

VERNON SECONDARY SCHOOL

“Pride on the Hill”



December 2014

Principal
Malcolm Reid

Vice Principal
Mike Grace

Counsellor A-L
Sandi Glinsbockel

Counsellor M-Z
Kulwinder Smith

Administrator's Message

I have explained before that our well known motto “Pride on the Hill” is a reference to the continual pursuit of excellence both as individuals and as a school. In the last few weeks there have been a number of significant achievements that are beautiful examples of our pride.

On December 17th I have the honour of recognizing **Jacob Zayshley** as our grad class of 2014's Governor General's Academic Bronze Medal winner at a school trustee board meeting. The Governor General's Award dates back to 1873 and is awarded across the country to the student with the highest academic achievement in each school's graduating class. All of VSS is so proud of Jacob's achievement at VSS and now as he completes his first semester at the prestigious 600 year old St. Andrews University in Scotland on the McEuen Scholarship worth \$55,000 a year for four years! Jacob is also one of eight students in his graduating class who we just learned won \$1,000 scholarships from the province for their excellence on their provincial exams.

On the week of December 8-12 **Mr. Grace** and I recognized term 1 academic award winners. 65% of the school received a pizza lunch compliments of our PAC for being either on the Principal's List (straight A's), Honour Roll (minimum of 73% average) or Roll of Distinction (All G's for work habits). We look forward to recognizing even more students at end of semester with keepsake certificates.

Our fall athletic season may go down as the most outstanding in school history! Grade 10 **Hannah Bennison** won the gold in senior girls cross country championships. Our senior girls' volleyball team had a season to remember finishing 7th in the province. Lastly, our boys' football team captured the school's hearts as they went undefeated all year, only to be stopped short in the provincial semi-finals. An unprecedented five of our football players were awarded provincial all-stars.

I am so proud of all our students who continually push themselves to achieve excellence and pursue true panther pride. I want to wish everyone a wonderful holiday and looking forward to even greater successes and pride in 2015!

“Pride on the Hill”

Malcolm Reid

Upcoming Dates To Remember

Dec. 16	Locker Cleanout	Jan 30	Cafeteria closed until Feb.16
Dec 18	Band Concert	Feb, 2-5	Provincial Exams
Dec. 19	Christmas Assembly	Feb 3,4	Class Exams
Dec. 19	Last day before winter break	Feb 5,6	Course Completion Days
Jan. 5	Return from winter break	Feb. 10	Start of Semester 2
Jan. 19	Pro-D-Day		

Student Transfers & New Students 2015-2016

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 2015 must make application to transfer between January 15 and February 15, 2015 to be given consideration. Transfer request 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.

Graduating Class of 2014 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.

Keiten Brown

Jacob Dolinar

Megan Fretz

Sam Grenier

Jazmyn Jacott

Hannah Kulak

Jordan Wright

Jacob Zayshley

Parking Reminders

A reminder for students who drive to school to obey all traffic patterns and directions. In addition, please use only the student parking lot. The visitor parking is reserved for the many school visitors we welcome throughout the day.

Parents picking up and dropping off their children are not to use either the staff or student parking lot. Parents are asked to enter through the 18th Street entrance, drop or pick up on the right side of the driveway outside our elective wing entrance, then continue through the exit on 15th Street. Thank you for your cooperation.

Holiday Office Hours

Dec 22 8:00-3:00

Dec 23 8:00-3:00

Dec 24 - Jan 4

Closed



Teacher candidates in our classrooms

This year our school is hosting teacher candidates from UBC-Okanagan. Under the supervision of their mentor teachers, our teacher candidates will be teaching in various classrooms and getting involved in extracurricular events. Welcome **Kyla Ilyim, Shaylene Wilson, Kathy Filpenko** to VSS.

As part of their work at the school, our teacher candidates will be collecting some basic interest and learning information about your child (for example: likes/dislikes, hobbies, subject area skills and knowledge). This information will help the teacher candidates understand your child's learning goals and preferences which, in turn, will help them plan appropriate lessons and other learning experiences.

All UBC-Okanagan teacher candidates have been informed of the *BC Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and have signed a contract pledging that they will comply with parameters outlined therein. All information and student work collected will be treated as confidential. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact the school office or the School District Privacy Officer.

Service Club news

We've been enjoying a busy first semester. We made mocktails and sold them at the dance. Very tasty! We made soap and are wrapping it suitably for Christmas giving. Did you know that often villages in Africa don't have running water nor money for soap? It's no wonder viruses such as Ebola are spread so easily! We're selling our homemade soap for only \$2 a bar. It has no preservatives and no perfumes so it's safe for everyone to use. We may make some scented soaps in the future if we can ever find any more lye. It's a main ingredient and very hard to find. We're also selling our famous Friendship soup mix in a jar. It's only \$10 and perfect for hostess presents and thank you gifts. It's easy enough for students to make for parents over the busy season. ;-)

We support a foster child in Liberia, the Food Bank and the Red Cross with our fundraising. Thank you for your help!

I Reports

A reminder that December 15th – 19th 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. This report will outline areas needing attention and a plan for resolution in order for a successful completion of the course. I Reports will be mailed home just before Christmas break.

