

Newsletter #7 April 2017
LORD ROBERTS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Director of Instruction: Ellen Roberts School Trustee: Stacy Robertson
Principal: Henry Peters Vice-Principal: James Chamberlain PAC Chair: Sarah Honeyman
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International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program

DATES TO REMEMBER

Wednesday, April 12th - **PAC Meeting – 6:30pm in the Library**
Thursday, April 13th – **School Immunization Clinic**
Friday, April 14th – **Good Friday (SCHOOL CLOSED)**
Tuesday, April 25th – **Class Group Photo Day**
Monday, April 17th – **Easter Monday (SCHOOL CLOSED)**
Wednesday, May 10th - **PAC Meeting – 6:30pm in the Library**
Friday, May 12th – **Professional Development Day (NO SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS)**
Monday, May 22 – **Victoria Day – (SCHOOL CLOSED)**
Thursday, May 25th – **Spring Band Concerts (1:30 & 6:30pm)**
Wednesday, June 7th – **Early Dismissal 2pm**
Thursday, June 8th – **Early Dismissal 2pm**
Wednesday, June 14th - **PAC Meeting – 6:30pm in the Library**
Friday, June 23rd – **Sports Day**
Wednesday, June 28th - **Grade 7 Grade Ceremony – 9:30am & Boat Cruise (1:00 – 3:30pm)**
Thursday, June 29th – ***LAST DAY OF SCHOOL FOR STUDENTS* Talent Show, Year End Awards**

SCHOOL WEBSITE ADDRESS

Please check our school website for information and dates: go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/Roberts

ALBERT SCHWEITZER:

Constant kindness can accomplish much. As the sun makes ice melt, kindness causes misunderstanding, mistrust and hostility to evaporate.

It's all about learning, and "it is our collective responsibility to ensure we inspire student success by providing an innovative, caring and responsive learning environment" [Vancouver School Board Strategic Plan for 2016 to 2021]. We value strong relationships and open communication, we encourage and support the use of creative and innovative practices and we strive for excellence in everything we do. We value and celebrate diversity by supporting the well-being of everyone. Students should be encouraged to achieve their personal best in school, maintain a positive sense of self-worth and develop social responsibility. We, at Roberts, are focusing on building awareness and understanding of community values, of how actions affect others, and developing our reflective self-regulation skills while solving problems peacefully. We constantly strive to build awareness and appreciation of Aboriginal histories, traditions, cultures and contributions among students.

At ROBERTS, we are ready to learn, we show respect, and we are responsible for ourselves, our school and our world (Code of Conduct: 2016).

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

We are definitely feeling Spring-like with the coming of warm weather and all the blossoms on the trees. Our students continue to impress with all the learning they are engaged in and love showing off their projects, drawings, stories and artwork. We try to share some of their work in classroom, in our hallways and in assemblies. The gymnastics program begins this month (April); GymSense provides the program, and they always supply us with very skilled instructors. Once again, we thank our PAC for supporting this program. Track and Field is also starting up, and so far we have over 70 students participating. Track and Field is another great way to build up the general health and fitness of our students. We want to acknowledge all the coaches and parent volunteers who help run these programs. A big THANK YOU to our PAC who help support many wonderful learning activities and experiences.

April is the month in which the Vancouver School Board discusses next year's budget. Parents and families had opportunities to provide input into this process. We will provide more info on how families will be able to be a part of the budget process. The district once again faces budget deficits and continues to have to make some difficult choices, with the intent of keeping cuts away from students and classrooms.

Students in Grades 4 and 7 will also be asked to complete the on-line Satisfaction Surveys, which ask general questions about students and families school experience. The survey takes about 5 to 10 minutes. Translations for parents will be available in 16 languages.

School/Classroom organization for the school year 2017–2018

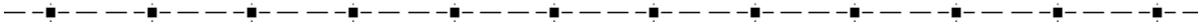
School organization will begin in earnest in the next weeks. This is a complex process with the many variables that come into play in determining the best classroom interactions between classmates, specific learning needs in different areas, social groupings, a balance of gender, a balance of those students requiring English Language Learner support and several other factors. This process is always done with much thought and great care, and with the projections for next year, this process will certainly have its challenges.

Combination classes are a reality and the placement of students into combination classes does not in any way reflect upon the academic ability of your child. As stated in the VSB's flyer on 'Combined Classes', "a combined or split class refers to a class that is made up of students from two or more grades... with one teacher teaching both curricula. It is important to know that students in combined classes are not held back to the level of the younger children nor are the children in the lower grade expected to do work beyond their abilities." Schools often create these classes in order to balance the educational needs of their students with the staffing they receive from Human Resources as well as with legislated contractual considerations. Please refer to this VSB document for additional information.

