



October 2020
Principal: Ms. P. Davis

The VES Buzz

Valemount Elementary School
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VES Monthly Message

Fall is a wonderful time of year; the leaves are turning vivid colors, the wind is cool and crisp, apples and pumpkins are ready for the picking and we can openly express our love for boots, sweaters and pumpkin-spice lattes!

This month we have parent/teacher meetings planned, please watch for information regarding these from your child's teacher. These will be held either over the phone or via zoom as visitors in the school continue to be restricted.

Fire Prevention week is this month (October 5-9, 2020). As we did in the past, we will have the local volunteer fire department visit our school at the beginning of the week. Our winners this year will be referred to as "Fire Hero for a Day" and will be honoured on Friday the 16th in a short private ceremony. These winners will be chosen from grades KF to 3, please see the application that went home with your child to put your child's name in the draw.

Parents take a look at the school website for the "revised" copy of the 2020-2021 School Calendar as some pro-d dates have now changed.

As Thanksgiving approaches and we go into a new holiday transformed and changed from the past 6 months, ask yourself, 'what am I thankful for?' Here at VES, we are thankful for you, parents. Thank you for putting your trust of your child's health and well being into our hands. We have enjoyed seeing the many familiar faces and getting to know the new ones! Thank you for being understanding and courteous as we navigate this school year. I hope you are able to enjoy your families this Thanksgiving, if not in person at least digitally or via the phone.

Halloween this year is on a Saturday, which also happens to be the second full moon this month. This moon is a 'blue moon' and can be seen in most of the world on the very same night! The last full moon that occurred on Halloween was in 1944. Halloween at VES will look significantly different this year but we will still have lots of fun at school. Each class will have individual Halloween activities planned.

Our doors continue to be locked this year due to the restriction of visitors. If you need to come into the school for any reason, please call the office to arrange a time or to be met at the front door.

Please note, we are unable to accept any homemade food items at our school. Please do not send baking with your child. Store bought food items are ok to be brought in, please call the office to arrange a pick up/meeting time.

Enjoy this month, the sunshine and the change. Thomas Fuller once said, "all things are difficult before they are easy." This couldn't be more true than it is now.

Dates to Remember:

- Oct 5-9: Fire Prevention Week*
- Oct 12: Thanksgiving*
- Oct 15-16: IEP Meetings*
- Oct 16: 'Fire Hero' Award*
- Oct 23: Pro-D*
- Oct 29: Picture Day*
- Oct 30: Halloween activities, classroom specific*
- Oct 31: Halloween*



Save the Date:

Dr. B Loose is headed to our valley again! This licenced optician will be at the Valemount Health Centre November 30 and December 1 2020. Please call 250-566-9138 ext. 2000 to book in.

***Of note, if you are unable to book into the two above mentioned dates at VHC, this optician will be in McBride at the McBride and District Hospital December 2 and 3 2020. Please call 250-569-2251 to book an appointment.*





Mountain Bike Club

Ms. Tegart and Ms. Ghalib will be leading mountain bike club this year! Intermediate and advanced riders in Grades 5-7 are welcome to participate. Students need a functioning bike with front suspension that they are confident riding uphill and downhill. *Students can expect to ride between 5-10km.* We will meet every **Wednesday** after school at 2:20pm on the pavement outside of Ms. Tegart's room. Students will be dismissed at 4:00pm. Please read the permission form for more details. Contact Ms. Tegart at mtegart@sd57.bc.ca with any questions or concerns.



Please stay home when you are sick. Please see the HOT PINK sick sheet that went out to your child on October 1 2020 for the flow sheet and self monitoring assessment. When in doubt, check the BCCDC website and follow the online self assessment. Homework can easily be provided to your child for the time they are away from school. Please contact the office if you have any questions or concerns!

Remember to return your "Fire Hero" house escape plan in order to be entered into the draw to be one of the four Fire Hero's!



After School Activities:

Tuesday

-Art Club for Ms. Dorio and Ms. Tegart's classes
2:15-3:30 PM

Wednesday

-Bike Club; see above mentioned information

Thursday

-Dance Club for Mr. Winzer and Mr. Coyle's classes
2:15-3:30 PM

Reminder that Valemount Elementary School is a nut and scent aware school.



All districts in BC must comply with the ministerial order which states: "special care must be taken to avoid exposure to allergy-causing substances." Some of our students have an air-borne sensitivity, which means they can have an anaphylactic reaction without ingesting the allergen. It can be a severe and life-threatening allergy for these children.

We ask students not to bring foods that may contain nuts or traces of nut products with a scent (this includes products with essential oils).

We also encourage students to: be aware of classmates with allergies; always wash their hands; watch for foods that could make allergic friends sick; get adult help if worried about an allergic friend.

Students are not allowed sharing of any kind this includes food, straws, drinks and utensils.

Great job fundraising for Terry Fox last month! As a school we raised over \$250.00!

2020 marks the 40th anniversary of the nationwide annual Terry Fox memorial run/walk fundraiser.

What a great cause to get behind, we are all very amazed at the generosity of our school! Thank you very much.

Cold Weather Procedures

On days when student attendance is reduced substantially because of cold or inclement weather conditions or because travel is considered treacherous, regular scheduled instruction may be modified for those students who attend school.

In advance of the cold weather months, schools should consult with parents and clearly communicate to parents what educational alternatives the school will offer in the event of low attendance caused by excessively cold weather.

Temperature alone does not warrant an "in day" although the guideline that has been used for quite some time has been (-20). Taking into consideration the many factors of inclement weather such as wind, rain, particulate matter, snow and temperature, the Principal shall make the decision as to keeping the students indoors. Safety of the students is always a priority.