

THE CUNNINGHAM NEWS

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Principal's Message

It is hard to believe that we are already preparing for the winter break! The 2017-2018 school year is flying by! We have had so many wonderful events and projects since September and every success always has a team of support behind it. The Cunningham staff, students and parent community, as well as the Carleton community are simply amazing, and all contribute to making our schools such fantastic places to be!

As many of you already know, I will be retiring on December 31, so I will not be returning to Cunningham after the winter break. I have been so lucky to be in such a great school to finish my career as a school administrator: I am leaving with countless fond memories! The incoming principal for Cunningham is Ms. Rosemary Thomas, who is currently vice principal at Nelson Elementary. She is very excited to become part of the community and we will meet over the holidays to ensure a smooth transition. Ms. Thomas will attend part of our winter assembly on Thursday, Dec. 21 to say hello to the staff and students. I can retire knowing that the school will be in very good hands.

I would like to wish everyone a happy and relaxing holiday. If you celebrate a holiday over this time, I wish you all the best. I hope everyone's holiday is filled with family, friends and some well-deserved rest and relaxation.

Thank you all for everything, from the bottom of my heart!

Connie Carver

December, 2017

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesday, December 20	Reports home for divisions 2, 3, 4, 7, 8, 13, 14, 15, 16S
Thursday, December 21	Winter holiday assembly 1:00
Friday, December 22	Last day of school before the winter break
Monday, January 8	Back to school
Monday, January 15	Badminton starts
Wednesday, January 24	Reports home for divisions 1, 5, 6, 9, 10, 11, 12, 17S
Monday, January 29	Curriculum Implementation Day – no school for students
Wednesday, January 31	Student-Led Conferences – 2:00 dismissal
Thursday, February 1	Student-Led Conferences – 2:00 dismissal

Please check our website regularly for updates and for photos of special events:

cunningham.vsb.bc.ca



December Festivities

Please join us for a number of special events taking place during the month of December. Please note the following dates and times:

1. **Winter Holiday Assembly:** Thursday, Dec. 21 @ 1:00 p.m. in the Gym. All welcome; please be seated by 1:00 p.m.
2. **Carolling in the Hallway** (outside office): 8:40 a.m. Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday (December 18-22). Please help us by bringing a Food Bank donation

Holiday Food Bank Donations

December is the season for giving, so Cunningham will once again be collecting Food Bank donations. In addition to the classroom collection, we will be collecting donations at our various December activities: Cocoa and Carols, Caroling in the Halls, and the Winter Holiday Assembly. Thank you for supporting our families in need.



Report Cards – Term One - IMPORTANT

The following classes will be sending home term 1 report cards on Wednesday, December 20: Div. 2 (Mr. McNeil), Div. 3 (Mr. Sandhu), Div. 4 (Mr. Calvert), Div. 7 (Ms. Unrau), Div. 8 (Ms. Block), Div. 13 (Mrs. Neibel), Div. 14 (Mr. MacMillan), Div. 15 (Ms. So), and Div. 16S (Ms. Lewis).

Seven divisions are participating in the Communicating Student Learning pilot project with the VSB and will be sending their mid-year reports home at the end of January, and therefore **will not** be sending home reports before the holidays. This has been communicated with families throughout term one. The teachers involved are Div. 1 (Jodi Carson), Div. 5 (Mr. Kolpin), Div. 6 (Ms. Wiesinger), Div. 9 (Ms. Spurr), Div. 10 (Ms. Minato), Div. 11 (Ms. Orazio), Div. 12 (Ms. Yong), and Div. 17S (Ms. Gutkowski).

If you have more than one child at Cunningham, it is possible that one child will receive a report card before the holidays and another will receive a report card after the holidays. This pilot project is for this year only. For the 2018-2019 school year, all schools will be sending home two written reports - in January and June.

Safe Arrival - IMPORTANT

Reporting Student Absences – Safe Arrival:

Student safety is of paramount importance at the Vancouver School District. Ensuring student safety is a shared responsibility. In order to assist schools, we ask parents to notify schools of student absences. If your child will be absent from school, please report the absence as early as possible. Parents should leave a message on a dedicated answering service by calling 604-713-5159, then, when prompted, enter extension 24. Messages will be received before the office is open. School offices are busy places: consistently notifying the school in advance of your child's absence will significantly improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Safe Arrival Morning Routine.



Sleep and Nutrition

We are always concerned about the health and well-being of our students. We have observed a high percentage of students who are eating unhealthy food like junk food (chips, candy, fast foods, etc.) and drinking high-sugar drinks at school. Students are also reporting that they are not eating a proper breakfast and going to sleep very late. These conditions, especially not eating breakfast and not having proper sleep, will significantly impact your child's ability to learn. We ask parents to make sure your child eats a proper breakfast and goes to bed on time (we recommend **no later than** 9:00 p.m. for up to and including Gr. 6, and **no later than** 10:00 p.m. for Gr. 7 – please make sure all digital devices are taken out of the bedroom and the TV and internet are turned off), and they are bringing healthy, **nutritious** food to school for recess and lunch.

