



# The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School  
October 3, 2012

## **Dear Parents and Guardians:**

We're making progress! Every day more pieces of this gigantic puzzle are being fit together. Some days the success is that all of our bells are working, another it's more of our landscaping is finished, and on a different day the floor in the small gym is installed. It's coming.

We can now confirm that the formal school opening ceremony will be December 7<sup>th</sup>. This is the one where there will be speeches, song, dance and audio visual wonders. Stay tuned and I'll be able to confirm the actual time of this event. We'll post it on the school website just as soon as possible.

The students have been amazing. They have helped to create a whole different atmosphere around the school. Everyone's working to be respectful of the building and the neighbourhood.

## **September 30<sup>th</sup> Enrolment**

We reported a total of 1129.5 FTE students, grades 9 – 12. That's only 61.5 fewer students than 2 years ago. There are 235 students in grade 9, 287 students in grade 10, 293.125 students in grade 11, and 314.125 students in grade 12. You'll note the discrepancy between bodies and FTE. That's because in terms of bodies we're actually only at 1082. This means that we actually pushed up the overall District enrollment by 59.5 FTE students by counting each and every course.

We were staffed for 1070 students so we'll see what impact this enrollment has. For the greater good of the District, we've joined forces with Choices DL and VAST where our part-time students are claimed as 1.0 FTE Alternate students.

## **PAC News**

The ADSS PAC needs you! The Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled for Wednesday, October 10<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm, in the Activity room. We must have a full executive in order to qualify for Gaming Funds. All positions are open and need to be filled. Please note that the ADSS PAC does not fundraise. Each individual club, team, and organization within the school does its own fundraising. Only parents of students involved in these activities will be asked to participate in the raising of funds. Therefore, the business of our PAC is to disperse Gaming Funds, keep accurate records, ask questions, and forward any comments or concerns that we, as

parents, may have regarding our school and our children. Principal Mike Ruttan attends all PAC meetings and always has an informative report. Our September PAC meeting had 4 parents in attendance. This was not a quorum. We are asking you to seriously consider an executive position on the PAC, most important of which is the Treasurer position.

We look forward to seeing you at the October AGM.

Thank you in advance,  
The PAC of ADSS

### **Governor General's Medal**

For the 2011/2012 school year, the medal and recognition for the top academic graduating student goes to Steven Davenport. Steven will be formally awarded the medal that goes with this honour at the October 23rd School Board Meeting.

Steven is a dedicated, organized student. Kudos to all of those teachers who helped him along the way.

### **Student Activity Fee**

As I said in last month's Grapevine, each year we collect a Student Activity Fee. This fee, which is \$30, is used to support various student activities throughout the year. These activities include such things as recognition awards, special speakers, and school-wide non curricular events. For convenience sake, we collect this fee through TAG (homeroom) early in September. However, some students do not have the \$30 with them at the time and intend to pay at a later date.

If you have a child in this position, who has intended to pay at a later date, please do so as soon as you are able.

### **GRAD 2013 Planning Meetings**

There will be a meeting for all parents of Grade 12 students on **Tuesday, October 9th at 7:00 p.m.** in Room 250 to discuss Dry Grad 2013 activities. These activities are parent-sponsored. Please come out to establish the Grad Parent Executive and share your ideas with other parents.

The first Grad student meeting will be on **Thursday, October 11<sup>th</sup>** during the lunch break in Room 250. Topics to be discussed include Student Grad Executive, theme/motto and theme. Grad Student meetings will take place every Thursday.

Regular updates regarding Grad 2013 will be made on the ADSS website. If you have any questions, please contact ADSS Vice-Principal: Mr. Ron Behnke

## **GRAD 2013 INFO FAIR AT ADSS - Oct. 25th**

There will be a Grad Info Fair on Thursday, October 25<sup>th</sup> from 3:15 to 7:00 p.m. in the common area at ADSS. There will be lots of displays and information for Grads with grad dresses on display and space for trying on dresses. As well there will be information about tux and suit rentals, photographers, hair dressers, makeup artists, grad accessories, limo service and more! Free Admission and lots of door prizes, with cash grand door prize for one or two Grad students. Posters on display soon and more info on the ADSS Career Centre Facebook page! The fair is open to anyone (students & parents) interested in finding out more info to plan ahead for Grad 2013!

