

Van Bien Elementary

311 Wilson Cres. Prince George, BC V2L 4P8

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

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We are now in the last stretch of the school year and students are busy working on their remaining achievement goals. May 11th will be our final early dismissal @ 1:30 for student, parent, teacher conferences. Reminder that good study habits and positive approaches to learning continue to be important! Reading daily and reviewing basic math facts will support your child/ren's progress.

Spring assessments will be conducted in the area of Reading, Writing and Math. Teachers are looking to see that students are meeting grade level Essential Learning Outcomes. Teachers are happy to meet with parents and share ways to support learning at home.

Foundation Skills Assessments (FSA) for Grades 4 & 7 are being sent home today. Please contact the school if you have any questions. Remember that the provincial FSA is a snapshot of your child's learning and is not used for grading purposes.

Our students and staff wished Mr. Hall the very best in his retirement; his last day of teaching was March 31st. We look forward to him coming back to visit and hearing about his new adventures! With Mr. Hall's departure, we welcome Mrs. V. Forseth to our teaching team, working Tuesday-Friday.

A Litter free school property continues to be a focus at Van Bien to show our respect for Mother Earth. April 22 is **Earth Day** – Reduce, Reuse & Recycle. On the afternoon of Friday, April 21st, classes are going out to help clean up litter so that kids have a clean and safe playground. Anything families can do to help clean up litter in the neighborhood or at school is appreciated.

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: 2:38-2:53



Calendar of Events

April 11 Metis Dancing

April 11&12 Babysitting Course

April 13 "Wear Yellow Day"

April 14 Good Friday

April 17 Easter Monday

April 20 Mac & Cheese Hot Lunch

April 28 Non-Instructional Day

May 4 "May the 4th Spirit Day"
(Star Wars); Duffle Bag Theater

May 9 Election Day –VBE Gym
May 9-10 Home Alone Course,
Book Fair

May 11 Early Dismissal 1:30

May 18 Jump Rope For Heart

May 22 Victoria Day

May 31 Talent Show

June 5 Non-instructional Day

June 7 Welcome To Kindergarten

June 12 Primary Report Writing Day

June 16 Gr.4-7 Report Writing Day

June 21 Sports Day

June 28 Year End Assembly

June 29 Last day of school

TDC Parking Lot – April 13, 26-28



Are You Moving? If you know your child/ren will not be attending Van Bien this fall, please contact the office with details so we are able to plan for a smooth transition, as well as organize classes at Van Bien for next year. It is very important to contact the receiving school so your child/ren is included in their organization/planning of classes.

Safety Reminders

Take extra care in the **parking lot** and watch for parents/students who are walking to/from their vehicle or house. Please remember to only park in designated parking spots. The fire lane is for Approved School District parking only.

Now that the snow is gone, the **bikes** are coming out ☺. Please remember that bikes must be walked once they are on property and helmets are a must. It is always a good idea to use a lock while bikes are parked at school. Please review bike safety with your child/ren who are making a healthy choice to ride a bike to school. Bike helmets need to be worn and bikes locked up at the bike racks. We do have extra bike helmets if you need to access one.

VAN BIEN ELEMENTARY STUDENT MOBILE / ELECTRONIC DEVICE PROTOCOL

*Mobile devices are a privilege that comes with responsibilities.

1. The privilege **was removed** in the spring 2015 due to ongoing concerns around **safety &** responsible use.
2. Students were **not respecting** the boundaries set which puts our students' **safety at risk**.
3. Student mobile/electronic devices are **not allowed** to be used **on school property** while the **school work day** is in session – typically 8am-4pm.
4. Students **will not** be accessing social media, texting, internet, music, cameras or games without explicit directions & supervision from the teachers.

Teacher preference is for these devices to **stay at home**.

Students whose parents require their child/ren to carry a device to school do so at their own risk. The school is not responsible for lost, damage or theft.

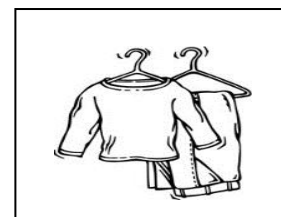
Options for students whose parents require their child to bring a device ie. Cell phone include:

1. Park device at the office for the day once on property.
2. Park device with the classroom teacher.
3. Park device in backpack.

Consequences for not following mobile device protocol will include:

1. Device taken away for the remainder of the day.
2. Device taken away until parents can pick it up.
3. Suspension for disruptive or disobedient behavior.
4. **Van Bien Dress Code**

Clothing worn must be appropriate for a public elementary school environment, fully cover shoulders, chest, stomach, and behinds as well as be free from disrespectful sayings/graphics. Absolutely nothing that promotes the use of alcohol or drugs, or is violent, sexual, or racist in nature will be allowed.



Positive Behaviour Support April: Review ROARS Expectations with students in all setting.

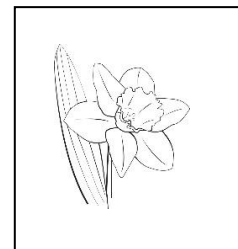
Weekly “Star Gotcha” Focus:

1. April 3 – 7: Respect - I show respect with my words and my actions.
2. April 10 – 13: Achievement – I do my best.
3. April 18 – 21: Ownership - I show ownership by taking care of Mother Earth/my environment.
4. April 24 – 28: Responsibility – I take responsibility for my belongings.
5. May 1 – 5: Safety – I show a safe body and use safe words.

Aboriginal Awareness Week: April 10-13th Aboriginal Awareness Week here at Van Bien. This annual week-long event provided a series of activities that highlighted the contribution of Aboriginal knowledge to education. Our students, staff, and the community are provided the opportunity to participate in and learn about diverse Aboriginal cultures; locally and globally. Events range from roundtable discussions, craft workshops, plant teachings, feasting, drumming, and cultural exchange. I can't think of a better way to strengthen relationships with family, community, land, and ancestry.

