

VERNON SECONDARY SCHOOL

“Pride on the Hill”



March 2015

Principal
Malcolm Reid

Vice Principal
Mike Grace

Counsellor - A-M
Sandie Glinsbockel

Counsellor M-Z
Kulwinder Smith

Administrator's Message

On February 25th **Mr. Grace** and I hosted semester grade level assemblies. At these assemblies I told the students a story of the eagles of Colorado and how they are known to travel hundreds of miles a day in search of a twig from the iron wood tree to build their nests. The iron wood twigs are strong as the name indicates, but they also have thorns that interlock when building a nest. The eagles know that the strong twigs combined with the interlocking thorns together make exceptional nests. However, due to the thorns, the eagles must layer the nests with leaves and feathers to ensure a soft and safe welcome to the world for the baby eagles. Things change as the baby eagles grow and the mother slowly throws out the soft leaves and feathers exposing the thorns and forcing the baby eagles to eventually stand on the edge of the nests. Then, only when she knows her children to be ready, the mother eagle will push her children off the nests edge. Her children will at first fall, then quickly begin to flap their wings, and then do what they were born to do – fly!

I told our students this story as it reminds me greatly of the relationship they have with VSS. Students arrive to VSS, our nest, in grade 8 and we shroud them with supports ensuring a safe and comfortable beginning. However, slowly, we begin to pull those supports away expecting our students to take on challenges themselves. Then, when they are ready, at the end of grade 12, we pull all supports away and allow our students to do what they are born to do – fly like eagles!

We have recently seen a number of our students fly with success. At these same assemblies we awarded over 62% of our student body with an academic award.

Our winter sports season is coming to a close with four teams qualifying for their respective provincial championships – the Wrestling Team, Grade 8 Girls Basketball, Senior Girls Basketball, and Senior Boys Basketball.

We also must congratulate our leadership students for all the efforts in hosting another fantastic CHIMO Days the last week before spring break. The CHIMO spirit week tradition has been around as long as VSS itself and still gives our students memories to last a life time.

February 26th kicked off the Grad season with our Grad Fashion Show. It was truly an emotional evening as many grads metaphorically stood on the edge of the nest and looked truly ready to fly!

I want to wish all of VSS a safe and relaxing spring break.

“Pride on the Hill”

Malcolm Reid

Upcoming Dates To Remember

Mar 9-13	Chimo Days	Apr. 1	P/T Interviews (early dismissal)
Mar. 11	Course Selection Due		4:00-7:00 pm - Gym
Mar. 12	Locker Cleanout	Apr. 3	Good Friday (No School)
Mar. 13	Last day of school before Spring Break	Apr. 6	Easter Monday (No School)
Mar. 16-27	Spring Break	Apr. 7	PAC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library
Mar. 30	Students return from Spring Break	Apr. 13	Gr. 8 Exploration 5 Ends
		Apr. 23	End of Term 3

Please stay tuned for more Grad events coming in April and May including:

April 23rd Drive Through Breakfast at Wholesale Club

May Mother's Day Flower Orders

May 9th Grad Garage Sale

Course Planning for 2015/ 2016

Course planning for the new year begins March 3. Counselors will be meeting with students through grade assemblies providing important information about course selection. After these sessions, students will be able to go home and work with their parents to complete their course requests through Parent Connect. **All course selection requests must be completed by Wednesday, March 11.** Students who are interested in completing a district program should consult the School District 22 website (<http://www.sd22.bc.ca>) for details and contact the school counselors.

Career Program Planning for 2015/ 2016

Students interested in Apprenticeship programs should see Mr. Simon to start planning in order to get into popular programs.

Professional Cook Level1 is offered at VSS.

Other programs available in Vernon are;

Aircraft Maintenance

Residential Construction

Electrical

Welding

Plumbing and Piping Trades

****Grade 10s interested in the Forestry Program should be handing in their applications ASAP.**

Music

The Vernon Community Band will be going to Kiwanis Music Festival in Kelowna on April 23rd for adjudication. There are several VSS students who play with this band and will be attending this Festival. Good luck! Ms. Rose

GRADE 12 STUDENTS

The final graduation portfolio exit interviews will take place on Thursday, June 11th. Grade 12 students that did not present their portfolios during semester one will present on this day. Students in English 12 will book a time during their lessons with Mrs. Meyer, other students should contact Mrs. Meyer shortly to arrange a presentation time. Parents that would like to be panel members on that day are urged to email Mrs. Meyer dmeyer@sd22.bc.ca.

Grad 2015 is fast approaching as our ceremony is scheduled for May 29th at the KAL Tire Place. All parents of grads should review the Grad Newsletter that was sent out in February. This newsletter is on our website and hard copies are available on the front office.

