



# The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School  
September 12, 2012

**“Learners today, leaders tomorrow”**

## **Dear Parents and Guardians:**

Welcome back to another school year. This is a very exciting year for us – we’re now in our new school! Our new address is 4000 Roger Street, V9Y 0B1. Just think Star Wars. The telephone number is the same, 250-723-6251, but the individual telephone extensions have changed.

The Contractors, District CUPE staff, and all ADSS staff has been working very hard to ensure that all students have a fully functioning school. Student timetables have been finalized and all students are receiving appropriate supports to allow them to achieve graduation from grade 12. This is an on-going process for all students because we’re always fine-tuning the plan as individual students’ circumstances change. However, the process of developing student timetables starts in earnest in May and is finalized right about now. Currently, counsellors are addressing concerns for students who have changed their minds about particular courses over the summer.

I’d like to welcome a number of new staff to the school. Firstly, Mr. Rob Souther has been added as a vice-principal to our school. He’s responsible primarily for the special education portion of the student body and their accompanying supports. Additionally, welcome to Ms. Sonja Efford and Ms. Rachel Reynolds, who are both teaching English, and Ms. Candace Werner who is teaching math. We also have the following support staff who are new to our school: Nancy James, Bev Lloyd, Sukwinder Manhas, Lindsay Sexton, Sandy Thomas, and April McLean. Welcome aboard everyone! You’re part of the first staff at this amazing new facility.

Our first week of school has not been without its lumps and bumps. Students have been superb! Staff has worked very hard throughout the summer and during the weeks just prior to school to make it as smooth as possible. Thank you to everyone for working together so well!

Some areas of the school building and school grounds are still a construction zone. Those areas have been clearly marked. Students and staff have been given directions to stay away from those areas. A few areas such as the Library and Servedy are not fully functional yet but will be by next week. We don’t expect the all weather artificial turf field to be completed until the end of September and the process of landscaping will continue for some time yet. Our landscaping will be an on-going process. Students have been asked to stay out of these areas because the plants and planting beds are still very fragile. For your information, the soil that looks so incredibly rich and black actually came from this site during site preparation and has been stored at Dolan’s Pit for the past 2 years until we needed it back.

Regularly scheduled classes are proceeding. Some of the school’s systems are being tested and fine tuned. These first few months will be the testing phase for those systems. Student classes will be fully functional and our students will continue to receive a high quality program in a state-of-the-art high school.



### **Meet the Teacher Night**

This should be a really good year to have lots of parents come in and meet your child's teachers. The new building will be a huge draw to encourage parents to come in. Our meet-the-teacher night is set for September 27<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 – 8:00. Teachers of Day 2 courses will be able to remain a bit longer to meet with grade 9 parents so that parents can, at least meet their students' teachers for that day.

At 8:00 pm any parents interested in a walk-through of the building will have an opportunity for a guided tour. This tour is for parents only and is not intended as an open house for the community. That will happen near the end of November.

### **Student Accident Insurance**

Each year we make available to parents additional student accident insurance. This insurance is available in print either from the main school office or through Mr.Souther. It is also available on line. The link is: [www.iapkidsplus.com](http://www.iapkidsplus.com) It has information and an online application.

### **Textbooks**

Most students have been issued their textbooks at this point. Grade 9 students are issued the entire year's books and so, are responsible for a lot of books at once. Please note that when books are returned to the bookroom it is expected that they will be returned in a condition to permit them to be re-issued to another student. If this is not the case, the student will be charged for the textbook replacement.

It is convenient to collect the student activity fee during the first week of school in TAG. However, if a student is unable to pay the \$30 fee at this time, they are asked to speak with one of the Vice-principals and arrange for a deferral.

Each year we replace outdated textbooks. If you'd like a copy of a text that is no longer in circulation for your reference at home please let me know. Sometimes it's better to have one as a reference even if it's not current. I'd much rather see these textbooks go into someone's home where it's going to be used, than the landfill.

