



École Trafalgar Elementary School

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Principal: Mme Jacquie Lavoie

Vice-Principal: Mr. Sean Rupert

Administrative Assistant: Ms. Sukh Randhawa

Direction of Instruction: Mr. Aaron Davis

PAC Co-Chairs: Tracey MacLeod & Jessie Chen

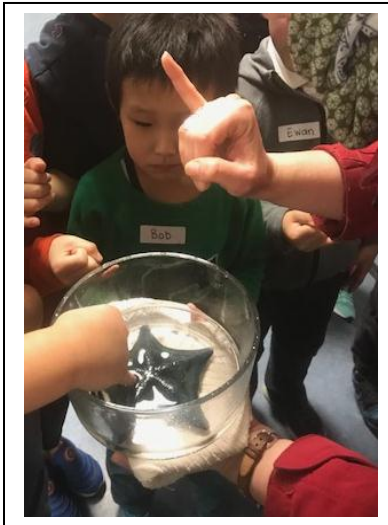
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Newsletter #11

Friday, February 2, 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Over the past two days, our students had the opportunity to participate in the AquaVan workshop put on by the Vancouver Aquarium. All divisions attended the one hour hands on workshop, where they got to touch a starfish, a sea urchin and a whale bone, as well as learn about the sea otter, polar bear and various other animals. A big thank you to the PAC for funding half of this workshop. The other half was funded by a one-time ministry Student Learning Grant. Thank you for your support in providing our students with this amazing opportunity. Thank you to Anne-Marie for organizing this event for our school.



All schools in Vancouver were fortunate to receive this grant. Other items Trafalgar purchased with these Student Learning Funds includes 6 Ipads for the resource team, a laptop for the French resource center, guided reading books, woodworking kits for all divisions snap circuit kits to teach about electricity and 2 BeBots robotics kits for the primary levels. Thank you for your ongoing support!

Sincerely,
Jacquie Lavoie
Principal

There off to Quebec

On Thursday, February 1, 26 of our Grade 7 French Immersion students, along with Mme Louise, Mme Nadine and Mr. Rupert left for Quebec to participate in a cultural exchange with l'école Polyvalente la Samare in Plessisville. The students and staff will be in Quebec for one week, and will have the opportunity to visit, with their twin, many historical sites, cultural events, participate in the winter Carnival, and visit the school.

This trip would not be possible without the support of the parents, who fundraised, as well as support from the staff. We thank them for providing the students with this once in a lifetime opportunity. We were also very fortunate to receive a federal grant from Experience Canada. This federal agency funds the cost of the flights. Students have been communicating with their twins and host families since December and were very excited to meet their twin. We know this is an experience that students will treasure for a lifetime. In May, our students will be hosting their billets and sharing with them our beautiful city.

French Immersion Kindergarten

A reminder that families with siblings, who are interested in the French Immersion Kindergarten program, **must** register for this choice program on-line by **February 5**.

Body Science Workshop for Students

Saleema Noon, Sexual Health Educator, is coming to Trafalgar. She will visit with all classes between March 6 and 8, where students will partake in a Body Science workshop. She will also hold a workshop for parents prior to her visit with the students.

Sex Talk. No Sweat. A Workshop for Parents

Not all parents are comfortable talking to their children about sex, but all parents can *learn to be comfortable*. During this open and informational session, parents will come to terms with sexual health, and understand how it fits into the lives of their children at this stage of life. Attendees will discover how to easily overcome embarrassment when talking about sexual health, learn words and concepts that are easy to use, and leave well equipped to clearly answer the questions children ask. The workshop is light hearted, but delivers straight and current facts on how parents and children can work together to promote good sexual decisions for a lifetime. Join us on **Tuesday, February 20 (6:30-8:00 pm)** for the workshop.

Pink Day Shirts

February 28 is Anti-bullying Pink Shirt Day, and once again Trafalgar will be participating in activities around this important topic. Student Council will be hosting an assembly that day with special guest Dr. Shimi Kang. On that day, Student Council invites all students, staff and parents to dress in pink in honour of anti-bullying. Need a pink shirt? We can help! Place your order for a pink shirt—only \$10. The shirts will arrive on time for our assembly. See the order form attached to the e-mail.

Sick Students

During this nasty flu season, we need your help in ensuring that sick children do not come to school. We are not able to keep children at school who are sick, and therefore appreciate your quick response when we call home for pick up. We thank you for your support in this regard.

Waste Free Lunch Plan for February

Dear parents, we excited to announce that as a part of our UNESCO Climate Change Focus this year, we are choosing one eco-challenge per month.

The challenge for February is waste free lunches. In our waste-filled lives, it's important to do what we can to decrease the waste we are contributing to the landfill. More and more schools are getting in on the act and requiring parents pack a waste free lunch. What does this mean exactly? Waste free means only packing items that can be composted and that won't end up in the garbage bin. That means, no plastic wrap, no foil, no zip lock bags and no packaged foods. If your child does have these items in their lunch, they will be asked to pack them up and bring them home.

Some helpful hints for a waste free lunch:

- sandwiches and other main dishes, fresh fruits and vegetables, and treats in a reusable lunch container or containers
- cloth napkins
- stainless-steel forks and spoons
- reusable drink containers
- reusable lunchboxes



Benefits of waste free school lunches include:

- less waste being produced and sent to landfill
- cheaper lunches, as food items bought in bulk are less expensive than pre-packaged products
- a reduction in waste collection and disposal costs to the school, as less waste is being generated by the school community
- providing students with a practical example of how simple behaviour change can easily address a widespread environmental issue
- promotion of environmental stewardship and advocacy within the school
- a cleaner school—research has shown that less litter is dropped in areas free of litter compared to areas where litter is more noticeable.

For more information check out

<http://www.metrovancouver.org/services/solid-waste/detached-homes/reduce-garbage-home/six-fix/Pages/default.aspx>

*** Important Dates ***

- **Wednesday, February 7:** PW Band to present @ 11:00 am
- **Thursday, February 8:** Grade 7s back from Quebec
- **Monday, February 12:** No school for Family Day
- **Monday, February 19:** No School for Professional Development Day
- **Tuesday, February 20:** PAC meeting @ 6:00-6:30 pm
Saleema Noon parent presentation @ 6:30-8:00 pm