



The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School
November, 2015

Important Upcoming Dates

- Friday, Nov. 6 – End of Term 1
- Tues. Nov. 10 – Remembrance Day Ceremonies
- Wed. Nov. 11 – Remembrance Day – School closed
- Wed. Nov 18 – PAC Meeting 7:00 pm ADSS office
- Fri. Nov. 20 – A Little Bit Country Concert 7:00 pm ADSS Auditorium
- Mon. Nov. 23 – Pro Day No school for students
- Tues. Nov. 24 – Term 1 Report cards issued
- Tues. Nov. 24 – Poinsettia orders for Prom Grad Committee due
- Thurs. Nov. 26 – Grade 12 Grad Assembly and Post Sec. Open House – a.m.

Dear Parents and Guardians:

STUDENT ACTIVITY FEES

Student activity fees for the 2015-2016 school year are \$30 and can be paid 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.

YEARBOOKS

2016 Yearbook sales have begun! They are \$55 each, which includes the time capsule insert, and can be personalized for an additional \$5 with your name on the front cover. Yearbooks can be ordered from Mrs. Wynans in the Career Centre or purchased online using the link below. Please note that PayPal will add a transaction fee of \$2.75 to your order. 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.

<http://ybstore.friesens.com/stores/300700>

If you have any questions about the Yearbook, see Mr. Roberts. If you have any questions about purchasing a yearbook, see Mrs. Wynans.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Thank you to the many parents and guardians that chose to participate in our Parent/Teacher interviews October 28th and 29th. We appreciate the opportunity to meet with you and engage in an ongoing discussion about your students and their education. As the semester progresses, please keep in touch. Teacher email addresses are posted on the school webpage. If you are not a big email user, please feel free to call the main office and leave a message for a teacher to call you back. For more general information about what is going on in and around the school, subscribe to our monthly newsletter, download our ADSS app to your phone or tablet or get involved with our PAC which meets monthly.

NOVEMBER PAC MEETING

We normally hold our PAC meetings on the 2nd Wednesday of the month. In November, that would be November 11th. To avoid conflict with Remembrance Day, we will move this month's meeting to Wednesday November 18th.

ADSS 2016 PROM COMMITTEE EVENTS AND FUNDRAISING INFORMATION

- All information in regards to Prom will be on the facebook page titled ADSS Grad 2016
- Pointsetta Order forms need to be returned by November 24th
- Gradwear will be available to order until November 17th
- Chocolate Fundraiser: Grads will be selling Coombs Country Candy Chocolate Treats for \$2.00 each
- Parents can donate their Quality Foods or Save-On-Foods to Grad/Prom 2016
- We are still in need of grad students to volunteer for fundraisers!!
- An account has been set up down at the Bottle Depot, please donate any empty bottles /cans to the "Grad 2016".
- Bottle Drive has been set for Saturday November 7 at 10:00am. We still need volunteers for this event.
- Please call Rhonda Doughty for more information at 250-723-1827 or email at rhondadoughty@shaw.ca

TERM END AND REPORT CARDS

This Friday, November 6th, is the final day of term 1 at ADSS. Term 2 will begin on Monday. End of term is the end of a marking cycle which means that a report card will soon appear. Our timeline for report cards is as follows.

- November 6th – End of Term 1
- November 17th – Deadline for teachers to finalize marks for Term 1
- November 24th – Term 1 report cards are issued and sent home with students

If your student does not bring a report card home with them on the 24th, please contact the school and we will ensure that another copy is made available to you.

PRINCIPAL'S ROLL AND HONOR ROLL

We are making a change to how we recognize exemplary academic achievement this year. The Honor Roll and Principal's Roll will now be based on final grades at the end of each semester. In recent years we have tried to honor marks at the mid-way point of courses (Terms 1 and 3) but it has proven extremely difficult to do because the marks are 'in progress' and subject to change. The nice thing about final marks is that they are final. It is much easier to make a determination of standing when we are certain that the marks we are basing our calculations on are indeed final results. Look forward to letters of achievement attached to our term 2(end of Semester 1) and Term 4 (end of semester 2) report cards.

DAILY HOURS OF SCHOOL

As many of you are aware, we have a slightly different start and end time to the day this year. With the closing of Middle schools and the resulting change in the bussing schedule, we needed to adjust our daily start and finish times. In making those changes, our calculation of appropriate class length and total time in session was slightly off. Our time in session was 15 minutes per week above what the Ministry of Education requires for schools. As such, we have had to amend our hours to fall in line with those requirements. The result is a very minor change

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that only impacts the final bell time each day. Each day will now end 3 minutes earlier than it previously did. This means that instead of days ending at 3:10pm on Mondays-Thursdays, they will now end at 3:07. Fridays will now end at 1:22. Busses departing ADSS in the afternoon will not see their schedule altered.

ADSS PROM 2015 GIFT

The parent organizing committee from last year's Prom has closed the books on Prom 2015. There were surplus funds, and as has become tradition, the committee has chosen to donate a large portion of those funds back to ADSS as a gift to future students. The gift comes in 2 forms.

