

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



7410 Columbia Street Vancouver, BC V5X 3C1	Mr. Joel Levine Principal	PHONE: 604-713-4901 FAX: 604-713-4903
Chris Stanger Director of Instruction 604-713-5097	Ms. Tassy Beretanos Office Admin Assistant	Mandeep Sidhu PAC Chair
NEWSLETTER #35		January 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy New Year!

Welcome back. We hope everyone has had a restful break and are ready for another term of learning. Another reminder that written reports will go home on Friday January 29. For students learning at home the reports will focus on literacy and numeracy, some subject areas will not be reported on if there is insufficient information for teachers to assess. For more detailed information about reporting please see this [link](#).

This month we will be sending out forms for you to indicate whether it is your intention for your child to continue attending Sexsmith next year. 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 https://www.vsb.bc.ca/School/School-Registration/Cross_Boundary/Pages/default.aspx

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.

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)

Generous Donations

During the month of December Divisions 2, 4, and 5 organized fundraising campaigns. Thanks to the generosity of our community, \$1917 was raised for the Vancouver Food Bank and \$238 was raised to support Covenant House. The money for Covenant House will also be matched by Ryan Reynolds and Blake Lively. Thank you to everyone who supported these worthy causes.

Safe Arrival Procedures Reminder

Reporting Student Absences:

Student safety is of paramount importance at the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences. **If your child will be absent from school, please phone the school to report this absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on the answering service by calling 604-713-4901 choose option #1.** Messages can be received before the office is open. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.

To Report Your Child's Absence – Please call 604-713-4901 choose option #1 prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence

Student Sign out Procedure:

When you pick up your child during the school day, please ensure that you notify the school office (by phone). If you do not sign out your child, they will be unaccounted for, and the school will identify your child as a 'missing' student and will commence a search of school grounds. **If the school staff do not locate the child, and are unable to reach a parent promptly, the school will call the Vancouver Police Department.** Therefore, clear communication is essential for ensuring the safety of your child and to prevent unnecessary searches.

Thank you for helping us keep your children safe!

Online School Fee Payment System (including school fees)

Please register for online payments– a simple process that takes only a few minutes – by visiting <https://vsb.schoolcashonline.com> or visiting our website at <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/online-payment> and following directions to the School Cash Online page. You will need your child's usual first name, last name, and birth date to register. A "Pay Fees" button is now installed on our school website for easy access to the system. Cash and cheques will continue to be accepted for school fees, but we encourage everyone to use the new system as it is more secure and efficient. Please note that field trip permission notices will continue to be sent home for a signature and to indicate that you have paid online.

Kindergarten enrollment 2021-2022



continued on next page

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2016 begins on November 1.

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 (Early French Immersion, Montessori, Indigenous Focus School, Early Mandarin Bilingual, Nootka Fine Arts) and/or a cross boundary placement.

The priority registration period for Kindergarten opens on **November 1 and closes at 4 pm on January 29**. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

Applying for kindergarten is a **2-step process**:

Step 1: Completion of an online application form

Step 2: Verifying documentation

- Contact your English catchment school office to set up an appointment to bring your supporting documentation
- Bring supporting documentation to your English office during your scheduled appointment



1 Apply Online

appointment to bring



2 Visit your catchment school with necessary documents

catchment school

Supporting documents needed:

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

If you want to apply for a District program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for District programs and cross boundary placements will begin to be accepted in early 2021.

In the event there are more in-catchment applicants than available space* at the school, the following process will be used to prioritize enrolment:

Kindergarten Applications Received Between November 1 and January 31

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 31 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 31 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 31.

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 (Administrative Procedure 300).



Pick Up and Drop Off Concerns (students use assigned doors to enter building)

Check out this link for an explanation of the rules for no parking in school zones.

<https://vancouver.ca/streets-transportation/school-zones.aspx>

Please note that as of 2020 parking fines have doubled in school zones.

1. There is NO parking on 59th avenue in front of the school between 8:00am – 5:00pm on school days.

Parents who violate this rule are forcing other parents to stop in the middle of 59th avenue to pick up or drop off students creating a dangerous situation where children need to exit vehicles into oncoming traffic and run between cars. Parents are allowed to drop off and pick up their children but they are not allowed to park and leave their vehicle unattended.

2. Please do not go past the roundabout adjacent to our parking lot when dropping off or picking up students and do not park in the limited spots we have available for school staff.

PAC Gift Card Fundraiser

Gift cards are the perfect gift but can also be used to pay for things that you would have used cash for **and** you can help support your child's school when you buy one!

Shop from the comfort of your home when you purchase gift cards through Fundscrip, and **Sexsmith** will receive a percentage of the gift card sale.

Choose from over 100 popular retailers like **Toys R Us**, **Gap**, **Cineplex**, **Metropolis at Metrotown** etc.

Please use this link: <https://www.fundscrip.com/Sign-Up.aspx?IID=2CBHHR>

PAC News

The last PAC meeting was held on Wednesday December 2 at 6:30pm on Zoom. Several parents attended. Minutes will be posted on the PAC tab of the school website. The next meeting is on Wed. January 13 at 6:30pm on Zoom. All parents are welcome to attend, registration information will be sent out. If you would like to contact PAC or volunteer to help out with a program, please email sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com.

Important Dates in January

Mon. Jan. 4	School resumes @ 9:00am
Wed. Jan. 13	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm on Zoom
Mon. Jan. 18	Professional Day – no school for students
Tues. Jan. 19	Option 4 Students able to return to in class instruction
Tues. Jan. 19	Michael Mitchell Online Performances Primary 9:30am/ Intermediates 11:00am
Fri. Jan. 29	Mid-Term reports go home

Upcoming Important Dates in February

Wed. Feb. 10	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm on Zoom
Fri. Feb. 12	Lunar New Year
Fri. Feb. 12	Professional Day – no school for students
Mon. Feb. 15	Family Day – no school

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