\*\* Parent volunteers (female) are needed to help in the change room to assist students who wish to try on grad dresses. If you are able to help, please contact Erica Watson in the Career Centre at ADSS by email – [ewatson@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:ewatson@sd70.bc.ca).

### **Electronic Tutorial Help Available**

A website of software related tutorials and help files for students is available. If you would like to access this site the address is: <http://www.mycoolschool.ca>

### **TEXTBOOKS**

By now most students have received their textbooks.

Students need to remember that they should put their name in their textbooks inside the front cover. If you are unsure if the textbook is yours – please see Mrs. Sexton in the library/main office she will check for you.

If the textbooks that were scanned out to you at the beginning of school are not returned.....you will pay for the textbooks.

It is the responsibility of the student to look after and maintain the condition of their textbooks.

This last year it was found that several textbooks were returned with ripped pages, graffiti or water damage. These books cannot be re-issued to other students, they are considered destroyed textbooks. Students who return textbooks in this condition are responsible for the replacement of these textbooks.

### **October - Interim Reports and Parent/Teacher Conferences**

Interim reports will be sent out in the mail for grades 10, 11, 12 on October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

Parent – Teacher interviews – ALL GRADES

Thursday – October 25, 2012 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Friday – October 26, 2012 9 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Interviews are to be scheduled online through the ADSS website

<http://adss.sd70.bc.ca>

All previous accounts will be deleted and parents will have to make new accounts for their student's interviews.

These accounts will stay active for the full year. Please make sure you keep your user ID and password for the remainder of the year for future parent-teacher interview sessions.

**You will be able to create your account and book appointments starting October 19<sup>th</sup>, 2012 @ 4 p.m.**

Any questions or concerns – Call Nancy Bell @ 250 724-3284 – ext 2412

### **Fire Drill**

We had the first Fire Drill of the year recently. The Fire Marshall was in attendance to witness the process. It's a new location and therefore, a new process. Students and staff exited the school fairly promptly and assembled on the grounds of Bob Dailey Stadium. We still have some work to do before we're completely satisfied.

### **Where in the World Are They Now?**

*It is my hope that this will continue to be a regular feature of each Grapevine. In this section I highlight one or more ADSS graduates and what they are up to at this point in their lives. If you know of someone who has graduated from ADSS who wouldn't mind having their story shared with our readers, please feel free to contact me with the information.*

## **Women's Wrestling**

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**July 18, 2012** -The University of Winnipeg Wesmen and women's wrestling head coach Adrian Bruce is pleased to announce that **Daley Forbes** (Port Alberni, BC) has committed to joining the Women's Wrestling program for the start of the 2012-2013 Canada West season.



Forbes (18), a three time Canadian National Champion (2010-2012) joins the Wesmen from Alberni District Secondary School and the Alberni Valley Wrestling Club. In 2009 she captured a silver medal at the Cadet National Championships. The former British Columbia Provincial champion has won multiple Vancouver Island Championships and was named the North Peace Secondary School Most Outstanding Athlete.

"Daley Forbes is an all-star recruit from an all-star program out of Port Alberni, BC. Being a multiple time National Champion, she has a clear understanding of the level of commitment it takes to be

successful at the national level. She is without a doubt one of the top recruits in the country and we are very pleased to welcome her to our program", said Wesmen head coach Adrian Bruce.

### **Student Text Book Responsibility:**

Each year many high school text books get lost and we have thousands of dollars worth of missing text books. We now have a new software program that we hope will more efficiently manage our text book program. Every student has their own individual account, with their own unique identification code. Books are signed out with a barcode to each student. Students have been told several times by their teachers and book room staff that the text books are their **own responsibility**.

