

# HENRY HUDSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

## NEWSLETTER

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Vancouver Board of Education

February 2017 Newsletter

### Principal's Message

As a snowy February comes to an end and we move hopefully into a sunny March, schools are busy planning for next year's organization of classes. Next year's class organization will be determined by the Class Size/Composition language recently restored by Canada's Supreme Court.

When reorganization is complete, there will be notable changes from this year and the past several years. The restored class size/composition language will decrease class size and set limits of numbers of special needs students in each class. Combination grade classes or "split classes" have lower enrollment than single grade classes, class size is also reduced by the number of special needs students in the each class. The overall effect of the restored language is reduced class size.

The restoration of the language is presenting a challenge in terms of ensuring classroom space for new classes and affecting the number of new students the school can accommodate. One immediate result is the delay of informing families if their child has been accepted into our Kindergarten French Immersion program as the District conducts the placement lottery and they are still determining the number of students that can be accepted. At Hudson, it is also effecting our English Kindergarten lottery acceptance timeline. At Hudson, we essentially have two catchment areas; one for English and one for French. Not all students in our French catchment are in our English catchment so that adds to the level of complication being dealt with.

To assist us with planning, we sent out a survey to determine which students would not be returning to Hudson next year. Thanks to all the families that responded.

In other news, the grade 4 and 7 students recently completed the Foundation Skills Assessment in the areas of literacy and numeracy. Parents should be receiving the results and having their children's test booklets returned to them towards the end of March.

The PAC purchased class set of cloudbooks which is now being well used and new novel sets have been ordered. The PAC budgeted a substantial amount for novel sets and staff have worked closely with Ms. Nikon in selecting and purchasing the new reading materials. The PAC also provided a successful Arts Umbrella program that many classes enjoyed. As a school, we are very fortunate to have such a supportive parent group.

Looking forward to the month, parent/teacher conferences, Scholastic book fair and Spring Break are just around the corner.

Thanks for your support,

Sincerely,  
Ian Cannon  
Principal

### Overview of Upcoming Activities & Events

- Wed, Mar 1 – Div 10F – Field trip to UBC
- Thurs, Mar 2
  - Class, Team and Club photos
  - Div 4, 5 & 7 – Field trip to VSO
- Fri, Mar 3 – Jump Rope Kickoff
- Mon, Mar 6 – VSB Choral Festival at John Oliver Secondary School
- Wed, Mar 8 to Fri, Mar 10 – Book Fair
- Wed, Mar 8 & Thurs, Mar 9 – Early Dismissal – Student Led Conferences
- Fri, Mar 10 – Last day of school before Spring Break
- Mon, Mar 27 – First day of school after Spring Break
- Fri, Mar 31 – Hearing Screening Follow-Up for Kindergarten



### **Student Cell Phone Use**

A reminder to families that while students are allowed to bring their cell phones to school, they must be turned off and stored in their bags during the day. At times, teachers will allow students to use their cell phones for learning purposes. Unfortunately we have had incidents of students receiving and making calls and texts during instructional time, and taking photos of other students without consent. Students needing to contact home may use the phone in the office. Please note that students who bring their phones to school, do so at their own risk. The school will not be held responsible for lost, stolen or damaged phones.

### **Library News**

The Scholastic Book Fair is a major fundraiser for our school library. This year the Book Fair will be held March 8 to 10<sup>th</sup> in our gym. The hours of each day differ so please refer to the school website calendar for exact times. Each year the school holds two book fairs, one to benefit the French collection and the other to benefit the English collection. The Hudson PAC is coordinating parent volunteers.

### **School Sports**

Basketball season has just ended and badminton season is just starting. Students in Grades 6 and 7 have the opportunity to play for the school team. They practise Wednesdays and Fridays from 8:00 to 8:45am. A match schedule will be shared when available. Following badminton students will be learning floorball in their gym classes.

### **Student Teachers**

Hudson is pleased to welcome three student teachers from SFU who are here for a three week practicum and then returning next fall for an extended practicum. Ms. Stephanie Helm is working with Mrs. Desai, Mr. Shawn Mrazek is working with Mrs. Morehouse and Ms. Caylan Piper is working with Mrs. Tso.

### **Community Schools Team (CST)**

The West 2 Community Schools Team is happy to announce our spring lineup of programs. Beginning in April, we will be offering Junior and Senior Choir, MoreSports Soccer, Young Rembrandts, and Pacific First Aid Babysitting. Registration forms for all programs are available outside the school office and registration is limited so please sign up soon. The registration deadline is Friday, March 10th. All dates and pertinent information about the programs can be found on the registration forms. Please contact Dianne Sankey at [dsankey@vsb.bc.ca](mailto:dsankey@vsb.bc.ca) with any questions.

### 2017-2018 School Calendar

At the recent board meeting on February 27<sup>th</sup>, the proposed change affecting next year's winter break was passed. Next year, the last day of student attendance before Winter Break is December 22, 2017. Students will return to school on January 8, 2018. The change in dates now aligns our holidays with the other local school districts.

### Some Classroom Highlights

Div 4 - On February 1st, Students of Division 4 snowshoed on the gorgeous snow-covered peaks of Grouse Mountain to learn about habitats. We visited the First Nations Longhouse and participated in traditional ceremonies. Thanks to PAC for subsidizing this truly memorable experience.

Div 4 and 13F – are participating in the Sketchbook Art Project with Robin Roberts from April 24<sup>th</sup> to May 12<sup>th</sup>. This project is overseen by the VSB District Fine Arts Dept. Each student will receive a package which includes a sketchbook and a pencil.

Div 5 – welcomed Mr. Shawn Mrazek, a student teacher from SFU to our classroom. Last week, we were fortunate to have a guest speaker (Ganhlaan's grandma) come share her traditional Raven stories from Haida Gwaii.

Div 11F - just presented their big Space Expo projects on topics such as Black Holes, Aliens, Quantum Mechanics and the formation of stars. It was well attended by all French Immersion classes. They have published their very first graphic novel. Students drafted, wrote and drew their very own graphic novel. They will be available to read my library. Also, Div 11F is preparing to present their clowning routines. We spent two months studying comedy and the art of clowning. Students will be presenting a 3 minute skit including slapstick and funny antics.

*Don't worry about failures, worry about the chances you miss when you don't even try.- Jack Canfield -*