

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #5		January 2018

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year!

I hope you have had a pleasant time off and that the students are ready for another busy term at Sexsmith. I want to again thank the parents and Rotary club for the great Breakfast with Santa last month. A special thank you to Stan Tam and his merry volunteer team for their efforts in putting on a great event. Also a special thank you to Mr. Coelho and his holiday helpers for the daily sing-a-long. This month we will be sending out forms for you to indicate whether it is your intention for your child to continue attending Sexsmith. Please fill it out and send it back to the school. It is very important that we have that information so that we can begin to plan for next school year. As noted below kindergarten registration ends on January 31. After that date students are placed on a priority list by time and date of registration. The cross boundary application process runs from February 1 – 28. More detailed information can be found on the VSB registration page <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/school-registration>

I hope you have a great month.

School Closure for Snow and other Emergencies

Information regarding school closures in the event of snow, or other emergency situations, will be provided to the following radio and television stations by 6:00 a.m. on the morning of the closure. (School closure information is also available online at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/severe-weather>.)

CBC (690 AM or 105.7 FM), CKNW (980 AM), CKWX (NEWS 1130 AM),

FAIRCHILD Radio (CJVB AM 1470/CKHG FM 96.1),

BCTV (Global) (cable channel 11), CITY TV (cable channel 13)

Pick Up and Drop Off Concerns in the Roundabout

We remain strongly concerned about student safety as they frequently run to meet parents, dodging between cars as people double park and block the driveway. **We will be closely monitoring the situation on a daily basis this month to determine if it is necessary to completely block access to everyone but staff vehicles.** We are asking that cars not double park, not block access to the parking lot and not park in staff parking spaces. Your cooperation with this request will be greatly appreciated.

Internet Safety/cyber bullying

A reminder that all intermediate classes will be having a workshop this month with the Vancouver Police Department on cyberbullying and internet safety. This is an extremely important topic for our students to learn about. You can support us at home by ensuring your children are being responsible digital citizens whenever they are accessing technology devices.

<http://www.parenting.com/article/keeping-your-child-safe-on-the-internet>

<http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/blogs/sxs/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=100>

MoreSports Starts This Month

MoreSports, VSB Community Schools Team, and the Vancouver Parks Board are supporting this afterschool program at Sexsmith for our primary students. The program will run for 8 weeks on Fridays starting on January 19, 2018 until March 9, 2018. Kindergarten and grade 1 students will be offered a minisport program from 3:15-4:00. Grades 2 and 3 students will be offered a beginners basketball program from 4:00 – 5:00pm.

Vancouver Chess School Coming to Sexsmith

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?

- Exercise both sides of your brain
- 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: 10 Wednesdays, Jan 10th - Mar 14th. **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>

PAC News

The last PAC meeting was held on Thursday December 7 at 6:30pm. Many 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 January 11 at 6:30pm in the library. 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 .

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2013 began on November 1st.



All Kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (French Immersion, Montessori, etc.) and/or a cross boundary placement.

The priority registration period for Kindergarten opens on **Wednesday November 1st and closes at 4 pm on Wednesday January 31st**. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than the school can accommodate the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1st and January 31st

1. In-catchment Kindergarten applicants with siblings in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed first.
2. The names of all other in-catchment registrants will be entered into a **random draw** for the remaining Kindergarten spaces.
3. Students who cannot be accommodated will be placed on a waitlist in the order in which their name was drawn.
4. Between January 31st and the second Friday in June students on the ordered waitlist will be accommodated as space becomes available.

Kindergarten Registrations Received AFTER January 31st

In-catchment Kindergarten students who apply **after** January 31st will be accommodated if there is space. If there is no space their names will be added to the bottom of the existing waitlist.

Note: There will be **no priority** given to registrants with siblings if they register after January 31st.

When registering your child please bring:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records

If you wish to apply for a Choice program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice programs and cross boundary placements will be accepted in early 2018.

For more information on kindergarten registration visit: <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

* Available Space includes physical capacity, resources, staffing, or educational programs available or planned for a school as defined by the district. (Policy Regulation JECC-R)

Important Dates in January

Mon. Jan. 8	School resumes
Wed. Jan. 10	Performance – Theatre @ 1:00pm
Wed. Jan. 10	Chess club starts @ 3:00pm in library
Thurs. Jan. 11	Internet Safety Presentation for grades 4-6
Thurs. Jan. 11	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm in library
Friday Jan. 12	Internet Safety Presentation for grade 7
Friday Jan. 19	MoreSports programs begin for grades K/1 -3:15pm and grades 2/3 -4:00pm
Tues. Jan. 23	Kindergarten hearing testing
Thurs. Jan. 25	VPD lunch time games with grade 7 students
Mon. Jan. 29	Curriculum Implementation Day – no school for students

Upcoming Important Dates in February

Wed. Feb. 7	Parent teacher conferences dismissal at 2:00pm
Thurs. Feb. 8	Parent teacher conferences dismissal at 2:00pm
Thurs. Feb. 8	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm in library
Mon. Feb. 12	Family Day – no school
Tues. Feb. 13	Performance – music @ 9:30am
Mon. Feb. 19	Professional Day – no school for students
Thurs. Feb. 22	Lunar New Year Celebrations

Please check our website sexsmith.vsb.bc.ca for the regularly updated school calendar