- **Text Books are the responsibility of each individual student.**
- Students are expected to take good care of their text books and return them on time to the book room when they no longer need them.
- Students are asked only to write their name on the inside cover of the text book.
- Students who share lockers have been reminded to make sure they have their own text books, and to not lend them to friends, leave them in the classrooms or give them to their teachers.
- At the end of the semester (Grades 10-12) or at the end of the year (Grades 9-12), students must turn their text books in to the book room **IN PERSON** within seven days of the end of term.
- Students who leave their text books unattended in their lockers at the end of the year, after the locks are removed, may end up losing their books and will be issued a fine.
- If a student turns in a friend's book by mistake, the book is removed from the friend's account, not their own. They must still return their own book.
- Students who have not returned their text books within 7 days of the due date (January 28 and June 30) will have a fine issued to them.
- Students with outstanding text books will not be issued new text books for the first two weeks of the semester/year until any outstanding text books are returned or the fines paid. If books are not returned, the fines will keep rolling over from year to year.
- Any grade 12 students must have all text books returned or any fines paid before they may walk the stage at Grad.

If any fines have been paid, and the text book does show up at a later date, a refund will be issued. Please remind your sons and daughters of their responsibility with text books and encourage them to take care of them!

### **Student Drop Off and Pick Up Concerns**

We have some concerns about congestion around the school during those critical before and after school times of the day. In fact, at times it seems downright dangerous!

Please consider the following when bringing your child to ADSS:

- Does my child really have to be dropped off at the front of the school?
- Is there a place to either pick up or drop off that isn't in the middle of the street?
- Is there traffic behind me that could make it dangerous for my child to exit the vehicle?
- Will I be blocking traffic when I choose to stop?
- Am I stopping in an authorized zone?

Please arrange to meet your child in a location that's predictable and away from potential hazards.

## **Grad 2012 News**

Each student in grade 12 must complete a Grad Transition presentation. This Grad Transition is mandatory for all students who graduate from grade 12 in B.C. The purpose of this presentation is for grade 12 students to reflect on their years at grade school, especially the last 4 years of high school. This is their opportunity to talk about their achievements during this time and their plans for their future. Again this year grade 12 students will be presenting to an audience consisting of grade 10 students and selected members of the public and ADSS staff. We will be teaching students specific skills needed in order to make these presentations high quality and memorable.

Most of these presentations, which we term Exit Interviews, will occur during the month of April. Some of our students will be fulfilling their graduation requirements by the end of this first semester so they will be presenting prior to the end of January. These Exit Interviews are organized through the Career Centre.

Students must also complete 90 hours of physical fitness if they have not enrolled in a PE class in grade 11 or 12. Forms are available on the Career Center website or in the counseling office. 30 hours of Work Experience and/or volunteer work documentation is also required. For more info contact the Career Center.

Included in the Grad Transition for students at ADSS is a course known as Information Technology 10. Many of our grade 12s already have credit for this course. The rest of the grade 12 students have many or most of the requirements for the course already met through other courses that they have done from grade 9 to the present. They just didn't realize it! Ms. Lloyd has time to help the remaining students meet the goal of having all of our graduates able to demonstrate that they are computer literate in addition to all of their other skills. More information about this initiative will be shared with grade 12 students at an upcoming assembly.

## **GRAD PHOTOS**

Grad Photos will take place from November 19 –22, 3-9pm. Students will be able to book their appointments in the main office at the beginning of Nov. All students need a photo for the yearbook and for the grad class wall plaque.

## **POST SECONDARY UNIVERSITY EVENT**

Mr. Matlock will be taking students to a Canadian University Event in Nanaimo on October 17. Many institutions will be represented and will provide information to our students. Students need to sign up in the Career Center ASAP.

## **GRAD CHECKS**

If a student or parent has any concerns about enough credits and to ensure they have the prerequisites for their career path they can make an appointment to see Mrs. Savard or Ms Graydon. If a student is not a position to grad due to not enough credits you will be contacted by the counselor. After 1<sup>st</sup> term marks are posted non-grad letters (potential) will be mailed home.