## **Student Activity Fee**

All students at ADSS are required to pay a student activity fee of \$30.00. This fee is payable during the month of September. This money is used for student benefit (outside of the classroom) throughout the school year. It is used for cultural activities, motivational speakers, student recognition, student awards, student pictures, hardships, breakfast program, the lunch club, student and athlete of the month, and much more.

Please have your student bring their student activity fee payment directly to Mr. Smith, the school accountant. Payment can be cash or cheque made payable to "ADSS". Thank you for your support.

## **ADSS Is a Scent-free School**

Because of the issue of allergies for many staff and students, we ask that staff and students refrain from wear strong scents to school. Perfume allergy is one of the most frequent types of contact allergy, especially in children with eczema. It only takes one person entering a building wearing a scented product to affect the air quality. This is because scented products can drift throughout an entire area wherever takes them.

There is some interesting research available on the effects of scents on learning. If you would like more information, I'd be happy to share it with you.

## **2012/2012 Out-of-Bounds Zones**

As fully explained to students last week in their orientation assemblies we want to be a good neighbor in our new neighbourhood. All students have been asked to remain away from city property, the Multiplex, North Island College and the 2 block neighbourhood just north of the school across Roger Street **during regular school hours**. We have alerted the neighbours to this expectation and have asked that they let us know if they see students loitering in any of these areas during normal school hours. These areas include the skateboard park, Echo Centre, Bob Dailey Stadium and track, Glenwood Center, the Fall Fair grounds, the Lawn Bowling Club, and Memorial Gardens. School property, of course, is available to students.

RCMP have been alerted about these expectations and will be escorting any students found in an out-of-bounds area to the ADSS main office.

## **School District #70 Drug and Alcohol Policy**

It can be retrieved at

<http://www.sd70.bc.ca/Board/Documents/Policy%20Manual.pdf>

### **5147: PUPIL INVOLVEMENT WITH ILLEGAL DRUGS AND ALCOHOL**

3.3.1 A first offence will result in a five-day suspension. Conditions for readmission are:

- completion of all assigned school work
- completion of a substance abuse educative assignment
- meeting with parents
- signed school-based contract

3.4 A second offence will result in a ten-day suspension. Conditions for readmission are:

\* evidence that the student can succeed in a school environment without further abuse of drugs and/or alcohol, such as proof of enrolment in an approved intervention program

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- completion of all assigned school work
- meeting with parents
- signed school-based contract

3.5 Subsequent offences will result in an indefinite suspension to the Board. In accordance with the School Act the Board may:

- \* place students under 16 years of age in a home study program for a specified period of time
- \* refuse “to offer an educational program” to those students who are 16 years of age or older

3.6 Students who are found to be distributing or selling drugs and/or alcohol will be indefinitely suspended and face a Board hearing.

## **Assessment Policy**

As part of the school’s initiative to be consistent and proactive, students have been made aware of the ADSS Assessment Policy. Specific aspects of this policy apply to particular curricular departments, but overall we have defined to help students a set of principles. Along with these principles, each course will have a course overview available to students and parents by the Open House on September 18.

### **Guiding Principles:**

1. The primary purpose of assessment and evaluation is to improve student learning.
2. The criteria for assessment and evaluation will be clearly communicated to the students.
3. Assessment should be criterion-referenced.
4. Assessments clearly describe the expectations to students *before* the learning so that they know what they need to do to meet the learning outcome.
5. It is important for students to complete their assignments on time so that teachers can provide timely feedback.

## **Alberni District Secondary School Code of Conduct 2012-2013**

### **School Mission Statement:**

At ADSS it is our mission to provide every opportunity for our students to be successful in all endeavours and to help create citizens of a world that we cannot yet fully envision.

### **I. Introduction**

The purpose of this document is to provide a basic framework and common expectations for ADSS. The guidelines reflect the new provincial standards for “Code of Conduct”, as stated below:

School boards and schools are entrusted through the School Act with authority to establish codes of conduct. While recognizing the autonomy of these bodies and acknowledging the efforts they have already undertaken to ensure school climates are as positive as possible, the provincial standards described below are provided to assist them in developing consistent and coherent policies and practices in their communities. Although most schools have codes of conduct in place, it is expected that all British Columbia schools will revisit existing codes and/or develop new codes of conduct reflecting the provincial standards. (Safe, Caring and Orderly Guide, page 15)

### **II. Code of Conduct: Key Elements**

#### **Process**

School staff, parents, and students provided input through an on-line survey and a variety of meetings. School staff, the Parent Advisory Committee and the SPC have reviewed the current code of conduct to meet the Ministry requirement of page 15 of A Guide for Safe, Caring and Orderly Schools.

