

Van Bien Elementary

311 Wilson Cres. Prince George, BC V2L 4P8

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

Welcome back returning and new families, students and staff!

We hope this summer you enjoyed spending time together outdoors and engaging in fun activities. Many families are eager for school to be back in session and students engaged in learning.

Our dedicated staff work together to provide a positive, safe, orderly, caring and inclusive environment for all children to maximize their learning potential. As we begin the new school year, please remember that education doesn't just happen at school. It is a partnership between teachers, families, and students. We need your help to do our best for your child/ren! Good communication between home and school is important, so please be sure to talk with us regularly. Together we can help your child/ren learn and grow©

Thursday is the first full day of school for Gr.1-7; please refer to the bell schedule. Kindergarten students in School District 57 participate in a gradual entry; please refer to the assigned schedule provided by Mrs. Alton and Mrs. Turcotte.

An effort will be made to have most class placements ready for this Friday. The cut off for enrolment numbers is September 30th. Please note, classes could change if we have to reorganize due to declining or increased enrolment.

Our social responsibility theme for September is Safety. Over the next few days teachers will be reviewing school routines & expectations as well as teaching lessons and practicing safety at school.

Best wishes for a great school year!

Sincerely,

Mrs. Debbie Kaban, Principal



Calendar of Events

- Sept 6** Non-Instructional Day
- Sept 7** First day of School
8:45 am – 10:15 am
- Sept 28** Book Fair/Open House
- Sept 29** Terry Fox Run
- Sept 30** Non-Instructional Day
- Oct 10** Thanksgiving
- Oct 21** Non-Instructional Day
- Oct 25** Early dismissal (1:38)
- Oct 27** Early dismissal (1:38)
- Nov 11** Remembrance Day
- Nov 17** PAC Hot Lunch
- Nov 25** Intermediate Report Writing Day
- Nov 28** Primary Report Writing Day
- Dec 5** Non-Instructional Day
- Dec 15** PAC Hot Lunch
- Dec 19 – Jan 2** Winter Vacation

2016 - 2017 Dates to Remember

Sept 6 -	Non-Instructional Day	Feb 13 -	Family Day
Sept 7 -	First day of school 8:45 am - 10:15 am	Feb 16 -	PAC Hot Lunch
		Feb 24 -	Primary Report Writing Day
Sept 28 -	Book Fair / Open House		
Sept 30 -	Non-Instructional Day	Mar 9 -	Term 2 Reports Home
		Mar 13 -	Start of Spring Break
Oct 10 -	Thanksgiving	Mar 24 -	End of Spring Break
Oct 20 -	PAC Hot Lunch		
Oct 21 -	Non-Instructional Day	April 14 -	Good Friday
Oct 25 -	Early dismissal (1:38 pm)	April 17 -	Easter Monday
Oct 27 -	Early dismissal (1:38 pm)	Apr 20 -	PAC Hot Lunch
		Apr 28 -	Non Instructional Day
Nov 11 -	Remembrance Day		
Nov 17 -	PAC Hot Lunch	May 2 -	Early dismissal (1:38 pm)
Nov 25 -	Intermediate report writing day	May 4 -	Early dismissal (1:38 pm)
Nov 28 -	Primary report writing day	May 18 -	Jump Rope
		May 18 -	PAC Hot Lunch
Dec 5 -	Non-Instructional Day	May 22 -	Victoria Day
Dec 15 -	Term 1 Report Cards Home		
Dec 15 -	PAC Hot Lunch	June 5 -	Non-Instructional Day
Dec 19 -	Start of Christmas break	June 12 -	Primary Report Writing Day
		June 21 -	Sports Day
Jan 3 -	Return to school	June 29 -	Last day of school
Jan 19 -	PAC Hot Lunch	June 29 -	Term 3 Report cards home
Jan 30 -	Non-Instructional Day		

Bell Schedule Reminder

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

Supervision Hours

Before School: 8:15-8:30

After School: 2:40-2:55



Welcome New & Returning Staff



Principal	Mrs. D. Kaban
Vice-Principal	Mrs. A. Zummack
Secretary	Mrs. E. Norwood
Intermediate Teachers:	Mr. J. Bass, Mrs. S. Polsom, Mr. C. Hall, Mrs. A. Rathgeber & Ms. K. Russell
Primary Teachers:	Mrs. H. Callaghan, Ms. V. Elton, Ms. T. Teale, Ms. M. Hawes, Ms. A. Smith, Mrs. A. Alton & Mrs. L. Turcotte
Resource Teachers (LA/Support/ELL):	Mrs. B. Huzar, Mrs. L. Lacharite & Mrs. A. Zummack
Library & Learning Commons Teacher:	Mrs. L. Turner
Aboriginal Education Worker:	Mrs. R. Girard, Mrs. B. Seymour Howard Gibbon
Community Schools Coordinator:	Ms. N. Therrien
Education Assistants/Supervisors:	Mrs. N. Blanchard, Mrs. C. Brevik, Mrs. A. Carr, Mrs. C. Clarke, Mrs. K. Eddy, Ms. J. Elcheson, Ms. C. Jordan, Mrs. B. McKinnon, Ms. A. Russman, Mrs. K. Smith & Ms. A. Taylor
Youth Care Worker:	Mrs. A. Nohr
Library Clerk:	Mrs. M. Briggs
Custodians:	Mrs. K. Belzile & Ms. L. Hallam