A big thank you to the Grad Fashion Show Organizing Committee that lead our Fashion Show on February 26th. A great success that truly kicked off our Grad season. We are always looking for more help. Parents interested in helping at support Grad should show up to the next Grad Meeting April 13th 7:00pm in the school library or contact Mrs. Smith ksmith@sd22.bc.ca.

Athletics

Vernon Secondary is well represented, once again, at the Provincial Championships.

Our Grade 8 Girls' Basketball team (coached by Mr. Bertram & Mr. Sawka) placed 11th in Pitt Meadows after capturing the North Zone title. Not to be outdone, our Senior Girls competed in their 10th straight AA Provincials and placed 12th. The girls are a model of consistency, in part due to the coaching they receive from Mr. Mazurak and Mr. Tetrault. On the boy's side, our seniors won their second straight AAA Valley Title in convincing style by downing the previously undefeated South Kamloops in the final. John Garvie was named Valley MVP while Zac Kronbauer and grade 10 Ben Hladik were named all-stars. The senior boys are coached by Glenn Garvie (parent) and will compete in the AAA Provincials from March 11-14th in Langley.

Vernon Secondary was also represented on the mats. Our wrestling program continues to gather momentum under the tutelage of Mr. Eggert with four wrestlers travelling to the coast to represent VSS. Grade 9 Joe Eggert finished in the top 10 despite competing with wrestlers in grades 11 and 12.

With winter sports wrapping up, it's time to move outside for the spring. Our spring sports include; golf, rugby, track & field and girls soccer.

We are always on the lookout for people that are willing and able to assist with our teams. If you are interested in helping out in any capacity with our sports teams, please contact Sean Smith (Athletic Director) ssmith@sd22.bc.ca. At the moment, we are looking for rugby and football coaches.

GO PANTHERS !

Parent/Teacher Interviews

SPRING PARENT TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Wednesday, April 1st 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm

Please take the time to join us for our Parent Teacher Interviews. Next week your child will receive a spread sheet from their teachers outlining their progress to date. Please bring these reports with you as they are a starting point for good conversation. You may also want to pursue some of the following questions:

How do you know my child is learning this curriculum?

If my child is struggling with learning the curriculum, why & what can we do to support them?

If my child is easily grasping the curriculum, what can we do to enrich or extend their learning?

The conversations will be about your child and the learning so I strongly recommend that in order to take full advantage of this evening your child attends with you. Interviews are only six minutes in length as our teachers will most likely have numerous parents visiting this evening. If you discover that a longer time is needed, please feel free to book a separate meeting at another time by completing a request form provided on this evening.

Monday, March 9th 8:00 am – Monday, March 30th 12:00 noon parents will be able to log onto our 24 hour web based OPTIS program through our school website and book interview times at your convenience. The booking instructions are presently posted on the VSS website. You will need to know your child's teachers in order book appointments. This can be accessed through Parent Connect.

Please note the adjusted schedule for the week of Parent-Teacher Interviews is as follows:

Wednesday, April 1 st	8:30 – 1:00 pm	Condensed School Day/Early Dismissal
	3:05 pm	<i>Buses run at regular times</i>
	4:00 – 7:00 pm	Parent-Teacher Night

Parent-Teacher Interviews can be the most powerful and rewarding piece of our reporting process. We look forward to the rich conversations that will further strengthen your child's learning.

Yours truly,

Malcolm Reid

Principal

Pink Shirt Bully Awareness Day



VSS STAFF SUPPORTS ANTI-BULLYING AWARENESS DAY!!

New Staff

We have a number of new and returning staff members who have joined us for Semester 2

Mr. Robert Buchanan	Science Department
Mrs. Jodi Cecchini	Math Department
Mrs. Rhiannon Johnson	Math & Business Education Department
Mrs. Treena Pastro	PE
Mr. Sasha Prohoroff	Business Education Department
Mrs. Miranda Strahl	Math Department
Ms. Nicole White	English Department
Mr. Wayne Richardson	Student Support Services

They are all great additions to our already outstanding staff!

Chimo Days

Are You Ready?!

Chimo has finally arrived. VSS will be buzzing with excitement throughout the week. It all starts Monday with our 16 team Ultimate Survivor Challenge followed by a Slam Dunk competition in the Gym. The commons room will come alive every day at lunch with activities such as, VSS Got Talent, Extreme Charades, Ultimate Chess, All Out Foosball, Darts, Table Tennis, Dance Dance Revolution, Master Chef Food Challenge, Aboriginal Crafts, and Silk Screening. Don't forget to dress up to win fabulous prizes. Our theme days include, Jersey Monday, Tropical Tuesday, Western Wednesday, Superstar Thursday, and Panther Pride Friday. Enjoy a free pancake breakfast on Wednesday and be sure to check out the daily Chimo specials in the Cafeteria. Thank-you to all the staff, students, and community sponsors who make this incredible week possible. Let's Go Panthers!!!

