

The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School
October, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians:

October is upon us already. This is the time of year when we begin to get a handle on how students are doing in their courses and our goal is to involve parents in some discussions about this. To this end, you will see details about parent teacher interviews included with this newsletter. If you are unable to attend the interviews, please reach out to your student's teachers via email and check how things are going. All teacher emails are listed on the ADSS web page.

Important Upcoming Dates

- Oct. 11 – Grad 2017 PAC Meeting – 7 pm Rm 250
- Oct. 12 - - PAC AGM
- Oct. 18/19 - - Parent Teacher Interviews
- Oct 19 - - Photo Retake Day
- Oct 21 - - Pro Day
- Oct 31/Nov1 - - Provincial Exams
- Nov 4 - - End of Term 1

NEW STAFF

As September came to a conclusion, we finalized our new staffing for the first semester. Please join me in welcoming our new staff members

- Ms. Couttenier - French
- Mr. Crosby – Project Based Learning
- Ms. Hopkins – Drama
- Mr. Merwin – Connect Up Program and Special Education
- Ms. Geeraert - Cedars Program and Special Education
- Ms. Kim McKenzie – Education Assistant
- Ms. Lindsay Sexton – Youth Care Worker
- Ms. Mary Dwolinsky - Education Assistant
- Mr. Eric Gagnon – Education Assistant
- Ms. Jenny Geddes – Education Assistant
- Ms. Cindy Gogo - Education Assistant

PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL(PAC) Annual General Meeting

The AGM for our school PAC happened tomorrow night, October 12th, at 7:00pm. If you haven't been to a meeting before, this is a great time to attend your first. The PAC meets on the second Wednesday of each month. Meetings are generally about an hour long and are not painful in the slightest! It's a great way to get involved with the school with a minimal time commitment. It's a friendly group that would love to have you join. We meet in the main conference room in the office. Hope to see you there.

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

We look forward to welcoming you to our Parent/Teacher interviews on October 18th and 19th. The times for each day of interviews are different to allow for parents with differing work schedules to meet with teachers and so as not to conflict with the elementary school interviews that are happening on the same dates. Interviews will be available during the following times:

- Tuesday October 18th - 5:00pm-8:00pm
- Wednesday October 19th - 2:00pm-5:00pm

Interviews can be booked by visiting the ADSS website at <http://adss.sd70.bc.ca> and clicking on the Parent Teacher Interview link part way down the main page, on the left hand side. You can also phone the counselling department directly at 250-723-6251 ex. 2412 and ask the secretary to manually book your appointment.

PHOTO RETAKES

Oct 19th is Photo Retake day. If your student is unhappy with the school photos that were taken in September, please have them bring their original photo package to school that day to be returned to the photographer. New pictures will be taken and the printed photos should be available to students in early-mid November. Retake day is also accessible by students who did not get a photo taken on the original photo day.

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE INFO NIGHT

Increasingly, North Island College is becoming a preferred destination for first year Post Secondary students. With their expanded course offerings, lower costs and familiar setting, NIC makes a great first step for many students. If you have a grade 12 student and you would like to learn more about what the college has to offer for next year, you may want to check out their information night on the evening of November 9th. Details about this event are included at the end of the newsletter

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 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. If \$30 is a bit much to pay at one time, installments can be made over the course of the year.

GET YOUR YEARBOOK!!

Yearbook order forms are available now. The books are \$55.00 this year for the basic book or \$60 for a personalized book with the student name printed on the cover. 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. 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

The updated ADSS App is now available for students and parents to download. 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.

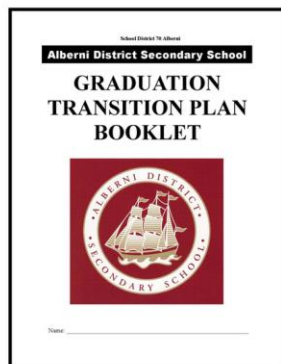
UPDATED DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

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.

IMPORTANT REMINDER for Grade 12 Students...

All Grade 12 students must complete the Ministry of Education - Graduation Transitions Program. Grad Transition is a 4 credit course, which is intended to prepare students for a successful transition to life after high school. In order to meet this goal, all students must:

- Complete a minimum of 30 hours of volunteer OR work experience
- Complete 90 hours of physical activity (if they did not take PE in Grade 11 or 12)
- Complete the Graduation Transition Booklet(introduced in English 12) & hand in a resume
- Attend the Grad Transition - Exit Interview



Graduation Transition Booklets are due on Tuesday, February 28th.

You must hand in your Graduation Transition Booklet along with a sample resume and cover letter to the Career Centre in order to be eligible to participate in the Exit Interview process.

The Graduation Exit Interviews will be taking place on Thursday, April 27th. For more information or to book your interview time please come to the Career Centre.

SCHOLARSHIPS

It's never too early to be thinking about scholarships. There are hundreds of thousands of dollars in available scholarships for graduating students. Several major scholarships have due dates prior to the Christmas break.

Please encourage your graduating children to take a moment to see Mr. McDonald in the counseling office for more information. An information package containing application details for local scholarships will be available through the counseling office on February 28th.

For regularly updated scholarship information and opportunities, check out the ADSS Scholarship Facebook Page. If you have trouble finding or joining the page, please contact Ms. Bill in the library.

