

SEXSMITH STARS NEWS



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NEWSLETTER #1			September 2016

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone to our 2016/17 school year. I would especially like to welcome those families who, are new to the Sexsmith community. We look forward with great anticipation and excitement to this school year. When you see me – don't be shy- please come up and introduce yourself.

This newsletter will be especially brief providing only the most urgent information needed at this time. Beginning with our next newsletter, which will be published at the end of the month, our monthly newsletter will be sent home electronically on our school website - go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/sxs. We will be asking families to include their home e mail address on the student verification form that will be sent home shortly, so that we can use it to send home our monthly newsletter and other parent notices throughout the year by e mail. The newsletter will be published close to or on the last teaching day of each month.

Today's session was limited to welcoming students and arranging children into last year's classes. All new students will be placed in classes this year with the grade group of students they will be with this year. Our enrolment numbers will be finalized on Thursday, Sept 8, and our hope is to have the students placed in their new classes on that same day. The movement of the students could be delayed until Friday if our numbers change over the first few days. We have some space for in boundary students in most grades but our enrolment for our upper intermediate grades is 100% full.

New Staff – We would like to welcome the following new staff members to the Sexsmith Community : Ms Sarah Chu who has joined our Resource team. Ms Bernadine Courage who has also joined our resource team. Ms Rosemary Mahnger who is joining our School Support Worker team.

School Fees

A notice was sent home last spring to the parents that indicated what our fees will be for the 2016/17 school year. When the students are placed into this classes next week a notice detailing those fees will be sent home with each student. For all students the fees are as follows:

- School Supplies – The Vancouver Board of Education offers school supplies for students in full – day Kindergarten to Grade 7 for \$ 25 per student.
- Student Agendas - Each student in Division's 1 to 9 will be receiving an agenda this year. This valuable resource helps students keep track of their classroom assignments and school events as well as serving as an effective mode of communication between teachers and families. The cost of the agenda is \$ 5.
- Performance Fees – We are pleased to enrich your child's learning by bringing in a variety of performances to the school. Talented theatrical and musical performers will be at Sexsmith during the year. Parent support has made this possible. We will be asking for \$ 10 per child to cover these costs.

- Jump Math Workbooks – Some of our classes use the Jump Math workbooks as part of their numeracy program. Students do not have to purchase these books they will be available for use in the classroom but if they chose to not purchase the book they are responsible for ensuring that it remains unmarked and in excellent condition in to return the workbook at the end of the year.
- A reminder that we will begin collecting those fees when the students are placed into their classes for the 2016/17 school year. PLEASE DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY TO THE SCHOOL UNTIL YOU RECEIVE THE FEE NOTICE .Also, no child will be denied any materials or participation in a school activity because of financial hardship. If the payment of any fee is a financial hardship please send a note to Mr. Cassie and the fee will be waived.
- Student Verification and Emergency Contact Information Form. As soon as students are moved into their new classes a form that verifies all of their vital information including any health concerns and contact information for the family and person’s designated as emergency contacts by the family will be sent home. Please ensure this information is accurate and current before returning to your child’s teacher as soon as possible. Also if any of this information changes during the school year please contact the office to inform us of those changes.
- Media Consent Forms – When the students are moved into their new classes media consent forms will be sent home. These forms ask for parental permission for their child to be part of interviews or filming etc by the media. Please read these forms carefully and return the forms your child’s teacher.
- Student Insurance – Industrial Alliance Pacific Insurance Company provided the Student Accident Insurance plan, IPA Kids Plus. Application forms will be sent home once they are in this year’s classes.
- 2016/17 School Calendar and Upcoming Important Dates – Later in this newsletter is a copy of the 2016/17 School Calendar that lists all of the dates for holidays, professional development days and parent teacher conferences.

Upcoming dates that you need to be aware of:

- Thurs Sept 15 – Frist PAC Meeting of the Year – 6:30 in the Library – Refreshments are Provided
- Thursday, September 29, September 25 – Terry Fox Run
- Friday, September 30– Professional Development Day – School is not in session for students
- Wednesday, October 5 and Thursday, October 6 – Parent Teacher Conferences – 2:15 – 6:00. Students are dismissed at 2:00 on both of these days
- Mon. Oct 10 – Thanksgiving Day – School is Closed
- Friday, Oct. 21 – Provincial Professional Development Day - School is not in session for students.
- Thursday, Nov. 10 – Curriculum Implementation Day – School is not in session for students
- Fri. Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day – School is closed.
- Mon Dec 5 – Professional Development Day – School is not in session for students
- Fri Dec 16 – Last Day of Term 1
- Mon Dec 19 to Mon Jan. 2- Winter Break
- Tues Jan 4 – First day of Term 2

Parent/ Teacher Conferences – October 5/6. As indicated above our first term parent teacher conferences will be held on Wed Oct 5 and Thurs. October 6. A notice asking you to schedule a meeting time will be sent out later in September. These conferences are a vital part of the child’s educational program as the meetings provide the teachers and parents an important opportunity to discuss the child’s educational programming and progress at school. Our goal is for 100 % of our students to have a parent or guardian attend a conference with their teacher on one of these days.

