



**Parent Advisory Council Meeting
Principal's Report
Valleyview Secondary School**

November 19, 2019

New on Staff:

- Jeremy McMullen (SS)

What has been happening at Valleyview Secondary:

- Dr. Halbert and Kaser from UBC are working with school inquiry teams again this year right across the District. Jaymi Daniels and Cailey Martin were part of a panel of educators that showcased their inquiry work. For these two teachers, they talked about their blended course of Band and English 9-10.
- Remembrance Day assemblies went really well! Ms. Daniels and Ms. Magliocchi put on 6 assemblies in total which included one for parents to attend. The focus this year was on the contribution of women as nurses to the war. This was well received and demonstrated just how much the skill of the drama and music



- groups have developed! Way to go!!!
- All students at VSS participated in a fire drill in early November to try out a dual muster point evacuation configuration. This was to try out a new protocol for when our school's fields are temporarily out of service in the spring when construction starts. The evacuation went fairly smoothly and the school was evacuated in a timely manner!
- Numeracy and Literacy 10 provincial assessments were completed during the week of November 4-8. Students wrote one or both of these depending on whether they were

taking English or Math this semester. This is a compulsory assessment that must be completed in order to graduate. More information on this assessment can be found on our website under the Parents & Students tab in the Provincial Assessments folder. There will be another session this school year in the week of April 13-17.

- A Valleyview 50th Anniversary committee has been established to look at how we would like to celebrate this important milestone in the spring this year! If you would like to be involved with this committee, please let Barb Hamblett know and we will make sure to invite you to our next meeting!
- November 27 we will be revealing the concept plans for the new addition to VSS. At lunch hour PAC is welcome to come by and take a look with staff at where we are with plans now that the consultation is finished. Lunch will be available. We will then be thinking about how we can make the plans accessible to students.

Mark on your calendar:

- Nov 20: Term 1 Report cards home
- Nov 27: Lunch hour Concept Reveal of our new addition
- Nov 27: FLEX day
- Nov 25-29 & Dec 3-5: Grad Photos
- Dec 2: Professional Development day (Focus will be on Indigenous Education)
- Dec 11: FLEX day
- Dec 20: Last day of classes before holiday break

Our School Goals this year:

These school goals are something that the staff and I are committed to working on this year, and in order to do that, we will be meeting in small groups on Thursday mornings while students are in FLEX block. These goals are based on international research from the OECD which is an organization that looks at influencing factors on economic development. I think many would agree that how well our students do in school really will have an impact on the Canadian economy. From this research then are our goals:

1. **Putting learners at the centre:** This means we are working at designing learning environments that focus on students' cognition and growth. It means exploring inquiry-based and co-operative learning experiences and it means developing self-regulated learners
2. **Building horizontal connections:** This means we are working at designing learning environments that focus on the core competencies that focus on thinking, communication and personal and social awareness that can be transferred to other new situations. It also means connecting the classroom environment to the wider environment and society.

One example of how we are working towards our school goals:

Ms. Daniels and Ms. Martin have combined forces to really put their learners at the centre and build some powerful horizontal connections.

In speaking with the music students, many indicated that they felt a sense of community when they were together and wished they had the opportunity to play in the band all year because it was something they loved to do. Starting with this premise, year long band in grades 9-12 was combined with English 9-10. Both courses alternate from day to day and students are learning both subjects through similar themes like the civil war!

Ms. Daniels and Ms. Martin are hopeful that students will gain a deeper understanding of what they are learning about in class as well as a closer connection with each other because they have two classes together throughout the whole year! They are using inquiry to learn more about whether students are truly seeing more meaningfulness in their studies as well as whether this blend is helping to build connectedness to each other, the school and the community around them.

Stay tuned, (ha-ha) as there will be more information shared with you during this unique journey!