

# SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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<b>NEWSLETTER #10</b>		<b>June 2018</b>

## FROM THE PRINCIPAL

June has arrived and the frenzy of activity in the school is increasing all the time.

As of today the enrollment for next year is 405 students in the same 17 divisions. That is an increase of about 20 students.

A massive final thank you to Mr. Biln, Ms. Overall, Ms. Jones, Ms. Finch, Ms. Conrad, Mr. Coelho, Mr. Kay, Ms. McHardy, and Ms. McKenzie for their dedication and hard work in organizing the musical "Jasmine". A huge thank you to the students as well, who gave up a lot of their free time to be a part of the play. We also want to thank the PAC for their generous financial support of this event.

Another round of thanks to Mr. Kay, parents and the secondary student volunteers who helped out during Sports Day.

On Friday June 1, we will be having a Filipino Festival. Parents have been working to organize stations that every student will have the opportunity to participate in. A very big thank you to Richelle Camarillo, Girlie Ibit, and Aurella Sareal for their efforts in organizing the day.

Staff met at the end of April to review and discuss the school plan. Our focus this year has been to work on comprehension across the curriculum in order to increase critical thinking skills. While we have had some success, it continues to be an area that students need support in. The general consensus is that we need to broaden our approach to include the social responsibility skills of self-regulation, problem solving, collaboration, respect for others, empathy, self-reflection, self-identity, self-awareness, and self-confidence as they play a significant role in learning and student success. We will be working over the next three years to increase students' ability to think deeply and critically about concepts by increasing their own sense of themselves as learners and members of a learning community. A summary of this year's school plan will be published on the school website in the near future.

I hope you have a great month.

### Multi-Age/Combined Classes

This is advance notice of the likelihood that the school will have several combined classes next year. Many parents unnecessarily worry about the impact that combined classes will have on their child's ability to have a successful year. The most important point to remember is that every child learns at their own pace. Even in a class where everyone is the same age and grade, the range of abilities can vary considerably. The teachers work with all the students in the class to meet their specific needs. The same is true in a combined class. One of the benefits of putting different ages together is that they learn

from each other. The student in the lower grade has a role model who has mastered some of the material and the student in the upper grade has an opportunity to correct mistakes made in the previous year, be a leader in the class, and gain confidence in their abilities. The development of skills (reading, writing, numeracy, etc.) happens throughout the elementary years and are not hindered by being in a class with younger or older students. The specific contents taught at each grade (Social Studies, Science, etc.) can be presented in many formats and students will not be required to redo subjects from the previous year. Similarly, students in the younger grade would never be expected to learn material that is not at their educational level. For more information about combined classes please see this [information sheet](#).

## New Report Card Coming Next Year

As mentioned previously, Sexsmith will be joining the majority of other schools in our district and moving to a different report card next year. The new “Communicating Student Learning” structure is more in line with the new curriculum and focuses on providing ongoing feedback throughout the year. Conferences will still be held in October and December. The rationale for the timing of these conferences is to be able to provide opportunities for parents to understand how their child is progressing well in advance of the first written report. Those will go home at the end of January and June only. At other times of the year, teachers will be utilizing different ways to communicate student progress, which may take the form of using an online app, celebration of learning, or reaching out to individual parents through email, in person, or phone conversations. For more detailed information please see this [link](#).

## 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.

## Summer School Information



Registration opened on April 27th for summer school and all summer school program information can be found at: <https://summer.vsb.bc.ca/Pages/default.aspx>

## General School Fees for 2018-19

The 2017-18 School Fees notice sent home in May of last year stated that this school year would be the final year that school supplies would be purchased for a set fee by the school district and that starting in September 2018, parents would need to purchase items on their own. This decision has been reversed.

**Please note that the general school supplies fee will still be charged for the upcoming 2018-19 school year.**

The Vancouver School Board will continue its service of purchasing basic school supplies in bulk at wholesale prices and passing the cost savings on to families. The School Supply Fee for 2018-2019 will remain at \$25.00 per student.

This fee covers basic consumable school supplies used for students' personal use such as paper, writing tools, glue sticks, erasers, exercise books and art supplies. Supplies are provided for the full year. A full list of fees will be sent home before the end of the year.

## PAC News

The last PAC meeting was the AGM held on Thursday, May 31 at 6:30 pm. The following officers were re/elected Gurmit Sangha Chair, Chris Brown Vice-Chair, Fay Tam Treasurer, and Rana Sangha Secretary. PAC meeting minutes are posted on the PAC tab of the school website <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/sxs/Parents/PAC/Pages/default.aspx> . 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 June

Fri. June 1	Filipino Festival
Fri. June 1	Grade 7 student tour of Churchill (pm only)
Fri. June 8	<b>Last day for hot lunch program</b>
Fri. June 8	PAC Carnival 3-5pm
Thurs. June 21	TEGS Celebration
Tues. June 26	Grade 7 Leaving Ceremony
Tues. June 26	Div. 9 and 10 Field Trip to Spanish Banks
Thurs. June 28	Year-end assembly
Thurs. June 28	Last day of School

## Important Dates in September

Tues. Sept. 4	First day of school grades 1-7 attend from 9:00-10:00am only
Wed. Sept 5	First Full day of classes for grades 1-7 (9:00am-3:00pm)
Wed. Sept 12	First Full day of classes for kindergarten students
Thurs. Sept. 13	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm in library
Mon. Sept 24	Professional Development Day – no school for students
Fri. Sept. 28	Sexsmith Terry Fox Run

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