School District Academy Showcase Night

The school district will showcase all the district academies on January 14th 7:00pm at VSS. All school district families are welcome to hear an address from Superintendent Joe Rogers in the school gym at 7:00 pm, followed by sessions in classrooms from the many academies across the district. Registration for academies for the 2015-16 school years begins January 15, 2015. A list of the academies is below.

Aboriginal Academy

Apprenticeship

Baseball Academy

Earthquest

Forestry Program

Global Ed Academy

High Performance Program

Interior Hockey Program

Late French Immersion

Montessori

RCMP Jean Minguy Memorial Youth Academy

Snowsport Academy

Soccer Academy

Students without Borders

Vernon Community Academy



GRAD 2015 NEWS

Thank you to the many parents that have been coming to the monthly meetings on the first of every month to lead the planning of Dry Grad 2015. We are always looking for more support. If you are interested please come to the next meeting on January 5th 7pm in the school library or contact our chair **Connie Damani** <connianddave@shaw.ca> or staff representative **Kulwinder Smith** <ksmith@sd22.bc.ca>.

On November 12th and 13th our graduating class voted on students that will represent sent them for various speeches as well as their grad song and Dry Grad theme. The grad song will be "All-Star" by Smash Mouth and will be played when the grads walk off the stage to end the ceremony. The Dry Grad theme is "Survivor" which will be used to creatively decorate the school for the after ceremony festivities. The following are the students selected for the various speeches.

Valedictorian (Male) - Demetre Kontos
MC of Speeches - Megan Sheppard
Toast to Parents - Alexi Schwartz

Valedictorian (Female) - Tanner Lorenson
Historian - Amanpreet Sandher
Toast to Staff - Megan Reeves

National Anthem - Matthew Young

Grads

Graduates and parents are very excited about some changes to our graduation program for this year. The ceremony on May 29th will now be from 4:00 pm to 6:30 pm at KAL Tire Place followed by 2.5 hours of time for families and graduates to have dinner on their own. At 9:00 pm graduates and their families will re-convene at VSS for a presentation of grads, speeches, and a dance in the school gym. At 11:30 pm we will transition to our Dry Grad at VSS. There will be a Grad Newsletter in February that more clearly outlines the timeline of events.



Thank you Mountain West Photography for such a week of Grad Photos hosted on December 1st-5th. Proofs will be mailed home to families and re take day is scheduled for February 17th

Grad Portfolio

GRAD Portfolio/Exit Interview UPDATE! Exit Interviews will take place on Thursday January 30th 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.

Term 1 Top Academic Achievers

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

Grade 8

Emilia Durfeld
Mason Jurisson
Kyle Pain
Mackenzie Mertion
Jaide Vanderleest

Grade 9

Kristen Ciurka
Maddy Smith
Colton Schaper-Kotter
Jaden Parsons
Brooke Manchee

Grade 10

Ava Cornell
Ethan Sawka
Tylee Cooper
Katya Viskari
Kathryn Rieb

Grade 11

Sean Morgan
Jackson Joly
Gage Kopp
Katie Macgillivray
Shelby Krywonos

Grade 12

Jason Reich
Demetre Kontos
Tanner Lorenson
Emma Tetrault
Zac Kronbauer

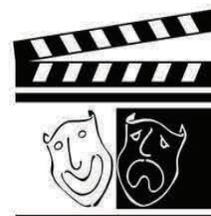
Sports

Our fall sports came to an end on the final weekend in November. The Senior Girls' volleyball team completed an outstanding season by finishing 7th at the AAA Provincials. Coached by **Keith Becker** and **Laurie Mintz**, the Lady Panthers went undefeated at the Valley Championships and won their first round playoff game before eventually losing in the quarterfinals. The Senior Football team fell short of reaching the Provincial Championship game when they lost to eventual champion John Barsby of Nanaimo in the semi-finals. This was the most successful season in Panther football history with the boys compiling a 10-1 record and being ranked as the #1 team in BC for the last 3 weeks of the season. The Senior Cats placed a school record 5 players on the provincial team (**John Garvie** – safety, **Karson Patommel** - linebacker, **Carson Labrecque** – linebacker, **Jeff Hiscoe** - offensive lineman). **Zac Kronbauer** ended his 4 year run on the Panthers by being named the Provincial Offensive Player of the Year. In addition, Zac was recognized for his work in the classroom and received a BC High School Football Scholarship. Our basketball teams are now in full swing. The Senior Girls' basketball team is currently ranked #5 in AA basketball and the Senior Boys' are looking to repeat as Valley Champions again this season. December is highlighted by our Senior Girls' Pit Classic Tournament. The event regularly draws some of the top teams in the province to compete at our school. Check out some of the action on December 12th + 13th at the PANTHER PIT!
GO PANTHERS !!

Performing Arts

Senior Drama class is going strong creating plays, building sets and rehearsing for our upcoming show called Perceptions. It features three one act plays, two of which were written and directed by students in the class. The other play is by prominent playwright Morris Panych and is called Seven Stories. Mark your calendars. Show dates are **January 16, 17, 22, 23**, and tickets go on sale December 15.

Come out and see another fine Theatre on the Hill production



**Christmas Band Concert Thursday,
Dec. 18 @ 7:00 p.m. in the gym**