

Principal's Message

Thank you for coming out to our Welcome Back BBQ! It was truly great to reconnect with so many smiling faces and meet some of our new families. This was one of our best turn outs yet! We are very lucky to be part of such an amazing community!

It has also been wonderful seeing the collaboration that has gone into the development of this year's Student Learning Plans! It is always exciting to see how student areas of passion and strength, learning styles, lifestyles, and preferred methods of demonstrating learning are reflected to ensure that these plans best support overall wellness and academic potential.

We have many exciting learning opportunities and events coming up. The Cross Country running season had a soggy start on Wednesday at Marshall Fields. Congratulations to our team for hanging in there, and a big thank you to our teachers for supporting our students through the challenging conditions. Be sure to check the calendar of events below to see more exciting events!

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Truth and Reconciliation

On September 23, vLearn staff participated in a great day of learning about the Local Education Agreement and Enhancement Agreement. You can learn more about these important agreements between SD22 and indigenous stakeholders [here](#)! We also learned more about syilx history and culture by visiting Canoe Beach and the Priest Valley Reserve. vLearn staff remains committed to truth, reconciliation, and healing.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Important Dates

- October 1 - MY and Grade 7 Field Trip to Okanagan Regional Library
- October 2 - Elementary Activity Day @ vLearn / Cross Country Run #2 @ DND Fields
- October 8 - MY Activity @ vLearn
- October 9 - Elementary Activity Day @ vLearn / Cross Country Run #3 @ JW1
- October 14 - Thanksgiving Holiday (no school)
- October 16 - Elementary Activity Day Field Trip to Forestry Woodlot
- October 18 - Photo Day
- October 23 - Elementary Activity Day @ vLearn / FSA (Grade 4 and 7)
- October 25 - Provincial Professional Development Day (no school)
- October 29 - Grade 10/12 Graduation Assessments
- October 30 - Elementary Activity Day @ vLearn / FSA (Grade 4 and 7)
- October 31 - Grade 10/12 Graduation Assessments

School Technology Survey

We value your input and insight as educational partners. This survey is designed to gather your thoughts and opinions regarding technology integration, accessibility, and digital literacy within our school. Please respond to the **survey** before December 15.



Social Emotional Skill Building

Shannon has joined our team to support **ALL** vLearn students! Social emotional skill building is about empowering students to take an active role in their well-being, building on their positive attributes, fostering their self-esteem and confidence. Shannon is here to teach practical skills such as mindfulness, problem solving, self-regulation and communication. This builds on the Open Parachute program offered last year!

NEW TEACHER ALERT!

MS. SHANNON



HOBBIES:

When I'm not teaching, I love to read books, play sports, participate in improv shows, theater or relax watching a good movie. I also love to spend time outside with my friends, pets and my family.

ABOUT ME:

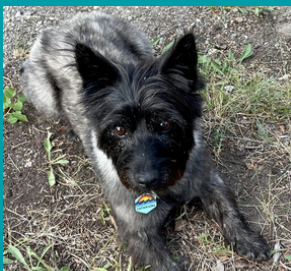
Hello! My name is Ms. Shannon. I am the mom of a wonderful son and the caregiver for 3 dogs, 1 cat, 2 aquatic frogs and 50 tadpoles. I am so excited to part of vLearn and I can't wait to get to know you!

CONTACT:

scooper@sd22.bc.ca
Email is the best way to communicate with me. I will be checking my email throughout the day.

MY ROLE AT VLEARN

I will be setting up different groups and activities as a way for you to connect, have fun and work through different projects. Our goal is to help you thrive personally and academically, develop and maintain positive relationships, and become lifelong learners.



Meet Kona

Kona, a 9-year-old Cairn Terrier, will be present at vLearn Monday-Wednesday during regular operating hours. Kona received her certification as "Canine Good Neighbours" from the Canadian Kennel Club (July 2018) and is assessed annually for certification as an assistive therapy dog through Companion Paws Canada. Learn more about Kona's role **[HERE](#)**.

SCHOOL INFORMATION

Volunteering with vLearn

We love and appreciate parent volunteers! Any new volunteers must have a Criminal Record Check on file - this includes parents that wish to volunteer for activity days. Please see [HERE](#) for instructions on how to complete the process. If you already have a criminal record check on file with us, we will let you know if it is expiring.

Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA)

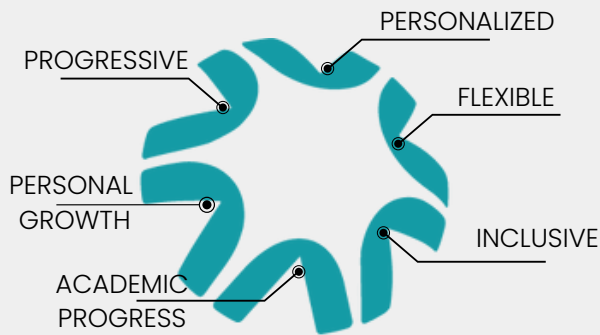
Students in Grade 4 and 7 will be participating in the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) in October. The FSA provides valuable information about student learning and helps ensure all students in BC are developing a strong foundation in literacy and numeracy. Information has gone home to families of students in Grade 4 and 7.

