

Friday, March 3rd, 2023

Mission Statement: Sands is an inclusive and nurturing community which challenges individuals to strive for educational excellence, as well as personal responsibility, integrity and growth.

School Inquiry Question: Will a school wide focus on fostering staff and student health and wellness have a positive effect on well-being, engagement, and achievement?

Acknowledging the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen First Nation and Musqueam Indian Band and all of the Hun'qumi'num speaking peoples who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial on whose land we live, learn and play. We would also like to offer our respect to all the elders who have gone before us, to the elders and First Nation people who are with us today and to all Canadians who are on the journey of Reconciliation.

Dear Sands Secondary students and families,

We are a week away from Spring Break and our last week will be busy with student performances, Interim Reports and a final decision on our school schedule for next year.

Our Musical Theatre students will be performing “Emma: A Pop Musical” from March 7th to 10th in the Sands Secondary Canteen with shows starting at 7:00pm. The students have been rehearsing for many months and are excited to share their hard work and talents with the community. We are so proud of our Musical Theatre students and our teacher, Ms. Thomson who has guided our students through the theatrical process. We hope that many of you will be able to experience this musical and support our students. See the details for the show in the information item below.

On Thursday, March 9th, semester 2 Interims will be published in the Parent Portal in MyEd for students who are achieving 60% or below in a course. If families did not receive any information for your child, then families can assume that their child is meeting their course learning outcomes at this point of the semester. Families are always welcome to connect with their child’s teachers if they would like updates on their child’s progress.

In addition to the posting of Interims on March 9th, families will be receiving a letter informing them of the final decision for our schedule next year. We have been working through a process with staff and analysing data from last year’s surveys. At the February PAC Meeting, parents and guardians provided their input into the schedule conversation, along with families who emailed us directly with their input. We have been putting a great deal of effort into making the best possible decision to best serve our school community.

Please see the important information items below:

Important Dates:

- March 7th & 8th Emma: A Pop Musical – Matinee Show 12:30pm
- March 7th-10th Emma: A Pop Musical – Evening Show 7:00pm
- March 9th Interims Published (students achieving 60% or less in each class)
- March 10th Last Day Before Spring Break

- March 13th-24th Spring Break
- March 27th School Re-opens

Emma: A Pop Musical

Sand Secondary School Presents EMMA: A Pop Musical. Based on the Jane Austin novel of 1912, set in a contemporary school. Follow the match-making antics of Emma as she also comes to understand her own heart. Pop songs from the Supremes, to Whitney, to Katy Perry will have you wanting to sing along.

Shows at Sands Canteen Stage. 10840 82nd Ave

March 7 - 10 at 7pm

Matinees March 7 and 8 at 12:45pm

Tickets are \$15 at the door

\$12 in advance

\$10 for children 10 and under

\$5 for matinee/adult chaperones free

March Career Newsletter – click [here](#) to access all the information.

Highlights in this issue:

1. [Career Program Opportunities](#) – Apply now!
2. [BC Labour Market Outlook Article](#)
3. [Mari Tech Conference](#) – Apr 20
4. [Elevate Aviation Tour](#) – March 22
5. [UBC Geering Up](#) – Registration Open
6. [PosAbilities Employment](#)
7. Intro to Rebar Opportunity And More!



See your school Career Program Facilitator for more information on the high school programs!

Virtual Event: A Conversation for Families About Digital Wellbeing & Mental Health

Description: As parents it's not easy to know how much time on technology is too much and how to set boundaries that don't create conflict. Join us for a conversation with a digital wellbeing expert to learn some practical solutions to our everyday concerns and challenges around our kids' use of screens and their mental health.

This event is offered at various dates and times so that you can make it to the one that works best for you.

Registration: [FamilySmart - Events](#)

Dates:
Monday March 6th 6:30-8pm
Thursday March 16th 9:30-11am
Wednesday March 22nd 12-1:30pm
Tuesday March 28th 6:30-8pm
Thursday March 30th 5-6:30pm

Online and Digital Citizenship

Most students maintain a digital profile and certain level of engagement online. The school recognizes that as new digital tools, apps and social media platforms are created, students will be faced with new online concerns, issues and challenges. This creates the potential for misuse of the internet, for example, sending or receiving inappropriate information and images (e.g. racist, slanderous, pornographic, threatening, sexist, confidential, etc.) or using chat rooms for this purpose.



