



# The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School  
February 1, 2012

## Dear Parents and Guardians:

Here we are starting on the second half of the 2011/2012 school year. Before you know it Valentines will have happened, as will Spring Break, Easter, and then we will be at Grad! I guess I'm getting a bit ahead of myself.

On Thursday just prior to exam week students went to TAG (homeroom). They were given their new copy of the semester 2 timetable printed on red paper. That way the new semester 2 timetable is easy to identify. Students with timetable concerns were asked to speak with their counsellors during exam week to address their concerns and many did. There are still a number of timetables in the Main Office that have not been picked up. So far, we've had a pretty smooth start up.

Once any preliminary problems have been fixed, counsellors will begin to address requests for class/course changes. Students can see counsellors either before school, after school, at lunch, or during the class that students wishes to change out of. Changes will be permitted based on class sizes. Student initiated changes will be dealt with until February 3rd.

The book room to return textbooks, or sign out textbooks for second semester courses was open throughout the exam week of January 24 – 28 and will be open January 30 to February 3 before school, lunch, and after school.

Final marks for students registered in grade 12 have all been entered and report cards for these students will be distributed on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Students requiring transcripts of marks for application to post-secondary institutions will be able to leave those requests with Mrs. Bell, the counselling secretary, starting Friday, February 3.

A huge thank you to the ADSS PAC for again offering food to our students who may have been hungry just prior to writing an exam. Each morning, and again prior to 1:00 pm, fruit, cereal, bagels and juice was available for any student that was in need of a burst of nutrition. This made a huge difference for student concentration on their exams and is such a positive contribution to the school.

- Parents are requested to update their child's contact information and address changes with the main office please. It's important that all information be current. You can

email any changes to Lani Goorts at [lgoorts@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:lgoorts@sd70.bc.ca)) or call 250-723-6251 extension 221.

- If your child has any **new or existing medical information** that is important for teachers/staff to be aware of please contact Vice Principal Laurie Morphet ([lmorphet@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:lmorphet@sd70.bc.ca)) 250-723-6251 extension 225
- Because of the on-going teachers' strike report cards are being printed for grade 12 students only at the end of this semester. Parents are encouraged to contact teachers directly via telephone or email to request final dispositions on students in grade 10 and 11. Additionally, students in grade 9, while not completing courses at this time are now half way through their courses and parents should be contacting teachers to receive updates.

## Thank you

for your generous support of the  
ADSS Breakfast Club

*Toy Run Members*  
*Board of Education SD 70*  
*Dennis Jonnson Motor Products Ltd.*  
*Safeway*  
*Fairway Market*  
*CUPE*  
*Lily Diotte of Swale Rock*  
*AV Times*  
*Coffee News*  
*Janet Parker*  
*Circle Dairy*  
*Parent Volunteers and Community Partner Volunteers*

**From the ADSS Breakfast Club students, parents and staff**

Fairway Market held a very successful grab bag sale in support of the ADSS Breakfast Club and PASS. As a result 53 healthy eating bags and 31 feeling good bags were delivered to our school to help students who need them. In addition, a gift card worth \$598.40 was also made available to the Breakfast Club to be spent on purchasing necessary supplies for the program. This money came from additional donations that were made during this month. Thank you to Fairway Market for this generous support of ADSS students.

## **LearnNowBC**

### *About the Virtual School Society (VSS)*

The VSS is an independent, non-profit Society founded in 2006. It is supported through funding from the Ministry of Education.

The Virtual School Society's purpose is to:

- enhance the achievement of students through distributed learning
- make British Columbia a leader in online educational programs
- promote distributed learning in British Columbia

Through ongoing consultation with students, parents and educators, we are able to continually update our offerings to ensure we are providing relevant programs and services for the LearnNowBC.ca users.

The LearnNowBC.ca web portal, created by the Virtual School Society, is a single point of entry to information about distributed (online) learning in British Columbia for students K-12, parents and educators. This one-stop educational portal provides access to choices and free services for learners of all ages.

