

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #13 **November 2018**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy November!

This year we are beginning a new three year school plan. For several years, Sexsmith has been working on a plan to improve critical thinking skills in our students. That work will continue, but we have identified a need to also concentrate on social emotional learning. There is a tremendous amount of research that indicates that when educators focus on social emotional skills and provide direct instruction, students overall academic success increases. SEL skills encompass many aspects but can be characterized into five main areas:

- Self-awareness, to reflect on one’s own thoughts and feelings
- Self-management, the ability to self-regulate and control one’s own behaviour
- Social-awareness, the ability to recognize social cues, adapt to various situations and empathize with others
- Relationship skills, the ability to communicate, make friends, work cooperatively, and manage conflict
- Responsible decision-making, the ability to make healthy choices and consider the consequences of one’s actions

Staff are working on a plan to deliver lessons focused on these key areas. We will continue to track literacy achievement through report card data. The goal is that over the next three years the added attention to the skills mentioned above result in an overall improvement in academic performance for all students. A summary of the plan and the results of our first year will be published in June/July.

Student Threat Assessment Protocol (attachment)

Attached to this newsletter is the Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol. We are required to remind parents/guardians of this process each year. As noted, maintaining a safe, caring and inclusive school is the responsibility of everyone in the school community. We all have a responsibility to report any threat related behaviour immediately and to take it seriously. The school board has developed an organized response system to ensure that threats are dealt with appropriately and that all members of the school remain safe. Thank you for taking a moment to review the protocol and discussing it with your child in an age appropriate manner.

Diwali Celebration

The Sexsmith annual Diwali Celebration will take place on Tuesday November 20 at 11:00am. Students have been working with Vandana Nagpal to practice for the event. We want to extend a huge thank you to Vandana for managing this event and to all

the parents who help out. Sharing cultural events with the whole student body is a tradition at Sexsmith that adds to the positive and inclusive culture that everyone should be very proud of.

Sports Programming at Sexsmith

Sexsmith has many extracurricular sports programs running throughout the year. The following is what is happening and what traditionally happens based on the availability of coaches and volunteers.

- We have an intramural program that runs year round at noon hour in the gym. Students are put into house teams. The games are for grade 4 to 7 students and include indoor soccer, European handball and dodge ball.
- We currently have a senior boy's soccer team. It is coed as 3 or 4 grade 7 girls play on the team. Our team is the only coed team in our zone and advanced to the next round of competition.
- Volleyball season has begun. We have a full compliment of teams. Two teams of each Jr. Boys, Jr. Girls, Sr. Boys and Sr. Girls.
- Basketball is a winter sport and we usually have teams. Play will begin in late December/early January.
- Track season begins in the spring and we usually have a large team of students grades 4 to 7. Last year we had 100 students on the team and the season ends with a full day track meet at Swangard Stadium.
- All teams play against neighbouring schools.
- Indoor Track Meet, the Friday before Spring Break, and Sports Day in May are also fun athletic activities that our students enjoy during the school day.

A special thank you to all the teachers and volunteers who put in extra time and effort to support these sports programs.

PAC News

The PAC meeting was held on Thursday October 11 at 6:30pm. Many parents attended. Minutes have been posted on the PAC tab of the school website. The next meeting is on Thursday November 8 at 6:30pm in the library. All parents are welcome to attend. **We want to make parents aware that the majority of our current PAC executive will be moving on to secondary school with their children at the end of this year. We encourage other parents to get involved now so that the transition to the next PAC executive is a smooth one.** If you would like to contact PAC or volunteer to help out with a program please email sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com

Kindergarten Registration for 2019-20

K Kindergarten Registration

What do PARENTS need to KNOW?

www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2014 begins 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 **Thursday November 1st and closes at 4 pm on Thursday January 31st**. 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. (link available Nov. 1)

Step 2: Bringing supporting documentation, along with your child, to your neighbourhood English 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 Choice program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice programs and cross boundary placements will begin to be accepted in early 2019. 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 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.

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)

Punjabi Classes at Sexsmith

Punjabi classes are taking place every Monday in the library from 3:00 pm until 4:45 pm. To register or for more information please contact Mrs. Power at 604-274-2148.

Pick Up and Drop Off Concerns

Please remember to **not double park, not block access to the parking lot, use the parking lot to pick up or drop off students 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.

Events and Activities for Parents

Parent Education Series - Child and Youth Wellbeing Workshops

FREE series (register with password:vsb)

Anxiety in Children and Youth: November 13th, 2018 [Register here](#)

Depression in Children and Youth: January 10th, 2019 [Register here](#)

Responding to Challenging Behaviour: February 12th, 2019 [Register here](#)

Supporting Your Child with ADHD: April 16th, 2019 [Register here](#)

Encouraging Healthy Eating in Children: May 22nd, 2019 [Register here](#)

Important Dates in November

Thurs. Nov. 1	Kindergarten registration starts for 2019-20
Wed. Nov. 7	"No Time for Bullying" presentation grades 3-7
Thurs. Nov. 8	Remembrance Day Assembly @ 11:00am
Thurs. Nov. 8	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm
Fri. Nov. 9	Curriculum Implementation Day- no school for students
Mon. Nov. 12	Day in lieu for Remembrance Day – no school for students
Tue. Nov. 13	Vision screening for Kindergarten students
Fri. Nov. 16	Photo retake Day
Tues. Nov. 20	Diwali Celebration
Thurs. Nov. 22	Me to We Day
Thurs. Nov. 28	Immunization clinic for grade 6 and others

Upcoming Important Dates in December

Tues. Dec. 4	Tribal Visions Dance Performance
Thurs. Dec. 6	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm
Tues. Dec. 11	Hearing Screening for kindergarten students
Wed. Dec. 12	Parent Teacher Conferences dismissal at 2:00pm conferences 2:15 – 6:00pm
Thurs. Dec. 13	Parent Teacher Conferences dismissal at 2:00pm conferences 2:15 – 6:00pm
Fri. Dec. 21	Breakfast with Santa

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