Leadership

There will be a bake sale Friday April 17 as a fundraiser for Cancer Society. Goodies will be priced from \$.50 to a \$1.00 and all proceeds will be donated to the Cancer Society.



April is Daffodil Awareness Month. Classrooms have been putting up daffodils for people they know affected by cancer or in memory of. In the spirit of Daffodil Awareness Month our spirit day is "Wear Yellow" day on April 13.

Community School Coordinator

New programming begins mid-April - May. Please keep an eye open for sign up forms that may have come home. (Primary/Intermediate Outdoor Soccer, Primary/Intermediate Nature Explorer's and Yoga). After school Glee Club, Leadership, Art Club and Cooking Club continuing. Please take note that Primary/Intermediate Culture has ended. A BIG Thank you to our UNBC BSW practicum students, Xiao Xue Liu and Shelly Khunkhun, for supporting arts and sports programming with students at Van Bien Wednesdays-Fridays! We wish you both well as you complete your program☺

Wednesday 1:30-2:30 "Drop In Gr. 6/7 Floor Hockey" with Major Midget Cariboo Cougars

Students meeting expected ROARS behaviour in Gr.6/7 are welcome to drop in for floor hockey on Wednesdays April 5, 12, 19, May 3rd. This may be extended; stay tuned for May newsletter. **Major Midget Cariboo Cougars**, Logan Archer and Jesse Pomeroy, Gr. 12 PGSS students, are helping make this sport program available this spring.

Van Bien Children's Clothing Closet

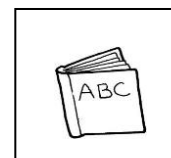
Please remember that you are welcome to contact the school to book a time to shop in our clothing closet. Contact the office with a date and time that works; a staff member will contact you to confirm appointment time.

Lost & Found

Our lost & found is full of winter coats, snow pants, mittens, and other clothing. Please come take a look and claim any belongings. Unclaimed items will be donated.

Van Bien Ready, Set, Learn

FREE family literacy program that invites children, ages 3 to 5 (pre-Kindergarten) and their parent(s) or caregiver(s) to have a positive early school experience. Registration is limited to ten children, so please contact us ASAP to avoid disappointment. If you are unable to make it to all ten weeks, no problem - please register, and come as much as you can! **Our RSL program** will run Thursday afternoons from 1:40pm-2:40pm in the library, April-June, with tentative dates as follows: April 6, 13, 20, 27 May 4, 11, 18, 25. Mrs. Erin Hunter is the RSL coordinator with staff support from Mrs. Girard, our AEW.



PLAY and GROW - Ages 4-6 will run **Wednesday afternoons from 12:30-1:30 pm in the library.** The program is designed for children to attend with parent/guardian to enjoy unstructured and creative play and fun with your child using toys, puzzles and games. Parent participation is required and available on a first come first serve basis. Space is limited to 10 seats. If you would like to register for this program, please contact the office. The program runs from March 29 – May 31, 2017. Arlene Nohr our YCW and new staff member Clayton Wintemute, will be facilitating.

PAC News

The BINGO family Spaghetti night has been cancelled. PAC is always looking for more volunteers and welcomes all Van Bienen parents to attend PAC meetings. Thank you to our PAC, staff and other volunteers for helping make our Family Fun Night possible this year. It was wonderful to see our families attend and participate in this community event. The "Bake Walk" was a hit and children enjoyed taking home the delicious treats they won to share with family & friends!

PAC Meetings – The 2nd Wednesday of every month starting at 6:30 pm until approx. 7:30. Child minding is provided.

A very big thank you to all the families for supporting PAC fundraisers/events and also a big thank you to South Bowl Community Association for their continued support of our students, school and community!

Community News...

THE WHITE HATTER Hosted by the Duchess Park Family of Schools April 12th 7pm-9pm (Gr 4 to Gr 7)

Education is the first step in keeping our kids safer in this technology-driven world. It is not uncommon that our children know more about the workings of the Internet and Social Networking than we as parents do. This presentation is designed to educate even the most computer illiterate parent. Knowledge and the understanding and application of that knowledge is power. Our presentation will provide the knowledge and information, parents need to know to help keep their children safer. To date, thousands of parents (and growing) in Canada and Washington State have heard our very unique "pro-active" message. See full details on our website—the link will take you to a flyer!

What is the Internet and Social Networking

Parental Risk Management

Internet filtering pros/cons

What is digital citizenship ?

4 Steps to keep kids safe online

Don't miss this very important event!

JUNIOR TIMBERWOLVES ACADEMY

The Junior Timberwolves academy is designed to give basketball players the opportunity to receive high-level instruction and interact with UNBC men's basketball players and coaches. All coaches will have high level coaching and/or playing experience at the university level. The emphasis for the academy will be the building of fundamental skills with age appropriate activities designed to maximize player development and fun. Age specific games and competitions will be used to maximize player engagement. Gr. 3/4 and Gr. 5-7 division athletes will receive a reversible jersey.

Dates: Tuesdays/Thursdays 4-6 pm 22 total hours of basketball

May 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 30 June 1, 8, 13, 15

Please note: Due to gym conflicts & UNBC Convocation there are no sessions on May 23 and 25th, or June 6*

Cost: \$200 + \$10 GST = **\$210** Early Registration – **deadline** is April 7th \$240 + \$12 GST = **\$252** after

Native Friendship Centre Clothing Drive

Have you started your spring cleaning yet? If so, the P.G. Native Friendship Centre is doing a clothing drive, Donations of gently used clothing will be accepted Monday- Friday from 8 am - 4:30pm.