



Vedder Elementary School Newsletter



February 2023

[Vedder Elementary School Website](https://www.sd33.bc.ca/vedder)

Tracy Wagner, Principal – Tel 604-858-4759 - tracy_wagner@sd33.bc.ca

Sharilyn Mordaunt, Vice-Principal - sharilyn_mordaunt@sd33.bc.ca

Hello Vedder Families,

Welcome to February! We are well into our 90-day goal of focusing on **improving our literacy skills**. Our classrooms are abuzz with small-group reading instruction, interactive read-alouds, partner reading, buddy reading (older and younger students paired up), literacy centres, writing conferences, outdoor learning journals, author shares, and so much more! In addition, we have a newly unveiled Writing Studio where students first use hands-on materials to depict stories, then develop oral language skills by describing the stories to peers, and finally transcribe their stories into writing. The Writing Studio has been very popular and the students are loving it! We continue to encourage our parent community to join us in doing everything possible to boost our children's reading, writing, listening, and speaking skills by Spring Break.

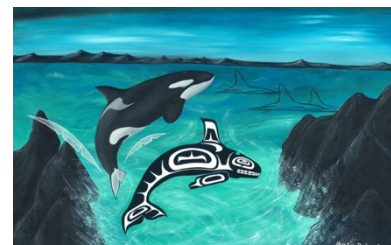


Our character focus for the month of February is

Personal and Cultural Identity taught to us by ORCA.

ORCA teaches us:

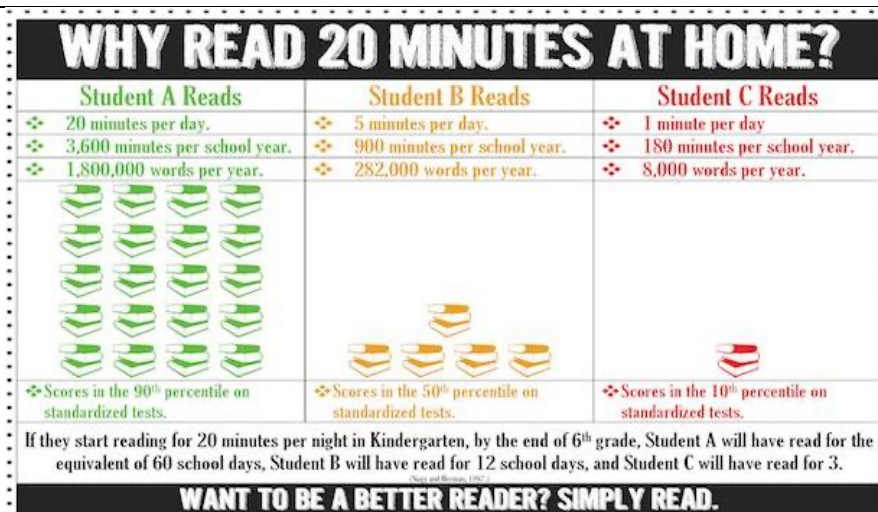
- I recognize things I am good at
- I identify things I can improve
- I value the differences of other people



Thank you to our parents and our staff for being partners in learning. Together, we will help our students further develop “kind hearts and curious minds”.

Warmly,

Mrs. Sharilyn Mordaunt, Vice Principal

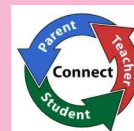


Counsellor's Corner

Did you know that attendance at school has a significant effect on student achievement? Mrs. Karreman, our school counsellor, has provided a poster that outlines the importance of consistent attendance and strategies that you can do at home to improve attendance. This poster is attached to the bottom of the newsletter.

Communicating Student Learning

As part of our commitment to enhance communication between school and home, and to involve parents/guardians as partners in their child's learning, we will be offering opportunities for you to conference with your child's teacher on February 16. Following the dismissal of students at 11:05am, teachers will be available to meet with parents/guardians from 11:05-12:00 and 12:45-2:05. Watch for further information from your child's teacher.



Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration for the 2023 -24 school year is now underway.

If your child will be five (5) years of age by December 31, 2023 and you live in our catchment, please register @

<https://sd33.vivosforms.com/Form/StudentApplication?p1=2023-2024>

AD Rundle Middle School Integrated Arts and Technology (IAT) Program

If you have a child in Grade 5 and would like more information about the Integrated Arts and Technology cohort offered at A.D.Rundle, there are two parent information nights coming up. See poster attached below for more information.

