



## W.L. SEATON SECONDARY SCHOOL

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# August 2018 Back to School Newsletter

### Principal's Welcome! ~ Erica Schmidt

Welcome to the 2018/2019 school year! I am excited to welcome back our staff and students in the coming weeks. A special welcome extends to the Grads of 2019 and our incoming Grade 8 students (the future grads of 2023)!

Over the summer our custodial staff has been working hard to ensure the school is cleaned and ready for the September start-up. Seaton had some major renovations this summer including the installation of new floors in both the commons and the hallways on the main level and gym level.

Staff are feeling refreshed and rejuvenated from the summer break and are excited to welcome back over 900 students next week. Teachers have been planning experiences and lessons that correspond with the new BC curriculum. On the upcoming Professional Development Day on September 4th, staff will continue to develop memorable learning opportunities in line with our school goals.

Our office staff and counsellors have been working hard to ensure course timetables are ready. Timetables are available online via Parent Connect. Parents and students are encouraged to review timetables prior to the start of school on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Please note that student timetables may be in flux during the first weeks of school. Your child may be moved to a different class in order to balance class sizes and composition of courses. Thank you for your understanding and patience in this matter. Should you require an appointment with a counsellor to review your child's schedule, please contact the main office to book an appointment during the last week of August. Once school returns, students with empty blocks in their timetables should see a counsellor during the missing block to complete their schedule.

We will host a welcome day for all Grade 8's on August 30<sup>th</sup> at 9am. On this day grade 8's will meet the senior leadership students, fellow classmates, and some staff. They will have an opportunity to find their classrooms, visit their locker, buy a lock, and pay school fees. We will also welcome our international students for an orientation and BBQ on August 30<sup>th</sup> at 1pm.

Over the summer we have had a number of changes to our staff. I would like to extend a warm welcome to our new Vice principal, Gus Busenius, who previously worked as the Vice Principal at Charles Bloom Secondary. We are happy to have the majority of our teachers in place for September. We have many new faces joining our staff. Newly hired teachers and support staff include: Charlene Lau – Counselling, Colin Underwood – Career Counselling, Kathleen Huggan – Aboriginal Support Worker, Erin Talbot – Aboriginal Lead Teacher, Sara Fyke – Spanish, Briana Vaskic – Okanagan Language, Rachael Rossetti - Science and Tech, Katy Mulholland – English, Jodie Habershtock – English and French, Wayne Knopf – Tech Ed, Jason Paas – Band, Eli Pivnick – French, Chris Torrie - Biology, Science, and Info Tech, Kalon Nahachewsky – Science, Lindsay Bayford – Math, Nicole White – Foods, and Lina Augaitis – PE.

### School Start Up Schedule

Please remind your child to review their timetable on Parent or Student Connect prior to school beginning. It is helpful to print off a copy of their timetable or to take a picture of it on a mobile device.

Aug. 30 (9 - 11 am) Grade 8 Ice Breakers and Welcome Day

Aug. 30 (1 – 5:30 pm) International Student Orientation and BBQ

Sept. 3 - Labour Day (no school)

Sept. 4 - District Pro-D Day (no school)

Sept. 5 - First Day of School, Early Dismissal, Busses run 3 hrs earlier

### Wednesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>

8:30 – 8:50 ALL GRADE STUDENT

ASSEMBLY (gym)

8:55 – 9:35 A

9:40 – 10:20 B

**10:20 – 10:35 Break**

10:40 – 11:20 C

11:25 – 12:05 D

12:15 Busses Run Early

### Thursday, September 6<sup>th</sup> to

### Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>

8:30 – 9:50 A

**9:50 - 10:05 Break**

10:05 – 11:25 B

**11:25 – 12:07 Lunch**

12:07 – 1:25 C

**1:25 – 1:40 Break**

1:40 – 3:00 D

Sept. 12 - Gr. 8 Parent Night 6pm

Sept. 17 - Curriculum Implementation Day (no school)

Sept. 19 - School Photo Day

## Stay connected as a Parent/Guardian



**Stay in the Know!**

Connect with Seaton online through Parent Connect and on Twitter @WLSeaton

**Parent Connect** will keep you up to date on your child's assessment and attendance. We ask that parents check their child's demographics in Parent Connect and advise us of any changes to your address, telephone numbers, email address, etc.