LearnNowBC.ca has signed-up over 85,000 users and many of the users take at least one course online. Most students who register for online courses are in regular schools and take these courses for reasons of convenience or accessibility. Other students, like those in rural communities, take online courses because of limited options in their area.

On LearnNowBC.ca, you'll find:

- the [Course Finder](#) database, which includes information on more than 2500 courses offered by Distributed Learning schools in BC
- a [Study Centre](#) that offers free tutoring for a number of academic courses
- an [Advising Centre](#) for Academic, Trades and Career counseling
- Steve Dotto's [CyberSafety videos](#)
- information about [graduation requirements](#)
- a [Young Learning Centre](#) for early learners
- teaching and learning resources that you can download from the [Learning Resource Repository](#)
- the online [Daily Physical Activity \(DPA\) Tracker](#)

**To access your Provincial Exam Results** on-line:

<https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/>

You will need your 9 digit PEN \_\_\_\_\_. Available from your counselor or Mrs. Bell.

## **Have you heard about WORK EXPERIENCE 12A?**



Work Experience 12A is a Ministry of Education approved course that consists of 90 to 100 hours of work-based training in a co-operative partnership between the student, the school and the employer.

Through work-based training, students observe and practice employability skills and learn new technical and applied skills relating to specific occupations or industries. Students can earn 4 credits towards their Graduation Plan in a flexible setting as this course is offered outside of the regular timetable (evenings, weekends, holidays, etc.) We encourage students to gain practical experience in their chosen focus area to see if their choice is a good fit for them. This has the power to be a very valuable experience before students spend a great deal of time and money on their post secondary education.

What are other benefits of participating in a Work Experience 12A Course?

- Improving your resume and developing references for the future
- Gaining valuable volunteer/work experience
- Developing and improving employability skills
- Building your network of industry contacts
- Acquiring information to use toward future career decision-making
- Increasing your self-confidence and potentials
- Completing your work/volunteer hour requirement for graduation

For more information please come see Mr. Freethy or Mr. Matlock in the Career Centre.

### **Satisfaction Survey 2011/12**

The Provincial Satisfaction Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents, teachers and students on topics related to school environment,

safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

The Ministry of Education recognizes that the ongoing labour negotiations have the potential to make administration of the Satisfaction Survey more difficult – especially if the task falls entirely to administrative staff.

We also appreciate that the survey has been clearly identified by parents as an important tool for interaction with the ministry and with their own schools. Moreover, a recent survey of school principals also indicated broad use of the survey for school planning purposes.

In an effort to balance the potential challenges with the desire of parents and administrators for a stable source of information for planning, the ministry will make two changes to the survey administration for this year:

- 1) The survey administration period will be extended from January until the end of May, providing an additional 2 months of administration time. It is hoped that this extension will allow for ample administration time.
- 2) Participation in the survey will be optional – the ministry will provide all of the usual resources and support to allow the survey to proceed, but the decision to proceed with the survey can be made within each learning community.

Finally, the Ministry would like to hear more about how you use the survey and what changes you think could be made to ensure it aligns with 21st Century learning and with the needs of the field. We will be posing questions on [BC's Education Plan website](#) shortly and based on the feedback we receive we will review survey existing tools and measures to see what improvements should be made.

This year, the survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey). Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. The URL is:

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat\\_survey](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey)

For parents without access to computers, local public library computers may be an option. Alternately, parents may visit the school at their convenience, and will be provided computer access in order to complete the survey.

## Graduation 2012

The first semester is now over and final marks will be available soon. Grade 12's who plan to attend a post secondary institution should create an account with the ministry to access their provincially examinable course marks and to complete a Post Secondary Institution form. This form gives the ministry permission to release final marks to post secondary institutions in August, which in turn determines final admission. If they need assistance to do this they can see Mr. McDonald or Ms. Graydon in the counselling department.

