



The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School
September 14, 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Welcome back to another school year. This is a very exciting year for us – it's our last in this present building! We're moving to a brand new school at the end of the year! I'm sure that most of you have driven by the site at the corner of 10th and Roger, but if you haven't – please do so. It's going to be an amazing building and we hope to have our first access to at least part of the building in June, 2012. We are planning a number of celebrations of over 60 years in the present school as well as a formal school opening ceremony for September, 2012. I'll keep you posted.

The staff at ADSS has been working very hard to ensure that all students have a timetable that works for them and that 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.

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 week just prior to school to make it as smooth as possible. Thank you to everyone for working together so well!

Of course, this September we have a special challenge in that as of September 6th teachers in BC have been on strike. Currently, the strike activities do not involve picketing. I have included with this newsletter a letter to parents from Mr. Cam Pinkerton, Superintendent of Schools and a FAQ sheet.

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. Behnke. It is also available on line. The link is: 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.

ADSS Anaphylaxis Plan

Again this year we have had an enrollment of a student who is acutely allergic to nuts. To reduce the risk of exposure to peanut/nut products, a leading cause of food related allergic reactions and fatalities:

- We ask that students not bring peanut butter or products containing nuts (e.g. Trail mix, cookies, granola bars) in the ingredients, to school for lunch or snacks
- The breakfast program and the cafeteria menu will not serve such products
- We ask that students wash hands before arriving at school if nut products are eaten at home
- We expect a "no-sharing" policy for food allergic children

If a student mistakenly brings a nut product to school they will be asked to remain in a designated area to consume that product followed by proper hand washing and clean-up procedures.

2011/2012 Out-of-Bounds Zones

Over the years we have had a number of complaints from neighbours about students hanging around in the alleys and nearby parks. This occurs before school, during class time, and during class time. This behavior inevitably leads to conflict and often to RCMP involvement. Additionally, there are issues of safety if students go into areas that are extremely difficult to supervise such as Dry Creek Park. There is no reason for students to be in these areas. Travelling to and from Redford Street and 10th Avenue can easily be accomplished using public sidewalks. Therefore, we have indicated to all of our students that, the use of alleys between ADSS and Redford Street, Dry Creek Park, and the Kiwanis Park on 16th Avenue, are now considered to be out-of-bounds to students during school hours. We will be alerting the neighbours to this change and asking that they let us know if they see students in any of these areas during normal school hours.

When we move into the new school there will be a number of areas that will be out-of-bounds to students in that area as well. We want to be good neighbours, as do our students. Sometimes we have to help them set appropriate limits.

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

Page: 3 of 3

- 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 2011-2012

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.

This month we are featuring Jaeger Mah. Jaeger graduated from ADSS in 1996 and has a number of cousins both working at ADSS and students at ADSS.

Printed from the Huffington Post:

Jaeger arrived at Vancouver's airport on August 17 "looking every bit like a tourist, dressed in splashy orange and purple Hawaiian-style shirt with a duffel bag slung over his shoulder and a video camera in his hands.

But he wasn't going anywhere.

Instead, the 29-year-old will be spending the next 80 days living at the airport, where he will tell stories about the thousands of people who work there or pass through it every day while also looking for a place to do his laundry.

Mah, who is originally from Port Alberni and started a video production company earlier this year in Vancouver, entered a contest to become the airport's official storyteller.

His slick video entry won the most support in an online vote, and he arrived for his first day on the job on Wednesday. His morning started with an aerial tour of the airport and its surrounding areas in a Learjet before settling in a makeshift living room in the international terminal.

"There's this huge crave for adventure, especially people that love to travel, they want to go to new places, experience new cultures," Mah told reporters while setting on his new couch and snacking on some popcorn as a few curious passersby looked.

Mah will be living at the airport's upscale Fairmont hotel and will have spending money each day to cover food. The airport also set him up with a video camera and editing equipment, and when he's finished he'll walk away with \$15,000 cash.

The stories he uncovers will be uploaded to the official "Live at YVR" blog, which will feature written entries and videos, and he'll also be posting updates to Twitter.

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 your child be brought to the telephone.

Request to update student information

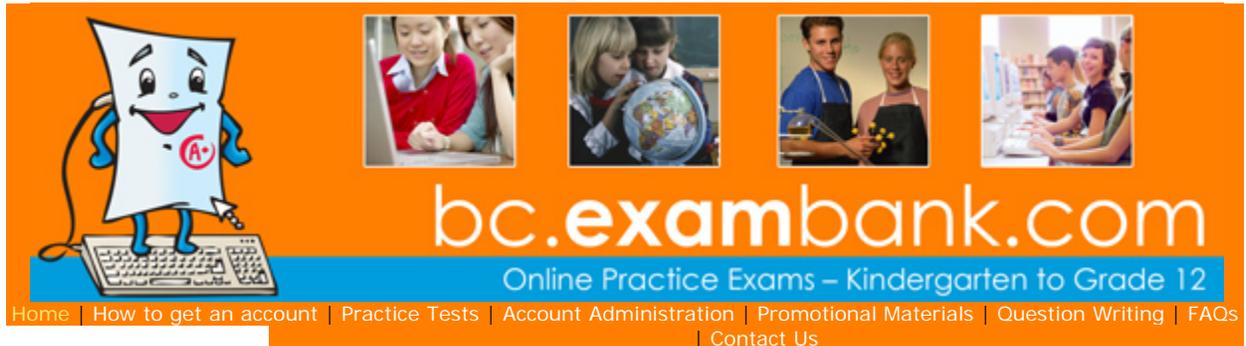
- It's important that parents notify the office to keep student medical and contact information current. Please contact Vice Principal-Laurie Morphet to update your child's medical information lmorphet@sd70.bc.ca or 250-723-6251 extension 225 and Lani Goorts lgoorts@sd70.bc.ca or 250-723-6251 to update demographic information. Thank you.

Important Upcoming Dates

- September 14 – PAC Meeting, 7:00 pm, staffroom
- September 22 - School Photo Day
- September 26 – Curriculum Implementation Day, no school for students

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

Mike Ruttan,
Principal



The banner features a cartoon character on the left, a keyboard, and four photos of students in various learning environments. The text 'bc.exambank.com' is prominently displayed in white on an orange background, with 'Online Practice Exams – Kindergarten to Grade 12' in blue below it. A navigation menu at the bottom includes links for Home, How to get an account, Practice Tests, Account Administration, Promotional Materials, Question Writing, FAQs, and Contact Us.



Welcome to the B.C. ExamBank for students from Kindergarten to Grade 12! If you would like to bookmark or add a link to this site directly, please feel free to use **bc.exambank.com**. If you already have an account with us and would like to [write a practice exam](#), just click on your grade in the box

to the left.

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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