

Van Bien Elementary

311 Wilson Cres. Prince George, BC V2L 4P8

www.vanb.sd57.bc.ca T: (250)563-1062

Last week 190 students moved into their classes. We organized 10 divisions, 7 primary and 3 intermediate. Our kindergarten students started attending full days today after completing their gradual entry. Many students are settling in and getting use to their new classrooms and basic school routines.

This morning we had our first Monday assembly to welcome students back, introduce staff and review ROARS Positive Behaviour Support expectations. Students are working on demonstrating I am ready to LEARN and I show RESPECT to Self, Others and the Environment. Twice a month students will be recognized at a Monday morning assembly class Gotcha draw. Students are reminded that school rules may not be the same as at home rules. When they are on the way to/from or at school they must follow Van Bien and SD57 Student Code of Conduct. We are looking forward to celebrating Positive behaviour!



Our Terry Fox school run is next **Wednesday, Sept. 27th @ 1pm**. We are asking students to bring a **\$1 loonie** or a **\$2 toonie** in support of Cancer Research. We will head out to the backfield to run or walk. Families are invited to join us.



Book Fair, Open House & Ice Cream Social are also next Wednesday, Sept. 27th. All parents/guardians and families are invited to attend. The **Scholastic Book Fair** will be open **5:30-6:30pm** in the Library (60% of the profits raised from the Scholastic Book Fair come back to Van Bien). From **6pm-6:30pm (Open House)** come

and meet your child's teacher, see their classroom, and tour the school. From **6:30-7:00** meet in the gym for the **Ice Cream Social**.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Debbie Kaban, Principal

For regular updates, check the Van Bien website or "Like" the VBE Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/groups/595516550530559>



Calendar of Events

- Sept 20** Fire Drill #1 @ 10:45
- Sept 25** Fire Drill #2 1pm
- Sept 27** Terry Fox Run, Book Fair, Open House & Ice Cream Social
- Sept 29** Non Instructional Day
- Oct 2** Pac Mtg 6:30-7:30 Library
- Oct 3** Fire Drill #3 10:25 X-Country Gr2/3 @ Pinewood
- Oct 5** X-Country Gr4-7 @ CHES
- Oct 9** Thanksgiving
- Oct 17** Student Photos
- Oct 20** Non-Instructional Day
- Oct 24** Early Dismissal (1:38)
- Oct 26** Early Dismissal (1:38)
- Nov 13** Remembrance Day
- Nov 23** Jacky Essombe Cultural
- Nov 24** Non-Instructional Day
- Dec 1** Primary Assessment Day
- Dec 18** Start Winter Vacation

VBE Training Center: More Traffic

Sept. 21, 22, 25th, Oct. 5, 9, 10, 12

Bell Schedule Reminder

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



Supervision Hours
Before School: 8:15-8:30
After School: 2:40-2:55

VAN BIEN STAFF 2017-2018



Principal
Vice-Principal
Secretary

Mrs. D. Kaban
Mrs. A. Zummack
Mrs. K. May

Intermediate Teachers:
Primary Teachers:

Mrs. D. Erickson, Ms. S. Polsom, Mrs. L. Wolfenden,
Mrs. A. Alton, Mrs. N. Brownridge, Mrs. H. Callaghan,
Ms. V. Elton, Mrs. M. Hawes, Ms. A. Smith, Ms. T. Teale &
Mrs. L. Turcotte

Resource (LA/Support/ELL):

Mrs. L. Lacharite, Mrs. B. Huzar, Mrs. L. Doucette Mr. C. Wintemute

Teacher Counsellor:

Mr. C. Wintemute

Prep Teachers:

Ms. V. Elton, Mrs. A. Zummack, Mrs. L. Doucette

Library Learning Commons Teacher: Mrs. L. Doucette

Community Schools Coordinator: Ms. N. Therrien

Aboriginal Education Worker: Mrs. R. Girard, Mrs. B. Seymour Howard Gibbon

Education Assistants/Supervisors: Mrs. A. Carr, Mrs. K. Eddy, Ms. B. Loreth, Mrs. K. Potvin,
Mrs. P. Rogers, Ms. A. Russman, Mrs. K. Smith, Ms. A. Taylor, Mrs. N. Blanchard.

