



Vernon Secondary School

"Pride on the Hill"

Principal: Lynn Decker

VP: Andrew Affleck

Counsellors: A – L Stari Tupper

M-Z Sumeet Parmar

February – March Newsletter

Are You Ready . . . for Chimo Days ?!!!!

Our annual CHIMO Spirit Week runs March 9 - 13th. The goal of this VSS tradition is to bring together all students and staff focusing on fun and building community. This year's events and activities offer something for everybody. Our commons and gym will come alive with events such as, Just Dance, Ping Pong, Ultimate Chess, All Out Foosball, Extreme Charades, Arm Wrestling, Darts, Dodgeball, Cupcake Challenge, and the VSS Talent Stage. Come out and enjoy a free pancake breakfast in the commons on the Wednesday of Chimo week. A ton of prizes will be given out for our daily dress-up themes. The enthusiasm demonstrated by students and staff during the week is simply amazing. Thank you to our staff, community donors and sponsors for their continued support of this fantastic school spirit event.



DRAMA

Drama students are busily preparing the play Archetypes for The Goodwill Shakespeare Festival in Kelowna. The three day event brings theatre students from across the province to learn from professional artists and showcase their own work.



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Bard on the Beach Fieldtrip - September 2026

The English Department is excited to offer a field trip to Vancouver in mid-September 2026 to attend a live performance of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* at Bard on the Beach, held at Vanier Park. This overnight experience will give students a unique opportunity to enjoy high-quality theatre in a beautiful outdoor setting. Spaces are limited, so interested students should be ready to sign up in the Spring. Don't miss this chance to immerse yourself in Shakespeare's world!

Visiting Author - Brian Thomas Isaac

Some of Ms. Jacob's Semester 2 classes are in for a treat as celebrated Okanagan author Brian Thomas Isaac visits to share insights from his acclaimed novels *All the Quiet Places* and *Bones of a Giant*. Known for his powerful storytelling and rich Indigenous perspective, Isaac will discuss not only the cultural lens that shapes his work but also the craft of writing itself—tackling topics like overcoming writer's block, finding the right words, and expressing ideas with clarity and heart. It's a rare opportunity to hear directly from one of the region's most compelling literary voices.

MATH DEPARTMENT

Calling All Problem Solvers! Waterloo Math Contests Are Coming!

Do you like puzzles? Patterns? Challenges that make your brain do backflips (the fun kind)? Then it's time to put your math skills to the test in the University of Waterloo Math Contests. These contests are open to all students in Grades 8–12, and they're a fantastic way to stretch your thinking, build confidence, and be part of something exciting with students across the city and country.

Contest Dates

Grade 8: Gauss Contest — May

Grades 9–11: Fryer, Galois, Hypatia Contests — Wednesday, April 1

Grade 12: Euclid Contest — Tuesday, March 31

Team Math Competition

And that's not all! We will also be sending some teams to the Fulton Team Math Competition in May. If you enjoy working collaboratively and tackling big challenges together, this is for you. Why would someone participate? Challenge yourself in a new way, experience creative, non-routine math problems, represent our school, and have fun with friends who like a good brain workout! You don't have to be a "perfect" math student — just curious, willing to try, and ready to think. You must sign up to participate, so if you're interested, please see Mrs. Reid in Room 309. Come be part of the challenge! Let's show what VSS can do!

LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

On March 14, 2026, five VSS students will be flying off to Frankfurt, Germany to begin their 10-week exchange to various cities, towns and villages in the German state of Rhineland-Palatinate. In the fall of 2025, these students hosted a German partner in their house for the same period. The German students arrived in late August and returned at the beginning of November and now almost 6 months later, the VSS students, as well as ten other students throughout the province, get to experience daily life and school in Germany. While attending school, the students will improve their German, learn about German culture and make memories for a lifetime.

This province wide exchange program has been in existence for over 40 years and runs in partnership with the Ministry of Education in Mainz, Germany. You do not need to be taking German at school to participate; you just need to be in good standing with the school, going into grade 10, 11 or 12 next school year and passing all your classes. However, taking German would be an asset.

If you are interested, please visit the BCHLA website at <https://www.bchla.ca/> for more information.



Thank you to the Vernon Fire Department for the generous donation of \$1000 to our breakfast program. Your continued support is so appreciated.



Alexandra Whibley
Gr 12
Blanket Glacier
Oil on Canvas

Upcoming Events:

Feb 18th	Grad Parent Meeting 6pm
Feb 23rd – 24th	Grade Assemblies
Feb 24th	PAC Meeting 5:45pm
March 2 – 3	Course Selection
March 4th	Grade 12 Mission Impossible
March 5th	Grade 9 Immunizations
March 9 – 13th	CHIMO Days!
March 11th	Euro Trip departs
March 14th – 29th	Spring Break
April 8th	Grade 7 parent meeting 6pm
April 15th	Grad Parent Meeting 6pm
April 16th	Parent/Teacher/Student Conferences
April 22nd – 24th	Literacy/Numeracy Assessments
April 28th	PAC meeting 5:45pm