

Secord News

Report Absences: 604-713-5159, ext 74

Volume VII,

SAFETY CORNER

You're sniffing and sneezing again. Great, you've got another cold -- or is it winter allergies...? Do you know the difference?

See Page 4...

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Dates to Remember in February

Tuesday February 1 st	Lunar New Year
Monday February 14 th	Have a Heart Day
Thursday February 17 th	Pizza Day
Friday February 18 th	Pro D Day No School
Monday February 21 st	Family Day No School
Wednesday February 23	PAC meeting



Is your child returning to Secord in September?

Every year in January we start organizing the school for the next school year. Yes! I know seems like we only just started this year right!

To help us we ask that families fill out form letting us know if they will be returning for the new school year.

I sent this out a couple of weeks ago and many of you have responded.

If you have not had an opportunity to yet here is the link for our new and improved form: <https://forms.office.com/r/Dcd9u2nSEh> I have extended the due date to February 3rd.



Scrabble Day in the office:

Belive it or not we spelled out HOPE. If you look really close you can see it.



Reminder....

NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS ON:

Friday, February 18th
(Pro-D Day)
&
Monday, February 21st
(Family Day)



Winter Weather

If winter weather returns, we want to remind parents/ guardians, students, and staff of the Vancouver School District's winter weather procedures and announcements.

All schools in the Vancouver School District will remain OPEN if possible, during winter weather, including snowfalls. Any district-wide closure will be decided by 7:00 a.m. at the latest and will be announced through the media as well as through the [District](#) and [school](#) websites. Please note that no announcement will be made stating that schools are open. Only closures and delayed openings will be announced.

Information about any district-wide closures will be sent to Metro Vancouver radio and television stations.

Please check the following stations for Secord school closure information:

Radio	Television
CBC AM 690 radio, 88.1 FM	Global BC
CKNW AM 980 radio	CBC TV
News AM 1130 radio	CTV BC
Fairchild AM 1470 radio	City TV

Student Pick Up

If you are taking your child out of school earlier than 3:00 pm.

Let your child's teacher know beforehand.

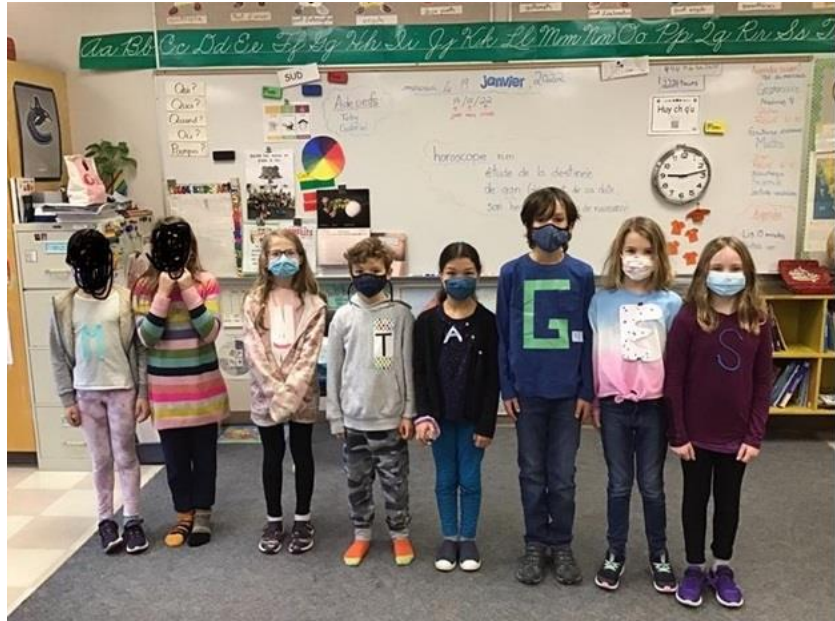
When you arrive at the school please call the office (This is a verbal signature). It is helpful if you can supply the teachers name or div.

The office staff will then make sure your child comes out to you.

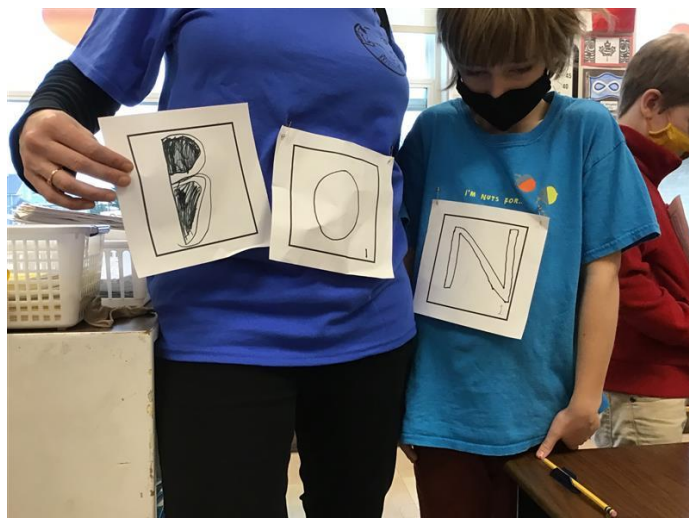


In the meant time Scrabble Day in other parts of the school.