Youth Care Worker:

Mrs. A. Nohr

Custodians:

Mr. E. Johnson & Ms. K. Belzile

Good to know: A change this year, Mrs. Zummack, our VP, is teaching classes half time. She is teaching K/1 Mondays and early primary prep Wednesday and Thursday mornings. Should you need to meet with her, please contact the office to book an appointment ☺

OUR PURPOSE: To maximize learning for all in a safe, inclusive environment.

ROARS: THE VAN BIEN VALUES



At Van Bien, we encourage students to practice “**ROARS**” behaviour in all situations.

- **Respect**
- **Ownership**
- **Achievement**
- **Responsibility**
- **Safety**

“**ROARS**” values are reinforced formally at Monday assemblies and informally throughout the weeks. Students demonstrating “**ROARS**” behaviour are recognized for their contributions to a positive school tone through the “Gotcha” recognition program, and by regular “special event” rewards.

Student Fees due to the office- Cultural Performances Fees & VBE Planners \$10.00

Culture Performances: The cultural fee brings performances to our school. Families are welcome to attend. Our students really enjoy these events!

Planners: All students in Div. 2-10 will use a VBE planner. For consistency, we would like all children in the class to use the school planner which is personalized to our school. Planners assist students in all aspects of their study skills and homework practices, and are an important tool for improving communication with parents. The school will be selling planners for students to purchase. **Planners (with VBE handbook)** - The VBE Handbook is located at the front of the planner. It includes a number of items we would like you to review with your child. Policies indicating the acceptable use of cell phones, cameras and our computer networks are important. You will also want **to review the Code of Conduct, including Dress Code**, and the expectations for those students who eat lunch at school. Students who review these items with their parents (sign/initial these pages) will have the chance to enter a prize draw.

School T-Shirts- \$ 10 ...Show your school spirit by purchasing a Van Bien Blazers t-shirt for \$10. T-shirts will be ordered and come in a variety of sizes. VBE spirit wear t-shirts are worn Mondays, Fridays, special spirit days, and school team events.

Student Verification Forms – Due Sept. 26th Returned completed forms will be entered in a prize draw. Verification Forms went home last week for parents / guardians to review. Please take the time to make any necessary changes and return to the school by Sept.26th. We need to ensure school has the most up-to-date information for each student in case of an emergency. If at any time throughout the school year, any information changes, contact the school right away. Thank you to those families who have already promptly returned these forms to the office.

Cross Country... This year Van Bien will participate in a Primary Gr. 2/3 cross country run at Pinewood on Tuesday, October 3rd as well as an intermediate Gr.4-7 event at Ecole College Heights on Thursday, October 5th.

Important to know... 10 Divisions & School Organization

Each year schools organize based on September student enrolment numbers and district set guidelines for class size. This year our enrolment numbers are at a place where there is possibility the school may need to reorganize before the end of September. The district will let us know as soon as they can if we are able to maintain our 10 division build.



Meals Program

The meals program is open to all students. A monthly menu is sent home which must be returned with your signature, monetary contribution and choices for the various meals circled. On days your child chooses not to take part in the Meals Program, please provide a lunch for them. Meals Program meals are ordered on Wednesdays for the following week, so please only order meals your child will eat.

BC Healthy Schools: Send healthy food and beverages with your child/ren to school. Refillable water bottle are awesome. Reminder to **not send** your child to school with pop, energy drinks and/or other caffeinated beverages. Thanks!

Programs & Clubs ...

Maker Ed Club is scheduled for Tuesdays at lunch with Mrs. L. Doucette. Each week students from different grade groups will be invited to participate. Listen to announcements for this fun club to start.

Lego Club will start in October with our Strengthening Family Team! Students can meet in the library on Thursdays at lunch to build, design and experiment with a monthly challenge.



After School Academic Proficiency Program (ASAP) for Gr.2-4

Runs: Tues & Thurs 2:30-4:40 & Wed. 1:30-3:30

Expression of Interest Consent Forms sent home last week.

Ask your child's classroom teacher for another form or contact the school, if the information did not come home and you would like your child to be considered for the program.

