

# Van Bien Elementary

311 Wilson Cres. Prince George, BC V2L 4P8

[www.vanb.sd57.bc.ca](http://www.vanb.sd57.bc.ca) T: (250)563-1062

Dear Parents and Guardians,

February has arrived and our ROARS focus is RESPECT – show kindness! Our students are busy and engaged in learning. It is important that you take the opportunity to check in with teachers and support your child/ren's learning progress. A number of our classes are using **Fresh Grade** software to provide ongoing and meaningful student learning communication to parents. Our district has worked to ensure that the use of this software in School District #57 is secure, protects privacy and complies with BC FIPA laws. If you have questions or would like to learn more about this tool, please contact your classroom teacher or the office.

Bully Awareness Week is February 20-24th, with Wednesday, **February 22** being **Anti-Bullying Day - "Wear Pink"**. This is an opportunity for our schools and community to actively promote respectful, safe and kind behaviour. It is important that schools, families and communities work together to be "Upstanders" in our efforts to Ensure a Respectful And Safe Education.

A friendly reminder that Friday, February 24th is Primary Assessment Day, no classes for primary grades K-3 students (Div. 1-7).

## Bell Schedule Reminder

8:32 Warning Bell  
8:35 Classes Begin  
10:15 – 10:30 Recess  
12:10 – 12:50 Lunch  
2:38 Dismissal \* **Wednesday early dismissal 1:29**

## Supervision Hours

**Before School:** 8:15-8:30  
**After School:** 2:38-2:53



## Calendar of Events

**Jan 31 Kindergarten registration opens until Feb.7<sup>th</sup>**

**Feb 8- Transfer Process to March 8**

**Feb 10 PAC Family Bingo & Spaghetti Dinner Night**

**Feb 12 Ice Man**

**Feb 13 Family Day – School is Closed.**

**Feb 14 Spirit Day, Candy Grams**

**Feb 16 PAC Hot Lunch**

**Feb. 22 Anti Bullying day – Wear Pink**

**Feb 24 Primary Assessment Day (Grade K-3 - no school)**

**March 3 Family Fun Night!**

**March 13 – 24 Spring break**

**April 14 Good Friday**

**April 17 Easter Monday**

**April 28 Non Instructional Day**

Please "like" and check the Van Bien Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/595516550530559> & website for regular updates.



### **Kindergarten Registration**

Online pre-registration is *required* for Kindergarten in all School District #57 (Prince George) elementary schools.

On-line registration will take place beginning at 9:00 am on Tuesday January 31, 2017 at [www.sd57.bc.ca](http://www.sd57.bc.ca)

Children whose fifth birthday falls on or before December 31, 2017 are eligible to enter Kindergarten in September 2017. Upon submission of the online registration, you will receive an e-mail confirmation along with a link to additional forms required for completion. Bring completed forms, along with a copy of the Birth Certificate, Care Card and proof of address, to your catchment school by February 7, 2017 in order to retain your spot. Staff at the school will be available to assist you as required. For more information please refer to the district website at : [www.sd57.bc.ca](http://www.sd57.bc.ca)

### **Student Transfer Process for September 2017- 2018 – Notice to Parents of Students in SD No. 57**

A student transfer to another school in the district may be requested as outlined below.

- All transfer applications must be made using the electronic form available at [www.sd57.bc.ca](http://www.sd57.bc.ca) Application details are available on the website and are also available at the general office of any district school.
- An application may be made from any computer with Internet access. Applications may also be made in person at the general office of any district school.
- A time and date is automatically assigned to each application received. Applications will be considered in order of receipt. Note that an application made in person does not take effect until the school enters it in the online system.
- **The online application form process will record applications in the order received between 9:00 am on February 8th and will end at 3:00 pm on March 3rd.**
- Once a transfer is granted, the student must not return to the catchment area school for at least one school year.
- Parents wishing the return of their child to the previous school must make application under this policy.
- Parents are responsible for transportation to and from the school they are applying to.
- All transfers will be effective September 2017.
- Additional information concerning the transfer process is available at [www.sd57.bc.ca](http://www.sd57.bc.ca) or at the general office of any district school.