Div. 11 Spelled montagnes - mountains



Div. 12



Art Work from Div. 26



"Hello! My name is Shaun Pletsch, one of the grade 6/7 teachers at Secord this year. Originally, I am from Terrace, BC and grew up spending a lot of time within nature and cultivated an appreciation for conservation and biology. This influenced my career before teaching – including stints at Bamfield Marine Science Centre and Science World. Being from Terrace also gave me the motivation to leave (sorry Terrace!) and see more; I have been lucky to have a varied teaching and travelling career thus far, teaching in South Korea, Cambodia, and Sweden before coming back to Vancouver 4 years ago. Even in Vancouver I have bounced around a lot – from Simon Fraser Elementary, to Killarney Secondary, to Tupper Secondary, Queen Mary Elementary, and now finally home at Secord!



From high school to elementary, I am a huge advocate for science – both informally and formally! My class always puts up with a heavy amount of experimenting, learning ridiculous scientific names (cnidaria?), making a huge mess, and the picky details of the scientific method – something they are good sports about! I appreciate all the support I have received from the community thus far – especially my division 19 students!"

Key Priority Registration Dates

Choice Program application ends Feb 3rd @4:00pm
 Cross Boundary applications: Feb 3rd to 28th

KEY DATES...



Safety Awareness Corner

Awareness without action is worthless.

The temperature drops, the wind picks up, and like clockwork you're sniffing and sneezing again. Great, you've got another cold -- or is it winter allergies...? Do you know the difference?

Allergies

- Nasal secretions are watery, clear
- Itchy eyes and throat
- Symptoms persist for weeks

Colds

- Nasal secretions are discoloured
- Chills and body aches
- Symptoms are usually gone in a week

So, what do you do about allergies?

1. If possible, avoid the allergens. Stay inside if wind is whipping up damp leaves and you're allergic to mold.
2. Wash away allergens. Wash hands and face frequently.
3. Wash bedding often. Most bedrooms are havens for pet dander and dust mites.
4. Get better bedding. Start your search online with "allergy bedding".
5. Try saltwater nasal irrigation.
6. Get more moisture: water, tea, water rich fruits and veggies.
7. The air needs moisture too. Aim for 30-50% humidity.
8. Take allergy medication.

You're not alone with winter allergies. More than 40 million Americans are allergy-prone year-round. If you aren't getting the relief you need with lifestyle changes or over-the-counter medication, it may be time to talk to an allergist.

Div 25 Mixed media Northern lights



Pink Shirt Day – February 23th

Do you know how Pink Shirt Day started? It has its roots in Nova Scotia and was started by two incredible high school students.

David Shepherd, Travis Price and their teenage friends organized a high-school protest to wear pink in sympathy with a Grade 9 boy who was being bullied for wearing a pink shirt. They took a stand against bullying when they protested the harassment of a new Grade 9 student by distributing pink T-shirts to all the boys in their school.

"I learned that two people can come up with an idea, run with it, and it can do wonders", says Mr. Price, 17, who organized the pink protest. "Finally, someone stood up for a weaker kid."

So, Mr. Shepherd and some others headed off to a discount store and bought 50 pink tank tops. They sent out messages to schoolmates that night, and the next morning they hauled the shirts to school in a plastic bag. As they stood in the foyer handing out the shirts, the bullied boy walked in. His face spoke volumes. "It looked like a huge weight was lifted off his shoulders," Mr. Price recalled.

The bullies were never heard from again.

Will you join in by wearing pink on **February 23th, 2022?**



Ready, Set, Learn & Welcome to K Events

This year we have been given the go ahead for our Welcome to Kindergarten event to happen at the school. Yeh! It will be held at the end of May.

At this point there has been no information about whether there will be a Ready, Set, Learn event this year.

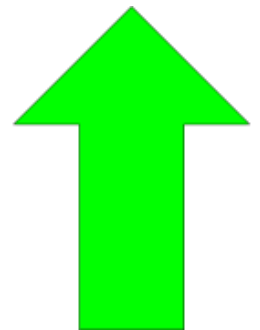
Welcome to Kindergarten date: To be announced.

Ready Set Learn: Unknown

These great trees were created by several Divisions: 17, 18, 19 and 20 Acrylic Paint Festive Winter trees



To Report Your Child's Absence – Please Call (604) 713-5159 ext 74 prior to 9 am on the first day of the absence.



