



The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School
September 11, 2013

“Learners today, leaders tomorrow”

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to another school year! I am Nora Moncur, new Principal at ADSS. I'm excited about the startup of another school year and my new role. I am returning to ADSS after an absence of 3 years as Principal of Neill Middle School. Previous to Neill Middle School, I was Vice Principal at ADSS for five years. As a result I know many of the staff and many of the students at ADSS. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the school at 250 723 6251 or email nmoncur@sd70.bc.ca

Our start up has been relatively smooth and students are settling in to the routine of classes. 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, your student's timetable may be altered in the next week.

I'd like to welcome new staff to ADSS: Mr. Maher (Vice-principal), Ms. Finlay (Connect), Ms. Boyce (Learning Center), Mr. Bodnar (PE and SS), Ms. Behnke (Secretary and Library), Mr. Dawson, Ms. Desbiens, and Mr. White (Student Support). Also, congratulations to Mrs. Bill (Librarian) who had a baby boy this July.

Important Upcoming Dates

- September 11 – PAC Meeting, 7:00 pm, Conference Room
- September 19 - School Photo Day
- September 23 – Curriculum Implementation Day, **no school for students**
- September 26 – Family BBQ and Meet-the-teacher Night, 5:00 pm – 7:30 pm.

BBQ and Open House September 26, 5:00 pm – 7:30pm

Parents and family of ADSS students are invited to attend a BBQ followed by an Open House where parents will follow their student's timetable. Please join us on Thursday September 26, from 5:00 pm to 7:30 pm.

5:00-6:00	-BBQ in front of the school
6:00	- brief assembly in Theater
6:10 – 6:20	-Period 1
6:25-6:35	-Period 2
6:40-6:50	-Period 3
6:55-7:05	-Period 4
7:05-7:30	-Teachers available in their classrooms.

WELCOME BACK FROM PAC!!!

Welcome back! Hope you all had a great summer. The ADSS PAC cordially invites ADSS parents to our first PAC meeting this year on **Wednesday September 11 at 7:00 pm**. Please join the ADSS PAC Facebook page for up-to- date information and news.

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.

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 . There you will find all 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.

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 as air circulates in the building.

2013/2013 Out-of-Bounds Zones

As explained to students this week in their orientation assemblies, we want to be a good neighbor in our new neighbourhood. **During regular school hours** 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. 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
- 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.

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

2013-2014

School Mission Statement:

At ADSS it is our mission to provide every opportunity for our students to be successful in all endeavors 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, 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

Behavioral expectations outlined in our Code of Conduct are consistently taught and promoted. Responses to unacceptable behavior 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.

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.

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.

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 your child be brought to the telephone.

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 or 250-723-6251 and Lani Goorts lgoorts@sd70.bc.ca or 250-723-6251 to update demographic information. Thank you.

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 nmoncur@sd70.bc.ca

NEWSLETTER SUBSCRIPTION - Parents who are interested in receiving this Grapevine Newsletter, and other digitally transmitted news about ADSS, please go to the ADSS school website (<http://www.sd70.bc.ca/school/adss/Pages/default.aspx>) and look to the bottom right: "Newsletter Subscription" / "Sign up."

Nora Moncur,
Principal