



September 2019
Principal: Ms. P. Davis

The VES Buzz

Valemount Elementary School
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VES Monthly Message

Welcome back to school everyone, how was your summer vacation? We look forward to hearing about everything that you did over the break. The first week back to school has been fun, exciting and full of surprises. Our students are getting organized into their classrooms and are meeting their new peers and teachers. The first week is important for all students to attend school at SD57 as this is the time when our "count" can be completed and we can plan for the new school year.

Dates to Remember:

- Sept 3: NID
- Sept 4: First day of classes
8:40-10:10AM
- Sept 6: "Read a Book Day"
- Sept 13: PAC Popcorn \$1.00
- Sept 16: PAC Meeting 2:45 PM
- Sept 18: Sports Registration Night
- Sept 16-29: Colibri PAC Fundraiser
- Sept 19: PAC Hot Lunch: Pizza
- Sept 20: Walk and Talk 8:35-8:45 AM
- Sept 24: "Punctuation Day"
- Sept 26: Terry Fox Run; PAC
Popcorn \$1.00
- Sept 27: NID
- Sept 30: Orange Shirt Day

September is a busy month and there are lots of exciting and wonderful plans for this month. So get ready for the time to just fly by parents! If you purchased school supplies through School Start this year, thank you so much! For every kit that has been purchased, our school has been given \$5/kit in return! Most of the school supplies have been delivered to the school already and they are already being put to good use. A few of the orders are still trickling in and your child will receive them upon delivery to the school. They are set for delivery the day after purchase and they arrive at school within a couple of days. For those parents that did choose to buy through School Start, would you be willing to let the school know how your experience was? Was it helpful? Would you use this service in the future? Any feedback would be appreciated. We understand how difficult it is to get out of town to do back to school shopping, so if VES can do minor changes to make school life just that much easier, we would love to continue.



The annual Terry Fox Run will be taking place September 26th all across Canada. Our school will be participating and raising funds this month for cancer research. Our goal for this year will be set at \$200.00 school wide; if we reach this goal we will be able to add an extra 15 minute morning recess on Sept 26th! Please consider donating to this special cause as cancer almost certainly has touched each one of us in some form or another.

Orange Shirt Day is September 30th. Please visit www.orangeshirtday.org to read the full version of *Phyllis' Story*. This special day is designed to educate people and promote awareness about the residential school system and the impact it had on Indigenous communities. Please wear orange to show your support! We encourage parents to do the same, and to encourage a conversation about this topic with your child at home.

A couple of friendly reminder to parents, students and caregivers: PLEASE let the office know if you have alternate plans for afterschool, especially if these children are bus registered children. Parents/caregivers etc. are kindly asked to not hang around the school fence. We are also asking children to go home once school has been dismissed, only bus registered children will be supervised until 3:00 PM.

The PAC has some great fundraising events lined up already for you to enjoy! Hot lunches, popcorn days, Colibri reusable bags fundraiser, and the initiation of *MunchaLunch* (an online hot lunch ordering system).

A 'Sports Registration Night' is being planned for September 18th at the high school, times TBA. This will include registration for gymnastics, minor hockey, figure skating, brownies and guides.

Enjoy these next few weeks of sunshine, crisp air, and beautiful colors. It is over before we know it.



New to our school....

Shirley Giroux is new to our valley and will be filling the role of counsellor/support worker. Her time will be split between both of our valley schools.

Ben Coyle has now moved roles from prep/gym teacher to Gr 3/4 teacher to fill in for Mrs. Cuming who will be leaving us soon to expand her family.

Maymie Tegart is also new to our valley and will now be our new prep/Grade 6/7 teacher.

Please join us in saying...WELCOME!



Wednesday ProD Model
Early Dismissal dates for 2019/2020:
Dismissal at 1:00 PM

Dates:
October 9, December 4, January 15,
February 12, April 29, May 27

Looking ahead to October...

