

G.P. VANIER FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER



Important Dates

Feb 3 – 6	Grad Photo Retakes (Sports Centre)
Feb 5	Bursary/Grad Parent Info Night 6 pm
Feb 12	G.P. Vanier Band District Showcase 6:30 pm
Feb 14	Canadian Improv Games Jr. Finals 7 pm
Feb 15	Canadian Improv Games Sr. Finals 7 pm
Feb 17	Family Day – No Classes
Feb 18	Non-Instructional Day – No Classes
Feb 20	Course Selection Info Night 6:30 pm MPR
Feb 25	PAC Meeting 6:30 pm
Feb 26	Gr 9 Immunizations
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March 3 – 7	Parent Contact with Teachers Week
March 5	FLEX Day
March 7	Bursary Application Pkg Due 1:00 pm
March 15 – 30	Spring Break
March 31	First Day Back

NEWSLETTER CONTENT

FEBRUARY

News From SD71.....Workshops/Health

Grad 2025..... Important Dates

Grad Class Attire Program.....Dates and Booking Info

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Vanier Athletics.....Team Updates

MYED Parent Portal.....Login Info

Parent Volunteers..... Form Info

Calendar..... February Updates



News From SD71



Comox Valley Schools Robotics71 teams take home top awards at Highland

Comox Valley, B.C. – Comox Valley Schools recently hosted the second VEX V5 competitive robotics tournament of the season at Highland Secondary, where 18 teams from Victoria, Salt Spring Island, Port Alberni and the Comox Valley, competed for trophies and bragging rights over this year’s “High Stakes” robotics challenge.

Winning the Top Excellence Award was Robotics71’s team 7842-F, comprised of Benoit Vaillant, Zane Radawiec and Laurian Blachford, for achieving the best overall robot design and winning performance in the competition arena.

Winning the first place Tournament Champions Award was Robotics71 team 7842-Z, including members Mikayla Roddam, Connor Gallagher, Ira Turner, Sebastian Graham and Liam Bugslag, which they shared with their strategic alliance partner 1022-R from Claremont Secondary. Team-Z also won the Innovate Award for their imaginatively novel approach to robotics design.



Alliance teams 7842-F and 7842-S consisting of members Josh Moller, Brandon McDonnell, Caelan MacKenzie and Mika Doehre brought home second-place tournament finalist trophies. Team-S also won the Build Award, for the best attention to detail in designing a robot that will best stand up to the rigors of competition.

Special thanks to the many sponsors, teachers, parents/guardians and volunteers from throughout the island who make this exceptionally rewarding STEM learning experience possible for these students. Many former Robotics71 students have gone on to compete at the World Championships, have won top scholarships and now lead successful careers in the tech sector.

Coming up February 7-9, three Robotic71 teams will be competing at the National “Mecha Mayhem” signature event being held at the Saddledome in Calgary, Alberta. If you happen to see them around the valley at one of their fund-raising events, stop and have a chat with these inspirational rotoeers and check out some of their brilliant autonomous creations.



Comox Valley Schools

Careers Program Survey

It's vital that we prepare students for their careers. Please share your thoughts with us about how schools are accomplishing this important work.



To complete the survey scan here:



- Dual Credit programs
- Trades programs
- Careers events
- Careers/work experience
- K to 12 learning resources and programming

Learn more

www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/career-programs/

 [Survey Link](#)

EducationPlannerBC Live Learning

If you are looking to register for Tuesday, **March 4, 2025**, please click [HE](#)

Come explore our [website](#)! Search thousand of programs, get to know trades, and discover career paths. Find helpful resources, including financial aid options, admission requirements, FAQs, and the Glossary. Learn how to create an account, save programs, paths, and careers to My List, and apply to post-secondary in BC.

These sessions are open to anyone interested in learning about post-secondary education and career planning, and will be especially helpful for high school students in grades 10-12, parent and student supporters, adult learners, high school counsellors, teachers, and career advisors.

All registrants must be 16 years of age or older. If you are under the age of 16, registration must be completed by your parent or legal guardian.

