

Victoria Cross Public School Newsletter

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Principal's Message

As I write this, winter seems to be making a comeback. The snow is falling and more snow is expected later this week. I don't know about you, but I am ready to see the tulips bloom in my garden.

I wanted to thank any parents that participated in the fundraising done lately. Gr. 7 students participated in a Harriston Meat fundraiser and Gr. 8 students recently sold plants in a spring plant sale.

We want to welcome the following new staff members:

Mrs. Checkley is replacing Mrs. Hendrick who is making improvements and on a return to work plan.

Mrs. Roantree is replacing Mrs. Walkling who got a full time contract in Guelph.

Mrs. Schneiders recently had a baby boy and is being replaced by Ms. Aitchson.

Mme Darroch is off on pregnancy leave and Mme. Stanisic is replacing her.

Mrs. Fletcher is our new 0.5 Educational Assistant.

Mrs. Girodat is now a 1.0 Educational Assistant at VCPS.

There are lots of new faces at VCPS.

Ms. Sims
Principal

Pizza Orders

If you have not done so, but wish to order pizza please note that it is not too late. Additional forms are available through the office or pizza may be purchased online.

Upcoming School Council Meeting

Our next School Council Meeting is Tuesday, April 12th at 6:30 PM in the Library. All are welcome.

Electives

For the past two weeks, School Council has organized electives for students in gr. 4-6 to participate in. Students have one week left of their elective. Electives have provided opportunities for VCPS students to learn about a variety of activities including: yoga, skin care, drama, pet training, cake decorating, mathematics, dance, scrap booking, lego, taekwondo, wood working, sports and more. The students have had a wonderful time working with volunteers and staff during these electives.

School Council would like to thank the following community members for volunteering their time to make this an exciting, learning opportunity for children:

Karin Sikkema (drama), Whitney Husnik (scrapbooking), Herb Gibson and Bev Wilken (woodworking), Dave Reeves (taekwondo), Brenda Harrison (skin care), Heather Reeves (yoga), Rick from Pet Paradise (pet training), Mickey G. (dance), Kevin Raffin and Ramond Langston (leather making), Chris Clark (creative Writing).

EQAO Testing Time

Provincial EQAO testing will occur this year for Grade 3 and 6. Students will be writing this assessment the last week of May and the first week of June. Further information will follow once dates have been confirmed. Please ensure that your child is well rested during the test and has had a good breakfast the morning of the test. We ask that you do not book any appointments for your children during this testing period.

Dates to Note

April 1 st	Hop for Muscular Dystrophy (K-2)
April 7 th	Last day of electives
April 8 th	Skills Competition in Guelph
April 12 th	School Council Meeting
April 14 th	Junior Basketball Tournament
April 15 th	Junior Basketball Tournament alt. date
April 15 th	Gr. 6, 7, 8 We Empowerment Trip
April 20 th	Gr. 6 Scientists in the Schools
April 20 th	New Kindergarten Transition Meeting (by invitation only)
April 21 st	Swim to Survive
April 25 th	PD Day
April 27 th	Grey Roots Museum Program Gr.
April 28 th	Swim to Survive
April 28 th	Intermediate Basketball Tournament
April 28 th	New Kindergarten Students Open House 6:00-7:30 p.m.
April 28-29	IPRC Review (by invitation only)
April 29 th	Primary Poetry Festival
May 2-6 th	Education Week/Book Fair

Education Week (May 2 – 6)

Education Week this year happens May 2 - 6. Plans are in the works for events at Victoria Cross. We will be hosting a Book Fair during Education Week and having an Open House during this week.

Getting Ready to Learn

Attention: Children who will attend Junior Kindergarten in September 2016 and children who will be new to Kindergarten (and parents too) are invited to attend an information night on Thursday, April 28 from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

“Getting Ready to Learn”
It’s time for School!
What should I expect?
How can I prepare my child for school?
How and what will my child learn?
How can I help my child learn?