School organization is the responsibility of the Principal and Vice-Principal and follows district guidelines for the size and makeup of classes. Individual staff are assigned as well following district guidelines and contractual agreements. The process of organizing students into classes is a combined event, involving many conversations between the professionals at Roberts: classroom teachers, resource teachers and support staff. Final checks are done by myself and Mr. Chamberlain, and then the information is recorded by our Office Administrative staff, Ms. Morrison and Ms. Spirl. In respect of contractual agreements, we do not accept requests for specific teachers. If you feel your classroom teacher is unaware of a specific learning need of your child, please meet with them to discuss this. The final decision rests with the school and we need your support in this area. Thank you for your support as we strive to create the best possible learning environment for all of the students at Roberts.

Report Cards (Grades 3 to 7)

Report Cards will be going home on Thursday, April 13th for these students. They will be similar in format to the Kindergarten to Grade 2 reports which went home just before Spring Break. The intent of these is to provide a succinct snapshot of your child's progress at this time of year. There is no early dismissal at this time for conferences. The next early dismissal days are June 7th and 8th at 2 pm for all grades. As always, if you need to meet with your child's teacher for any reason you may call the office and leave a message for them to contact you or talk to them directly.



At times, critical incidents occur in elementary schools, and we would like to review our HOLD AND SECURE emergency procedure with our families.

HOLD AND SECURE means a partial lock down. As much as possible, normal classroom activities will continue. Staff and students will be allowed to move around within the school. THE OUTSIDE OF THE SCHOOL WILL BE LOCKED TO ALLOW MOVEMENT WITHIN THE SCHOOL, BUT NO ENTRANCE INTO THE SCHOOL OR EXIT FROM THE SCHOOL WILL BE ALLOWED. Please go over the HOLD AND SECURE drill with your children. Please feel free to ask questions about these procedures.

MEETINGS WITH TEACHERS:

Should you wish to meet with your child's teacher to discuss their progress please call the office to leave a message for the teacher and/or set up an appointment with them before or after school, you can do this at any time of year.

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

One of our goals for this year is Social Responsibility. As part of our focus in this area, teachers have been working with their students on teaching positive values to help them be socially, emotionally and academically ready to learn. Our focus is: **respect for others and modelling fair play** → respect for each other, respect for guests, teachers, support staff and supervision aides, respect for school property, and respectful behavior in the hallways.

ROBERTS' MUSIC PROGRAM

Ms. T welcomes and encourages students to participate in voluntary band rehearsals during lunchtimes on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at 12:35.

Roberts School: Allergy Awareness

Within our school community there are several students who have a potentially life-threatening allergy (anaphylaxis) to foods, predominantly to peanuts and tree nuts (e.g. almonds, cashews, hazelnuts, and pistachios).

TRAFFIC REMINDERS

Please remember: do not park or drop-off students in the staff parking lot. Also, when dropping off children, please drive EAST on Comox; this will allow you to drop off your children at curbside. If we all drive the same direction we will keep our students safer. Thank you.

YMCA of Greater Vancouver

Summer Break Camps

Spring Break is a time for kids to play, run, get outside and have fun with friends. For more than 100 years, the YMCA has provided camp adventures that help kids learn about themselves, grow in self-confidence and gain new skills in a safe and caring environment. From overnight camps with activities like archery, climbing, sailing and canoeing, to day camps full of out trips, arts & crafts sports and games-we have something for everyone. We hope you'll join us!

To learn more or register, visit:
gv.ymca.ca/camps



for Elementary, Secondary,
and International Students
summer.vsb.bc.ca



EXPAND your
horizons this summer



Over 15 000 students
enrolled each year
Over 150 courses offered

Elementary courses include:
Become a Foodie
Story-writing through Active Play
Weird and Wacky Science
Summer Olympics
Getting Ready for Grade 8

Secondary courses include:
Art Exploration
Automotive Design
Sport Skill Development
Video Game Design

**International Students will
have the opportunity to:**
Make new friends
Increase vocabulary
Put knowledge into action

Elementary Program Locations
KERRISDALE, 5555 Carnarvon St.
ERIC HAMBER, 5025 Willow St.
LAURA SECORD, 2500 Lakewood Dr.
MOUNT PLEASANT, 2300 Guelph St.
NOOTKA, 3375 Nootka St.
TECUMSEH, 1850 E. 41st Ave.
WAVERLEY, 6111 Elliott St.

Secondary Program Locations
CHURCHILL, 7055 Heather St.
DAVID THOMPSON, 1755 E. 55th Ave.
ERIC HAMBER, 5025 Willow St.
JOHN OLIVER, 530 E. 41st Ave.
PRINCE OF WALES, 2250 Eddington Dr.
POINT GREY, 5350 E. Boulevard
VANCOUVER TECH., 2600 E. Broadway

summer.vsb.bc.ca

