



# Vernon Secondary School

*“Pride on the Hill”*

## Principal's Report

It is hard to believe we only have a few weeks left to this school year and they will be busy ones. We have the year end assembly next week on the 14<sup>th</sup> and then of course we have GRADUATION! The Awards Ceremony is at 1pm on June 27<sup>th</sup> in our gym. Families will be contacted if your child will be receiving an award. Our graduation ceremony is taking place on June 21st at Kal Tire Place and will begin at 4pm sharp. Anyone can attend this event and no tickets are required. This year's graduating class consist of very mature, accomplished, and sophisticated students. Parents and guardians of the Grad Class of 2024 should be very proud of their accomplishments.

Supergrad is taking place at VSS on June 22nd and is only for those students who are graduating and their approved guests. Families can attend the prom and stay for the first two dances. Due to limited seating please keep your numbers to a maximum of 4 per graduate. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our grad parent executive for their hard work to make sure our graduating class has a wonderful and fun filled evening to celebrate their accomplishments.

Finally, the last day of classes is June 25<sup>th</sup> and course completion days are June 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. Teachers will contact families if your child is required to attend course completion days.

I wish you all a very safe and relaxing summer and I look forward to working with you again in September. Please read below about all the exciting things our students have been involved in and our new cell phone policy that will be introduced in September.

Lynn Decker  
Principal

## Fees

Please remember with the end of the school year approaching school fees are now overdue. Please visit the office to pay any overdue fees. If you are sending a cheque, please write your child's name and the reason for the payment on the memo line of the cheque. Please contact Ms. Tobler in the office if you have any questions about school fees or athletic fees. We take cash or cheque only at the office. Payment can also be made online through your MYED account for student fees. Please be reminded that students owing athletic fees for extra curricular activities will not be able to try out for a sports team next year until all fees are paid.

## EXAM EXPECTATIONS

Assessments are being held on June 24<sup>th</sup> and June 25<sup>th</sup>. Students are expected to be in class for the entire time the exam is taking place. **Please respect our exam times and do not phone the office to have your child excused from class once their exam in finished.** This is not only disruptive to the class and those students still working on the assessment, but it also puts a huge demand on our office secretaries who are also extremely busy with year end work. Please have your child bring a book or some other quiet form of entertainment until the exam period is finished. Summer is just around the corner....

# AWARDS RECOGNITION

This year we are recognizing our students for their accomplishments on Thursday, June 27<sup>th</sup> at 1pm in our gym. Parents/guardians will receive a phone call from a VSS staff member just prior to that day if their child will be receiving an award.



## Book Challenge Winners!

1st place - Alex Smith, VSS Commemorative Bookmark & 3 giant chocolate bars

2nd place - Nicholas Kozin, VSS Commemorative Bookmark & 2 giant chocolate bars

3rd place - Aubre Mann, VSS Commemorative Bookmark & 1 giant chocolate bar

Dear VSS Parents/Guardians,

Vernon Secondary is committed to bringing unique learning opportunities to our students and we are pleased to remind you of our free reading service providing digital books through OverDrive (<http://vss.lib.overdrive.com>).

### Why OverDrive?

The OverDrive collection is an online extension of VSS's physical library, with 24/7 access to eBooks, audiobooks, and streaming video. It's convenient for students to check out titles at home, on the weekends or during school breaks with no worry about misplacing a book or running up late fees – these digital titles automatically return at the end of the lending period!

OverDrive can help students of all ages read more and improve comprehension. Struggling or reluctant readers, learning-challenged, second language learners, and gifted readers can all benefit from this service.

- Enrich vocabulary and improve comprehension and pronunciation
- Introduce students to books above their reading level
- Teach critical listening
- Help busy kids find time to read

### How does it work?

To use OverDrive, students browse our secure custom website, borrow [with UserName = student#, password = school network password], and enjoy anytime, anywhere on a computer, tablet, smartphone or eReader. VSS recommends the Sora App for all your mobile devices (<https://www.overdrive.com/apps/sora/>).

Whether a student's interest lies in study guides, classics for required reading, or the latest popular juvenile or young adult fiction, they can find it all in the digital collection through OverDrive at [vss.lib.overdrive.com](http://vss.lib.overdrive.com).

**Where can I find more information?**

Visit us in the VSS Library, or send us a question at [VSS\\_Library@sd22.bc.ca](mailto:VSS_Library@sd22.bc.ca), or use the links (for AudioBooks and/or eBooks) on the VSS Library Learning Commons site (<https://vss.sd22.bc.ca/library>).

