

Simon Fraser Elementary School

100 West 15th Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5Y 3B7
Telephone: (604) 713-4946 Fax: (604) 713-4948

Ms. Sonia Hutson 604 713-4491
Associate Superintendent Central

Milana Christie
Principal

Ms. Jane Bouey (604) 713-5000
Trustee, Vancouver School Board

NEWSLETTER No. 8

April 16, 2010

Dear Fraser Families:

Possible change to Fraser's school status as a result of the Budget Proposal

I am writing to invite you to a very important PAC meeting next week on **Thursday, April 22nd**, at 6:30 pm. As you may be aware, a Draft Budget has been proposed to deal with the School Board deficit of \$ 18.12 million. One of the proposed reductions includes changing the status of 9 elementary schools, Fraser included, to Primary Annex. Please join us next week on Thursday to discuss the possible impacts this would have on the Fraser community. The trustees are seeking feedback on the proposed draft and this is our opportunity to provide a response as a community.

Parent groups across the city are alarmed at the impact this Budget would have on the quality of education in our schools. The PAC at Hastings Elementary is inviting all parents to a rally. **They are asking for a large presence to attract media and government attention!**

STUDENTS BEFORE STADIUMS Rally to Protest School Cutbacks

**Monday April 19th
7:30 - 8:30 a.m.**

**Meet at the Entrance to PlayLand on Hastings Street (at Windemere)
Bring your children and signs protesting Cuts**

As we approach the end of April, I am continually impressed by the variety of events going on at Fraser that nurture the emotional, social, physical and academic development of our kids.

- ◆ Students in Division 1 and 2 (grade 6 and 7) have just returned from three days at the North Vancouver Outdoor School, just north of Squamish. My thanks go out to Ms. Rudland, Ms. Miletic, Melissa, Jon and Mr. Brooks (William's dad) who accompanied the students on their outdoor adventure.
- ◆ Tony is once again readying the Track and Field team to reach for athletic excellence.
- ◆ Students in Grades 2 and 3 have been learning all about the salmon life cycle and are getting ready for the field trip to release the salmon into the wild.
- ◆ Students in grades 4 and 5, otherwise known as the Action-aiders (under the expert direction of Ms.

Adrian) have been teaching our younger students to play outdoor games.

Jump Rope for Heart will be happening on Monday, April 19th at 9 am. This event was postponed to the 19th to allow all of our students an opportunity to participate in the Stardust rollerblading. All students will be participating in the skipping, as it is an excellent way to promote heart health. Pledge envelopes were provided for those families who may wish to fundraise for the Heart and Stroke foundation, but having pledges is not a requirement for skipping. Skipping is a wonderful way to build community and school spirit for all of us. Students from the Student Council will lead the warm up.



Afternoon of Dance

This is a yearly event where over 900 students from a number of schools in the Vancouver School Board perform and show a love of dance. Students from around the city will be representing their schools and showcasing various styles of dance, including: folk, jazz, rhythmic, hip hop, interpretive and ballet. We wish Mrs. Goodearle and her morning Kindergarten students (Division 8) good luck as they will be representing our school at this event. They will be showcasing their dance at the April 26th morning Assembly.



The event is on Wednesday, April 28th from 1:00-3:30 at John Oliver High School (530 East 41st Avenue) Spectators are welcome!

Ready, Set, Learn

Families with preschoolers are invited to join us on Thursday, April 22nd at 11:00 for Fraser's Ready, Set, Learn Open House. Our Primary teachers will be opening up their classrooms for visitations and Shé, a marvelous entertainer will perform. The children will be given Shé's CD and a book. Our thanks go to Pam Girone for making the Library available to our Community Partners (Mount Pleasant Community Centre, Community Health Nurse, and others) who will set up booths to inform families of services available to them.



The RSL is an initiative by The Ministry of Education that provides elementary schools and local community partners opportunities to make early connections with families of preschoolers in the neighbourhood.