- Thursday February 2 @ 6:00 on Zoom. To register, click [here](#).
- February 7 @ 6:30pm in person at AD Rundle Library.

Math Mania!

Coming Soon!! **Math Mania** returns to Vedder Elementary on Wednesday, February 8th! Our gym will be transformed into a fairground of mathematical / logical puzzles and games. This fun-filled event, hosted by UVF, is open to all Vedder Bears and their families.



Mark **February 8th from 6:30-8:00pm** on your calendars - this an evening not to be missed!



Candy Grams

VEDDER BEARS! It's time for Valentine's Day Candy Grams! Send a special treat to family, friends, and staff. Details are going home with students this week. **Orders are due Thursday February 9.** Candy grams will be handed out on Tuesday, February 14.

Reusable Book Fair

On February 14, 15, and 16, Mr. Hodgins' Grade 5 class will be hosting the first annual **Reusable Book Fair!** Thank you for all the donations that have been brought in so far. Book donations will be accepted until Friday, February 10th. Every book available at the book fair will be sold for \$1. All proceeds will go towards funding our amazing lunch program.



School Spirit Day – PINK SHIRT DAY

Wednesday, February 22, is PINK SHIRT DAY! Vedder Bears have Kind Hearts and Curious Minds, and Pink Shirt Day is a day we celebrate our commitment to have Kind Hearts to everyone!

Canuck Place Cookie Day – February 22

Mrs. Parker and Mrs. Guthrie's Grade 1 class will be organizing a cookie fundraiser for February 22.

100% of proceeds will go to Canuck Place, and BC dairy is matching donations this year so that will double our contributions! **Cookies will be sold for \$1 each on Wednesday, February 22.** Money and orders will be collected the morning of Feb 22. There will be a limit of 1 cookie per person but donations to Canuck Place will also be accepted. Cookies will be nut free.

Thanks for your support!



Cereal Box Challenge

What is a cereal box challenge? It is a challenge to Vedder students to bring a box of healthy cereal to school between February 16 and March 16. On March 16, the entire school will gather to watch the maze set up of cereal boxes run throughout the school hallways. At the end of the event, the boxes of cereal will be donated to our school breakfast program and the food bank.

School-wide Pottery

Thank you to our PAC for providing the opportunity for our entire school to participate in pottery making classes! The students are painting their projects this week and it is exciting to see their masterpieces come alive with colour!



In-School Sports:

- Our **Vedder Hockey League** has started up and has created a great deal of excitement at lunchtime amongst our Grade 4 & 5 students!
- **Grade 5 Friday Floor Hockey** continues to run until Spring Break.



Inter-School Sports:

- Thank you again to Ms. Carmichael and Mrs. Derksen for volunteering to coach both the **boys and the girls triple ball teams**. The wrap-up tournament was this week and our students represented Vedder very well!
- Thank you to Mrs. Parkes and Miss Loura for volunteering to coach our **basketball teams**. Practices will be starting in the next couple weeks and inter-school games will begin at the end of the month.

Chilliwack Chiefs Tickets

Thanks to Chilliwack FC for sponsoring Vedder Elementary! Watch for school emails and Facebook posts about when to enter a lottery draw for tickets to the Chilliwack Chiefs Hockey games. ☺

Movie Night Cancelled for February

Sadly, we are still waiting on backordered parts for our gym projector. We will need to cancel our Movie Night for this month. Stay tuned, hopefully we will be up and running again soon. Sorry for the inconvenience.

School Closures for February

- February 16 – Early Dismissal @ 11:05
- February 17 – Professional Day
- February 20 – Family Day Holiday

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting – February 21

Vedder Elementary PAC welcomes all families. Please join our **PAC Facebook group** [Vedder Elementary PAC](#) for all things Vedder Elementary School related. We keep things updated and bring you information that will help us all along through the school year.

If you are a parent or guardian of a child at Vedder Elementary, then you are a member of our PAC. PAC Meetings provide the space for our parents and school Administration to come together and discuss the many ways that parents can support our students and our school. There are limitless ways that you, as a parent, can help our school, not to mention that it's a fun way to connect with other parents.