We know helping kids stay safe while online is something many parents/guardians are concerned about. We encourage you to review the following resources for more information on the online interests of young people, the potential risks they face and proactive strategies to help keep them safe:

- [Raising Digitally Responsible Youth: A Parent's Guide](#)
- [Need Help Now website](#)
- [ERASE website](#)
- [Protect Kids Online website](#)
- [Additional Parent Information Resources](#)

Talking to Children and Youth about Decriminalization and Substance Use: Resources for Parents/Guardians and Caregivers

As you may be aware, at the end of January Health Canada granted the Province of British Columbia an exemption from the federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, allowing the removal of criminal penalties for possession of small amounts of certain illicit substances for personal use. Decriminalizing people who use drugs is a part of the Government's work to tackle the toxic drug crisis, intended to remove the shame and stigma associated with substance use and support people in accessing important health and social services.

To be clear, this exemption does not apply to licensed child care or K-12 school properties. The federal Controlled Drugs and Substances Act continues to apply to these settings, meaning there will continue to be criminal penalties for possession of illegal substances, regardless of amount, while on child care and or K-12 school properties. This exemption also does not apply to youth aged 17 and younger, who will continue to be subject to the federal Youth Criminal Justice Act (YCJA). This means that youth aged 17 and younger will not be permitted to possess illicit substances in any amount.

We recommend that parents/guardians read the information sheet on substance use decriminalization for parents, guardians, and caregivers. [Talking to Children and Youth about Decriminalization and Substance Use: Resources for Parents/Guardians and Caregivers](#) is now available on the *erase* website. The Ministry of Education and Child Care's [Expect Respect and A Safe Education](#) (*erase*) substance use website also

provides students, parents/guardians, caring adults and educators with information and resources to support conversations with youth about substance use.

Establishing Respectful Relationships and Consent in Our Communities Parent Session - 90-minute session

This session will explore the topic of consent, and the dynamics of gender-based violence. It will discuss the current state of gender relations faced by our children in both the physical and digital landscape, as well as the potential for exploitation within these relationships. Trainers will provide Parents/Caregivers tips and tools on how discuss these topics with their children to create positive family connections.

TOPICS COVERED WILL INCLUDE:

- What defines consent? A discussion
- The dynamics of gender-based violence
- An overview of worrisome content, and how to manage their child's exposure on popular social media and gaming platforms
- The different types of bullying and cyberbullying relationships
- The pathway to sextortion and human trafficking—important signs to look for
- The importance of checking in on our children's mental health and strategies for success
- Family suggestions, as well as tips to facilitate positive conversations and outcomes

March 8th 6:30pm-8pm

<https://event-wizard.com/EstablishingRespectfulRelationshipsandConsentinOurCommunitiesStudentParentMar82023/0/register/>

Supporting Families in Financial Need

We realize that sometimes families struggle financially. The BC Government has created a Student and Family Affordability Fund and will be providing schools funds for this school year only to help students and families with school fees, school supplies, food security, and other supports. Please contact your child's counsellor or administrator if your family requires financial support. Discretion is paramount.

2023-24 Student Registration

Student registration for the 2023/24 school year opened on February 6 at 8:30am. Applications are being accepted for students entering Grade 8-12. Parents/guardians whose Grade 7 child currently attends Gray or Brooke Elementary Schools do not need to submit an application. Students who wish to attend Sands Secondary and do not currently attend one of the two catchment elementary schools (Brooke or Gray) are strongly encouraged to apply as early as possible once the registration process opens. **Please note that only online applications are being accepted.** Parents/guardians who require access to a computer or assistance in completing an application form should visit the school office for support, In order to submit an application, please visit the [school district website.](#)

School Schedule Decision-Making Process

Since returning from Winter Break, all seven secondary schools in Delta are reviewing their schedules for next year to decide on a long-term schedule. When the pandemic started in March of 2020, schools changed to different schedules to be able to pivot based on the COVID situation. Now, we are at a place with the pandemic that will allow us to review whether we wish to maintain our current semester schedule or investigate other schedules.