Connect Products are our online communication tools between the school, parents, and students. All parents and students should be registered with either Student Connect or Parent Connect – select Parent Connect and view How-to Instructions. New students, please contact the school for sign-in forms. Once in Connect, parents and students can view important information, including attendance and marks. All formal reports will be posted on Connect as part of the regular reporting process. Teachers will use Connect to post regular updates of student progress. Please contact the office should you require a paper copy of your child's report card.

**Grade 8 Parent Night:** Parents and guardians are welcome to join us for our Grade 8 Parent Night on **September 12<sup>th</sup>** from 6:00pm – 7:00pm in the theatre. Whether you are new to Seaton or not, this is a great opportunity for parents to meet the Administration team, learn more about the year ahead, and connect with the school community. Staff look forward to meeting many of you there.

**Parent Advisory Council:** The PAC provides an opportunity for all guardians to be supported in their role as parents of teenage students. It is an opportunity to become informed on issues important in the intellectual and social growth and development of your children. The first meeting is scheduled for **September 24<sup>th</sup>**. Generally, these will take place on the third Monday of each month. At meetings, you will have the opportunity to ask and have answered all of your questions about the school. You will not be asked to fundraise or volunteer for committees. You are encouraged to take an active role in the education of your child and to become a participant at our PAC meetings. Parents are also encouraged to be part of the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC).

Popular presenter and storyteller Ivan Coyote is presenting to parents about gender, identity, and social justice at VSS on **September 17<sup>th</sup>** at 7:00pm. Parents from all schools are encouraged to attend this valuable presentation. Ivan Coyote will be speaking to Seaton students during an assembly on **September 18<sup>th</sup>**.

## Grad 2019

If your child is graduating this year please join us for the Grad Parent evening on **October 9<sup>th</sup>**. Parents will learn more about how to support your graduate, grad events, graduation requirements, scholarships and more! Consider getting involved in the Super Grad parent committee which supports fundraising and planning fun and safe celebrations for our grads.



With an increased enrollment in grade 12 this year, we are unfortunately no longer able to host our grad events at the Performing Arts Centre. With our

## School Fees

The student fees are the following:

- \$5.00 - Lock
- \$30.00 - Student Fee
- \$25.00 - Grade 8 PE Fee
- \$30.00 - Grade 9 PE Fee
- \$35.00 - Grade 10 PE Fee
- \$45.00 - Grade 11/12 PE Fee
- \$50.00 - Annual/Yearbook, this is optional
- \$120 – Grad Fee (does not include a Yearbook)
- \$450 – PEAK Fee

Applied Skills courses (Tech Ed/Home Ec) cover the basic materials required for the course. If students wish to upgrade from the basic materials, they will be charged an additional amount. Some science classes have workbook fees as well (Science \$10, and Physics \$25).

**If you are sending a cheque, please write your child's name and the reason for the payment on the memo line.**

All unpaid fees or lost book fees from previous years are due now.

**If your student took a textbook home at the end of the school year last year, please return it to the office so that we can ensure you are not charged for it.**

## Lockers/Locks

Lockers have been assigned to all students. Locker numbers can be viewed on Parent/Student Connect under the Basic tab; lists will be given to A Block teachers for the first day of school. **Locks can be purchased at the office for \$5.** Students must use the locker assigned to them.

increased grad class size, we have had to change both our grad ceremony venue and date. Grad is currently scheduled to take place on **June 20<sup>th</sup>** at Kal Arena. In the coming weeks, parents and grads will be asked to provide feedback regarding this year's graduation ceremony and social events for grads.

Grads are encouraged to share their voice at Grad Council Meetings hosted at lunchtimes throughout the year. Upcoming meetings will be communicated to students through the morning announcements and on tv screens in the school. Parents of grads can expect grad specific emails throughout the year.

### **Unsanctioned grad events:**

In addition to the Seaton grad events, you may be aware of other so-called "Grad" activities. While unofficial grad events have traditionally occurred in School District #22 throughout the year, they are **not** sanctioned by Seaton Secondary School or School District #22. For example, in past years an unsanctioned "bush party" has occurred before the first day of school. Events such as these are **not school events**. Parents are urged to discuss the potential for tragedy associated with activities involving alcohol, drugs, and vehicles. These parties often include non-Seaton adults in their twenties who attend for the purpose of trafficking drugs and alcohol.

The forest services and RCMP are also very concerned about the high forest fire risk and have asked that students do not go out to any wooded area as this puts themselves and others at risk. We urge parents and students to replace these dangerous and unsafe traditions with healthier, more appropriate celebrations that recognize this special year of schooling. Students who arrive at school under the influence following unsanctioned activities may be suspended and may lose the privilege of participating in school sanctioned grad activities, including participation in the graduation ceremony.