Open House: Ice Cream Social – Book Fair

On **Wednesday, September 28th**, students are invited to bring their parent(s)/guardian(s), Aunts, Uncles and/or Grandparent(s) to our ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE, BOOK FAIR and ICE CREAM SOCIAL. From 6 pm to 6:30 pm you will receive your ice cream sundae in the gymnasium. Enjoy your choice of "Gourmet Made to Order Sundaes" with all the toppings while visiting your friends and neighbours. From 6:30 pm 7:15 pm you will have the chance to visit your child's classroom and meet the teacher. In addition, you can stop by the library and have a look at what's on sale at the Book Fair.



Terry Fox Run

The money raised in our annual Terry Fox Run helps people with all types of cancers, including breast, lung, brain, prostate and many more. As of 2013, The Terry Fox Foundation and its supporters have raised over \$650,000,000.00 for cancer research. This year's Terry Fox National School Run Day will take place on the afternoon of **Thursday, September 29th**. Teachers will be collecting donations on the week of September 26th. If you would like to contribute, please bring a small donation during this time. There is no minimum donation. This is a school wide event and is held outside, so please ensure your child is dressed for the weather.

Student Fees and Other General Information

Money will be collected starting September 12th. Attached is a memo with the breakdown of costs. Please return the completed form in a Ziploc bag or envelope with the EXACT amount of money required. Please note: we only accept cash & do not give out change.

School Supplies for September 2016

Attached you will find the Primary & Intermediate supply lists for the 2016 – 2017 school year. Teachers may require/request a few special items for classroom use and will notify their students of any additional items at the start of the new school year.

Student Planners and Cultural Performances Fees \$10.00

Planners: All students in grades 1 - 7 will be required to have a planner. For consistency, we would like all children in the class to use the same planner. 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.



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

School T-Shirts

Show your school spirit by purchasing a Van Bien Blazers t-shirt for \$5. T-shirts will be ordered and come in a variety of sizes. School spiritwear is worn Mondays, Fridays, special spirit days, and school team events.



Meals Program

The meals program is open to all students and will start next week. A monthly menu will be 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.

Well Rested, On Time & Healthy Meals:

Are you sending your child well rested and on time? Students who arrive at school on time, rested, well nourished, and ready to learn are most likely to be successful in school. This seems obvious, and you may well be wondering why it is mentioned here. The simple reason is too many children arrive at school late or tired. Some have rushed out of the house without an adequate breakfast. Nutritionists tell us breakfast is the most important meal of the day. Please support your child's learning by making sure they have lots of sleep, and a well-balanced breakfast.



NOTE: We ask families to send healthy food and beverages. Do not send your child to school with pop, energy drinks and/or other caffeinated beverages. Water is a great choice. Thanks!

PAC News

PAC WELCOME September 7th 8:45 - 10:15 - Parents/guardians please join the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) in the library at that time for coffee and cookies while students are in session.

PAC Meetings – First PAC meeting will be Wednesday, September 14th @ 6:30pm in the library.

PAC Executive 2016-2017

Co-Chair – Tabitha Strachan & Tamara Flundra

Secretary – Nichol Hilman

Treasurer – Tabitha Strachan

Fundraising Coordinator – Erin Hunter

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 weekly assemblies and informally throughout the week. 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.

Reminders

Planners (with handbook) – Coming Home!

The 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, Dress Code,** and the expectations for those students who eat lunch at school. Students who review these items with their parents will have the chance to enter a prize draw.

Safe-Start - Absenteeism

The safety of your child is our first concern. Mrs. Norwood will call home for each child whose absence is unexplained. If your child will be late or absent from school, please telephone the school prior to 8:30 (250-563-1062) and leave a message. Doing this will save Mrs. Norwood a phone call. We have a 24 hour answering machine at this number.



Indoor Shoes

To help keep Van Bien an attractive place to work and learn, each child must have a pair of indoor shoes to change into when they enter the school. If you buy runners for your child's indoor shoes, please ensure they have non-marking soles.

NO Dogs on School Property

To maintain a clean and safe playground environment for students, dogs are not allowed on the school grounds at any time with or without a leash unless the office has authorized a special visit ie. show & tell, SPCA.



Cross Walks & Traffic Safety

In an effort to prevent an accident and to ensure safety, please review proper pedestrian road rules with your child/ren. ICBC has good resources on their website to help guide home discussions. When crossing the street, pedestrians need to look left, right, left. Bikes need to be walked across crosswalks. Thank you for helping keep our students safe. If you notice vehicles speeding or driving dangerously please report the license plate number to the RCMP.