



The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School
April 11, 2012

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We're now officially in Term 4, the last term of the school year. All parents can expect report cards to be printed and distributed on April 19. Our practice is that students are issued their report cards at a special TAG or homeroom, at the end of first period class on that day. Students are expected to bring those report cards home for parents to look at and, if necessary, respond to. Because some students are unavoidably absent from school on that day, any unclaimed report cards are left in the Main Office. Any that have not been picked up by either the student or their parent are mailed home within 2 weeks. We do not keep report cards beyond that time frame. This is important information for parents and students and we need to be reassured that we've made every effort to get it into the correct hands.

On this report card you can expect:

- For completed courses, the report card will minimally contain a letter grade, percentage (where required) and work habit.
- For current and ongoing courses, the report card will minimally contain a single letter grade and percentage (where required), work habit and comment
- Report cards will reflect the student's progress from September to April
- Attendance for all courses
- Teacher names for all courses

The last day of classes in for the school year is June 15. Provincial exams start June 20 and all school-based exams will have been completed by June 19. Our Final Awards Assemblies will be held on June 15 and these will be the final school assemblies ever in this building. This is a big deal! Please attend if you are able. Further details will follow.

Old School Celebration Day

Saturday, April 28, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at ADSS.

We are inviting everyone to come back to town and join us in celebrating 61 years of excellence, to share their memories, and reflect on the rich traditions which have developed over the years. There will be tours of the school, snacks and refreshments, as well as gymnasium, music and drama activities happening throughout the school.

We encourage graduating classes to contact us if they would like access to the school or if they are planning a celebration involving the school closure. Any ideas will be welcomed. Any questions or suggestions for this event please contact Brian at 250-723-1191, extension #1.

Planned Activities:

- Time Line in Eyeball Alley (1951 – 2012) – done by the Leadership Class
- Window Paintings in Eyeball Alley – (decade specific) – done by the Art Class
- Gymnasium Activities (students) – Athletic Department
- Music in the Auditorium – Music Department
- Skits in Hall – Drama Club
- DVD Walking Tour Disc of Old School (available for purchase) – Media Department
- School Tours – Leadership Class
- Photo Collage – Media Department
- Golden Oldies Car Club
- T-Shirts (Proud Past – Bright Future) available for purchase
- Hot Dog BBQ and other snacks – Black Sheep Rugby Club
- Coffee and Cake
- Gymnasium Floor Souvenir (purchase a souvenir piece) please note: a limited quantity of floor pieces are available
- Auditorium Seat Souvenir (purchase a seat)

Upcoming Music Dates:

April 12 – 14 ADSS Jazz Groups travel to the BC Interior Jazz Festival in Kelowna

April 19 – 21 ADSS hosts the Vancouver Island School Concert Band Festival

April 25 – ADSS Jazz Department hosts Jazz Night, 7:00 pm (combo pre-show 6:30 pm) in the ADSS auditorium with Neill Jazz Band and special guests from Toronto recording artist/singer Elizabeth Shepherd and her trio. Admission is by donation

May 2 – 4 – ADSS Jazz groups participate in the West Coast School Jazz Festival, at Vancouver Island University

May 8, 9 – ADSS Spring Concerts

IRGENT!

We are in need of outstanding textbooks. We have students who do not have textbooks

This semester. Please return textbooks ASAP!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

Thanks you to all of those parents who took the time to make and keep appointments with your child's teachers. Probably because of the uncertainty caused by teacher job action and because it could only be held during the day on Friday, March 16 we were down a bit in terms of the number of appointments made. We had 290 parents make appointments with 71 teachers. I

trust that parents found the booking system to be trouble-free, but if you have suggestions about how to improve it, please don't hesitate to let me know. We're always looking for suggestions about how to improve communication with parents.