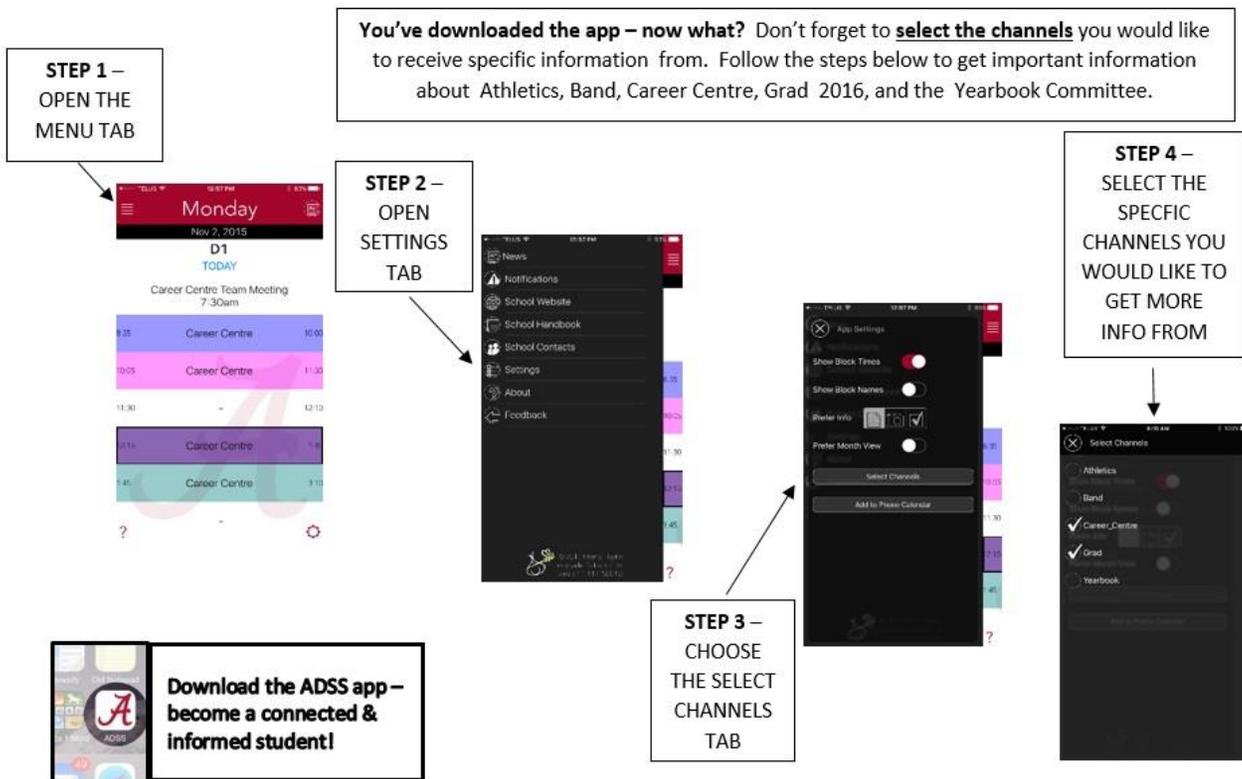
Firstly, the committee will be donating a bench and plaque which will be placed just outside the Theatre entrance of the school. It is a gift of permanence which has both a physical purpose and also an emotional purpose in that it will be a reminder of our 2015 graduating class.

Secondly, the committee has donated just under \$7000 to targeted programs benefitting our students. This is a very unique gift that stands out because it most specifically targets lunch hour and after school clubs – truly a gift designed to keep on giving.

ADSS wishes to acknowledge and express our gratitude to the 2015 Prom parent committee for these gifts and for all their work creating amazing memories at last year's Prom.

ADSS APP INFORMATION

Over 800 people have downloaded the app and that's fabulous, a great way to stay connected to ADSS. There is another more specific way to keep in touch and that is to select particular "channels" to receive targeted information. See the instructions below for selecting channels.



A LITTLE BIT COUNTRY ATHLETICS FUNDRAISER

The ADSS Athletic Department is having a fundraiser in the ADSS Theatre Friday, November 20th featuring The Chris Buck Band, Rod Black, Port Alberni's own Lauren Spencer – Smith and Jaxon Hawks-MC –DJ JRFM. The show starts at 7:00 PM. More information is available on the Boston Pizza - Port Alberni Facebook page. Tickets are \$40.00 and are available at Boston Pizza or from Nikki Levasseur in the Counselling Department at ADSS.

TOTEM SPIRIT WINNERS

We are trying to contact the following people about a Totem Spirit Reunion 2016 – to observe fifty (50) years of the Totem Princess/Spirit contest. If you know any of these former Totem Spirit Princesses, could you please have them contact Jim Seredick (jimgoya@hotmail.com) about this event. The deadline to contact Mr. Seredick by is November 21st. The former Totem Spirit Princesses that we are still trying to contact are: Chris Roberts, Norine Maguire, Elinor Banker, Linda Elliot, Liz St. Jacques, Janet Pearson, Heather Faris, Pam Reynolds, Maria Zenti, Elaine Pelchat, Cathy Phillips, Dallas Ward, Pam Burns, Meg Mahovlic, Julie Taylor, Ana Stilinovic, Kristine McKinnon, Beverley Preston, Cary Cue, Kevin Schmitz and Jiven Rai.

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 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.

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 only 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 and ask to have your name added to our mailing list.

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,
Acting Principal

Drug and Alcohol Awareness Night

When: Tuesday, November 17th, 2015

Time: 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm (Doors open at 6:30 pm)

Place: ADSS Auditorium (East side of the school)

Who: Everyone is welcome to attend this free event!!

Arrive early to enter for awesome door prizes!!

Speakers from ADAPS, RCMP and the ADSS Administration will discuss what they are seeing within the school community, what to look for and how you can help. There will be an opportunity to ask the speakers questions. We are hoping to fill the auditorium, so please pass this information to your family members and friends.

This event is being held during National Substance Use Awareness Week. ADAPS will have Substance Use Awareness Week info on site that evening.

This event brought to you by the ADSS Parent Advisory Council, ADSS Breakfast Club and Alberni Valley Community School Society.

If you have any questions, please feel free to call Melody at 250-724-6115 or Cathy Cross at 250-723-6251 Ext. 2430.