Feb 14th Have a heart day

Valentine celebrations are looking a little different this year! Wear a heart, pink, purple, or red on **Monday February 14th** to earn one point per day for your house team! This is a chance for the Orcas to extend their lead or for the other teams to take over.


Overall Points	229	212	248	238
House	Grizzlies	Ravens	Orcas	Wolves




Grizzlies (green) Strength in Courage	Ravens (red) Strength in Wisdom	Orcas (blue) Strength in Unity	Wolves (yellow) Strength in Loyalty

First Joke corner


How do oceans say hello to each other? They wave,



What did one wall say to the other wall? I'll meet you at the corner.



Knock, Knock.
Who's there?
Cows go.
Cows go who?
No Cows go MOO!



Call out to budding comedians

New for Secord Newsletter.

I am looking for funny jokes, sayings, stories to add to the Newsletter each month. Please email any you would like to see in print to secord@vsb.bc.ca . In the subject line write "Jokes for the Newsletter" I will print them with your name attached if your parents agree.

February is Black History Month

During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation it is today.

People of African descent have been a part of shaping Canada's heritage and identity since the arrival of Mathieu Da Costa, a navigator and interpreter, whose presence in Canada dates back to the early 1600s.

The role of Blacks in Canada has not always been viewed as a key feature in Canada's historic landscape. There is little mention that some of the Loyalists who came here after the American Revolution and settled in the Maritimes were Blacks, or of the many sacrifices made in wartime by Black Canadian soldiers as far back as the War of 1812.

Few Canadians are aware of the fact that African people were once enslaved in the territory that is now Canada, or of how those who fought enslavement helped to lay the foundation of Canada's diverse and inclusive society.

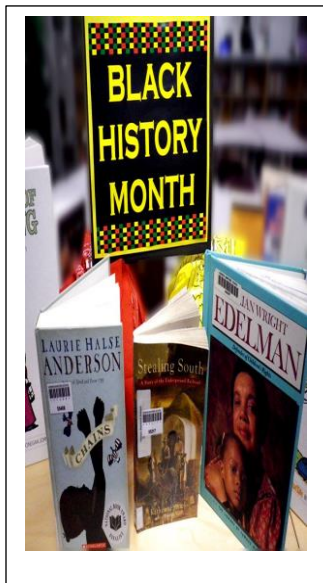
Black History Month is a time to learn more about these Canadian stories and the many other important contributions of Black Canadians to the settlement, growth and development of Canada, and about the diversity of Black communities in Canada and their importance to the history of this country.

Recognizing Black History Month

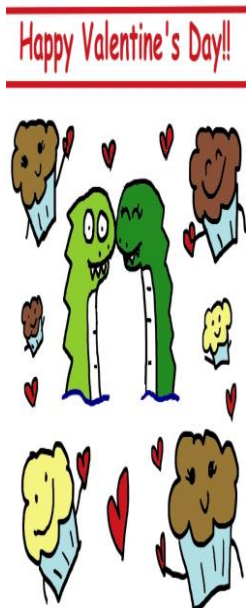
The commemoration of Black History Month dates back to 1926, when Harvard-educated African American historian Carter G. Woodson proposed setting aside a time devoted to honour the accomplishments of African Americans and to heighten awareness of Black history in the United States. This led to the establishment of Negro History Week in 1926. Celebrations of Black history began in Canada also shortly thereafter. During the early 1970s, the week became known as Black History Week. It was expanded into Black History Month in 1976.

In December 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month in Canada following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Honourable Jean Augustine. The motion was carried unanimously by the House of Commons.

In February 2008, Senator Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the [Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month](#). It received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008. The adoption of this motion completed Canada's parliamentary position on Black History Month.



Div. 25. They have had a busy month



Laura Secord Elementary
2500 Lakewood Dr
Vancouver, BC
V5N 4V1

Phone 604-713-4996

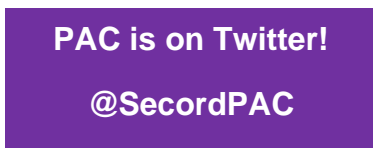
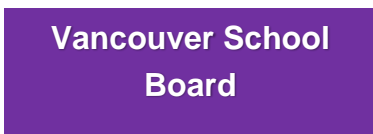
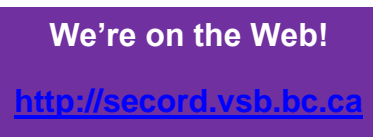
Director of Instruction:
Alison Ogden

Liaison School Trustee:
Estrellita Gonzalez

PAC Chairs:
Shahira Sakiyama &
Zahra Esmail



News from Your PAC



PAC Meeting

Wednesday, February 23th @ 7:00pm