### **Aboriginal Education Workers News...**

#### **Aboriginal Pals – Parents as Literacy Supporters with child/ren Ages 3-5**

Tuesdays 1:30-2:30 in the library.

Call or speak to Mrs. Girard or Mrs. Howard-Gibbon for more information.

### **Soup & Bannock**

Soup and Bannock days are alternating Mondays. Bannock days will be Feb. 20. Soup days will be Feb. 6 and 27. They will be sold for .50 each. These dates are subject to change.

**VBE Ready, Set, Learn Program, for ages 3-5**, will run Thursday afternoons from 1:40pm-2:40pm in the library. Mrs. Erin Hunter is the RSL coordinator with staff support from Mrs. Girard, our AEW. The program is designed for children to attend with a parent/guardian and engage together in fun early learning activities, such as story, song, craft, and a snack. Parent participation is required ☺ If you would like to register for this program, please contact the office. Space is **limited to 10 seats** and available on a first come first serve basis. The program runs for 10 one hour sessions April-June, dates still need to be confirmed.

### **Safety Reminders**

Please remember to remove wet/snowy outdoor footwear inside the school as we are trying to ensure safety for students, staff and visitors. Dress your child/ren for PG cold weather i.e. -19 C. is an outside day. Take extra care in the **parking lot** to account for slippery ice & snow conditions; snowbanks do get high and it is more difficult to see students/pedestrians walking home or making their way to a vehicle or bus. Please remember to only park in designated parking spots. The fire lane is for Approved School District parking only.

**Not Feeling Well?** This time of year comes with the increase of colds and flu symptoms. Regular handwashing to keep the bugs away is essential. Children who are unwell need rest, lots of fluids and time to get healthy. We appreciate you calling to let us know that your child is home sick. Please do not send your children when they are not well enough to be at school.

### **Community School Coordinator**

Our students and staff have been hard at work training for the Ice Man competitions that will take place on Feb 12. We have three student teams and one staff team, Go Teams! Please come out and cheer our teams on. The five multi-sport events for juniors starts with an 4km cross-country ski at Otway Nordic Centre, 2 five km runs, 3 km skate (7 laps) at the Outdoor Ice Oval , 5 km run Pinewood subdivision, and finishes with a 400m swim at the Aquatics Centre.



The **Babysitting course** is rescheduled for April 11 & 12<sup>th</sup>. **Home Alone** course is scheduled for May 9 & 10<sup>th</sup> for intermediates. Please watch for further information.

**Group 2** of ice hockey has begun and we are in need of parent volunteers to come out and help tie skates. If you are able or have any questions please contact Ms. Therrien.

### **Leadership**

Leadership are participating in a flash mob downtown for **Anti Bullying Day on Fed 22**. Please remind your child/ren to wear pink this day to show support.

The leadership team is selling **Valentines Candy Grams** at lunch time on Feb 1,2,3 and will be delivered on Feb 14. Students are invited to buy one for their friend for .50c

### **PAC**

The PAC will be hosting a **Spaghetti Dinner Bingo Night on Feb 10<sup>th</sup>**. Doors will be opened at 5pm and dinner will be served from 5:30-6:30 and BINGO will follow after. \$5.00 per person includes spaghetti, French bread, cake, drink and a Bingo Card. Additional bingo cards will be on sale for .50c and raffle tickets will be 3 for \$5.00. Bingo winners will receive a prize and be entered into a draw with the raffle tickets to a chance to receive a family gift. All children must be accompanied by an adult! Come out for a great meal and fun!

