

VERNON SECONDARY SCHOOL

“Pride on the Hill”



December 2015

Principal	Vice Principal	Counsellor A-L	Counsellor M-Z
Malcolm Reid	Melissa Yurkowski	Sandie Glinsbockel	Kulwinder Smith

Administrator's Message

I have said many times that the “pride” in our school motto “Pride On the Hill” has a dual meaning. “Pride” most commonly refers to taking honour and joy in doing one’s very best. In addition “pride” also refers to a family of cats, or in our case “Panthers”. The importance of being one family is well documented in our school goal #2 “to improve student connectedness”.

The opportunity for doing one’s best and being connected to VSS comes to a climax this week as VSS is honoured to host the AAA Girls Volleyball provincial championships. On the morning of Thursday, December 3 will be the opening ceremonies and then on Saturday night will be the gold medal match to crown the top AAA Girls Volleyball team in British Columbia. During this week we will be witnessing the best girls volleyball high schools in BC have to offer!

There are many reasons for VSS to put so much energy into this tournament. It is extra special for our own senior girls’ team to have the advantage of chasing a BC Championship on home turf. It is a boost for North Okanagan volleyball to showcase the best volleyball in BC right here in Vernon. I particularly enjoy putting on display our beautiful building and energetic school community to the province.

However, the two greatest reasons come back to “Pride on the Hill”. It is not often that we get to witness such a large spectacle of youth giving everything they have in pursuit of greatness. This week will witness many tears of defeat as well of screams of victory. These are the memorable sounds of youth chasing their pride. I love these sounds and I am proud to have them in a spotlight for our school this week. Making this tournament a reality is a massive undertaking by many staff, parents, community members, sponsors, and of course students. In our hard work we have all come closer together as a family – more connected as a pride – in order to put our best face on for the province. For more information, see the tournament website: <http://2015aaagirlsvolleyball.weebly.com/>



A huge thank you to Vernon’s own **Andrew Allen** for donating his song “Your Time to Shine!” as the tournament theme song as well as all our tournament sponsors and volunteers. This week I encourage everyone to come out and cheer on our Senior Girls volleyball team, watch some exemplary volleyball action, and see “Pride on the Hill” come to life at VSS.

Malcolm Reid

“Pride On the Hill”

German Exchange

Would you like to host a student from Germany for 10 weeks? Would you like to spend 10 weeks in Germany next school year? Well, then the BC Heritage Language Association sponsored BC/Germany exchange is for you! You do not need to be taking German at VSS to participate; you just need to be in good standing with the school, going into grade 10 or 11 next school year and passing all of your classes.

This program has been in existence for almost 40 years and gives BC students the chance to host a German student for 10 weeks in their home from late August until mid-November and then live with their exchange partner and their family from mid-March to end of May. Over the last 20 years we have had 26 VSS students take part in this fantastic and exciting opportunity of a lifetime and each time the students have come back more mature, independent, confident, and knowledgeable and have a fantastic command of the German language.

If you are interested, please contact Mr. Hirschhorn at rhirschhorn@sd22.bc.ca or call 250-545-0701. One can also visit the BCHLA website at <http://www.bchla.net/> for more information.

**The VSS Office will be
closed during the Christmas
Break—
Dec. 21, 2015 to January 4,
2016. Happy Holidays!!**



Upcoming Dates To Remember

Dec. 2-5	'AAA' Girls VBall Prov. Champs @ VSS	Jan 4	Return from winter break
Dec 7	Grad Parent Meeting	Jan 4	Grad Parent meeting
Dec. 7-11	Grad Photos Week	Jan 8	Exploration #3 ends
Dec. 9-16	VSS 'Theatre On the Hill" Play	Jan 11	Exploration #4 begins
Dec. 17	Locker Cleanout	Jan 25-28	Provincial Exams
Dec. 18	Christmas Assembly	Jan 26-27	Class Exams
Dec. 18	Last day before winter break	Jan 28-29	Course Completion Days
		Feb. 1	Start of Semester 2

Student Transfers & New Students 2016-2017

School District No. 22 (Vernon) is currently making plans for the upcoming school year. We wish to remind parents of the following: In accordance with School District Policy 9.11.0 students who wish to transfer to another school beginning September 2016 must make application to transfer between January 15 and February 15, 2016 to be given consideration. Transfer requests are valid for one calendar year only.

Transfer requests are based on the following prioritized criteria:

1. A catchment area child
2. A non-catchment area child
3. A non-school district child

Students wishing to transfer from their catchment area school cannot be guaranteed bus transportation.

Students currently waiting for transfers to another school who wish to remain on the transfer list for the next school year (2016-2017), must re-apply effective January 15, 2016. If they wish to remain waitlisted for second semester of the current school year, they do not need to re-apply but that application will not remain valid for the 2016-2017 year.

