

NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2018

Xpey' Elementary School

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IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR:

Friday, April 27	Professional Day – School not in session
Friday, April 27	New Principal starts: A warm welcome to Ms. Rose Mackenzie
Monday, April 30	Xpey's Got Talent Show – seating @ 1:45 p.m., show starts @ 2:00 p.m. in gym
Monday, April 30	Bake Sale! (thank you Division 1!) – after the Talent Show outside gym
Wednesday, May 3	Big One at Two: district-wide VSB Earthquake Drill @ 2:00 p.m.
Wednesday, May 16	PAC Meeting: 5:30 p.m. in library
Friday, May 18	District Closure Day – school closed
Monday, May 21	Victoria Day – Statutory Holiday – school closed
Friday, May 25	Choir Performance: Div. 1, 2, 3, 4: 2:00 p.m. in gym
Friday, June 1	Re-naming Ceremony 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.: please see invitation being sent home mid-May and/or on our website

NEW PRINCIPAL

Thank you to PAC for hosting a Meet and Greet session so parents could meet our new incoming Principal, Ms. Rose Mackenzie, who comes to us from Squamish Elementary in the Sea to Sky School District. Ms. Mackenzie talked about her experience as an administrator and her philosophy as an educator, and parents had the opportunity to ask questions. The evening of April 18 was greatly enjoyed by everyone!

STAFF CHANGES

In addition to Ms. Mackenzie joining us starting April 27th, it is our pleasure to announce the following:

1. Ms. Fiona LaPorte is now an Administration Assistant every Monday and Tuesday until the end of the school year. She will be responsible for various projects around the school, including the Re-naming Ceremony taking place on June 1st. Ms. LaPorte will also be working closely with Ms. Jessica Frederico who will now take over the Kindergarten class every Monday and Tuesday. Congratulations to Ms. LaPorte and welcome Ms. Frederico!
2. Ms. Deana Michel, Indigenous Education Enhancement Worker, has now joined our staff and will be coming in every Monday until the end of the school year. Welcome Ms. Michel!
3. Ms. Jennifer Sebastian has extended her current health leave. Ms. Barb Massis, our resource teacher, is now the full-time teacher for Division 1. Thank you Ms. Massis for agreeing to step in!

DOOR CLOSURES

We are trying to minimize walk-in traffic during after-school hours so we are now locking certain exterior doors at 3:20 p.m. Signs have been posted on these outside doors. The Pender Street entrance (cedar doors) and the daycare door will continue to be open for after-school and KidSafe programs.

XPEY' RE-NAMING CEREMONY UPDATE: FRIDAY, JUNE 1st @ 1:00 p.m. IN OUR GYM

Ms. LaPorte, Ms. Hughes-Slade, and our committee continue to work hard to make this a memorable and momentous experience for everyone as we transition from Macdonald Elementary to our new name, Xpey' Elementary School. A preliminary "Save-the-Date" flyer has been sent home and emailed out. Please be on the lookout for the final invitation which will be sent home mid-May. Please make sure you RSVP to this final invitation, so we have accurate numbers for our food order and the number of chairs needed. Hay chxw q'a!

XPEY'S GOT TALENT SHOW!

Come one, come all! Xpey' is having a talent show on Monday, April 30th @ 2:00 p.m. Early seating starts at 1:45 p.m. in our gym. You will be amazed at how talented our students are as they have been busy practicing both at school and at home! Thank you to Ms. Cayla Miller for organizing this special event for our students, Ms. Koch and Student Council for supporting this event, and to Ms. Massis, Ms. Dickson, and Division 1 for organizing the Bake Sale that will take place right after the performance. Thank you also to students and staff who have been helping behind the scenes in preparation for this special performance!

GRADE 7 GRAD FUNDRAISER RAFFLE

Take a peek at our front showcase for the wonderful prizes that could be won at this year's Grade 7 Raffle Fundraiser. Tickets will be \$1.00 each or 3 for \$2.00 and will be on sale starting Monday, April 30th. Thank you to Ms. Hughes-Slade, Ms. Dickson, Ms. Massias, and Division 1 for organizing this important fundraiser. We are still looking for donations, so check your cupboards and closets at home and bring donations to our office!

2018-19 GENERAL SCHOOL FEES

The 2017-18 School Fees notice sent home in May of last year stated that this school year would be the final year that school supplies would be purchased for a set fee by the school district and that starting in September 2018, parents would need to purchase items on their own.

Please note that the general school supplies fee will still be charged for the upcoming 2018-19 school year.

The Vancouver School Board will continue its service of purchasing basic school supplies in bulk at wholesale prices and passing the cost savings on to families. The School Supply Fee for 2018-2019 will remain at \$25.00 per student. This fee covers basic consumable school supplies used for students' personal use such as paper, writing tools, glue sticks, erasers, exercise books and art supplies. Supplies are provided for the full school year.

BIG ONE @ 2:00 (EARTHQUAKE DRILL): THURSDAY, MAY 3rd

Our staff are busy preparing for this district-wide Earthquake Drill that will be held on Thursday, May 3rd at 2:00 p.m. Thank you to all staff for helping us organize this important safety event! Your child will be taught correct evacuation procedures over the next few weeks. We will be having regular dismissal at 3:00 p.m. and all after-school programs will proceed as usual.

PAC MEETING

Our next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, May 16th @ 5:30 p.m. in our school library. Come and hear what's happening at our school, discuss important issues, and meet Ms. Rose Mackenzie, our new Principal! Babysitting will be provided.

SUNNY DAYS: SUNSCREEN AND HATS

We are hopeful that we see more sunshine and hot weather in May. However, we need to protect our children's health. Please remember to apply sunscreen and send hats to school to protect your child when they play outside on sunny days.

GARDENING CLUB – EVERY WEDNESDAY AFTER SCHOOL

The sun's out and spring is finally here! Come and join us every Wednesday after school from 3:10 – 4:00 p.m. We invite students and their families to help us beautify our school grounds!

CHOIR CONCERT: FRIDAY, MAY 25TH @ 2:00 P.M. IN THE GYM

Thank you to Ms. Jill Samycia from St. James Music Academy (not-for-profit organization), who has been coming to our school for the last five years to assist with our children's choir. Our talented students from Divisions 2, 3, and 4 will be performing the songs they have been learning on Friday, May 25th @ 2:00 p.m. Parents, guardians, families are all welcome to attend!

TRAFFIC CONCERNS

It has come to our attention that some drivers have been speeding along Pender Street before and after school. Please help keep our students safe by respecting the School Zone speed limits. In addition, it has been reported that cars are turning onto Pender Street from Victoria Drive. Please be aware that there is NO ENTRY to Pender Street from Victoria Drive. Thank you for your cooperation and consideration for the safety of our students!

Dear Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. My name is Rose MacKenzie and I have lived on the North Shore for over 30 years and taught in the Sea to Sky School district for 34 years. I feel extremely honored and privileged to be now working with the Vancouver School District and in particular Xpey' Elementary.

As an educator I have always been student focused and believe schools need to be places where children feel safe and that their learning has purpose and meaning. I consider myself a lifelong learner who is here to listen and to continue to build the community so evident already at Xpey'. I want to thank the staff and acting principals Ms. Joanne Dale and Mr. Steve Agabob for their guidance and support the past few months.

As we go into the final two months of this school year, I hope to meet as many of the families as possible and look forward in getting to know all the students. If you have any questions or wish to chat, please feel free to contact me. I welcome your input and queries.

See you soon - Rose Mackenzie



Hay chxw q'a,

Ms. Joanne Dale
Acting Principal

Mr. Steve Agabob
Acting Principal