Our principal and Kindergarten teachers will be in attendance to answer your questions.

Please note – this is an information session and “open house” for kindergarten. We would like parents and new kindergarten children to attend.

Concussions

Concussions can have a serious effect on a young, developing brain. Proper recognition and response to concussion can prevent further injury and help with recovery. Children and adolescents are among those at greater risk for concussions due to body trauma at any time.

Although falls and motor vehicle accidents are the major cause of concussions, physical activity and sports can also cause a concussion.

To address the risk of concussion and to assist parents and students to identify the signs and symptoms of concussion the Board is presenting free workshops to increase awareness.

Wednesday April 20 7-8:30 Westside SS, Library, 300 Alder Street, Orangeville
Tuesday May 10 7-8:30 at Norwell DSS, Library, corner of Main and Cumberland St.

Tree Growing

On March 30th, a representative from the Green Legacy program made a presentation about trees to our primary students. On this day, all primary classes were provided with tree seeds and planting kits. With support from the CELP class from Wellington Heights, our students planted the seeds. In June, their 'seedlings' will be collected and returned to the County greenhouses.

Me to We Update

On Friday April 15th students in grades 6, 7 and 8 will be attending We Empowerment day at the Center Wellington Sportsplex. This day is organized by the Student Council at Drayton Heights P.S.

This year four amazing speakers will be delivering messages during the day:

Chris Hadfield, Canadian Astronaut will be on hand to share his message about his five month stay in space and travelling almost 99.8 million kilometers while completing 2,336 orbits of earth.

Molly Burke, who at age four her world began to darken due to retinal disease that causes a loss of vision. Molly's message is that any challenge in life, whether it's bullying, mental illness, or a loss of vision, can be overcome.

Brian Price, battled leukemia at a young age and later became an Olympic Champion 25 years later. Brian believes that there is a champion in each and every one of us, and that we must continually strive for success. He will share his story to teach, inspire, motivate and illustrate to people that we are all capable of reaching the potential that lies deep within ourselves.

Sarah Smith, an Arthur Ontario native has travelled North America and Europe to share her incredible music talent. We are lucky to have her at We Empowerment day to share her gift with our students.

All students attending are asked to bring a non-perishable food item for the food bank.

2016-2017 School Year

At the beginning of June each year, staff meet to place students into classes. We base placement on Literacy and Math performance, Learning Skills, and at times positive/negative peer influences. The teachers always strive to place students into classrooms using this information as well as information such as who else is placed into a particular classroom. We strive in all classes to have a balance of students. At times, there are parents who wish to make requests. If you wish to make a request, please forward it to the principal, Karen Sims, in writing, and please state reasons for the request.

We are in no way promising that your child will be placed where you ask us to put them. We only promise to consider your request. Any request made must be done so by the end of May.

Chocolate Bar Sales

The March Madness chocolate fundraiser has been extended by two weeks to April 15th, 2016. We desperately need your help! We have waived the upfront cost of \$90.00. However, all boxes are given with the understanding that the box will be sold and returns will not be accepted.

The net proceeds from this fundraiser go towards the inclusive playground fund. A maximum of 68 cases will be sold and for each case sold, you receive a ticket for the grand prize draw: a gift card valued at a minimum of \$600 and a maximum of \$1,000.00 to Great Wolf Lodge. Even at the minimum value, the card covers almost all of the cost for a family of 4 for 2 days.

We are aiming to finish our fundraising drive this year so that we can build the playground in the upcoming academic year. This chocolate fundraiser could add a further \$2500.00 to our fund.

Please return the form below if you are able to help.

Yes, we would love to help fundraise for the inclusive playground.

Please send case of chocolate home with _____ in
student

_____. We understand that boxes are given with the
class / teacher

understanding that partial box returns are not accepted and that the full cash value
of the box (\$90) is expected to be returned by April 15th, 2016. We also understand
each box sold entitles our family a ticket in the draw for a Great Wolf Lodge gift card.

parent signature

phone number