Graduating Class of 2015 Provincial Exam Scholarships Winners

Every year the provincial government awards graduating students across the province with scholarships for outstanding achievements in the five provincial exams they must write in order to graduate (English 10, Science 10, Math 10, Social Studies 11, and English 12). In November we learned the following students from VSS will receive a \$1,000 scholarship. We wish these high achieving graduates all the best as they continue their studies in post-secondary school this year.

Kierra Bootsma	Zachary Kronbauer
Ethan Coleman	Tanner Lorenson
Tess Despres	Travis Manchee
Darien Grace	Karson Patommel
Ali Jalil	Joel Pfannschmidt
Demetre Kontos	Jason Reich
Jordan Korol	Julia Wendt

Remembrance Day



Remembrance Day

Thank you to Veteran **Denis Windsor** for addressing the entire school at our annual Remembrance Day Assembly on November 10th teaching us about the history of Canadian war efforts and the importance of remembering. Also thank you to piper **Reg Scott** for leading us in and out of the assembly with appropriate class.

I Reports

A reminder that December 14th—17th is I Report Week. Students not demonstrating minimally acceptable performance in relation to the expected learning outcomes for a course will receive an I report via Connect. This report will outline areas needing attention and a plan for resolution in order for a successful completion of the course. Parents of students receiving an I Report will receive an email notification to their Connect folder.

GRAD 2015 NEWS



GRAD 2016 THEME

“50’s Diner”

Thank you to the team of parents who have been meeting on the first Monday of every month in the school library to plan the VSS Dry Grad. Dry Grad Chair is Elcita Young and our Dry Grad Teacher Sponsor is Kulwinder Smith kulwindersmith@sd22.bc.ca Parents are strongly encouraged to attend the next Grad Parent Meeting on Monday December 7th 7:00pm. Please come out and do your part to ensure a spectacular graduation evening on June 3rd.

A letter from **Mr. Reid** and **Mrs. Young** was sent home last month to all parents of Grads explaining an additional \$25 charge for Dry Grad to offset some fundraising efforts. This was requested by parents and overwhelming voted in favour at the October Grad meeting. Thank you to all families who have already paid their Grad Ceremony fee of \$135 and this additional Dry Grad fee of \$25.

Presently the grads have ordered their Grad Hoodies and Sweat pants designed by fellow graduate **Emmanuel Areizaga** We hope to have the clothing in before Christmas break. Grad Photos will be the week of 7—11 by Mountain West Studios. Grads should have already signed up at the office for their photo time. The photos will be in the basement via the back theatre access.

The 2016 Grad Class is using Regal Gifts to raise funds for their Dry Grad Event. Regal offers over 1000 items and many are priced under \$20 and include some great Christmas gifts.

Catalogues will be available at the VSS office and the website to order is www.vss16.shopregal.ca. The Grads keep 30% of the sales and orders can be placed now until Dec. 31st. If you want your items delivered by Christmas, the cut off date is Dec. 11th as orders will take between 7—10 days for delivery. Shipping is only \$6.50 for orders under \$100 or 6.5% if over \$100. Orders can be shipped anywhere in Canada. Exchanges are done at www.regal.ca/exchangecentre. Refunds can be requested until Dec. 31st.

Thank you for your support!

Grad Portfolio

Grad Portfolio/Exit Interview UPDATE! Exit Interviews will take place on Friday, January 29th for all first semester Grade 12 English classes and for any other Grade 12 students who would prefer to present first semester. Parents, if you'd like to volunteer to be a panel member please contact Mrs. Meyer at dmeyer@sd22.bc.ca. This is a great opportunity, especially for parents of grade 11 students, to get first hand knowledge of how the process works.

VSS Yearbook

The yearbook is currently available for the "early bird" price of \$45.00. The cost of the yearbook increases January 4th to \$50.00.

We will notify parents in January of the yearbook purchase deadline.



We want your photos! Students, parents, teachers, coaches, and others in our school community can upload pictures from an iPhone or Android for possible use in our yearbook. eShare lets you do that!

Instructions:

- A. Go to the appropriate app store for your smart phone
- B. Search for hj eshare app, herff jones, or eshare
- C. Install the free hj eshare app
- D. The first time you log on, you'll need our school code: vss2016
- E. Then, just follow the instructions to upload photos

This is a great way to share pictures of VSS students doing awesome things in our community. All pictures will be reviewed by our yearbook supervisor teacher, Ms. Yanovsky. Start sharing!

Term 1 Top Academic Achievers

Congratulations to the top 5 academic achievers in each grade for term 1!

