

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 #37		March 2021

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy March!

Just a few more weeks before March break. Although this is not a normal spring break, we know that it is an opportunity for students to take a break and refresh themselves for our final term.

On Wednesday March 10 and Thursday March 11 most teachers will hold virtual conferences with families (a few teachers have made other arrangements for conference times, please consult with them if this is the case). These are great opportunities to meet and discuss each student’s progress and areas for further development. Please make every effort to attend. **A reminder that school dismisses early at 2:00pm both days.**

A big thank you to the PAC and in particular Penny for organizing a COVID-19 safe Lunar New Year celebration last month.

During the month of February, we took the opportunity to highlight Black history and continue discussions around anti-racism. Our goal is to continue these discussions beyond February. Our mission as a district and school is to address issues of systemic racism by looking critically at our resources, curriculum, and daily practice to continue to build a school environment that is inclusive and respectful of all people. At our last online assembly, we shared this [video](#) with students, that you might find interesting to view.

I hope you have a great month.

School Performances Update

As you know it is not possible to book performances where all the students gather in the gym. To continue to offer cultural opportunities we have booked several performers who can provide COVID safe performances. The first one was in the fall with drumming lessons done in the gym for each class. We recently booked Michael Mitchell, a musician and presenter who provided a Zoom performance for primary and intermediate students focused on Canadian songs. We have also used our performance funds to purchase the viewing rights to two performers. Kung Jaadee's Haida story video modules are available for classes to use safely in their rooms. We have also recently purchased Bollywood Dance modules from the artist Karima Essa which will be used by Mr. Coelho as part of his dance program for all classes in the spring. We will continue to book artists for students to have cultural performance opportunities during these strange times.

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)

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.schoolcashionline.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.



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>

New PAC Fundraiser – Oliver Labels

Keep your items out of the lost and found pile by labelling your personal items with Oliver's labels. Custom labels can be printed with your child's name to use on all their belongings. When you purchase labels from Oliver's Labels, 20% of the purchases will support Sexsmith PAC's fundraising efforts. <http://www.oliverslabels.com/sexsmithelementary>

PAC News

The last PAC meeting was held on Wednesday February 10 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. March 31 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 with a program, please email sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com.

Important Dates in March

Wed. March 10	Student Conferences – dismissal at 2:00pm (These will be online)
Thurs. March 11	Student Conferences – dismissal at 2:00pm (These will be online)
Fri. March 12	Last day before Spring Break
March 15-26	Spring Break – no school
Mon. March 29	School resumes @ 9:00am
Wed. March 31	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm on Zoom

Upcoming Important Dates in April

Fri. April 2	Good Friday – no school
Mon. April 5	Easter Monday – no school
Mon. April 26	Professional Day – no school for students

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