



The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School
September, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to another school year! Our start up has been relatively smooth and students are settling in to the routine of classes. Our Grade 8's and 9's are starting to feel right at home.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Sept. 24 – Band TAG Day
- Sept. 29 – Ace-It Parent Meeting 6:30 pm
- Oct 14 – PAC AGM

The majority of student timetables have been finalized. However, our counsellors are still in the process of balancing classes and adjusting timetables as student circumstances change. As a result, there is a small chance your student's timetable may still be altered in the next week.

We are a very full school with every classroom in use and many new students and staff this year. I'd like to welcome and introduce our new staff members. Listed below are their names and primary assignments.

- Ms. Couttenier - French
- Mr. Crosby – Project Based Learning
- Ms. Hopkins – Drama
- Mr. Merwin –
- Ms. Geeraert -
- Ms. Kim McKenzie – EA
- Ms. Lindsay Sexton – EA
- Ms. Mary Dwolinsky - EA
- Mr. Eric Gagnon – EA
- Ms. Jenny Geddes – EA
- Ms. Cindy Gogo - EA

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES

Student activity fees for the 2016-2017 school year are \$30 and can be paid in Homeroom during September or to Nikki Levasseur in the counselling office thereafter. This is not a textbook fee. The fee supports various students' activities and special events throughout the year.

We will be accepting payment during our Open House on September 24th. We accept cheques made out to ADSS or cash and have an ATM on site as well. No debit or credit. One cheque can be made to include yearbook and student fees.

GET YOUR YEARBOOK!!

Yearbook order forms will be available at the Open House, September 24th. The base cost will be \$50.00 with additional costs for personalization and a memory capsule should you wish. Money and order forms will be collected from the accountant Nikki Levasseur and/or Career Center secretary, Terri-Ann Wynans. Sales will end December 18th and quantities are limited so don't be disappointed. Any additional sales after December are not necessarily guaranteed and will be at an increased cost. If you are unable to be at the open house, order forms will be available through the Career Center as well as lunchtime booths set up by Leadership students in October. Any questions, please contact Mike Roberts.

ADSS AGENDA APP

We are pleased to inform you that our new ADSS App is now available to students and parents. The App is, at its heart, a day-to-day agenda that allows students to track which classes they have each day. Additionally, the app allows students to record their homework or other notes for each class.

The App is also a communication tool as it allows the school to send notifications directly to cell phones. Those notifications can be limited to important notifications such as school closures or reminders of report card release dates. You can also subscribe to specific channels to receive notifications for areas of special interest such as school teams or Graduation. These notifications will be another way that we can provide both parents and students with timely information updates and reminders.

The App works on cell phones as well as tablets and iPods and is available from either the Android or Apple App store. A handy user guide for the App will be available on the ADSS website.

UPDATED DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

We want to keep our demographic and contact information for students and parents as current as possible. We know that for some students, our parental contact information and mailing addresses may be out of date. Our information is generally inherited from the records that have followed your child from elementary to middle school and then finally to us. If you think your child's contact information may be incorrect, please update us. You can contact the school by phone at 250-723-6251 or by email adss@sd70.bc.ca.

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION

The Grapevine newsletter is one of our primary ways of keeping parents up to date on info and events at the school. The costs associated with printing 1300 copies of this newsletter are substantial. In order to limit both costs and waste we traditionally send home a printed copy of the newsletter for the first month of the year and then move to emailing electronic copies directly to those who wish to subscribe. If you would like to receive the monthly newsletter via email, please contact our secretary Michelle Bauer mbauer@sd70.bc.ca or at the school 50-723-6251 Ext 2401 and ask to have your name added to our mailing list.

OVERDUE TEXT BOOKS AND LIBRARY BOOKS

One of the single largest expenses that our school deals with on a year to year basis is related to the replacement of textbooks and library books that have been borrowed but not returned. On average, replacement of lost, damaged or non-returned textbooks costs the school \$25,000 each year. This is a very large number and greatly impacts the funds that we have available to support other needs in the school. Whether your student attended ADSS, EJ Dunn or AW Neill last year, it would be greatly appreciated if you have a look around the house for any books that belong to the school district. Any books can be returned to ADSS. We will ensure that books belonging to other schools make their way back to the appropriate library.