Intruder Alert; Lock Down Drill

As part of our safety procedures, your children will be involved in a lockdown drill on Thursday, April 29th. During the lockdown, the teacher locks the classroom door, closes all drapes and turns the classroom lights off. The children and the teacher gather on the floor in the area of the class that is furthest from the door. These procedures are done in case there is an intruder in the building who may pose a risk to the children and staff. We prepare the children well ahead of time in order to minimize apprehension about the serious nature of the drill.



Checking in at the Office

We are strongly urging parents/guardians to check in at the office if you need to be in the school during school hours. In addition to **safety concerns**, teachers are finding it very disruptive to instruction when family members show up at the door. Thank you for your support!

Grade 6 and 7 Off Site Lunches

Starting Friday, May 7th our Grade 6 and 7 students will have the opportunity to leave the school grounds on Fridays at lunchtime. A letter of agreement will be coming home on Friday, April 30th. Without this agreement signed by the student and the parent/guardian, the student will NOT be allowed to leave.



Summer School

The 2010 Summer School Registration Date, School Sites and Program Dates are now available to view online. Please direct all summer school inquiries to www.continuinged.ca.

ChildRun

Simon Fraser School is once again entering a team in the ChildRun. The ChildRun is on Sunday, June 6th at 9:00 a.m. All funds support the childhood cancer research and programs at BC Children's Hospital. You can register on line and be a member of the Fraser team by: logging on to www.bcchf.ca

- click on Events
- click on Childrun
- click on Register
- click on Simon Fraser
- password is fraser



Anyone wanting to train for the Run can join Tony after school on Wednesdays from 3:15 - 4:00.

Safe School Contact

As you may know, the Vancouver School Board is committed to ensuring that all students and families feel safe and included. One of the ways that students sometimes tease or discriminate is through homophobic language and remarks. This type of discrimination is included in both the BC Human Rights Code and our own school's code of conduct. To help students feel safe and included, the VSB asks all schools to have a Safe Contact teacher/staff member.

Our Safe Contact is Tony Ramsell. He teaches PE in the gym. His role as the Safe Contact is to help create a safe and inclusive school community for everyone here. Students, parents and teachers are welcome to come and talk to Tony if they are seeking support or resources about homophobia, sexual orientation or gender identity. These issues might include homophobic name-calling, teasing and bullying, and helping same-sex parented families feel welcome in the school community. The Safe Contact person can also help teachers and parents to find great books and resources that celebrate family diversity and respect.

Please do not hesitate to contact Tony if you have any questions or would simply like to introduce yourself! You can reach him by email at aramsell@vsb.bc.ca or drop by after school.



Track & Field

Practices are as follows:

Tuesday @ lunch	Grades 1-3	Relays & Sprints
Tuesday @ 3:15-4:15	Grades 4-7	Relays & Sprints
Wednesday 3:15 - 4:00	Grades 1-7	Kids Run training
Thursday @ 3:15-4:15	Grades 4-7	Field Events

A Note from Julie Archer - Primary Resource

It has been my pleasure to work with students, parents and staff at SFE this year. I would like to let everyone know that I will be taking a health leave at the end of this month. Thank you for welcoming me into your wonderful school community. I wish you all a terrific end to the school year. Julie Archer

Julie ~ Thank you for all your hard work and we wish you all the best! From the Simon Fraser Staff and Students

DATES TO REMEMBER:

April 19 th	Jump Rope for Heart	
April 22 nd	Ready, Set, Learn 11:00 - 12:00	
April 22 nd	PAC Meeting @ 6:30 Everyone is encouraged to attend!!!	
April 30 th	PAC Family Dinner 5:30 - 7:30	
May 5 th	Welcome to Kindergarten 11:00 - 12:00	
May 6 th	District Wide Earthquake Drill @ 2:00 pm	
May 12 th	Class / Team / Panoramic Photos	

Sincerely,

Milana Christie
Principal