**Van Bien's South Bowl Family Fun Night** is scheduled for **Friday, March 3rd** from 6:00-8:00 pm in the gym. For this event to run, **adult volunteers are needed** to assist with game stations, concession, donating cakes/baking for the cake/bake walk as well as clean up. Please contact the office if you are able to help make this event possible at Van Bien. We will forward this information to the PAC Executive.

**Grade 7 Transition to PGSS - Prince George Secondary School** would like to welcome you and your child out to a parent meeting at 5:30 pm at Vanier Hall on Feb. 7<sup>th</sup>. This is a great way to reduce stress and gain some knowledge on the transfer process, support services and programs the PGSS has to offer.



***CNC Dental Clinic 3330-22<sup>nd</sup> Ave – Low Cost Dental Care Available***

CNC Dental Clinic provide low cost dental care including cleanings, x-rays and sealants -\$25.00 for children aged 18 and under; \$50 for adults. If you are interested please call Nadia at 250-561-5810 to book your free screening appointment.

***Library***

The library is looking for some missing and overdue books. Please take a look with your child/ren for any miss placed books and return them to the library, even if they are damaged.

## **RUDE vs MEAN vs BULLYING – Education – Article by Signe Whitson**



Signe Whitson, a child and adolescent therapist, has a timely message for parents and educators: “there is a real need to draw a distinction between behavior that is rude, behavior that is mean and behavior that is characteristic of bullying.” In a HuffPost article, she clarifies the way she identifies the difference and asks adults to remember that distinguishing between them allows “teachers, school administrators, police, youth workers, parents and kids all know what to pay attention to and when to intervene.”

Whitson’s article was prompted by an encounter with a parent, who told her, “Last week, my daughter was bullied really badly after school!” and then went on to describe what Whitson characterized as a benign encounter between playful children throwing leaves. She writes, “While I always want to be careful not to minimize anyone’s experience... if kids and parents improperly classify rudeness and mean behavior as bullying -- whether to simply make conversation or to bring attention to their short-term discomfort -- we all run the risk of becoming so sick and tired of hearing the word that this actual life-and-death issue among young people loses its urgency as quickly as it rose to prominence.”

So how does Whitson define the differences? Rude, she says, is “inadvertently saying or doing something that hurts someone else.” In children this takes the form of social errors like “burping in someone’s face, jumping ahead in line, bragging about achieving the highest grade or even throwing a crushed up pile of leaves in someone’s face.” The critical factor? “Incidents of rudeness are usually spontaneous, unplanned inconsideration, based on thoughtlessness, poor manners or narcissism, but not meant to actually hurt someone.”

Being mean involves “purposefully saying or doing something to hurt someone once (or maybe twice).” Unlike unthinking rudeness, “mean behavior very much aims to hurt or depreciate someone....Very often, mean behavior in kids is motivated by angry feelings and/or the misguided goal of propping themselves up in comparison to the person they are putting down.” And while Whitson agrees that both rudeness and mean behavior require correction, they are “different from bullying in important ways that should be understood and differentiated when it comes to intervention.”

**Bullying is “intentionally aggressive behavior, repeated over time, that involves an imbalance of power....Kids who bully say or do something intentionally hurtful to others and they keep doing it, with no sense of regret or remorse -- even when targets of bullying show or express their hurt or tell the aggressors to stop.”** Whitson gives examples of multiple kinds of bullying, including physical and verbal aggression, relational aggression (like social exclusion, hazing, or rumor spreading), and cyberbullying. *The key aspect to all of them is the ongoing nature of the behavior, which leaves the victims feeling powerless and fearful.*

Whitson is pleased that, in the past few years, “we have collectively paid attention to the issue of bullying like never before; millions of school children have been given a voice, 49 states in the U.S. have passed anti-bullying legislation, and thousands of adults have been trained in important strategies to keep kids safe and dignified in schools and communities.” As we continue to improve our response to bullying, she asks all adults who interact with children to remember that “a child’s future may depend on a non-jaded adult’s ability to discern between rudeness at the bus stop and life-altering bullying.”