Next PAC Meeting will be on February 21 at 6 :30pm via Zoom



Up and Coming

February

Feb 1 – Pottery Painting (8:05 - Irving, Wojcik; 10:15 - Bates, Richardson)
Feb 2 – Pottery Painting (8:05 - Hodgins, Monchalin; 10:15 - K.Hurley, Fast)
Feb 2 – Grade 1s walking to post office at Shoppers Drug Mart
Feb 3 – Pottery Painting (8:05 - Parker, Cosby; 10:15 - Wood, Loura)
Feb 8 – Math Mania! (6:30-8:00pm)
Feb 9 – MDI (Middle Years Developmental Index survey) – Grade 5s
Feb 10 – Pottery Painting Catch-up for those who were absent (9:30-10:30)
Feb 10 – Hot Lunch
Feb 14 – Candygrams
Feb 16 – Grade 4 Student Learning Survey
Feb 16 – EARLY DIMISSAL (11:05)
Feb 16 – Communicating Student Learning: Parent/Teacher Conferences (11:05-12:00, 12:45-2:05)
Feb 16 to March 16 – Cereal Box Challenge
Feb 17 – District Professional Day. SCHOOLS CLOSED TO STUDENTS
Feb 20 – Family Day Holiday. SCHOOLS CLOSED
Feb 21 – Skating: Kindergartens – 8:15-10:00
Feb 21 – Skating: Grade 2s – 8:45-10:30
Feb 21 – PAC Meeting
Feb 22 – Pink Shirt Day
Feb 22 – Canuck Place Cookie Day (\$1/cookie)
Feb 23 – Skating: Grade 3s – 8:15-10:00
Feb 24 – Hot Lunch
Feb 24 – DEAR (Drop Everything And Read)
Feb 27 – Grade 1 Salish Seasons presentations
Feb 28 – Kindergarten Salish Seasons presentations

2 Posters Attached Below:

1. Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early
2. AD Rundle Integrated Arts and Technology (IAT) cohort



Help Your Child Succeed in School: Build the Habit of Good Attendance Early

DID YOU KNOW?

- Starting in preschool and kindergarten, too many absences can cause children to fall behind in school.
- Missing 10%, or about 2 days each month over the course of a school year, can make it harder to learn to read.
- Students can still fall behind if they miss just 1 or 2 days every few weeks.
- Being late to school may lead to poor attendance.
- Absences and tardiness can affect the whole classroom if the teacher has to slow down learning to help children catch up.

Attending school regularly helps children feel better about school—and themselves. Start building this habit in preschool so they learn right away that going to school on time, every day is important. Eventually good attendance will be a skill that will help them succeed in high school and college.

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Set a regular bedtime and morning routine.
- Lay out clothes and pack backpacks the night before.
- Keep your child healthy and make sure your child has the required shots.
- Introduce your children to their teachers and classmates before school starts.
- Develop backup plans for getting to school if something comes up. Call on a family member, a neighbor or another parent.
- Try to schedule non-Covid-19 related medical appointments and extended trips when school isn't in session.
- If your child seems anxious about going to school, talk to teachers, school counselors and other parents for advice on how to make your child feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- If you are concerned that your child may have Covid-19, call your school for advice.
- If your child must stay home due to illness or quarantine, ask the teacher for resources and ideas to continue learning at home.

Revised October 2021

When Do Absences Become a Problem?



Note: These numbers assume a 180-day school year.

Visit Attendance Works at www.attendanceworks.org for free downloadable resources and tools!



Now Accepting Applications
for Grade 5 Students

A.D. RUNDLE MIDDLE SCHOOL INTEGRATED ARTS & TECHNOLOGY COHORT

Is your
student?

**Inquisitive?
Innovative?
Creative?**

**An Out of the Box
thinker?**

**Has an interest in arts,
technology, and
design?**

Are they?

Do they?

**Thrive in innovative,
creative, and multi-
disciplinary learning
settings?**

**PARENT NIGHTS
COMING SOON!**

**VIRTUALLY ON ZOOM
FEBRUARY 2ND @6:00PM**

TO REGISTER CLICK HERE:
[IAT VIRTUAL TOWN HALL](#)

**IN PERSON
FEBRUARY 7TH @ 6:30PM AD RUNDLE LIBRARY**

REGISTER HERE:
[IAT IN PERSON TOWN HALL](#)

QUESTIONS?

CONTACT
MRS. SALVINA SHARP -
PRINCIPAL
SALVINA_SHARP@SD33.BC.CA
OR
MRS. SARAH GAMBOA -
VICE PRINCIPAL
SARAH_GAMBOA@SD33.BC.CA