

POINT GREY SECONDARY

NEWS & EVENTS

Dec 13, 2019

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www.pointgreyparents.org



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Message from Mr. Akrap, our Principal

Season's Greetings from Point Grey Secondary! On behalf of all staff, I would like to wish each and every one of you much 'comfort and joy' during this time of year. Elves have been busy decorating our halls, classroom doors and lockers to commemorate this festive time of year. The colours, lights and themes used do wonders to create a safe, caring and peaceful environment for our students, staff and guests. We have many fun activities planned before we head into the break, like our Winter Concerts, Square Dancing, Ugly Sweater Day, Improv Challenge and more! The Superintendent has even invited our very own chamber choir to perform next week at the VSB Holiday Luncheon in the head office. We also have two larger events happening next week; our Parent Teacher Conference on Tuesday, December 17th and the 40th Anniversary of the Point Grey Mini School on Thursday, December 19th. The next week will prove to be a busy one but we will enjoy every minute of the celebrations.

Message from Celeste Pante, our Vice Principal

Thank you to the Point Grey community for a fantastic four years – it has been an absolute pleasure. I can't think of a better staff, student and parent community to have started my role as vice principal. Wishing you all a wonderful holiday season and a great start to 2020.

We need your help!

Point Grey Food Drive – last day to donate Dec 18th!

Throw an extra can of food while you're at the grocery store and send it to school with your child. The student council is busy collecting cans for the food bank- please bring a can or donation (cheques made out to Vancouver Food Bank Society).

Donations can also be left in Mr Mey's (Room 408), cheques can be dropped at the office and left with Ms Chang in the office.

Let's help the students win the Canley Cup again this year for most donations from a school!

The Vancouver School Board and Vancouver Coastal Health are co-presenting two upcoming parent/caregiver education workshops.

1. **Anxiety in Children and Youth:** What you see, impacts on family life, impacts on functioning, helpful and unhelpful responses, school supports, community treatment options. On Thurs. Jan. 16, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, at L'Ecole Bilingue Elementary School, 1166 W. 14'th Ave. Light refreshments will be provided. To register: <https://anxietyinchildrenandyouth.eventbrite.ca>
2. **Responding to Challenging Behaviour:** Parents and caregivers will gain an understanding of behavioural theory, prevention, crisis development, do's & don'ts and strategies, with a Q & A period. On Thurs. April 2, 6:00 - 8:00 PM, at L'Ecole Bilingue Elementary School, 1166 W. 14'th Ave. Light refreshments will be provided. To register: <https://respondingtochallengingbehaviour.eventbrite.ca>



Hosting Japanese exchange students in February

Once again our annual trip to Japan was an amazing experience! Highlights of this whirlwind trip included visiting the Sensoji temple in Tokyo's Asakusa area; riding the Shinkansen (bullet train) to Kyoto to visit the Nijo-jo Castle, Fushimi Inari-taisha shrine and the Golden Pavilion (see photo); making ramen and eating okonomiyaki; buying lots of Japanese snacks; and power shopping in Tokyo's Harajuku and Shibuya districts. But for many of our students, the best part of the trip was the four days that they were billeted with Japanese families in Yokohama where they were able to

experience true Japanese life and hospitality.

Next February, twenty senior students from our sister school will be visiting Vancouver and doing the same sort of homestay as our Point Grey students did. This means that we are looking for host families to help billet one or two of these Japanese students from February 7 - 12 (see attached letter). Since a field trip has already been planned for the Sunday and the Japanese students attend Point Grey classes on the Monday and Tuesday, host families will only have one free day to spend with their billet. Please note that this opportunity is open to all Point Grey families not just to those whose children participated on this year's trip.

If you can help out and are able to host a Japanese student, please complete the attached application form and either submit an electronic or hard copy to Sean O'Connor (soconnor@vsb.bc.ca) or Mara Benson (mbenson@vsb.bc.ca) at Point Grey. If you have any further questions please feel free to contact them via email. **Deadline to apply is December 15.**

Useful Information from DPAC

- Active Transportation: The board [VSB] passed a motion asking staff to review active transportation safety at schools at the November 25th board meeting.
 - "IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT the Board directs staff to work with City of Vancouver to prepare a report and recommendations for improving transportation safety in Elementary and Secondary school zones, while actively promoting walking or rolling (including bicycles and mobility devices) to schools."
 - The board chair will also write to other levels of government informing them of the board's goals and inviting their participation.

- The City of Vancouver has started a multi-year engagement process to determine a roadmap for a "**Vancouver Plan.**" They currently have a survey open to understand who you are and what Vancouver means to you with the intention to use this information to create a plan that reflects the aspirations, hopes and dreams of all who live, work and play here. <https://vancouverplan.ca/>
- As part of the **provincial government's on-going efforts to ensure Childcare BC** is meeting the needs of families, they have created a survey with questions on your familiarity and experience with existing Childcare BC programs including how you find out about and secure child care, and your opinions on issues that may inform future programs and services. This survey is for parents who have any formal care for their children up to age 12 by someone other than a parent or guardian. This confidential survey should not take more than 15 minutes to complete and will be open until January 17, 2020 <https://feedback.engage.gov.bc.ca/678234/lang/en/>
- The Ministry of Education wants to know more about your experience with the **Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)**. <https://www.awinfosys.com/surveyfull3/minofed/main/FSAParent.asp>

Upcoming Calendar Dates

- Tues, Dec 17
 - Early Dismissal
 - Parent – teacher conferences
- Wed, Dec 18
 - Late Start
 - Last day to donate to the Food Drive
- Thurs, Dec 19 – Pick up gift cards, school office
- Fri, Dec 20 – last day of class before Winter Break
- Mon, Dec 23 - Winter Break
- Mon, Jan 6 – First day back to class (Day 1)
- Jan 23/24 – Canadian Charter of Human Rights event hosted by PG Law students, parents invited – watch this space for more information

Bi-weekly Newsletter submissions accepted until Wednesday 5pm the week of the newsletter, info@pointgreyparents.org More information can be found on <https://www.pointgreyparents.org>

We are grateful to live, work & learn on the unceded, ancestral territories of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil Waututh Nations.