Traffic Safety

Please support our efforts to ensure all students' safety by following these simple, yet very important rules:

- ⇒ **Do not use the lane for pick up and drop off** – there is lots of room on 37th Ave. We need to be good neighbours in the community and respect residents' ability to exit their garages
- ⇒ park only in designated areas and whenever possible park a block away from the school and walk the last short distance
- ⇒ **do not do any u-turns EVER in the vicinity of the school – this continues to be a serious safety problem**
- ⇒ obey the posted 30 Km speed limit
- ⇒ use the crosswalk patrolled by the School Safety Patrol
- ⇒ do not park on the wrong side of the road
- ⇒ do not drop students off while stopped in the middle of the road



Cyber Safety

As more and more student have access to a variety of mobile devices (phones, iPads, etc.) there is always the risk of their making unsafe decisions about how they are using them. We have had members of the Vancouver Police Department speak to our grade 6 and 7 students about making good and safe decisions, and the possible consequences of making poor decisions.



Some advice to parents from the VPD:

- No cellphones/tablets/ipods in rooms at night. They should be handed in to parents and put away.
- If the youth needs their phone as an alarm clock, go buy them an alarm clock. Phones at night are a distraction and no one makes a good decision on their phone at 2am.
- Parents pay the phone bills and hold the cellphone contracts for their kids. So it's the parents' phone. They should have access to their child's phone and have the passwords. And they should go through it.

- Be familiar with social media and how it works. Snapchat, Instagram, Twitter and many many more.
- Look for "vaults" for photos on the youths phone. Quite often it's an app that looks like a calculator. Once you try to open it, it's password protected. That's where many of their photos are hidden.

For more information about how to help your child/ren stay safe online, please go to www.cybersafebc.ca

Choice Program Information Sessions in the New Year

If you are thinking of a choice program (French Immersion, Mandarin Immersion, Montessori, etc.) please go to <http://www.vsb.bc.ca/choice-info> to learn about information evenings in January.

Do you have a child born in 2013? Kindergarten registration started on November 1st

All Kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This includes siblings of students already attending a VSB school. This also includes families who wish to apply for choice programs (French Immersion, Montessori, etc.) and/or a cross boundary placement.

The priority registration period for Kindergarten opened on **November 1st and closes at 4 pm on January 31st**. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants.

If your child was born outside of Canada, you need to report to the **VSB District Reception and Placement Centre** (DRPC) and complete the initial Kindergarten application there.

In a few Vancouver schools there may be more in-catchment applicants than the school can accommodate. For those schools, applicants who applied within the priority registration period (November 1 to January 31) will be included in a draw for available spaces. Students with siblings already in attendance at the school (and who will be attending next year) will be placed prior to the draw.

When registering your child please bring:

1. Proof of residence in Vancouver
2. Child's birth certificate
3. Immigration documentation (if applicable)
4. Immunization records



If you want to apply for a Choice program or cross-boundary, you must first apply to your English catchment elementary school. Applications for Choice programs and cross boundary placements will be accepted in early 2017, but only after you have registered at your catchment school.

For more information on Kindergarten registration please visit:

<http://www.vsb.bc.ca/kindergarten>

School Closures due to snow or other emergency conditions

Information regarding school closures in the event of snow, or other emergency situations, will be provided to the following radio stations by 6:00 a.m. on the morning of closure:

CKNW (980 AM)

CBC RADIO (690 AM, 105.7 FM)

FAIRCHILD Radio (CJVB AM 1470/CKHG FM 96.1)

CITY TV (cable channel 13)

CKWX (NEWS 1130 AM)

BCTV/Global (cable channel 11)

CBC Television

CTV BC



In addition, Information on snow closures will be available on line at www.vsb.bc.ca in the event that there are school closures. **Please do not call the school.** If it is not announced in the media listed above, you can assume that school is open.

FLU SEASON IS HERE!

What is the Flu?

- ◆ Influenza (the flu) is a very contagious respiratory disease caused by a virus. It is passed from person to person by sneezing and coughing. Most healthy people who get the flu recover within two weeks. The flu can be a serious illness for infants, older adults and people with chronic diseases.

How can I prevent the flu?

- ◆ Get a flu shot every year
- ◆ Eat a healthy diet
- ◆ Get plenty of rest
- ◆ Exercise regularly
- ◆ Stop smoking
- ◆ Wash your hands often

HAND WASHING

Why is hand washing important?

- ◆ Research confirms that hand washing is the most important thing you can do to stop the spread of germs and reduce colds and flus.

How should I wash my hands?

- ◆ Wet your hands
- ◆ Apply plain soap (not antibacterial soap)
- ◆ Rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds or the time it takes to sing the alphabet
- ◆ Make sure to wash between your fingers and under your fingernails
- ◆ Rinse your hands to get all the germs and soap off
- ◆ Dry hands with a clean towel
- ◆ In public washrooms, turn off the water using a paper towel instead of bare hands



takes to

Where do I find more information?

- Evergreen Community Health Centre, 604-872-2511
- Health Link BC - online www.healthlinkbc.ca or dial 811
- www.vch.ca/schoolhealth