Sincerely,

Mark Bendall, VSS Teacher-librarian

Flora Evans, VSS Library-assistant

# Climate Action Ripple Effect

Sustainable Futures 12 was a new class at VSS this year. The students in this class participated in the Climate Action Ripple Effect program, which was sponsored by the district. Their task was to complete a project that helps our community mitigate the effects of climate change, or helps us adapt to climate change. After working for 2 months on these projects, students presented them at the Climate Summit, which was held on Tuesday May 28<sup>th</sup>. Our students did extremely well, earning 1 silver medal and 2 gold medals. Kai and Dominik won silver for their project on FireSmart Education, in which they prepared a presentation for elementary school students. Paola won gold for her Vertical Gardens for Urban living project, which demonstrated an inexpensive and space-saving method of growing one's own vegetables. Also winning gold was Tyler Wyonch, who did a feasibility and cost analysis study on putting solar panels on the roof of VSS. Honourable mentions go to Liam and Andi for their project on glacial melt, and Aiden for his project on Medicinal Herb Gardens.



## VSS DRAMA

We're back from a very successful provincial drama festival where VSS students took home award honours for best direction, best script writing (both Chloe Giroux), and outstanding performance (Mina Nadeau). Thank you to PAC and THE OKANAGAN LEARNING FOUNDATION for helping to make this incredible event possible for us by providing us with funds to help with travel. It's true to say we couldn't have done it without you!



**Please make sure you come to watch "Zombie Prom" on June 13<sup>th</sup> or 14<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.**

# Cell Phone Policy at VSS



Starting in September BC school districts will be required to restrict cell phone use “bell-to-bell” in all schools-

While there is no province-wide policy, individual schools will implement guidelines to minimize cellphone interruptions during class time.

VSS will have Cell Phone holders in all classrooms and students are required to either put their phones in these holders or leave them at home or in their lockers. No exceptions will be made to this policy for all students in grades 8 – 12 at VSS. If students are concerned about their phone then it is suggested that they leave it at home as we are not responsible for phones.

VSS staff appreciate your support with this new policy as we aim to create a safer and more conducive learning environment for students. 😊

Note: VSS is not responsible for any personal property brought to the school and all devices/money and valuables should be left at home or stored in a safe place.

## Congratulations to the VSS Students who participated in RCMP Academy:

- Dawson Harrison
- Dimitri Anderson
- Hudson Kuhn
- Jace Collard
- Simon Pyefinch



## **Euro Trip 2026**

Mr. Hirschhorn is excited to announce that the planning for the VSS 2026 Euro Trip has begun. This trip will see participants visit five countries (France, Germany, Switzerland, Italy, and Austria) with some of the highlights including stops in Paris, Strasbourg, Heidelberg, Lucerne, Verona, Venice, and Munich. The twelve-day trip will allow students to visit such sights as the Eiffel Tower, Palace of Versailles, Gothic cathedrals, castles, ride in a gondola, get to the top of a Swiss mountain, spend a solemn morning at a concentration camp and of course explore the local cuisine and shops. While the exact price is undetermined, as inflation has increased costs, it is projected to be below \$6000 per student participant. The price includes return flight to Kelowna, a 24/7 tour director, accommodations, all breakfasts and dinners, a train ride, tips, transportation on a tour bus, various city guides, entrances into various sites and the cost of other activities.

Students wishing to apply to participate in this trip must be in grade 9-11 for the coming school year (2024/25), be enrolled in a second language, and be in good standing with the school. Parents may be able to participate if there is room, but priority will be given to students. In addition, the parent price is about \$1300 more than the student price.

There will be an informational meeting for students and parents at 7:00 on Thursday, September 12, 2024, in the VSS Theater.

## **Upcoming Events**

<b>June 14<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Year End Assembly B Block</b>
<b>June 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Grad Student Meeting at 10:30am REQUIRED</b>
<b>June 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Grad Rehearsal @ KTP 3-5 pm Grads must get their own rides to and from</b>
<b>June 21<sup>st</sup></b>	<b>Graduation Ceremony KTP 4pm</b>
	<b>Locker Clean Out</b>
<b>June 22<sup>nd</sup></b>	<b>Grad Prom and Super Grad</b>
<b>June 26<sup>th</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Course Completion Days</b>
<b>June 27<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Awards Ceremony 1pm – parents welcome</b>
<b>August 26<sup>th</sup> – Aug 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>Counsellors at VSS to work with students on schedules</b>
<b>September 3<sup>rd</sup></b>	<b>School Opens</b>