### **Student Timetables**

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Timetables are available on Parent and Student Connect please take some time to look over them. Priorities for schedule changes are for senior students with grad requirements. All other changes may be limited due to full classes and class composition. All Grade 8-11 students are required to have a full schedule of at least 8 courses. Grade 12 students require parent and Principal approval for a spare. A full timetable ensures a successful graduation, maximizes post-secondary options, prepares students for full time work, provides a varied experience, and ensures that the school will be able to offer a wide variety of programs to meet student needs and interests.



### **Personal Insurance for Students**

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As part of the District's commitment to addressing students' needs and parents' concerns, School District No. 22 has arranged for comprehensive blanket accident Insurance for district students. If you have questions about the School Day Coverage Plan, please see the school district webpage [www.sd22.bc.ca](http://www.sd22.bc.ca) and go to the parents drop down menu for further information.

### **School Photos**

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School photos will be taken on **September 19<sup>th</sup>**. Purchasing photo packages is optional but we ask all students to have a photo taken for the yearbook and for student ID cards. Student ID cards may be required for students who wish to gain admittance to school functions. To receive their student card, all outstanding debts and the student fee must be paid. Students are expected to look as they ordinarily do on photo day and are asked not to wear costumes for photos. Graduation photos are scheduled for December. We ask that all grads have their picture taken so that their photo will be included in the yearbook and on the grad composite which is displayed in our hallway. We are working with Mountain West Photography again this year. Photo previews will be emailed to parents. We will send home more information closer to Photo Day.

## Student Code of Conduct

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W.L. Seaton Secondary School's Code of Conduct outlines school expectations and acceptable student behaviour as directed by the *School Act 85(2)(c)(i)*. Student Voice, Parent Advisory Committee, as well as teaching and support staff were included in the development of our Code of Conduct. Our Code of Conduct is annually reviewed to ensure it reflects Seaton's community needs and align with the district and provincial school safety initiatives. Our Code of Conduct is communicated to all students, parents, staff, temporary staff, visitors and district staff. Acceptable conduct expectations are illustrated in our five CHARGE matrix and are in effect for all school functions, regardless of location or time of day. CHARGE stands for **C**ommunity, **H**ave Pride, **A**ccountability, **R**espect, **G**et Involved and **E**xcellence. Please review our complete student code of conduct on our website.

## Dress Code

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Personal dress and grooming is largely a matter of individual choice and self-expression but it shall not interfere or disrupt the educational process of the individual student or other students and staff. Dress is expected to be appropriate for a formal work setting, promoting a positive and safe learning environment for students and staff. Students must wear clean, tasteful clothing and refrain from wearing inappropriate attire including drug and alcohol logos, sexually-suggestive designs or profanity, and beach attire. Clothing must cover underwear, cleavage, bottoms and midriffs. Special dress may be required for certain classes in order to facilitate good hygiene, proper participation and/or personal safety. Students wearing inappropriate dress may be asked to cover-up, change, or go home to change. Repeat offenders may be considered defiant and be subject to further discipline.

## Fruit and Veggie Program

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We are pleased to announce our school will be continuing the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program Sponsored by B.C. Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation and ActNowBC. Our school is involved in a province-wide healthy living initiative. One of the goals is to encourage healthy eating by providing fresh B.C. Fruits and Vegetable to the students during classroom time. The students will receive picked, washed, and ready to enjoy produce twice every other week at **no charge! To ensure every student's health and safety during this program, contact the office if you do not want your child to participate. Forms are available in the office.**



PE

## School Supplies

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Students should come prepared on the first day with a binder, paper, pens and pencils. Teachers will notify students if specific supplies are required. All athletic classes will require PE strip and indoor running shoes.



**Support Seaton:** Seaton has partnered with COBS Bread on Anderson Way. Simply mention W.L. Seaton when you make any purchase at COBS. COBS will donate 5% of every purchase to our school. Thanks to COBS for supporting our breakfast and lunch program. Each week we are provided with free bread that our students access through our free breakfast program!

