



VAN BIEN NEWS

MARCH 9, 2021

Message from the Office

Dear Parents and Guardians of Van Bien Students:

Well, winter appears to have come and gone rather quickly and we are in the constant spring 'Freeze/Thaw' pattern here in Prince George. With that, we would like to remind everyone to be extra cautious when picking up/dropping off students – especially in the mornings as it has been very slippery out there.

We would like to welcome Ms. R. Coelho to Van Bien. Ms. Coelho will be teaching Grade 5 until the end of the school year.

Van Bien has been fortunate to host two Teacher Candidates from UNBC over the past three weeks. Ms. V. Chen and Ms. K. Berry have been working with the students in Mrs. Turcotte and Ms. Teale's classes. They have done a fabulous job working with our students and we wish them all the best in their teaching careers.

We would like to thank the PAC, Mrs. Tusek and the Leadership Students for working together to organize the water bottle sale that began in late February. There is a good supply of water bottles left and there will be additional opportunities to purchase one coming up in the near future.

On the community connections and learning fronts, we had some classes write cards for the Hospice House as part of our random acts of kindness blitz during the month of February. We also had several classes participate in a writing contest where they had the chance to win a Google Home device! Stay tuned as we await the public announcement of the winners! All classes have been participating in the 'Spirit of Healthy Kids' contest put on by the Prince George Cougars. Remember to bring the completed forms in after Friday March 5th. The gardening program is excited to get up and running as well. The seeds, planter boxes and mini greenhouses have been purchased and the classes are keen to start their programs as soon as spring break ends. We would like to thank Mrs. Eddy for 'sowing the seeds of this program' and the classroom teachers for their participation in the grant opportunity that funded it.

Dates to Remember!

Friday, March 5 Spirit of Healthy Kids Ends (Remember to bring in your completed forms this week)

Wednesday, March 17 ST. Patrick's Day – Wear Green

Friday, March 19 Red Carpet Dress up Day!

March 22 – April 5 SPRING BREAK (No School)

VAN BIEN ELEMENTARY

311 Wilson Cres.
Prince George, BC
V2L 4P8

250-563-1062

As always, we continue to thank the Downtown Rotary and our PAC for their ongoing support of our breakfast program. Many students continue to access this daily!

We would like to remind all parents/guardians that we are required to follow all public health guidelines and that all visitors must wear a mask if they enter the building. Should you need to come in for any reason, we have masks available at the front door. **Even 'Bob' wears a mask!**
Thank you for your help in this area!

Mrs. T. Cole and Mr. A. Lee



Our teaching this month is a **review of the 7 teachings**

- Love
- Respect
- Courage
- Honesty
- Wisdom
- Humility
- Truth



FSA – FOUNDATIONAL SKILLS ASSESSMENT:

Grades 4 and 7 students have completed writing the FSAs and the results will be available in the near future. This is a reminder that the assessment results provide parents, teachers, schools, the school district and the Ministry of Education with important information on how well students are progressing in the foundation of Reading, Writing and Numeracy. The FSAs are a snapshot and the results can be looked at individually or as a school system which helps us plan ways to improve student performance in these areas. Please [CLICK HERE](#) to access the Parent Brochure!

2021—2022 SCHOOL YEAR PLANNING

Will you be moving? We are in the process of planning for the 2021-2022 school year. We would appreciate you advising us by calling the office at (250)563-1062 if you are planning on **not attending Van Bien next year**. Thank you for your help! This is important information that makes for smoother planning and transitioning for next year.

SCHOOL SUPPLIES

It is that time of year when your child's school supplies start to need replacing. Please check with your child to see what school supplies they may need replenished.

PARKING LOT SAFETY

Please remember to drive slowly when you are in our school zone and parking lot. We have had some near misses with vehicles moving much too quickly in these areas. We want to keep our students safe and need your help to do that. **Please don't block the bus lane while you are waiting to drop off or pick up students.**

As the weather warms up, we have noticed that some vehicles are parking up close to the gym during our dismissal time. This is a no parking area and in order for our students to move through this area safely, we would like to remind you that it is not an area to park while you wait for your child to be dismissed.

MORNING SUPERVISION

Regular morning supervision of students begins at **8:15 am**. Several students are arriving at school before 8:15 and this is presenting a huge safety concern. Please do not drop students off at school before supervision is provided as staff are busy preparing for the day. After school, students need to go home and check in with an adult. If they choose to return to the school to play, they may do so after 3:00pm. After school supervision ends at 2:37pm.

HEALTHY EATING

Van Bien is part of the BC Fruits and Veggies program. This is one way that we can promote healthy eating in our schools. Some teachers have noticed an increase in candy and pop in lunches. While we know that these are special treats, we ask that they are saved for home and not brought to school. We also ask that you remind your child that while sharing is a kind thing to do, we cannot share food at this time due to COVID 19 protocols.

LATES/ABSENCES

Please call the school at 250-563-1062 if your child will be absent or late for any reason. We will attempt to contact families whenever there are unknown absences. Please leave a message on the answering machine if no one answers when you call.

The Van Bien staff hopes you have a nice Spring Break. We will see all students back at school on Tuesday, April 6, 2021.