Local Health Area Profile

Recently a study prepared by Planning and Community Engagement for VIHA in July of 2011 was presented to the Port Alberni City Council. I have extracted some highlights of this report that are of particular interest in our context:

- The population age of Alberni is expected to be similar to VIHA by 2015 and 2020 and older than BC
- The total Alberni population is expected to hold relatively stable through to 2030 at about 31,000, while the population 75+ is expected to increase 81% by 2030 to almost 4,400
- Alberni has a substantially higher percentage of population receiving income assistance and employment insurance than BC and VIHA
- More kindergarteners in Alberni rated as vulnerable for language and communication skills than those in BC and VIHA
- Significantly fewer adults in Alberni had attained post-secondary education (49.9%) than in BC (62.8%) or VIHA (61.7%)
- There are more male lone-parent families in Alberni (7.5%) than in BC (5.2%) or VIHA (6.3%)
- There were more lone-parent families in Alberni (32%) than in BC (25.7%) or VIHA (29.9%)
- The serious juvenile crime rate per 1,000 for Alberni (8.8) was higher than BC (4.2) and VIHA (2.9)
- There were significantly more children in care per 1,000 in Alberni (29.9) than in BC (9.4) or VIHA (13.0)
- There were significantly more cases of child abuse per 1,000 in Alberni (18.1) than BC 7.0 and VIHA (10.9)
- There were significantly more teen pregnancies in Alberni (58.5 per 1,000) than in BC (27.6 per 1,000) or VIHA (31.5 per 1,000)
- Alberni had a significantly higher rate of infant mortality (10.7 per 1,000) than BC (3.9 per 1,000) or VIHA (5.0 per 1,000)
- Alberni had more hospitalizations for injury and poisoning (7.9 per 1,000) than BC (4.8 per 1,000) or VIHA (6.0 per 1,000)
- There was a higher rate of maternal smoking in Alberni (16.6%) than in BC (10.6%)
- Alberni had the highest rates of infant death in VIHA; the rate was 120% higher than the VIHA average
- Alberni had the highest rate of rheumatoid arthritis in VIHA
- Alberni had the second highest rate of diabetes in VIHA
- Alberni had the second highest SMR (Standardized Mortality Ratio) values in VIHA for alcohol related deaths, falls related deaths, motor vehicle deaths, suicide, and deaths resulting from diabetes, ischaemic heart disease (reduced blood supply to the heart muscle), and chronic lung disease

Dry Grad News

This was sent out earlier to parents of grade 12 students, but in the interests of keeping all parents informed about important information it's being communicated again.

What if "Somebody Else" Doesn't Do It?

Parenting, studying, homework, working, it's a busy time! Fitting in another meeting or another commitment might be the last thing on our minds. We may hope that "somebody else" will volunteer for events or come to meetings. But, what if "somebody else" doesn't do it? What happens to Dry Grad then? **Without the dedication of parent and student volunteers, Dry Grad would not happen.**

Please consider one of these many ways to get involved.

Sign up for volunteering events. If each graduate and Grad family helped out with one volunteer event, we are able to spread the workload among many rather than overload the few. We would be able to reach our fundraising goal much quicker which also reduces the cost of the Dry Grad event admission tickets.

Attend the meetings. The parents meet every second Tuesday, at 7pm, at the Multiplex. The students meet weekly for approximately 15 minutes at the school during lunch.

Join the Parent Committee. There are always positions needing to be filled. Currently there is a **vacancy for security**. We could not run an event like Dry Grad without security.

Spread the Word. Tell other parents, students, friends and coworkers that help is needed, including our grade eleven families, to make this event a fun night for everyone!

Here is where help is needed in the near future.

\$50 deposits on event tickets. Vanessa will be at the school Tuesdays at lunch to collect down payments on your Dry Grad event ticket.

Orders for Grad clothing, hoodies, sweats and T-shirts will be available up to April 26th. Please contact Vanessa Schoen (250) 723-9561 to place an order.

The decorating committee needs your help now. Contact Carol Pretty (250) 723-7845

Without any fundraising, event tickets cost approximately \$200 each. Our efforts to date have reduced this amount to just over half.

Each time a graduate volunteers, their name will be entered for a draw for either a free hoodie, or free dry grad ticket. Any parent or graduate volunteering at an event will have their name entered for a driving package with One on One Driving School, draw date June 1st. Graduates and/or family members who participate in fundraising activities will receive \$5 off their ticket price, up to the \$50 deposit.

