Activity for kids (grades 1-4)

## Upcoming Important Dates in May

Tues. May 1	Welcome to Kindergarten @ 11:00am
Wed. May 2	"Clean up Your Act" performance @ 9:00am
Thurs. May 3	Big One at 2 – Earthquake Drill
Wed. May 16	"Jasmine" school play - afternoon and evening performance
Thurs. May 17	"Jasmine" school play - afternoon and evening performance
Fri. May 18	School closure day – no school
Mon. May 21	Victoria Day – no school
Tues. May 22	Immunization clinic (Kindergarten/grade 6)
Fri. May 25	Sports Day
Thurs. May 31	PAC AGM @ 6:30pm

Please check our website [sexsmith.vsb.bc.ca](http://sexsmith.vsb.bc.ca) for the regularly updated school calendar