

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	Ms. Christina Brown PAC Chair

NEWSLETTER #32 **October 2020**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Happy October!

The school startup was very unusual this year, but we made it! Students who are learning in class are becoming familiar with the new safety protocols. We will continue to evaluate and modify our procedures to ensure we are following the health guidelines. We appreciate how many students are arriving at school wearing masks. Although not mandatory for K-5 students, it is recommended. Students who are learning from home are maintaining contact with the school and their class through email, TEAMS, and other apps. The first opportunity to return to in-class instruction is October 13.

Thank you to everyone who have filled in the forms and paid school fees. If you have still not sent in the forms and paid the fees, please do so as soon as possible. During October we will have student goal setting conferences on **Wednesday October 14 and Thursday October 15** for students in grades K-7. These **online** meetings are a great opportunity to meet with the teacher and set learning objectives for the coming year and to share any concerns you may have about your child. **A reminder that regular classes end at 2:00pm both days for all students.** Teachers will be in contact with families with specific details about meeting times. At the end of the month (Fri. Oct. 30), we will celebrate Halloween with teachers planning safe in-school activities for the students. We encourage everyone to come to school in costume that day but a reminder that costumes must not include any weapons. I hope you have a great month.

2020/21 School Staffing Updates

Sara Greig, our librarian has decided to leave the school. We thank her for her work over the last several years and wish her well. We are happy to welcome Ms. Gurinder Aujla to Sexsmith as our new librarian.

Terry Fox

On Friday October 2, students will participate in the Terry Fox run. Teachers will take the opportunity to help the students consider the contributions that Terry’s marathon continues to make towards cancer research and Canadian pride. Intermediate students will run around the golf course in staggered groups and younger students will utilize the school grounds for their run, also at staggered times throughout the day. All funds that Sexsmith students and families raise will be donated to cancer research. We are asking that all donations be made online through this link:

<https://secure.terryfox.ca/registant/TeamFundraisingPage.aspx?TeamID=915686>

A big thank you to families for any donations you choose to make.

Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol

The link below is for the Student Threat Risk Assessment Protocol that we are required to share with staff and parents each year. Please read through and discuss with your child, where appropriate for their age level. Our goal is always to maintain a safe and inclusive environment. Please check out the second link for other important student safety information.

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Safe_Caring/Student_Threat_Risk_Assessment/Pages/default.aspx

https://www.vsb.bc.ca/Student_Support/Safe_Caring/Pages/default.aspx

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 sign them out at the school office. 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.

Performances

Under our current health situation, large gatherings for performances are not possible. We are currently working with different artists to organize sessions with individual classes or cohorts of students. Our intention is to continue to provide enriching creative opportunities to the students in a safe manner throughout the year. We will provide parents with updates on the activities later in the school year.

Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP)

The kids plus student accident insurance program has changed and is now called **The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan (FARP)**. This coverage is still provided by Industrial Alliance and is a voluntary plan which offers coverage for students and their families against accidental injury, unexpected medical expenses and critical illness. The Family Accident Reimbursement Plan is ideal for supplementing costs not covered by provincial health insurance or existing employer extended health and dental plans

Families can register online to participate in the Plan by using the URL provided below:

<https://www.solutionsinsurance.com/aonbc>

Phone: 1.800.266.5667

Email: solutions@ia.ca

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 first PAC meeting was held on Wednesday Sept. 30 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. October 21 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 October

Fri. Oct. 2	Terry Fox Run – staggered times throughout the day
Mon. Oct. 12	Thanksgiving – no school
Tues. Oct. 13	At home learners return day #1
Wed. Oct. 14	Student Conferences – dismissal at 2:00pm (These will be online)
Thurs. Oct. 15	Student Conferences – dismissal at 2:00pm (These will be online)
Wed. Oct. 21	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm on Zoom
Fri. Oct. 23	Provincial Professional Development Day – no school for students
Sat. Oct. 31	Halloween

Upcoming Important Dates in November

Mon. Nov. 9	At home learners return day #2
Wed. Nov. 11	Remembrance Day – no school
Mon. Nov. 16	Sexsmith Diwali Celebration (in-class activities only)
Wed. Nov. 18	PAC meeting@ 6:30pm on Zoom
Fri. Nov. 27	Professional Development Day – no school for students

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