

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #21 **September 2019**

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

WELCOME BACK!

I hope your summer was restful and fun and that you are ready for another school year of learning and growth. September is a very busy month. We will be taking a final look at class placements once we determine if there are any changes in students returning to Sexsmith. As soon as possible, students will be moving into their new classes and getting settled with their new teachers. Currently our student population is 395 students in 17 divisions.

Requests for fees and permission slips will be going home shortly and we ask that you return them to the school as soon as you are able to. **We want to emphasize that if your contact information changes during the school year it is very important to inform the office immediately.**

I am very happy to be starting another year at Sexsmith. This is an amazing school with a dedicated staff, engaged parents and students who bring us all a lot of joy each day. I hope the year is a huge success for everyone!

2019/20 School Staffing Updates

There are some staffing changes that we want to make you aware of. Ms. Siaw Wong has left early for her maternity leave, we wish her all the best. Ms. Carmen Roig Torres is our new Office Administrative Assistant for the month of September. Ms. Siaw's job will be posted. Ms. Kathryn and Mr. Warren have accepted jobs at other schools and will not be returning to Sexsmith, we wish them much success in their new positions. Ms. Natasha Kadola has accepted the extra clerical job and will be here on Wednesdays. We also have two new staff members that we are happy to inform you about. Ms. Liza Choy will be teaching grade 2/3, and Ms. Melissa Marshall will be teaching grade 5/6. Welcome!

Communication

Communication is so important to a successful relationship between home and school. Please feel free to speak with your child's teacher about any concerns you may have. Check your child's agenda or communication book daily. This monthly newsletter is meant to keep you informed of all school activities. The school website, will be updated regularly with relevant school information, so please check that often. **If we don't have your email or current contact information, please ensure that you hand that in as soon as possible. We will be trying to save paper by emailing all future newsletters and important information and would appreciate your cooperation with this goal.**

Multi-Age/Combined Classes

We will have several combined classes this 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](#). **Please note: Parental requests to move children out of combined classes cannot be accommodated.**

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!

New Online School Fee Payment System (including school fees)

A reminder that you are now able to register – 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.

PAC Gift Card Fundraiser

A reminder that gift cards can be purchased all year long and a percentage will be given to Sexsmith for future school projects. There is no additional cost to the purchaser. Please use this link: <https://www.fundscrip.com/Sign-Up.aspx?IID=2CBHHR>

PAC News

On behalf of the Parent Advisory Committee, we want to welcome all the returning and new students and parents. The first PAC meeting will be on Thursday September 19 at 6:30pm in the library. All parents are welcome to attend. The new PAC executive is:

Christina Brown – Chair, Angela Wong – Treasurer, Deljit Beesla - Vice Chair, Jacqui Crawford - Secretary

If you would like to contact PAC or volunteer to help out with a program please email sexsmithvolunteers@gmail.com .

Code of Conduct

The school code of conduct is an essential component in having students develop and maintain positive relationships. It guides everyone in our positive interactions and helps students deal with conflicts and difficult situations. The beginning of the school year is a great opportunity to take a moment to review the Sexsmith Code of Conduct with your child and ensure they understand the different aspects of the document. A link to the Sexsmith Code of Conduct is [here](#) or a paper version is available in the office.

Pick Up and Drop Off Concerns



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. **Please respect the parking rules.**
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.**
3. Go slow anywhere near the school and respect all parking and traffic rules.

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

Vancouver Heritage Foundation Plaque Dedication September 21 @ 2:00pm

The Vancouver Heritage Foundation and a group of alumni have worked together to place a plaque on the southeast corner of the school property to remember the old school building. A dedication ceremony will take place (rain or shine) on Saturday September 21 at 2:00pm. All are welcome to attend.

Important Dates in September

Tues. Sept. 3	First day of school grades 1-7 attend from 9:00-10:00am only (return to last year's classes)
Tues. Sept 3	New kindergarten students attend from 10:00am – 10:30am only
Wed. Sept 4	First Full day of classes for grades 1-7 (9:00am-3:00pm)
Wed. Sept 4	New Kindergarten students begin gradual entry according to their schedule (group A/B)
Wed. Sept 11	First Full day of classes for New Kindergarten students
Thurs. Sept. 19	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm in library
Sat. Sept 21	Vancouver Heritage Foundation Sexsmith Plaque Dedication @ 2:00pm
Mon. Sept. 23	Professional Development Day – no school for students
Tues. Sept. 24	Hot Lunch order forms for term 1 go home
Fri. Sept. 27	Sexsmith Terry Fox Run
Mon. Sept. 30	Hot Lunch order forms for term 1 due to school

Upcoming Important Dates in October

Mon. Oct. 7	Individual Picture Day
Thurs. Oct. 10	PAC meeting @ 6:30pm in library (tentative)
Mon. Oct. 14	Thanksgiving – no school
Tues. Oct. 15	Green Thumb Performance @1:15pm
Wed. Oct. 16	Student Conferences – dismissal at 2:00pm
Thurs. Oct. 17	Student Conferences – dismissal at 2:00pm
Fri. Oct. 25	Provincial Professional Development Day – no school for students
Wed. Oct. 31	Halloween

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

(check your inbox for a digital copy of this newsletter in order to access the links mentioned)