**Communication**

The Code of Conduct is reviewed with students at assemblies; in regular school classes; and the individual students in a counseling setting as required. The Code of Conduct is printed in the school agenda and also posted on the school's website.

**Implementation**

Behavioural expectations outlined in our Code of Conduct are consistently taught and promoted. Responses to unacceptable behaviour are based on consistently on school & district policies, and are appropriate to the context.

**Monitoring**

Conduct is continuously monitored to ensure codes reflect current and emerging situations and are contributing to school safety.

**Alignment**

ADSS's Code of Conduct will be based on our Charter of Responsibilities and Rights. (see page 2)

**Standards**

- A. Statement of Purpose - to establish and maintain a safe, caring, and orderly environment for purposeful learning.
- B. Conduct Expectations – expectations are based on the Charter of Responsibilities written below.

**Student Photographs**

From time-to-time we take photographs of students at ADSS while they are working on their studies. We can't possibly seek individual parent permission each and every time we do this but please be reassured that we only use these photographs for noble purposes. If you do not wish your child to be photographed please contact me so that I can alert any potential photographers. In each case, we ask the individual student beforehand if they wish to have their picture taken. If they don't wish this to happen we don't force the issue.

**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 that wouldn't mind having their story shared with our readers, please feel free to contact me with the information.*

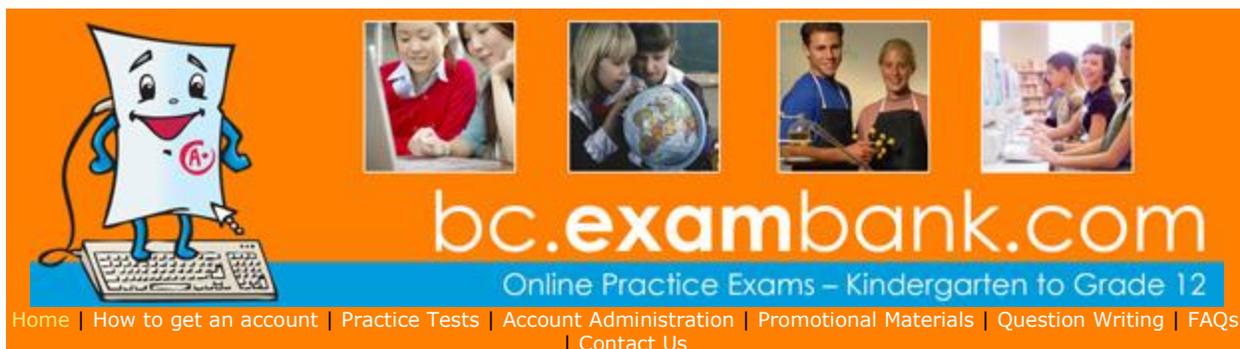
**Cell Phone Policy**

Because of the intrusive nature of cell phones in the classroom environment, we've had to ask our students to restrict their use to out-of-class time unless they are in a class where the teacher uses the cell phone for curricular reasons.

- Teachers have the flexibility to incorporate cell phone use in their classrooms, if they choose.
- Individual teachers will set cell phone use/misuse guidelines within their classroom.

*Note: the WHO/International Agency for Research on Cancer has classified radio frequency electromagnetic fields as possible carcinogenic to humans, based on an increased risk of glioma, a malignant type of brain cancer, associated with wireless phone use.*

If you have an urgent need to contact your child during class time, please call the main office switchboard at 250-723-6251 and ask that you child be brought to the telephone.



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### What is ExamBank?

ExamBank is a powerful resource for British Columbian students in all grades. Originally set up to help students prepare for their provincial exams, it has now been expanded to offer online study resources in academic subject areas for everyone!