Since the September newsletter didn't hit the press until later on into the month, we wanted to give parents a 'heads up' for events scheduled for next month. So see below for dates of interest:

October 1: 'International Coffee Day'
 October 3: PAC Hot Lunch: A&W Chicken Strips
 October 4: School Photos 8:45 AM
 October 9: Early Dismissal 1:00 PM
 October 14: Thanksgiving, no school
 October 16: 'Vancouver Sports Theatre' performance, 9:00 AM,
 October 17: PAC Hot Lunch: Pizza
 October 18: Walk and Talk 8:35-8:45 AM
 October 21-24: Three-way Conferences, dismissal at 1:35 PM
 October 22: PAC Annual General Meeting, 2:45 PM
 October 25: NID
 October 31: Halloween Activities, TBA

Parents,

School planners have arrived!

The cost is \$5.00/planner/child. Please visit the office to process your payment. Teachers use these planners as a communication tool and to assist in teaching students to plan and schedule.

****Please note: Grade 1 and 2 students DO NOT require a planner.**

Strong Start

SD57 has received funding for a Strong Start program to be held this year at our school! This program is open to any child age 0-5yrs of age. Please call or visit the office to learn more, and to sign your child up for this amazing program. To sign up we require a birth certificate and health care number. Strong Start is an early learning program that gives children the opportunity to socialize and take part in activities that will enhance their cultural, physical, creative and intellectual development. Caregivers must stay with their children. Oh, and did I mention...it's FREE.

**How Do Educators Decide the Classroom Configurations?**

We have restrictions on the number of students in each classroom and the number varies depending on each grade. It is a very difficult decision and we do not take it lightly here at VES. We take into account many things such as: social situations and academics. We have discussions amongst our peers and our focus is on our students being successful. We want them to stretch and grow each year and not remain static.

Prasow, an early childhood education, emphasizes that no matter the reasons behind split classrooms, educators will put thought into how they divide the students. "Even in a single-grade classroom you can't pigeonhole everyone in grade three as functioning at a grade-three level across all subjects," says Prasow. "Some will be doing grade-two reading while others are ready for grade-four math. Children are growing and developing at different rates." In a multi-grade classroom, kids will be combined according to their areas of strength and areas of need, and grouped for academic success and social development, she says.

The blended classrooms are grouped so our students thrive and our teachers support the students so they can become a positive and caring group. Blended classes are going to be part of your child's elementary school career at one point or another, and I encourage families to be supportive of this concept.

VES PAC will be using the online hot lunch ordering system **MUNCHALUNCH** in the near future to further streamline and facilitate hot lunches. Your days of counting change and scrambling for order forms are soon to be far behind! More info on this to come in the near future.

**SD57 Policies:**

(the complete policies outlined below can be found on the VES website)

5131: District Code of Student Conduct

School District 57 believes that schools and school-related activities must provide a safe, caring and orderly environment for learning and working. This policy formalizes the expectations for student behaviour.

6179: Acceptable Use of Networks

Access to electronic resources, including computer equipment, communications equipment, software, e-mail and internet provided by the district is a privilege, not a right. Students, employees, volunteers and others must use these resources appropriately and responsibly, and only for purposes that support the goals, objectives and activities prescribed by the school district.

3541.35: Winter Weather

School operational procedures and expectations regarding staff and student attendance during severe winter weather must be clarified.

3542.3: Healthy Food Choices in Schools

This policy reflects the Board's belief in the role that schools have to play in ensuring that students are offered food choices that are healthy and nutritious. This belief has evolved in light of research concerning the long-term impact of diet on children's health and well-being.

5101: Financial Hardship

Section 82 (3) of the School Act authorizes a board of education to levy fees for goods and services provided by the board. This authorization is subject to Section 82 (4) of the Act, which requires a board to have "established policies and procedures to facilitate participation by students of school age ordinarily resident in British Columbia who would otherwise be excluded from the course, class or program because of financial hardship".