## Athletics

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Our Athletic Directors, Mr. Nathan Lee and Mr. Chad Romain, alongside our Athletic Booster Club parents, have exciting plans for Athletics this year! Volleyball, Cross Country, Aquatics and Boys Soccer start right away, so sign up quickly! Watch the screens in the commons and listen to announcements for meeting and practice times. Please consider supporting athletics by attending the Booster club meetings. Typically these happen at 5pm every 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month prior to the PAC meeting. We are currently looking for coaches for grade 8 boys volleyball and junior girls volleyball. Contact Nathan Lee ([nlee@sd22.bc.ca](mailto:nlee@sd22.bc.ca)) if you are interested in coaching. Junior (grade 9/10) and senior (grade 11/12) volleyball tryouts will start on **Tuesday, September 4th**. Follow WL Seaton Athletics on Instagram and Facebook and check out our website for gym schedules and more information to be updated soon.

## Bussing Registration

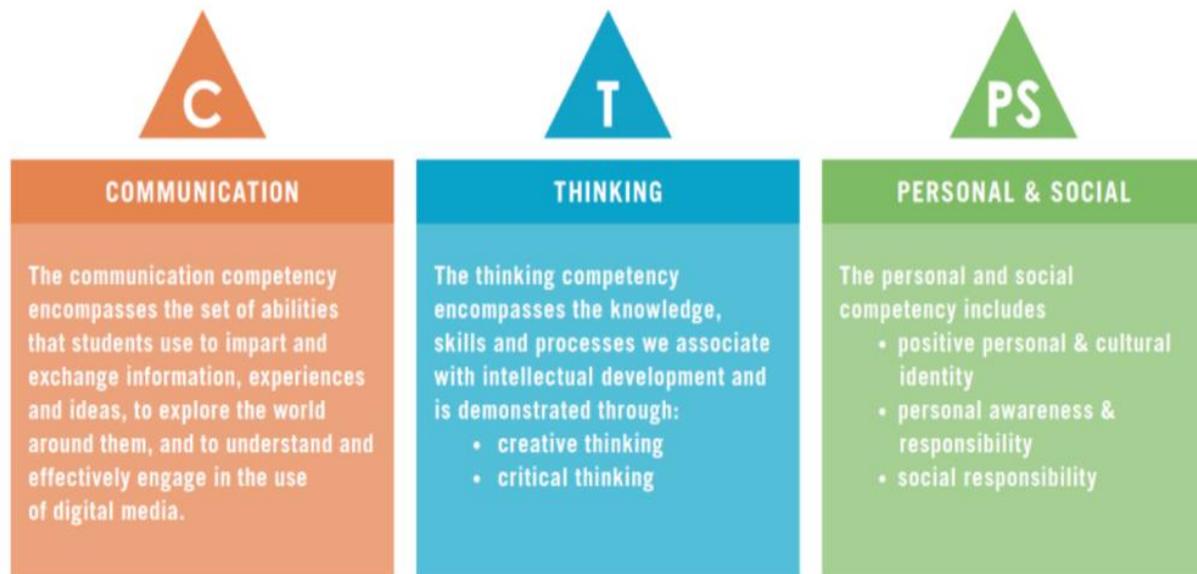
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If your bussing needs have changed, a new bus registration form must be filled out. All students leaving elementary and entering high school who wish to utilize bussing will be required to fill out a new bus registration form. You can find the form at <http://www.sd22.bc.ca/Programs/transportation/Pages/default.aspx> or at the school office. Bus route information can be found here as well as information about new fees being charged to courtesy riders.

## New Curriculum

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There have been exciting changes in Education in BC recently. The core competencies (**Communication/ Thinking/ Personal & Social**), along with **literacy and numeracy** foundations and essential content and concepts, are at the centre of the redesigned curriculum and assessment. Core competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep learning and life-long learning. Core competencies are changing the way students learn and how teachers introduce course content and classroom experiences.

The curriculum has been revised and the Graduation program has been revamped. The new finalized K-10 curriculum is available online at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/curriculum/>. The grade 11 and 12 new curriculum will be in full implementation next year.

As well, reporting and assessment look different this year with the Ministry Numeracy assessment required for students prior to graduation. Also, beginning in January 2019 we will see some schools piloting the Ministry Literacy assessment (which will be fully implemented in BC in the 2019/2020 school year). Students can write these two mandatory provincial graduation assessments in their grade 10,11, or 12 years. For more information on these changes, please visit <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>.



## Threat Assessments

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W. L. Seaton and School District No. 22 are committed to fostering a safe, caring, inclusive learning environment where students, staff, parents and visitors feel safe. Consequently, threats of harm to self or others may result in the school initiating threat assessment protocols that could involve student questioning, student and locker searches, cell phone confiscation, and RCMP involvement. If you have any questions, please contact the school.



