



Southlands School Newsletter

November 23, 2017—Volume 2



Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians of the Southlands School Community,

Happy November! As we move quickly through our fall months, we continue to celebrate our collective work and enjoy all that the season has to offer. During the past months many of our students practiced and participated in numerous cross-country meets. We're now into volleyball season with both girls and boys teams.

Students also dressed up and celebrated Halloween with pumpkins, safety reminders, and classroom special projects. Our safety patrol members are continuing to help keep us safe during the darker days of autumn and of course our numerous special lunch days continue to be an exciting part of our school week.

We have received many positive comments about the moving Remembrance Day Assembly presented by Divisions 4 and 5. We appreciated all of our families who were able to join us for the ceremony.

Many thanks to all the parents and staff members for making all of these events so successful! Collaboration between parents and staff benefits every student!

We are also delighted to be hosting 2 teacher candidates from UBC's International Baccalaureate Cohort. Please welcome Ms. Jacqueline Tevlin with Ms. Swain's grade 1 class and Ms. Paige Zeniuk with Ms. Prins' grade 2 class.

Sincerely,
Ms. Annie O' Donoghue,
Principal

Student Leadership Team

The Student Leadership Team has many members from grades 5, 6, and 7 this year. Students are planning fundraisers for charity, creating a format for communicating Southlands News and contributing in numerous ways to the school community, for example by being lunch and playground monitors and helping with lost and found items.

Music at Southlands

Our halls are resonating with the sound of beautiful music! The choir, recorder, flute and guitar groups are continuing to develop their talents. We have also had our talented Artists in Residence, Jason Nickel and Jay Esplana, teaching guitar to Intermediate students. In the Spring our Artist in Residence, Colleen Cotton, will teach an ORFF program with Xylophones,

Metallophones and Glockenspiels. She will also offer music workshops for Kindergarten students. Many thanks to our families who have supported our music programs financially, to Ms. Debora Broadhurst and Ms. Lisa Cogan who coordinate, and to our many parent volunteers who supervise students and enable these programs to flourish.

Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for children born in 2013 began on November 1st. All Kindergarten applicants are required to submit an application to their English catchment elementary school. This 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 Wednesday November 1st and closes at 4pm on Wednesday January 31st. Students who submit an application within this priority period will be accommodated before late applicants. For more information on registration please visit:

<http://www.vsb.bc.ca/school-registration>

Information Out of Catchment Registrations:

The Vancouver School Board has decided that since catchment students have priority for attending Southlands we should not be part of the Choice program draw. Out of catchment Families wishing to attend Southlands may submit a cross boundary application. Cross-boundary application period begins February 1, 2018; Cross Boundary forms are available in the school office in February.

Dressing for the Weather

Winter is almost here and the weather has changed! Students go outside to get exercise and fresh air most days unless the weather is absolutely horrible. Please check and make sure that your child is wearing suitable clothing to match the weather each day. We live in a temperate rainforest and there will be many rainy, cool days!

Program of Inquiry



Now that term one is well underway, students are busy inquiring into the central ideas and lines of inquiry for their current **units of inquiry**. Every year, students explore six units of inquiry, one for each of the six **transdisciplinary themes**: Who We Are, Where We Are in Place and Time, How We Express Ourselves, How the World Works, How We Organize Ourselves, and Sharing the Planet.

Our school's **program of inquiry** is posted in the

"Care for self, Care for others, Care for this place."

hallway by the main office and on the school's website. The Programme of Inquiry chart shows the **central idea** for each of the six units planned for every grade. Of course, the chart format is a simplistic way of displaying the Program of Inquiry, as it assumes there are no combined classes. If your child is in a combined class this year, they will cover some central ideas from one grade and some central ideas from the other. We ensure all six transdisciplinary themes are covered during the year and we adapt the units to fit the interests and abilities of the students in the class. Inquiry based learning focuses on skills and concepts, rather than specific facts and ideas, so there is no disadvantage to your child's learning if central ideas planned for one grade are covered in a different grade, as will be the case for combined classes. Your child's teacher will ensure the five **approaches to learning** (formerly transdisciplinary skills): thinking, social, communication, self- management, and research and the eight **key concepts**: form, function, causation, change, connection, perspective, responsibility, and reflection are explored every year.

Learner Profile

The IB **learner profile** is the backbone of the Primary Years Programme. "The aim of all IB Programmes is to develop internationally minded people who, recognizing their common humanity and shared guardianship of the planet, help to create a better and more peaceful world." (IBO.org) "The Learner Profile represents 10 attributes valued by IB World Schools. We believe these attributes, and others like them, can help individuals become responsible members of local, national, and global communities." (IBO.org) This year we will have a school-wide focus on the PYP Learner Profile, and each month we will focus on one of the ten learner traits. In the month of November we are focusing on communicator.

Communicator

For the month of November, we are focusing on the learner trait **communicator**. Communicators share their thoughts and ideas, listen to others, and ask questions. They express themselves "confidently and creatively in more than one language and in many ways. They collaborate effectively, listening carefully to the perspectives of other individuals and groups." (IBO.org) Communication skills are also one of the five sets of skills described in the approaches to learning.

At Southlands, we aim for students to be good communicators through the development of **listening, speaking, reading, writing, and non-verbal communication skills**. We want students to learn to:

. listen to directions, to others, and to

information

- . speak clearly, express their ideas logically, and share their opinions
- . read and understand a variety of sources for information and pleasure, make inferences, and draw conclusions
- . record information and observations, and present their ideas and information in a variety of formats
- . understand the meaning of non-verbal communication, including body language and facial expressions

Ask your child about the variety of formats we use at school to communicate knowledge and conceptual understanding, and you will hear about written reports, oral presentations, artwork, music, video productions, skits, and much more. You will also discover that all students are learning French, in order to be able to communicate in more than one language. Second language instruction is requirement of all PYP schools.

Here are some ways you can encourage your child's growth as a communicator:

1. Stay in touch with relatives and friends who live elsewhere by writing letters, using the phone, or sending emails.
2. Have your child to explain them math answers to you orally or by drawing a picture.
3. Ask your child thought provoking questions and encourage them to discuss them with you.
4. Work with your child to improve their listening skills, by taking turns during family discussions and responding specifically to what others have said.

DATES TO REMEMBER

Nov. 24	Hot Dog Lunch
Nov. 28	Subway Lunch
Nov. 30	Pizza Lunch
Dec. 1	Professional Development Day No School for Students
Dec. 6	PAC Meeting 6:30-8:00 pm
Dec. 8	Hot Dog Lunch
Dec. 11	Kindergarten field trip
Dec. 13	PAC Winter Social 5:45-7:45
Dec. 15	Pizza Lunch
Dec. 19	Subway Lunch
Dec. 21	Reports Home
Dec. 22	Hot Dog Lunch Last day before Winter Break

Southlands Elementary School
5351 Camosun Street
Vancouver, B.C., V6N 2C4
Phone 604-713-5414 Fax 604-713-5416
Website: <http://go.vsb.bc.ca/schools/southlands>

Southlands Principal: Ms. Annie O'Donoghue – 604-713-5414 VSB Area Superintendent: Rob Schindel— 604-713-5097
PAC Chair: Ms. Debora Broadhurst—southlands.elementary@gmail.com