

G.P. VANIER DECEMBER NEWSLETTER



Important Dates

Dec 8 - 12	Grad Photos – Multi Purpose Room
Dec 9	Winter Concert 6:30 pm in the Gym
Dec 10	FLEX Day
Dec 10	Winterfest 6 – 9 pm in the Gym
Dec 19	Winter Assembly am
Dec 20 – Jan 4	Winter Break

Jan 5	First Day Back
Jan 12 – 23	Assessments
Jan 14	FLEX Day
Jan 20	PAC Meeting 6:30 pm
Jan 23	Quarter 2 Ends/Semester 1 Ends
Jan 26	Non-Instructional Day – No Classes
Jan 27	Quarter 3 Begins/Semester 2 Begins
Jan (TBD)	Bursary Program Opens to Students

NEWSLETTER CONTENT



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Grad Winterfest – Casino Night

The Grad Winterfest – Casino Night planning has begun. This event, for Grads and their parents, will take place on December 10th from 6 pm to 9 pm. There will be Casino games as well as a DJ, photobooths, desserts, appetizers and much more.



Parents have been contacted via email and have the opportunity to sign-up for various duties to help support the events of the evening. We are gathering prizes for our grads and raffle prizes. If you would like to make a donation to the raffle table, please connect with Erica Black at erica.black@sd71.bc.ca

Thanks and appreciation will be given to all sponsors during the Winterfest event.

CLASS OF **2026**

IMPORTANT DATES

- * Dec 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 – Grad photos in the MPR**
- * Dec 10 – Winterfest 6:00pm – 9:00pm**
- * Feb 4, 5, 6 – Grad photo retakes**
- * May 7 – Grad BBQ 5:00pm**
- * June 3 – Grad softball game at lunch**
- * June 15 – Grad pancake breakfast**
Grad rehearsal to follow at 9:30am
- * June 24 – Grad 2026**



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:

Monday, January 19th

3:30pm – 5:45pm

Saturday, January 24th

10:00am – 3:15pm

Monday, February 23rd

3:30pm – 5:45pm

Saturday, March 14th

10:00am – 3:15pm

Monday, March 16th

3:30pm – 5:45pm

Saturday, April 18th

10:00am – 3:15pm

No Cost to Grads

Please visit [here](#)





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

Susan Quinton susan.quinton@sd71.bc.ca



Vanier Sports

The fall season is winding down, and we had some great results at the island and provincial level including:

- * 2 Volleyball Teams at the Island Championships Sr Girls (7th), Sr Boys (1st)**
- * 1 North Island Champion Volleyball Team – Jr Girls**

Winter Teams for this year include:

- * Basketball – Gr 8, Gr 9, Jr, Sr Teams**
- * Wrestling Team**
- * Ski and Snowboard Team**

Basketball has started up and they are preparing for the December start of the season. Wrestling is also underway with Mr. McKee working at Vanier with students from throughout the district. Our Ski and Snowboard team, headed by Mr. Armstrong and Mr. Erikson, have started their team meetings and will be on the slopes soon.





The Senior Boys Volleyball Team hosted the 3A Island Championships and, for the first time in 15 years, captured the title and qualified for provincials.

Well done!







INTRODUCING A NEW NON- INSTRUCTIONAL DAY FOCUSED ON INDIGENOUS LEARNING

A new Non-Instructional Day focused on Indigenous Learning will take place on Friday, May 15, 2026. On this day, teachers and staff will engage in professional learning centred on Indigenous histories, cultures, and ways of knowing.

This initiative reflects the district's Truth and Reconciliation Commitment and aligns with Design Principles in our Strategic Plan.

The addition follows a change to the provincial school calendar regulations, which now requires all school districts to dedicate one professional learning day each year to advancing Indigenous student success and strengthening understanding of Indigenous perspectives.

Read more and provide feedback [HERE](#)



Reminder to Review Safe Riding Rules

Please review the district's [Safe Riding Rules](#) for school bus transportation. Note: Parents/guardians are required to acknowledge this document during busing registration. We also reference it consistently in busing communications. The Safe Rider Rules can also be found on the district's [Student Transportation webpage](#). Bus supervisors are working with bus students how to safely approach the bus when it arrives.

Guest passes:

This continues to be a “no” due to full capacity of most buses for friends to ride along.