Grade 8

Kelsey Watts
Grace Cornell
Anne Cherkowski
Emma Eggert
Justin Truscott

Grade 9

Kyle Pain
Ronan McKenna
Kelsey Carriere
Julianna Adams
Mackenzie Mertion

Grade 10

Maddy Smith
Hayden Person
Zoe Horton
Versailles Zayshley
Rachel Vaz

Grade 11

Ava Cornell
Tylee Cooper
Laine Grace
Kathryn Rieb
Katya Viskari

Grade 12

Sean Morgan
Kate Healy
Kyle Cieurka
Cailee Bauml
Katherine Woolsey

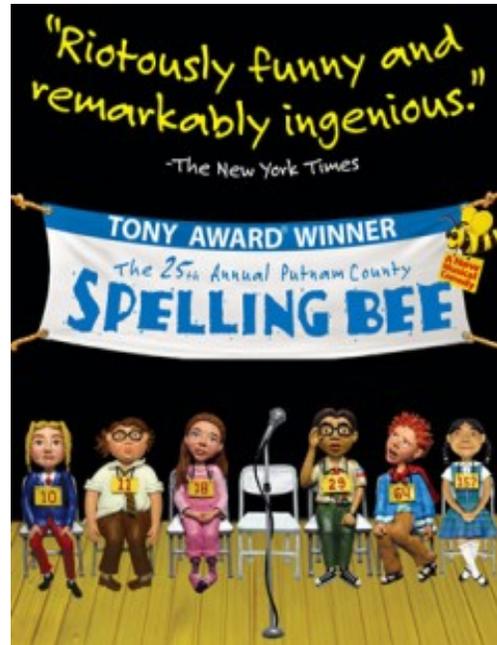
Sports

We are now in transition time with fall sports winding down and winter sports starting up. Our fall teams had strong showings at both the Valley and Provincial levels. On the court, the Junior Boys' Volleyball team captured the North Zone title and then narrowly missed out on a provincial berth on a tiebreaker. The Senior Girls' Volleyball team were Valley Runner-ups and will go into the Provincial tournament as the #6 seed. Final preparations are being made to host the AAA Girl's Provincials and I'm sure it will be an outstanding event. Our grade 8 girls continued their domination and won the North Zone Title. On the gridiron, our football teams both made provincial playoffs. The junior's lost a close opening round game to Duchess Park and the Senior Boys narrowly lost out in the quarterfinals (1 pt loss) after defeating Mission in the opening round. The senior boys also captured their third straight Interior Conference Title. Our cross country girls continued to shine at the provincial level with Hannah Bennison winning the individual title in convincing fashion. Congrats to all fall teams and best of luck to our Senior Girl's as they try to win in front of the home crowdGO PANTHERS !

Performing Arts

The “25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee” comes to Vernon Secondary School December 9 through 16. The hilarious Broadway musical is about a group of quirky fourth graders who compete in a cut throat spelling bee. Based on an improvisational show in New York, The Putnam County Bee still retains some of its spontaneous feel and includes audience participation and new content every night.

"It 's a very different kind of musical," says drama teacher Laurie Anne Lorge. "It feels a bit like watching live improv theatre, it has that edgy quality." Though the show is about fourth graders it deals with mature subject matter and viewer discretion is required. The show runs nightly (except on Sunday night) at 7pm at VSS's Theatre on the Hill. Tickets are available at the school office and can be reserved by calling 250-545-0701.



Library News

Our new website is now almost totally rebuilt and offers students access to:

- search our Library catalogue

- log on* to our catalogue to make Reserves, Renewals and check History

- our Digital Library* with a growing collection of eBooks, Audiobooks and Videos

- Research Databases for “reliable” online information (as opposed to general Internet searching)

- These databases include both those:

 - provided for the entire School District, and

 - exclusively purchased for VSS Students

- Our Magazine subscriptions, many with links to their online versions

Coming Soon: Book Chat

An area to share recommendations for “good reads”, vote on favourite series, and generally argue about books!

<http://www.sd22.bc.ca/school/vss/Programs/library/Pages/default.aspx>

*for both of these sites students can log in with their student number and the password “pass”

Grade Nine Electives



Drama—Mrs. Lorge



Foods—Mrs. Irwin



Band—Mrs. Huggins

Art—Mr. Kaneda



Wood—Mr. Russell



Grade Nine Electives

Sewing - Ms. Daughtry



Drafting— Mrs. Meyer



Infotech 9 — Mrs. Egan

Band

The VSS Band students are having heaps of fun preparing Christmas Music for their 'Cheer Tour' on Friday, December 11. The VSS band will be spreading Christmas Cheer through music as they perform concerts for Hillview Elementary, BX Elementary and Silver Star Elementary. This tour is a super fun way to introduce the elementary students to band at the high school level and it is a great opportunity for the VSS students to perform and have fun. Our Christmas Concert at VSS will be on Wednesday, December 16th at 7:30pm. The Second Winds adult ensemble will be performing as well and we will play two mass band songs with them. The VSS Band students' favourite piece of Music is Polar Express. It is very challenging, but they are working hard and learning it well, including the beginner grade 8 students! The Band room is a happy, busy, fabulous place and Mrs. Huggins is very proud of all of the Band students!