**CANADIAN  
PARENTS  
FOR FRENCH**  
BRITISH COLUMBIA  
& YUKON

## **VERNON CHAPTER**

### **Bonjour!**

We want to start by **welcoming you** to school year 2018/2019! Are you new to French immersion? By enrolling your child in FI, your family has started on an incredibly rewarding journey. If you have questions, please contact us, we are here to help. Some of you already know us, but we still wanted to say **bonjour, bonne rentrée!**

**WHO IS CPF VERNON?** We are people just like you who want to enrich our children's FI education by creating French language and cultural learning opportunities in our community.

**WHAT WE DO!** Check out a visual sampling of just some of the things we do!



*French public speaking, reading clubs, student tutors, academic awards, Bonhomme de neige, workshops, summer camps, contests and more! To learn more, visit our website!*

### **HOW TO SUPPORT US!**

- ♥ **Engage!** Come to our meetings, message us - we can let you know what is happening and how you can help. **Your time is invaluable and appreciated!**
- ♥ **Buy a CPF Vernon membership - membership dollars support programs in Vernon:** [cpf.ca/en/membership](http://cpf.ca/en/membership). The number of memberships we have in Vernon is directly related to how much funding we can apply for and receive.
- ♥ **Shop at Nature's Fare!** Deposit your receipts in our Receipt Dropboxes: Seaton, Beirsto, Harwood & Alexis Park. We receive 3% back from all receipts donated!
- ♥ **Shop at CO-OP for fuel and goods and use our membership number: 81907.** A percentage of purchases come back to CPF Vernon in a yearly cheque! Pick up our handy CO-OP Shop & Support card at Seaton, Beirsto, and Harwood Bulletin Boards.

**NEXT MEETING October 3, 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm at Okanagan Regional Library Vernon**

Merci, we look forward to thriving with you!

**Canadian Parents for French - Vernon Chapter**

Email: [cpfvernon@gmail.com](mailto:cpfvernon@gmail.com)

Webpage: <https://bc-yk.cpf.ca/chapter/vernon>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/CPFVernon>

PROMOTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG CANADIANS TO LEARN AND USE FRENCH

August 2018



Dear students and parents/guardians:

Welcome back! We are looking forward to providing our students with excellent opportunities to develop their intellectual, physical, fine arts and applied skills abilities. The purpose of this letter is to clarify our District Code of Conduct given the upcoming changes to legislation on the legalization of cannabis.

School District #22 and W.L. Seaton Secondary School believe in creating a positive school environment(s) that are drug and alcohol free (Policy 9.14.0 – School District #22 Code of Conduct). Unfortunately, we understand that some students experiment with drugs and alcohol during their teens and we provide support through school counsellors, the district drug and alcohol counsellor, and guest speakers for both students and parents. These supports help students and families understand the pressures students face, the health impacts of drug/alcohol use, and ways parents can support their child.

To help with prevention our grade 8, 9 and 10 students will continue to be invited to participate in the Prevention Program that helps them recognize their risk-taking tendencies and ways to deal with drug or alcohol use.

The district considers the use or sale of drugs or alcohol a significant breach of the District's Code of Conduct. Students may be suspended and will be referred to the District Drug and Alcohol Counsellor. Students that are associating with others who are using or selling may also be suspended.

The new federal cannabis legislation regulates consumption and distribution. Some important points of note:

1. Cannabis cannot be consumed in or on school property or within a prescribed distance.
2. Cannabis cannot be smoked or vaped anywhere where tobacco smoking and vaping are prohibited, including a workplace, vehicle, playground or outdoor park, sports field, skate park, or other places where children commonly gather, near entry/exits, or at a bus stop.
3. Cannabis cannot be sold, supplied, or allowed to be consumed by minors.

Vaping is not permitted on school property or parks adjacent to schools. Vapes will be confiscated by the school and returned to the parent/guardian or given to the school liaison officer. We are working hard to provide a safe and healthy school for all students.

Thank you for taking the time to read and discuss this information as a family. If you have any questions please contact your school principal or counsellor.

Wishing you all the best for a healthy and productive school year.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Joe Rogers in cursive.

Joe Rogers  
Superintendent of Schools

Handwritten signature of Erica Schmidt in cursive.

Erica Schmidt  
W.L. Seaton Principal