To help you stay informed, check out the **ADSS Dry Grad 2012 Group page on Facebook, or the Grad board in the hall between the gym and office.**

Current Fundraisers:

1. Samosa sales – ends April 26th \$15.00 dozen contact Vanessa Schoen (250) 723-9561
2. Spring Hanging Baskets – ends May 1st Prices vary contact C. Oldfield (250) 724-1391
3. Garage Sale – May 5th @ ADSS Gym contact Vanessa Schoen (250)723-9561

Any other fundraising inquiries or suggestions, please contact Vanessa at 250-723-9561

Any further information needed about Dry Grad, please contact either Vanessa at 250-723-9561.

The next Dry Grad Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 24th at 7 pm at the Multiplex. Thank you in advance for your support, **see you there!!**

The Dry Grad Parent Committee and
Student Chairpersons for Grad 2012

Where in the World Are They Now?

In each issue of the Grapevine we highlight one ADSS graduate. If you know of anyone who has graduated from ADSS and would be willing to share their “story” we’d be happy to feature it.

This month we feature UVic golfer, Alyssa Herkel, who graduated in 2007 from ADSS. For the third year in a row, the Vikes women’s and men’s golf program will lead the annual Thrifty Foods Youth Golf Clinic at Uplands Golf Course. Alyssa was recently honoured as the third recipient of the Thrifty Foods Athletic Award.

Alyssa was recognized as the 2012 recipient following a fourth place finish at the 2011 University/College Golf Championship and selection to the Canadian team that competed at the World Universidad Games in Shenzhen, China. Throughout her Vikes career has won numerous tournaments and was a consistent team leader for the Vikes women’s golf team.

“Alyssa is an outstanding player who last year got to represent her country in China,” said Vikes head Coach Bryan Carbery. “I can say without question that Alyssa came farther than any other Vike in five years and that shows in her being named an All-American last year. She has become a leader and now players all look up to her and enjoy playing practice rounds with her to pick up subtle things in her game that would help them.”

Herkel was a dominant force in the NAIA in her 2011 season, achieving the sixth lowest scoring average out of 500 student-athletes (75.6 strokes per round). Currently in her fifth year of studies, Herkel has a position as a teacher’s assistant in the microbiology department, an area of study she wishes to continue to pursue.

Printed with modifications from the UVic VIKES website.

Skills Canada – North Island Regional Competition

On March 28, the North Island Skills Canada Competition was held at G. P. Vanier Secondary in Courtenay. ADSS sent four students to the event:

Jonathan Marcellus – cabinetry and joinery

Corey Pinault – welding

David Kleywegt – carpentry

Two of the students won medals, Corey Pinault in welding won silver and Jonathan Marcellus won gold in cabinetry and joinery.

Jonathan Marcellus will now advance to the Provincial Skills Canada competition on April 18 at the Tradex Center – Abbotsford.

First Nations Theme Weeks

The purpose of this week, April 23 – May 4, is to share, focusing on students in grade 9, various aspects of Nuu-chah-nulth culture and how they are already imbedded in the curriculum.

Throughout the week the media class will be recording the activities and present the results at a later date. In Foods classes, a special presentation, including the making of bannock will occur. There will be a Nuu-chah-nulth language presentation in our French classes. In PE students will participate in games such as stealing sticks and lacross. WildCrafters will present on resources that are available in the forests of our area. In Art and Technology Education, students will participate in presentations of making bent wood boxes and carving.

Many of these experiences will involve presentations by community experts and will be of tremendous interest to our students and their families.

Thank-you to our First Nations Steering Committee, particularly Angie Miller and Richard Samuel, who have been instrumental in organizing these learning opportunities.

Important Upcoming Dates

- April 10 – Term 4 begins
- April 11 – Euclid Math Contest
- April 11 – PAC Meeting, 7:00 pm, staffroom
- April 12 – Math contests: Fryer (gr 9), Galois (gr 10), Hypatia (gr 11)
- April 12 – 15 – BC Interior Jazz Festival, Kelowna
- April 16 – Grade 12 assembly
- April 19 – Report Cards issued
- April 19 – 21 – Vancouver Island concert Band Festival, ADSS
- April 28 – Old School Celebration Day, 10:00am – 2:00pm
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Please contact me at 723-6251, extension 222, if you have questions or concerns about this newsletter.

Mike Ruttan,
Principal