ADSS BREAKFAST CLUB

Welcome back everyone!! Breakfast Club began serving bagels on Monday this week. Everyone is always welcome to come and eat if you are hungry.

Please save your QF and Fairway receipts for the breakfast club; they are collected and totaled (Fairway- \$3000 before taxes and QF \$5000 before taxes) and turned into gift cards that are then distributed to at-risk students. Receipts can be dropped at the school office for Melody.

We are always looking for donations of hygiene items such as disposable razors, tampons with plastic applicators, bar soap, toothbrushes, toothpaste, dental floss, 2 in 1 shampoo/conditioner, shaving cream, deodorant. Suits, tuxedos, ties, shoes and grad dresses are always appreciated. If you have grad clothing or hygiene items that you would like to donate, we will gladly accept it, please bring it to the ADSS office. If you can donate any services that a grad may need (free haircuts, dry cleaning services, nails, etc.) please feel free to email Melody at mjburton@shaw.ca or call at 250-724-6115.

The ADSS Breakfast Club accepts monetary donations, they can be dropped off at the ADSS office, just specify that it is for the ADSS Breakfast Club. If you would like to donate \$50 or more and would like a tax receipt, cheques can be made out to SD 70, subject line- ADSS Breakfast Club, if cash (\$50+), please include your name/address information. Please drop them off at the ADSS office or the School Board office. We appreciate any help.

We would like to thank you the following people and community groups for their donations to Breakfast Club and their continued support of our students and program:

- SD 70
- Save On Foods
- The PEAK

- AV Bulldogs
- Circle Dairy
- Swale Rock Café
- Little Bavaria
- Alberni Valley Christian Reformed Church
- Andrew Schneider
- AV Lions
- Anita Oosterom
- Tooth Fairies and Dentists in 6th Ave Medical Building
- Dr. Hughes and Staff
- Chalmers Family
- Our amazing volunteers from Young Life, ADAPS, RCMP, Family Guidance, Jeff Cook, Susan and Tom Wall, Pat Bouchard, Camie Sogge, NETP, INEO, Carol Devries, City Council Rep Denis Suave, RBC Staff, NIC, ACAWS, USMA, Joe Burton, Marilee Alexander, Life Skills Students, Cathy Cross and ADSS staff.

If we have missed anyone, we are truly sorry, that was not our intention.

WELCOME FROM THE ADSS PAC – SEPTEMBER 2016

Do you have questions about how things work at ADSS? Are you looking for ways to stay informed about school activities? If so, consider attending a monthly Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting. We would love to see you there! Each month there is an opportunity to connect with other parents and school administration to hear about what is happening in the school and to ask questions you may have (thanks to the updates by the Principal or Vice Principal). In addition, parents have an opportunity to lend their voice to decision making around how to allocated PAC funds that best support the ADSS student body. The meetings are held at ADSS on the second Wednesday of every month at 7:00 and usually run one hour in length. If meetings are not your thing, there are other ways to get involved:

Attend a monthly PAC meeting

- Join PAC Advisory
- Breakfast Club
- Fundraising events (individual groups)
- Tutoring
- Team/Club activities (e.g. coaching)
- Grad Committee

For more information – leave a message at ADSS at 250-723-6251 and a PAC member will return your call or join the ADSS PAC Facebook page to receive meeting invites and updates! If you can't make a meeting ask your questions on the page and we will bring it forward.

Please contact me at (250) 723-6251, extension 2405, if you have questions or concerns about this newsletter.

**Come join us for
the ADSS PAC
AGM!**

**The 2015-2016
Annual General
meeting will be held
October 14th at 7:00.**

All current PAC
positions will be
open. The current
executive is:

Co-Chairs:
Silvia Hart and
Tammy Dewar

Treasurer:
Darcy Phipps

Secretary:
Deb Hallworth

If you have received this newsletter via email and you no longer wish to receive The Grapevine, please contact school secretary Michelle Bauer at (250) 723-6251 extension 2401 or email her at mbauer@sd70.bc.ca to have your name removed from our mailing list.

Rob Souther
Principal