Please note: This session will not be recorded. Participant microphone, camera, and chat functionality will be disabled. Your name and/or email address may display in the session based on the account options you have set up in your Microsoft Teams.

Email support@educationplannerbc.ca with questions.

Collection Notice

Your personal information is being collected by EducationPlannerBC under Section 26(c) and 26(e) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act to facilitate your registration in an EducationPlannerBC event.

Should you have any questions about the collection of this personal information please contact:

*Executive Director, EducationPlannerBC
Email: info@educationplannerbc.ca*

CONNECT & LEARN WITH US!



Coffee & Connection

Are you a parent or caregiver interested in connecting with other parents about child/youth mental health topics?

Join FamilySmart's Family Peer Support Workers Carolyn and Megan for snacks, coffee and connection. These events are for parents/caregivers only. FamilySmart does not provide childcare, but you can arrange childcare directly with the Lewis Centre.

Cost: Free

Register: familysmart.ca/events/

Drop-ins are also welcome.



January/February Dates & Topics

Thursday, January 23 - Parenting Kids 9-12 When Their Mental Health Makes It Harder

Thursday, February 6 - Parenting Teens When Their Mental Health Makes It Harder

Thursday, February 13 - Say Don't Say: the language we use to talk with our kids about mental health

Thursday, February 27 - Self Care and Mindfulness When Parenting

Time: 9:30 - 10:30 AM all events

Location: Lewis Centre, Craft Room A, 489 Old Island Hwy, Courtenay

Questions?

Email megan.watson@familysmart.ca or phone (250) 890-2393.

familysmart.ca

CONNECT & LEARN WITH US!



In-Person Community Events for Parents & Caregivers

Location: Mark Isfeld Secondary (Multipurpose Room) 1551 Lerwick Rd, Courtenay

Date: Wednesday, February 5, 2025

Time: 6:30 pm - 8:00pm



For Families: A Conversation About Eating Disorders

Knowing how to help our kids who are experiencing an eating disorder can be a terrifying, isolating and overwhelming experience. Learn about disordered eating, what to be aware of, the importance of connection, and strategies that help support recovery.

Join us as Victoria Keddis hosts a conversation with Eating Disorders Therapist & Educator Carmen Kauffman, and Rylee McKinlay, a young person with lived experience, and Terri McKinlay, a parent with lived experience.

This video presentation will be followed by a facilitated discussion by the Family Peer Support Workers in the Comox Valley.

Cost: Free

Register at: familysmart.ca/events

Questions?

Email: megan.watson@familysmart.ca or phone/text: 250-890-2393

familysmart.ca

ONLINE EVENT

Circle of Security Parenting Program for Parents and Caregivers

For families whose kids are starting Kindergarten in the Fall of 2025.

At times all parents feel lost or without a clue about what our child might need from us. Imagine what it might feel like if you were able to make sense of what your child is really asking from you.

The Circle of Security Parenting® program is based on decades of research about how secure parent-child relationships can be supported and strengthened.

Using the Circle of Security Parenting™ Model, this program helps families to:

- Understand your child's emotional world by learning to read emotional needs
- Support your child's ability to successfully manage emotions
- Enhance the development of your child's self esteem
- Honor your innate wisdom and desire for your child to be secure



DATE: Weekly on Thursdays between Feb 27 - April 10 (7 weeks)

TIME: 11:30am - 1:00pm

LOCATION: Online via Zoom

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: February 14, 2025*

* Free, and registration is required.

FACILITATOR: Carolyn McCarthy, COSP Facilitator and Family Peer Support Worker, ICY Comox

QUESTIONS: carolyn.mccarthy@familysmart.ca or call: 250-890-2391

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR CODE.



With gratitude, FamilySmart would like to acknowledge that this event is being offered by the Integrated Child & Youth Team in the Comox Valley



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DATE: Weekly on Wednesdays between April 30 - June 19 (7 weeks)

TIME: 6:30pm - 8:00pm

LOCATION: Online via Zoom

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: April 11, 2025*

** Free, and registration is required.*

FACILITATOR: Carolyn McCarthy, COSP Facilitator and Family Peer Support Worker, ICY Comox

QUESTIONS: carolyn.mccarthy@familysmart.ca or call: 250-890-2391

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO REGISTER, SCAN THE QR CODE.