Bus conduct:

Bus service remains a privilege and requires explicit following of rules. Most recently, we have had to reinforce basic safety expectations such as

- * Waiting for the bus on time**
- * Not approaching the bus until it has fully stopped, and the door is open**
- * Treating the bus with respect and taking garbage with you, and leaving no debris or damage (or spit) behind**

Q – When will my bus arrive?

A – Schedules are posted outside all 150 classrooms (visible from the bus line if shades are still up)

A – If unusually late – most students/and or parents/guardians have reported success by using the [First View](#) app. Code – A2V4J



E-Bikes and E-Scooters at SD71 Schools

The Comox Valley Cycling Coalition ("CVCCo") has a mission to promote a safe environment so more people can choose active modes of transportation in the Comox Valley. We strive to do this through education of all ages with safe cycling lessons as well as advocating for improved infrastructure in our communities.

We have worked for many years with SD71 and provide a School Cycling Program for grade 4-5 students in every elementary school. This has always been a huge source of pride for our many volunteers and seeing happy kids learn cycling skills/safety is a great reward for all of us. We are always appreciative to see many SD71 schools embracing the effort to get kids traveling safely to/from school on a bike, scooter or by walking.

We also have volunteers who work with SD71 to perform "bike counts" three times per year at all the schools. This helps provide a baseline of historical data to show us how we are doing in our efforts to increase cycling amongst the student population.

During our recent Fall 2025 count, we noted that there were a number of e-bikes and e-scooters parked at schools during the daytime, including at elementary schools. We do certainly support e-bike usage (and provide specific lessons to adults) but we are also aware that it is illegal in BC for anyone under the age of 16 to operate a standard e-bike or e-scooter. With the increasing number of accidents involving e-devices interacting with cars, pedestrians and other bikes, we wanted to take the opportunity to ensure that parents, teachers and administration are all aware of the rules for their usage in BC. This is a recent and evolving topic and we are finding that even seasoned cyclists are not aware of the rules and regulations so we have done our best to provide them as a list attached to this note. The full range of information can be found on the BC Government website at:

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/driving-and-cycling/cycling>



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.

- * Please do not drive through the bus loop to pick up/drop off or cut through to the Sports Centre.**



News from the Counselling Office

Post-Secondary Information for Vanier Parents and Guardians can be found [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](#)



[Click Here](#)

Our goal is to empower students toward positive change and to help them to have the most successful high school experience possible!

School Counsellor:

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

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

Jocelyn Schultz (P-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 susan.quinton@sd71.bc.ca for info
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 3 years in our database and may be accessed by other schools in the district.**

OTHER NEWS

2025 Grad Packages

Grad packages are currently available for pickup at the main office. Please let us know if a family member or friend will be picking up in your place.

***For future grads, emails will be sent out each September when grad packages are ready.**





MYED PARENT PORTAL

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

**Your child's Learning Updates, Summary of Learning and
Graduation Status Report**

**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:

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

H-O **Sherrie Martens** sherrie.martens@sd71.bc.ca

P-Z **Erica Black** erica.black@sd71.bc.ca





**Georges P. Vanier
School Calendar**

December 2025

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 Day 1 - ABCD	2 Day 2 - CDAB <i>School Nurse 11:30-12:30</i>	3 Day 3 - BADC	4 Day 4 - DCBA	5 Day 1 - ABCD	6
7	8 Day 1 - ABCD	9 Day 2 - CDAB <i>School Nurse 11:30-12:30 Winter Concert 6:30 Gym</i>	10 Day 3 - BADC FLEX DAY <i>WINTERFEST 6:00 - 9:00 pm</i>	11 Day 4 - DCBA	12 Day 2 - CDAB	13 <i>Old Farm Market VKPA Grocery Bagging</i>
14	15 Day 1 - ABCD	16 Day 2 - CDAB <i>Darman/Horby Lunch in Atrium Centre School Nurse 11:30-12:30</i>	17 Day 3 - BADC	18 Day 4 - DCBA <i>Locker Clean Out</i>	19 Day 3 - BADC <i>Winter Assembly</i>	20
21	22	23	24	25 Christmas Day	26 Boxing Day	27 <i>Winter Break</i>
28	29	30	31 <i>Winter Break</i>			
<i>Winter Break</i>						
November '25						
	S M T W T F S					
	1					
	2	3	4	5	6	7
	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19
	20	21	22	23	24	25
	26	27	28	29	30	31
January '26						
	S M T W T F S					
	1	2	3			
	4	5	6	7	8	9
	10	11	12	13	14	15
	16	17	18	19	20	21
	22	23	24	25	26	27
	28	29	30	31		