By using this web site, you can join the hundreds of thousands of Canadian students who have enhanced their learning experience by [writing randomized practice exams](#) that relate directly to the curriculum as outlined by British Columbia's Ministry of Education.

The computer will mark your practice exam as soon as you're done, so that you can immediately see where your strengths and weaknesses lie. As the service is entirely web-based, no software needs to be installed, and it works equally well on Windows, Macintosh, or any other computer system with an Internet connection. In addition, web delivery allows us to continually update and add content to our database of tens of thousands of questions.



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| <b>47</b> | <b>13</b> | <b>23</b> | <b>48</b> |
| Days      | Hours     | Minutes   | Seconds   |

To [write an exam, or see the exams available](#), click on the grade level to the left. If you do not have either a personal or a school account that you can use to access the service, you can [create one online](#) or call the ExamBank Sales Office at the number below. Our packages start as low as \$12.00 for 40 logins, and can be set up immediately.

**ExamBank Sales Office**  
Toll-Free: 1-866-961-2269

## **BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program**

Sponsored by B.C. Agriculture in the Classroom Foundation and ActNowBC. Our school is involved in a province-wide healthy living initiative. One of the goals is to encourage healthy eating by providing fresh B.C. Fruits and Vegetable to the students *during classroom time*. The students will receive picked, washed, and ready to enjoy produce for 13 weeks at **no charge!**

**To ensure every student's health and safety during this program, please return this reverse consent form only if you do NOT wish your child to participate or if you need to alert us to certain food allergies.**

Students Name:

Teacher's Name:

Grade:

**NO** I do not wish my child to participate in the BC School Fruit and Vegetable Program.

**MEDICAL ALERT** My child has food allergies you need to be aware of and therefore he/she may not be able to participate in every offering. To assist you, below is information on my child's "allergy profile". Please List Allergy(s) and define Allergy profile:

\_\_\_\_\_

In Example:

It is airborne

It is by ingestion only.

It can be contracted through touch – the skin.

If you need further guidance in this area, please contact me at: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent/Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Request to update student information**

- It's important that parents notify the office to keep student medical and contact information current. Please contact Vice Principal Rob Souther to update your child's medical information [rsouther@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:rsouther@sd70.bc.ca) or 250-723-6251 and Lani Goorts [lgoorts@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:lgoorts@sd70.bc.ca) or 250-723-6251 to update demographic information. Thank you.

### **News from the PAC:**

**Welcome back!** Hope you all had a great summer. Due to the later startup of the school year, the **September PAC meeting will be on Wednesday September 26th, 7pm, in the conference room.** After which, there will be a tour of our new high school.

The **October PAC** meeting is our Annual General Meeting (**AGM**). All positions are open and must be filled. The most important of which is the treasurer's position. The biggest task of the treasurer is to arrange a meeting for allocation of the gaming funds, keep accurate records, as well as making the necessary applications for future gaming funding and filing of the Gaming Account Summary. Any parent having experience in this area is encouraged to consider this position. **Without a PAC executive, we do not qualify for gaming funds which would be a large financial loss for our school. Please consider an executive position on the PAC.**

What is important to note about the ADSS PAC meetings is the amount of information that is shared. The Principal's Report updates on everything happening within the school and how it affects our students, as well as a great opportunity for parents to express their concerns and ask questions.

**As parents or guardians of a student attending ADSS, you are a member of the Parents Advisory Council of ADSS. We look forward to seeing you at the PAC meetings.**

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

- September 14 – PAC Meeting, 7:00 pm, Conference Room
- September 20 - School Photo Day
- September 24 – Curriculum Implementation Day, no school for students
- September 26 – PAC Meeting, 7:00 pm, staffroom (includes a school tour)
- September 27 – Meet-the-teacher Night, 6:30 pm – 8:00 pm.

Please contact me at 723-6251, extension 2404, if you have questions or concerns about this newsletter. Let me know if you'd like this newsletter sent to you electronically. My email is [mruttan@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:mruttan@sd70.bc.ca).

Mike Ruttan,  
Principal