## **POST SECONDARY APPLICATIONS**

1. Thinking of going to the University of Victoria? From Oct. 1 to Nov.30 you can self report your grade 11 marks to be considered for early acceptance and possible conditional entrance scholarships. Go to [www.uvic.ca](http://www.uvic.ca) to apply. Once the student has received a UVIC #, they can self report. Use your grade 11 final report card marks.

2. Vancouver Island University in Nanaimo opens their registration site on November 15. Once again go to their website for further information. Some of their programs are on a first come, first serve basis.
3. A general website for applying to post secondary is [applybc.ca](http://applybc.ca)

### **OTHER USEFUL WEBSITES FOR CAREER PLANNING**

[www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca) -this is a government website which helps students to plan for post secondary education. It has tools and information for career planning, working, post secondary searches, student loans and grants and scholarship searches.

[www.educationplanner.ca](http://www.educationplanner.ca) –similar to the above

### **SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES**

Grads are encouraged to check out our information packages available on our ADSS website. On the right hand side there is a Scholarship Handbook and Booklet. The handbook is a guide for completing scholarship applications and booklet lists scholarships available for Canadian students.

Grade 12's should be checking the scholarship bulletin board in the counseling office. Our local scholarships and bursary package will be available at the beginning of March. One requirement that students could be working on now is volunteer work. Many of our local scholarships and bursaries look for that evidence. If students need help with setting up volunteer work they can assistance from the career center staff. Students should also check the B.C. awards online site – [www.studentawards.com](http://www.studentawards.com) for a database of awards open to B.C. students. It also provides information on topics such as strategies for effective applications, resume writing and letters.

Any questions or concerns?

Please contact:

Candace Graydon – 1<sup>st</sup> nations counselor - [cgraydon@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:cgraydon@sd70.bc.ca)  
250-724-3284 local 2409

Louise Savard – grade 12 counselor - [lsavard@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:lsavard@sd70.bc.ca)  
250-724-3284 local 2411

### **Graduating student in Good Standing Eligible to Participate in Graduation Ceremony**

Participation in the graduation ceremony is a privilege and not a right. In order to be considered eligible to participate in the graduation ceremony at Alberni District Secondary School a grade 12 student must be a student in good standing and have met the following criteria:

- Must have met all graduation requirements, as mandated by the B.C. Ministry of Education, by June 1<sup>st</sup> of their graduating year or have a firm plan approved by Administration
- Must have fully paid the Student Activity Fee in each year registered as a student at ADSS
- Attendance for their final semester:
  - a) Must physically be present in the school and enrolled in ADSS programs
  - b) Must have an average of 90% attendance rate for their final term
- Must have returned any overdue books or school supplies and settled any outstanding accounts
- Must be in full compliance with the School Code of Conduct from the first day of their final month of the year in which the graduation ceremony occurs
- Must have completed the Grad Transition Plan by May 1<sup>st</sup> or have a firm plan approved by Administration

## **2012 Summer Games Results**

Nolan Badovinac – Wrestling – Gold  
Jordie Bodnar – Wrestling – Gold  
Sheldon Haddad – Wrestling – Gold  
Dean Leyland – Wrestling – Gold  
Kate Schievink – Rugby – Bronze  
Jonathan Spencer – Wrestling – Gold  
Jesse Wagner – Wrestling – Gold  
Jordan Wagner – Wrestling – Gold  
Remi Wells – Wrestling - Gold

## **Important Upcoming Dates**

- October 8 – Thanksgiving Day
- October 10 – PAC meeting and elections, 7:00 pm, staffroom
- October 16 – Interims mailed home
- October 17 – Canadian University Event - Nanaimo
- October 19 – Provincial Professional Day
- October 23 – Photo Retakes
- October 25 – Parent Teacher Conferences, 4:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- October 26 – Parent Teacher Conferences, 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon (no school for students)
- October 27 – Band Bottle Drive

Please contact me at 723-6251, extension 2404, if you have questions or concerns about this newsletter.

Mike Ruttan,  
Principal