

THE CUNNINGHAM NEWS

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Bulletin #6 – January 2018

IMPORTANT UPCOMING DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

January 31 st - February 1 st	Parent Teacher conferences; early dismissal @ 2:00 pm
February 7	Performance for students at 1:30
February 9	Lockdown Drill in the afternoon
February 12	Family Day- no school
February 19	Professional Development Day- no school for students
March 19 - April 2	Spring Break /Easter

***Please check our website regularly for updates and for photos of special events:
cunningham.vsb.bc.ca***

A Brief Introduction

It is with great pleasure that I introduce myself as your new principal at GT Cunningham Elementary. I am very excited to become part of this community, which has already given me a warm welcome at the Cocoa and Carols and December assembly. It is clear from the brief interactions that I have had with students, parents and staff members that this is an extraordinary school that diligently follows the CARES code of Conduct.

Professionally, I have been with the Vancouver School Board for over 20 years, as a Kindergarten to Grade 7 enrolling teacher, Literacy Coach, Inner City Project teacher, and Vice Principal. I am very excited to begin my new position as principal here at Cunningham.

I have an open-door policy, and welcome your input and ideas. I am looking forward to starting off 2018 with enthusiasm and working with your children.

Communicating Student Learning reports

8 of our teachers are working with the new model of reporting student progress correlated to the New Curriculum. These reports follow a new way to communicate students' areas of growth.

There are 4 categories that help students and parents understand the learning profile: Beginning "I'm just getting started." "I learn best with help.", Developing "I'm getting there." "I am beginning to do more and more on my own.", Applying "I get it." "I can do it on my own." and Extending "I get it and go beyond what is expected of me." "I can teach it to a friend."

The mid-year progress report went home last week with your child, and we look forward to conferencing with families this week.

Parent Conferences – Wednesday and Thursday, Jan. 31 and Feb. 1 – early dismissal @ 2:00 p.m.

Our second conferences will be on Wednesday, January 31 and Thursday, February 1 starting @ 2:00 p.m. All students will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m.; please make sure your child is picked up promptly.

Warm, Dry Clothing for Outside Days

Just a reminder to parents, that students will be playing outside to get fresh air and exercise during recess and lunch most days. The only time they will be staying inside is when it is raining heavily or snowing heavily. As the days become colder, please make sure your child is wearing a warm coat and appropriate footwear as he/she will be sent outside to play.

In the event of snow, please tune in to your local radio station for updates on School Closures.

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 phone the school to report this 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.

****Parent Traffic Concerns****



At Cunningham, we all work together to ensure your children arrive at our school, and depart from our school, safely. This past year, we have noticed parents not complying with traffic signs along 37th Avenue and stopping their cars in the "NO STOPPING" zones, making dangerous U-turns in the middle of the street, and crossing in the middle of the street instead of using a crosswalk. Also please DO NOT use the lane behind the school for drop off or pick up. Please help us by modeling good traffic safety for your children – remember that you need to model good behaviour for your children as they will copy what you do!

Off-Site Assembly Area

Under almost all circumstances when parents would need to pick up students due to emergency events, the pick-up would happen at the school, either from the classroom or from the main field. In the very unlikely event of a need for students and staff to evacuate the school and leave the school site, the **designated assembly area for Cunningham is Norquay Park** (approximately 2 blocks East of the school at E. 37th Ave.), and this would be the location for authorized adults to pick up students. Please remember that to pick up students after an emergency situation (or simulation), those adults need to be on the school's list of authorized pick-up, and must have identification to show at Student Release.

PAC Meetings

The Parent Advisory Council is an important, integral part of our school community. As a parent of a student at Cunningham, you are automatically a member of PAC. Please come join us and help us provide the best learning environment for our students. Our next PAC meeting will be on Monday, February 26 at 6:30 in the Library.

ONLINE RESOURCES:

One of our school goals is to teach our students how to use technology for educational purposes. To support this goal, parents should be aware that we offer the following:

1. Raz-Kids – online reading program for up to Gr. 5 and ELL students – we offer it free to identified students
2. **Library Catalogue:** Do you know that the Vancouver School Board has a web catalogue that lists not only all the books in the Vancouver School District, but also a number of internet resources, including databases, ebooks, video clips, and newspapers?

To access the library resources, go to the website:

<https://library.vsb.bc.ca/>

Scroll down and click on "**GT Cunningham Elementary School**"

Click on "**Login**" on the right-hand upper corner of the webpage

Username: {type in their student number}

Password: student

In the databases, you will find a number of excellent resources, including:

- **BookFlix** – interactive storybooks, both fiction and non-fiction, for primary grades
- **World Book Encyclopedia Online** – students can do research or learn information about any topics they wish, includes videos and photos, and links to reputable sites
- **National Geographic Kids** – online version of their magazines, books, and videos
- **EBSCO** and **Academic Search Premier** – database of magazine articles and research papers
- **Starfall** – primary reading program
- **Vancouver Sun** and **Province** newspapers



Tumblebooks – Story books available FREE online 24/7

Do you have children who say they have nothing to read?

Do you have children who say "Oh, I forgot to sign out books from the library?"

Do you know that you can read books online through the Vancouver Public Library 24/7?

(Make sure you have a valid Vancouver Public Library Card – if you don't have one, now is the time to sign up for one!)

1. Go to: www.vpl.ca
2. At the top, under "Digital Library", click "eBooks"
3. Scroll down and select which Tumblebooks you would like (check out the first one for the great interactive picture books!) There are 3 choices: (1) Tumblebook Library, (2) Tumblebook Cloud Junior – Gr. 3 – 8, and (3) Tumblebook Cloud – Gr. 7 and up
4. The website will ask you for authentication. Type in the library code numbers on the back of your library card as well as your 4 digit PIN number (usually the last 4 numbers of the phone number you used to register the card)
5. Once it says "Success!", click on the **RED** words that say "your log in was successful"
6. Don't forget you can also check out the eBooks that are different from Tumblebooks.
7. Enjoy and Happy Reading!