Since this is the last semester before graduation, a quick graduation check is a very high priority! If a student has failed a mandatory course in the first semester, they only have term three to correct it! Students should also have completed by now the 90 hours of physical activity and 30 hours of volunteer/work experience. Grad Transitions will be completed through the Career Center.

Attendance will also come into play in the fourth term, as the student is expected to be here at least 90% of the time unless otherwise excused by a parent.

Spring admissions for colleges and universities are now open. Scholarships and bursaries are out in March. There is a scholarship handbook, which assists students in preparing for awards on our ADSS website.

Time will fly by. Be sure! Check and check again!

Mr. McDonald can be reached at [jmcdonald@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:jmcdonald@sd70.bc.ca) and Ms. Graydon can be reached at [cgraydon@sd70.bc.ca](mailto:cgraydon@sd70.bc.ca).

## Truancy Concerns

There have been some concerns with some of our students who have persistent truancy profiles. The concern, of course, is that because of the missed classes, these students are unable to keep abreast of their educational program. Ultimately, these students will negatively affect their final course grades. In some cases, this can even result in course failure resulting in the student having to re-take the course.

When a student is absent from school we require either a note or a phone call to the main office explaining that absence. If we do not receive that parent contact we can only assume that the individual student is truant. Therefore, students in this situation become doubly responsible for keeping abreast of any missed work. **This year parents have been very diligent about keeping us informed.** Thank you for your help with this important piece of communication..

## **Yes I Can!**

The BC Council for Exceptional Children (BC CEC) is once again honouring students with the BC CEC Yes I Can! Awards program. The BC CEC would like to acknowledge the outstanding achievements of children and youth with exceptionalities throughout the province. Students can be nominated in any one of the following categories: academics, arts, athletics (including motor skills), school and community activities, technology, self-advocacy, and transition. All nominees for the Yes I Can! Awards will receive a certificate of achievement. Award winners in each category will be given special recognition at the BC CEC Yes I Can! Awards celebration to be held in Vancouver on June 2, 2012.

The BC CEC is asking for your support to promote the Yes I Can! Awards program for eligible students. Please encourage teachers, families, friends, support workers and others in the field of Special Education to nominate a student as outlined in the attached Yes I Can! Awards package.

For more information, contact:

BC CEC at [yesican@bccec.org](mailto:yesican@bccec.org)

## **Grade 9 Immunizations**

Grade 9 Immunizations will take place on Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>. Forms were distributed to all Grade 9 students in early January. Extra forms are available at the school office. Please return completed forms to the office prior to the immunization date.

## **Ministry of Children and Family Development – Relief and Foster homes needed**

This ministry is looking for homes to care for special needs children and youth. For more information or to apply, please contact: Judy Nelson or Megan DeJong, 250-720-2650.

## **France – Canada Exchanges**

If you are interested in finding out more information about an exchange to France for July and August 2012 or a 9 & 11 week exchange during the school year the contact is:

Anne Louise McFarland  
OSEF France Canada  
#12 7768 East Saanich Road  
Saanichton, B.C., V8M 1Y6  
Tel: 250-665-6733  
Email: [almcfarland@shaw.ca](mailto:almcfarland@shaw.ca)  
Web: [www.osef.ca](http://www.osef.ca)

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

- January 30 – semester 2 begins
- February 2 – 4 – Alberni International Wrestling Tournament, Multiplex
- February 3 – deadline for timetable changes
- February 7 – Grade 9 immunizations
- February 7 – Report Cards issued for grade 12 ONLY
- February 8 – PAC meeting, 7:00 pm, staffroom
- February 20 – Professional Day, no school for students
- February 21 – start of student selection of courses for 2012/13
- February 22 – American Math Competition, grades 10 – 12
- February 22 – 26 – Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, Moscow, Idaho
- February 23 – Pascal, Cayley, Fermat Math Contest for grade 9 – 11
- February 29 – Anti Bullying Pink Shirt Day

Please contact me at 723-6251, extension 222, if you have questions or concerns about this newsletter.

Mike Ruttan,  
Principal