



The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School

October 5, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

We are making progress! We continue to examine our student progress toward graduation from grade 12. Below is some of the information that we were looking at. The positive improvement has been the result of our collective efforts. By that I mean parents, PAC, students, District and ADSS staff. It's by everyone working together that we're able to make improvements in the overall success of our students.

Goal # 1 Improve the six year school completion rate for students attending ADSS.

| | <u>Total Gr 12</u> | <u>Graduates #</u> | <u>Graduates %</u> |
|---------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 2005/06 | 261 | 246 | 94 |
| 2006/07 | 275 | 255 | 93 |
| 2007/08 | 246 | 234 | 95 |
| 2008/09 | 229 | 219 | 96 |
| 2009/10 | 230 | 217 | 94 |

Objective 2: Improve the grade 10 core course completion rate

Rationale: Grade-to-grade transitions indicate that a greater number of students fail or drop out during grade 10 year.

| <u>Assessment Instrument</u> | | <u>Baseline 08/09</u> | <u>2009/10</u> | <u>2010/11</u> | <u>2011/12</u> | | |
|--|-------------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--|--|
| <u>Report Card Marks</u> | English 10 | 91% 9% | 92.5% | 88 | | | |
| | Social Studies 10 | 88% 12% | 86% | 89 | | | |
| | Science 10 | 87% 13% | 91% | 94 | | | |
| | PMA 10 | 82% 18% | 90% | 92 | | | |
| | APPS 10 | 73% 27% | 73% | 82 | | | |
| <u>Percentage of students who pass grade 10 core classes.</u> | | | | | | | |

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 at the same time that we distribute textbooks to students. 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.

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 1st 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 1st or have a firm plan approved by Administration

ADSS Policy – October 2008

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

Students will now have received their textbooks.

A reminder to Students that they should put their name in their textbooks.

If you are unsure if the textbook is yours – Please come down to the Counseling Department and Ms. Bell can check this 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 Parent/Teacher Conferences

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28TH, 2011

TIME: 8:45 AM TO 1:30 PM with a break from 10:55am to 11:20 am for lunch.

Parents can book appointments online by going to the ADSS website <http://adss.sd70.bc.ca>

Just click on registration under the Parent – Teacher date on the top of the webpage.

Or you can go directly by entering www.schoolappointments.com

Click on TAB – “Schools Using the System”

Then click on Alberni District Secondary

If you had a previous account, it should still be there.

If you are new to this system then you will have to register a new account.

Any questions or concerns – Call Nancy Bell @ 250 724-3284 – ext 230

Nancy Bell will be taking calls on Tuesday, October 25th to accommodate parents who do not have access to a computer.

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.

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**, and each student has signed a contract agreeing to the following:

- **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 until any outstanding text books are returned or the fines paid.
- 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?

Additionally, please do not come onto school property to either pick up or drop off your child. We have too many authorized people on and off the school property in what is already a very congested situation without adding to it. It's extremely dangerous when parents drive through the bus loading zone at the end of a school day or wait between buildings after school. 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.

Included in the Grad Transition this year 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 been added to our teaching staff this year 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 this month.

Planning for Grad 2012 is currently in full swing. Students meet each Thursday in room 118. The first decision that needs to be made is the selection of a theme and motto. If you have an idea, please have your son/daughter attend the next meeting. There will be many opportunities of student involvement with Grad. Further information is available at the Student Grad meetings.

There are also opportunities for Grade 12 students and parents to get involved in the planning of the parent-sponsored events of Grad 2012. An executive body is usually formed at the first Grad Parent meeting (October 4th). Regular meetings will occur throughout the year to organize and guide volunteer parents to put on the events. Parents are asked to sign up for different committees at the regular meetings. The next parent meeting and a schedule of meeting dates and times has yet to be determined. This information will be announced at the next Student Grad meeting.

Regular updates regarding Grad 2012 will be made on the ADSS website to communicate with parents and students and in future Grapevine newsletters. If you have any questions about Grad 2012, please contact our ADSS Vice Principal: Mr. Ron Behnke

Some Useful Information for Parenting a High School Student

Many times parents come to us and express frustration because their child is not appearing to do homework or keeping up with assignments. We suggest the following:

- Don't ask if your child has homework; instead consider asking them to show you the four things that they did in school that day.

- Ask to see their Agenda Book or other organizer that they use to keep track of what assignments are given in class, when they are due and the dates of upcoming tests and quizzes.
- Have a regularly scheduled time to do homework. We need routine to do our best work.
- When the homework's completed ask your child to show you the completed work.
- Get to know your child's timetable. If they're in grade 9 their classes will be linear which means that they take 8 classes for the entire year. Four of them will be on Day 1 and the other 4 will be on Day 2. The days alternate throughout the year. If students are in grades 10 – 12, for the most part their courses are semestered which means that they only take 4 classes at a time and those classes meet every day.
- If you need to contact your child's teacher the best way is via email. If you look at your child's timetable it is organized into a series of boxes. The top half of the timetable is labeled semester one and the bottom half of the timetable is labeled semester two. The course name is at the top of the box and the teacher's name is on the middle line. If you use the teacher's initial followed by the last name and then @sd70.bc.ca that will always be their email address.
- It's critical that students maintain a good attendance. Course move quite quickly at high school and every missed class becomes a problem for students. Even when the absence is an excused one, students are still expected to take responsibility for the missed knowledge and assignments. Please let Mrs. Goorts, the secretary in the main office, know when your child is going to be absent from school. A telephone call or a note sent with your child works just fine.

Important Upcoming Dates

- October 10 – Thanksgiving Day
- October 12 – PAC meeting and elections, 7:00 pm, staffroom
- October 21 – Provincial Professional Day
- October 23 – Band TAG Day
- October 28 – Parent Teacher Conferences, 8:45 am – 1:30 pm

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

Mike Ruttan,
Principal