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Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities

Everyone Welcome!

** Please click on the specific date you would like to register for.*

[February 4](#)

[February 26](#)

[March 12](#)

[April 8](#)

[May 7](#)

Family Sessions

These sessions were designed to support families and caregivers in navigating the digital world.

Recommended for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up as a way to facilitate the conversation of safe and caring use of technology at home and in the community. (60 minute session)

This session covers all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sexting/sexortion.

Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed.

Families will learn:

- Digital media habits, oversharing, and digital addiction
- The permanence of online posts/activity
- The significance of your digital tattoo in how others perceive you (e.g., sports teams, college admissions, and potential employers)
- The importance of caring for peers both online and offline
- Geo-locational settings and the dangers of social media and cell phone misuse
- The social and legal consequences of cyberbullying behaviour as well as possession and distribution of intimate images (sexting and sextortion)
- An anonymous student reporting tool that can help you and your friends stay safe both online and offline

erase | **EXPECT RESPECT &
A SAFE EDUCATION**



**Children
of the Street**

Children of the Street is hosting a Keeping Kids Safe Online workshop on February 7th from 12:00 to 1:30 pm. This is a 60-minute interactive workshop designed to help parents, caregivers, and community groups better understand how to help children stay safe online.

Some of the topics covered throughout the workshop include:

- **Online sexual exploitation**
- **Red flags of luring and grooming**
- **Sextortion**
- **Child sexual abuse materials (CSAM)**
- **Peer to peer exploitation**
- **App literacy, a review of today's most popular kids' platforms**
- **How to talk to children about online sexual exploitation Safety tips**
- **Local resources**
- **How to seek help**

To register, click [HERE](#)

If you have any questions about this workshop, please email destanee@cvts.ca





IMPORTANT DATES

- * Feb 3, 4, 5, 6 – Grad Photo Retakes**
- * Feb 5 - Bursary/Grad Parent Info Night 6 pm MPR**
- * March 7 – Bursary Applications Due 1 pm**
- * May 14 – Grad BBQ 5:00 pm**
- * June 25 - Grad 2025**



Grad Attire Information

The **Grad Attire Program welcomes all grade 12 students in Comox Valley Schools to have the opportunity to wear a gown or suit on graduation day without the financial burden of purchasing a brand-new outfit for their milestone event.**

***All clothing and accessories are free of charge**

The Grad Class Attire project will operate out of Comox Valley Dodge at 278 North Island Highway (Old Canadian Tire building) on the following dates from 10:00 am – 3:00 pm:

Saturday, February 8th

Saturday, March 8th

Saturday, April 12th

Saturday, May 10th

You can book a fitting appointment using the following [link](#).

If you have any questions or would like to donate to the program, please contact:

Kelley Giorgianni [kelley.giorgianni@sd71.bc.ca](mailto:kelly.giorgianni@sd71.bc.ca)

Susan Quinton susan.quinton@sd71.bc.ca

GRAD 2025

Grad Attire Program

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR THAT SPECIAL
OUTFIT FOR GRAD

*Book an appointment to find the right fit
scan the QR code*



No Cost to Grads

SCHOOL SUPPLIES



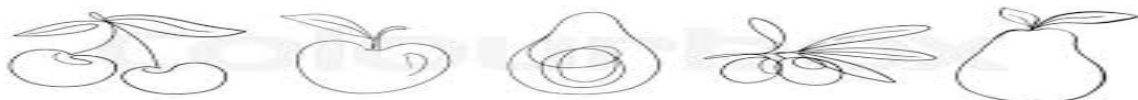
The school has extra supplies available for students now and for second semester. Please have your student talk to any of their teachers, or check in with the main office to see if they have the item(s) you need. Available items include, paper, pens rulers and file dividers.