Intermediate Hockey Program: Tues. 9:45-10:45 Kin2, Oct.31st, 2017 Starts.

Other Clubs & Programming requiring sign up will be coming home soon and will start in October.

PAC News – Fall Elections for Executive Positions – Monday, October 2nd from 6:30-7:30 Library.

A schedule is being developed for future PAC Meeting dates & times. Stay tuned.

Welcome back to school new and returning Van Bien Students, Parents, Guardians and Families! My name is Meghan Parnell, I am the interim Chair for our school PAC. I am looking forward to the upcoming school year. I am excited to be involved this school year and to help raise money for our kids this year.

The 2016-2017 PAC members have resigned and are moving onto new chapters in their lives. They have been Amazing board members and have done so much for our school. I would like to thank them for their hard work and dedication over the years to our students. Over the Summer I

have been in contact with other parents in our school. I feel we have a good group of parents who want to support. I will call our first meeting and have an election vote Monday, **October 2nd** from 6:30-7:30pm in the VBE Library. All parents/guardians of children in our school are a part of PAC (Parent Advisor Council).

We have a monthly PAC meeting that is about an hour to an hour and a half, during which our Principal and Vice Principal share what is happening in our school and ask for feedback. Mrs. Huzar, Resource Teacher, and Ms. Therrion, Community Schools Coordinator, will attend some meetings too. Board members share treasury report for the month, what has been spent, what fundraiser rebates come in, and input on all spending is voted on in these meetings. It's a great way to come out, to really see what happens in our school for our students, and as always, to share any new ideas and provide input.

The PAC board has ensured that our new school year has been well supported this year. Our classroom teachers have received an amount of money to use throughout the year for our students. Additional funds were provided to cultural performances, Aboriginal Education, Community Schools, and Library to help with their programs.

Currently the PAC has playground funds of \$4,312.00, still a long way to go but a wonderful start to our goal. Raising money takes parent and community support, fresh ideas, and grants applications. Purchasing and installing a new playground does cost lots of money. Please come out to meetings and share your ideas. If parents are excited to form a playground committee this would be a good way in moving faster towards our goal. Please know that coming to meetings does not mean you need to volunteer, take positions, or coordinate anything.

We are always happy to have extra helping hands with activities, and some require parent help such as the Family Fun Night! I would like to continue having PAC Socials this year. Socials are an opportunity to brainstorm ideas and get out to meet more parents. I feel that they really helped with the final planning stages that we don't always have time for during our monthly meetings. PAC Socials are once a month normally the week prior to monthly PAC.

Please feel free to contact me at our school email for any more information or if you are unable to make meetings but want something to be talked about or to share ideas. Thank you and hope to meet more of you this year.

Thank you for all your support

Meghan Parnell

PAC email: bestpacever@gmail.com

Personal email: meghanparnell@hotmail.com



Strengthening Families Program

SD57

Strengthening Families Program

An after school program for students (ages 6 to 11) and

Raising Kids is Not Always Easy:

- Meet fellow parents in your own communities
- Strengthen family relationships through crafts & games
- Build resilience with discussion & support
- Reduce the risk factors for challenging behaviours
- Child & adult focused groups run simultaneously

The Basics:

- For children ages 6 to 11 and their families
- Meet once a week from 3 – 5:30 pm
- Takes place in your child's school
- Free snacks and dinner
- Free transportation to and from the program, if required
- Free babysitting at the school provided, if required
- Games and Crafts

Intake Required:

- Please be aware that to take part in the program you must complete an intake process which includes various paper work, as well as behavior scales and consent forms for UNBC.
- UNBC is analyzing the program to assess how well the program works and what changes need to be made to serve families better.
- Contact your school's principal, secretary or community coordinator to begin your intake process today!



Contact your School Coordinator
Ms. N. Therrion or school today!

Dates:

- Runs every **Thursday @ Van Bien Elementary**
- **Starts** October 19th , 2017
- **Ends** February 8th , 2018

Times:

- Group meets from **3:00 pm - 5:30 pm**
- Children meet facilitators after the end of day bell
- **Parents encouraged to arrive at 2:50 pm**