Graduation Literacy and Assessments

The graduation program requires students to successfully complete a Numeracy assessment in Grade 10 and a Literacy assessment in Grades 10 and 12. The graduation assessments are not tied to a specific course nor do they earn "credits" towards graduation. There are 4 examination periods per school year, with the first being in October. If you have a student in Grades 10 - 12 that needs to write these assessments, please look for an invitation next week to book your assessment date/time.



SCHOOL INFORMATION



vLearn Identity

Have you been wondering what our new identity represents? The icon symbolizes a star blossoming with ideas, representing the connection between students, families, staff, and core values. The off-axis and rotated view, points to an innovative, flexible, and progressive spirit. The six V's point to and converge at the center representing the community hub that vLearn is.



Middle Years Cohort

The Middle Years Cohort has started with a high level of enthusiasm and engagement. Students have enjoyed in-person time together learning how to pace their school work and set up their own personal schedules to ensure success throughout the year. They have gotten to know each other by sharing personal experiences and spending time together outside. They have met several members of our staff who are involved in their learning in various ways, including Kona our support dog.

Academically, students have practiced their numeracy skills with multiplication games and in literacy, students practiced identifying parts of a short story. This week students had the opportunity to learn, think, and talk about what Reconciliation means in the context of the Okanagan and Vernon. We had some educational and thoughtful conversations.

Exploring our community is also an important piece of our program. Students have done this by walking to Tim Horton's (evaluating nutritional content of the menu for PE class, of course), taking a tour of the library and participating in a student mock election to engage with the democratic process as it will be playing out in our province next month.

Students are engaging well and we are all looking forward to many more learning and social experiences. A big thank you to teacher Marieke Jacobi who is leading this amazing group of students.

Dance Academy

On September 27, Dance Academy students had kinesiologist Erica Vaz join them. Erica, a dancer herself, was able to facilitate a workshop to help dancers understand and work on maximizing their take-offs and landings. With an understanding of the physics behind the movement, the goal is to help dancers reduce injuries and improve the height of their jumps. Learn more about vLearn academy programs [HERE](#).



FROM THE PAC

Hello vLearn families!

We had such a great turnout for our annual Welcome BBQ last Wednesday. It was so wonderful to see our returning families and students, as well as many new faces. WELCOME! I hope you had a chance to engage with some of the PAC members and check out our table. Our suggestion box was utilized, and you'll be happy to know that your PAC will be contacting the programming coordinator at the Vernon Community Arts Center to see what kind of art classes we can set up, as well as connecting with community businesses (such as COBS) about fundraising opportunities. Did you know that a significant chunk of funds used to support students, families and the school are raised by simply collecting receipts from Nature's Fare? Last year we received upward of two thousand dollars from the Nature's Fare 3% Program. We also collect Butcher Boys grocery receipts, they award us with a \$50 gift card for every \$5000 spent before taxes. Cool Beans!

Each year, our PAC applies for a Community Gaming Grant from the BC Provincial Government. If the criteria is met, we are awarded an amount based on the previous year's of full-time student enrollment in vLearn. These funds are used towards student activities and learning opportunities, and must be accounted for in a summary report. We can only apply for this grant if our PAC has, at minimum, a president, a secretary and a treasurer. Your vLearn PAC currently has the Treasurer and Secretary positions open. Check out the link below detailing the responsibilities of said positions. Reach out if you have questions or are seeking more information. Want to join, but are unsure if the responsibility is too much to take on? Find someone to share the job with you! It's a wonderful way to participate and lighten the load of responsibility. [Executive roles defined](#)

Updates and information concerning all things vLearn will be found in this monthly newsletter and included when possible in the weekly emails you receive from your child(ren)'s teachers. We encourage you to use these sources to stay up to date on the happenings related to vLearn. Your PAC executives may also be reached at <pacvlearn@gmail.com> if you have any questions, concerns, feedback and/or suggestions about our initiatives and offerings.

Friday October 11, 2024 from 1pm to 2:20pm is our next scheduled PAC meeting. It will take place at the Vernon Recreation center, exact location TBD. For now, we will meet near the Dogwood Gymnasium and go from there. Francine will be sending out our PAC news/updates a week or two before our scheduled meetings, with information regarding when and where, our agenda and links to our constitution, by-laws and current financials. If you don't see this content delivered to your inbox, it means that consent was not given at your initial school intake. If your family would like to have this information emailed, please drop us a line at pacvlearn@gmail.com to be included.

vLearn t-shirt logo contest. [Click here to find out more!](#) Contest closes **October 23rd, 2024**.

Activity sign-up and interest collection

We have a few exciting offerings coming up before the winter break, check out the links below!

[Drama/Theater class with Amelia Sirriani](#)

We have arranged a School Board Swim Session for vLearn students. It runs on Wednesdays from November 6 - December 11, and is geared towards kids ages 8 and older. Younger siblings will be considered to meet your family's needs. [More info and interest sign-up here](#)

The Vernon Rec Center is offering an opportunity for a gymnastics class for kids in K-7. It would run on Mondays, from 1-3pm, October 7 - December 16, 2024. The class will be instructed by Tori (a former coach at North Valley Gymnastics). Approximate cost will be \$12/class, and funding may be available. Please connect with your child(ren)'s teacher(s) to see if this fit with your learning plan. Interested? [Add your child's name to this list](#)