Friday Food Bags 2025



We have a Friday Food Bag Program where student/families can get a small bag of groceries each week.

We are committed to having this available for all students and families who need it. If you are interested, please call the office to sign up.



Student Drop-Off and Pick-Up

Student drop-off and pick-up continues to be a problem on Vanier Drive, Glacier Drive and surrounding areas. Please be mindful of students crossing the road, vehicles pulled over dropping off students and bike traffic. A reminder that the speed limit near schools is 30km/hr.



News from the Counselling Office

Vanier Scholarship and Bursary Program



The Vanier Scholarship and Bursary Program opened on Friday, January 31st, 2025. There will be a meeting for grade 12 students at 9:30 am on Wednesday, Feb 5th in the MPR to explain the application process.

Application packages are due in the counselling office by Friday, March 7th at 1:00 pm. Late forms, please visit [HERE](#)

The Vanier Scholarship, Bursary & Student Loan Newsletter is available on our school website for grade 12 students who are starting to research ways to pay for their post-secondary education. Click [HERE](#)



Any students interested in attending NIC Fest on Thursday March 13, 2025, be sure to sign up by March 1st in the career's office. We will be taking groups of students by bus for the event. It is open to grade 11 & 12's.

To book an appointment click [HERE](#)



January was an exciting and action-packed month for athletics at our school! Basketball season kicked back into full swing, with our junior and senior boys' teams proudly hosting two major tournaments. Both teams put on impressive performances, finishing 3rd in their respective home tournaments. A definite highlight of the month was the electrifying Saturday matchup between Vanier and Isfeld, which brought a packed gym to its feet. The game, a back-and-forth battle, was decided in the final seconds, leaving the crowd buzzing with excitement. Daily basketball games continue to fill the gym after school, with practices running late into the evenings.





Meanwhile, our district wrestling team successfully hosted a province-wide tournament, drawing strong participation and showcasing exceptional organization. The ski and snowboard team also hit the slopes, with racers competing every Monday as they embrace the winter season.





With over 200 athletes competing across our winter sports teams, the school remains a hive of activity before, during, and after school, as our students dedicate themselves to their passions for athletics.





Here's to another month of sportsmanship, determination, and success!







Parents, are you on MYED?

Our student system, MyEducation BC, is a great resource for parents.

You can access:

- **Your child's schedule**
- **Your child's assignments, completed and outstanding**
- **Your child's attendance**
- **Teacher email addresses**

If you have not accessed your account before, please contact susan.quinton@sd71.bc.ca to help set up your account.

If you have an account but have not used it for more than three months, you will need to request a new password.

Please note, as this is a Ministry of Education website containing confidential information, passwords need to be changed every 3 months.



If you have any concerns, please contact your child's Administrator. Administrators work on the last name alpha system:

Principal – Julie Shields julie.shields@sd71.bc.ca

Dave Mayert (A-G) david.mayert@sd71.bc.ca

Jennifer Fritzsche (H-N) jennifer.fritzsche@sd71.bc.ca

Erica Black (O-N) erica.black@sd71.bc.ca

School Counsellor:

Katherine Brach (A-G) katherine.brach@sd71.bc.ca

Stephanie Morris (H-N) stephanie.morris@sd71.bc.ca

Jocelyn Schultz (O-Z) jocelyn.schultz@sd71.bc.ca

Youth and Family Support Worker:

Sherry Patterson – sherry.patterson@sd71.bc.ca

To Book an Appointment Click [Here](#)



If you are planning on volunteering for field trips or sporting events, drivers MUST complete the following:

Volunteer Driver Form

Click [Here](#)

Criminal Record Check

Please contact:

susan.quinton@sd71.bc.ca

Code of Conduct Form

Click [Here](#)

Driver's Abstract

Copy of Driver's License

Proof of Insurance (1 million 3rd party liability)

If you are planning on volunteering as a coach or chaperone, you MUST complete a Criminal Records Check

***Code of Conduct forms must be signed before participating in any sport.**

***Criminal Record Checks are held for 5 years in our database and may be accessed by other schools in the district.**