GRADUATION PHOTOGRAPHY

Graduation photos are often a very important piece of the celebration of school completion. Professional photographers are available to assist you with capturing this important moment. Three options to assist you with graduation photo planning are:

1. Stirling Images Photography: September-February by appointment only. Contact Erica at 250-720-5575 or stirlingimages@shaw.ca
2. Lifetouch Photography: December 11th and 12th at ADSS. Contact a Lifetouch photographer via the Lifetouch Website at lifetouch.ca and select “graduation portraits”.
3. Walmart Photography: Anytime the store is open.

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 a very large number and greatly impacts the funds that we have available to support other needs in the school. Students are loaned these books on a yearly basis no differently than from the public library. Once signed out, the books are fully the responsibility of the student. Our expectations are that the books are cared for and returned in the condition they were in when the student received them. Damaged or lost books will result in a repair or replacement fine.

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.

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.

CAREER CORNER



ADSS Career Centre
@CareerADSS
adsscareercentre



WEST COAST GENERAL HOSPITAL YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

(Formerly recognized as the "Candy Stripe" program). Applications are available in the Career Centre for our students to volunteer at West Coast General Hospital. Completed applications are due ASAP.

FIR PARK & ECHO VILLAGE YOUTH VOLUNTEERS

This youth volunteer program is starting once again. Application forms are available from the Career Centre.

FIRST AID

First Aid courses (CPR-C with AED, Emergency Child Care with CPR=B, Standard First Aid and CPR-C/HCP) will be offered to our students for a fee. Course dates will be listed soon on our Facebook page. For more information, see Mr. Hall or the Career Centre.

FOOD SAFE

We are hoping to offer a Food Safe Course this fall for our students. Sign up in the Career Centre.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

Check out the binder in the Career Centre for upcoming opportunities that might need your help – currently Special Olympics, Wood School Halloween Fun Fair and the RCMP.

ADSS CLOTHING

The first order of the year will be going in soon – get your order form for an ADSS Hoodie, Tshirt, Sweatpants, etc. from the Career Centre. Orders placed by Oct. 19th should be ready for pickup on Oct. 31st.

CONTEST – WILL YOU BE OUR WINNER?

Don't forget to "like" us on FB and select the Career Centre channel on the ADSS app to be entered into our contest to win a \$100 Gift Card. We will draw a winner once we have 1,000 likes on our FB page and 500 channel subscriptions.

Thank you to the students who filled out the Career Centre survey earlier this month. We appreciate your input in helping us to shape the programs we offer to the students at ADSS!

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

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

The Grapevine
October 2016

Rainbows

(Helping kids cope with grief and loss)
and

Triple P Family Transitions Program

(Coping with parenting through separation and divorce)

You're divorced or separated and your child is caught in the middle. You may have problems with your extended family, your new partner or your ex. Holidays and birthday cause arguments and you may be concerned about your finances. With all of these changes, you're worried about the impact this is all having on your child's behavior and emotions. If this sounds familiar, Family Transitions Triple P can help. Island Health is partnering with Family Guidance to simultaneously bring the Rainbows Program (helping kids deal with grief and loss) to children ages 6-12 and the Triple P Transitions Program to parents dealing with separation and divorce.

Groups will begin on Tuesday, October 4/16. Rainbows will be from 6:00 – 7:00 pm and will run for 10-12 weeks. Come and check out Transitions and let's have a conversation about what will meet your needs and the needs of your family. Transportation and child-minding will be provided, if necessary.

Pre-registration is necessary. For more information and to register for Rainbows, please call Family Guidance at 250-724-0125. For more information and to register for Triple P Transitions, please call Nikki or Shannon at 250-731-1315.





Parent & Student Info Night

Information, answers and program advice from NIC faculty & staff

- Ask NIC faculty all your program-related questions.
- Learn how to apply, from NIC student services staff.
- Discover financial aid resources, to help pay for college.
- Enter to win a \$500 NIC tuition credit.

Wednesday, November 9, 6 - 7:30 pm
Cafeteria, NIC Port Alberni Campus

For more information, contact Jana DeVito
250-724-8735 | jana.devito@nic.bc.ca

www.facebook.com/north.island.college

NORTH ISLAND COLLEGE





*Message from
Education Minister Mike Bernier*

October 4, 2016

Dear Parent,

I'm writing today to ask you to share your opinions with the Ministry of Education as we work to update student reporting in kindergarten through Grade 9. Students in these grades are experiencing B.C.'s new curriculum in classrooms in every part of the province.

We are adapting the curriculum in B.C. schools so kids learn the skills they need to succeed in our changing world. This means we also need to develop a new reporting approach. Right now the progress of your child is reported in many different ways, including report cards, parent teacher meetings, and regular student/parent/teacher check-ins.

Reporting is all about keeping parents like you informed, and we want you to tell us HOW you want to be informed and keep track of your child's progress. Until February 28 next year you can submit your thoughts online at engage.gov.bc.ca/yourkidsprogress.

As well, community meetings will be held in 10 communities across the province over the coming months so parents can ask questions and share their input. Check the website for times and locations as they are scheduled.

The ultimate goal of this engagement is to develop a student reporting process that gives families a deeper understanding of their child's progress at school through timely and comprehensive information. We'll gather the feedback and share our plan next June.

Our education system is one of the most highly ranked in the world. Students are finding success in music, in academics, in sports – and in every subject in between. Together parents, teachers, and the education system are making sure we build on that for an even better tomorrow.

For more details on our new curriculum, please visit www.curriculum.gov.bc.ca.

Thanks for your help,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Bernier".

Mike Bernier
Minister of Education