Prior to the pandemic, Sands Secondary followed a linear schedule where students were responsible for 8 classes over a period of 10 months. Students would experience their 8 classes on a Day 1 (4 classes) and a Day 2 (4 classes) schedule rotation throughout the school year. As one can imagine, there are many different schedules with their benefits and their drawbacks.

The decision for next year's schedule will be based on feedback from the student, family and staff surveys that were conducted last Spring and discussions with staff. The district has set out a timeline for secondary schools to inform them of their decision:

February 28 – secondary schools notify the district

March 7 – all 7 schedule decisions presented to the Trustees

March 9 – families will be notified of the schedule decision for September 2023

Indigenous Focused Graduation Requirement

As part of the Province of British Columbia's commitments to truth, reconciliation and anti-racism, the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the First Nations Education Steering Committee (FNESC), announced that it is implementing a new Indigenous-focused graduation requirement. Expected to take effect in the 2023-24 school year, this requirement will ensure all secondary students complete Indigenous-focused coursework before they graduate from B.C.'s K-12 education system. This means that students must complete a 4 credit Indigenous-focused course as part of their 80 credits required for graduation.

As a result of this announcement by the Ministry of Education, students will have an opportunity to select from the following list of courses to satisfy the Indigenous-focused requirement and either their English or Social Studies requirement:

B.C. First Peoples 12

English First Peoples – Literary Studies + New Media 11

For more information regarding the Indigenous-focused graduation requirement, please visit the Ministry website. <https://news.gov.bc.ca/releases/2022EDUC0007-000297>

Course Planning

The Course planning process will be starting shortly where students will be making course requests for next year. It is crucial that students and families take time in their decision making as all decisions for how many classes we offer are based on these decisions. The timeline for the Course Planning process is as follows:

February 13th-28th	Counsellors visit classes to guide students through the process of making course requests.
March 3rd	Systems close to make individual selections.

Dry Grad 2023



The Delta North Dry Grad Event includes the graduating classes of Burnsville, Delview, North Delta, and Sands, and will take place at the North Delta Recreation Centre from 11:30pm Friday, May 26, 2023 – 5:00am Saturday, May 27, 2023. To support and celebrate the success of the 2023 Delta North graduating classes in the safest way possible, a volunteer committee of parents is planning the annual Dry Grad event.

The Dry Grad event happens after the school’s graduation banquet. Graduates will enjoy a night of fun, food, prizes, and entertainment in the company of their graduating friends. Dry Grad allows the graduates to celebrate in a safe and fun environment, with the activities going until the wee hours of the morning! The event ends at 5:00am on Saturday, May 27, 2023. There will be AMAZING prizes, GREAT food, and ENDLESS entertainment! Tickets will be sold during lunch in the foyer of each school on the following dates only:

- March 7: Early Bird Tickets \$45
- March 29: Regular Tickets \$50
- April 5: Regular Tickets \$50
- April 20: Last Chance Tickets \$55

Tickets can be purchased by cash or cheque payable to “Delta North Dry Grad Committee”

Sands Secondary Career and Post-Secondary Centre

The Sands Career and Post-Secondary Centre is available for students who have questions about post-secondary options and scholarship opportunities. Our Career and Post-Secondary Advisor, Ms. J Sansregret, has provided a great deal of information for students and families on her website at <https://sandscareercentre.weebly.com/>. We encourage grade 12 students and their families to visit the site often and subscribe to the email list for the most up to date information. Ms. Sansregret's office is located in the Counselling Suite and she can be contacted by email at jsansregret@deltalearns.ca to answer questions or book an appointment. Students can drop-in, but an appointment is recommended.

Homework Club

Sands Secondary offers many opportunities to support students in getting extra help with their course work. Another student opportunity is the Homework Club that takes place every Wednesday after school in the Library from 3:00pm-4:00pm. Ms. Lee and Ms. Papakosta sponsor the Homework Club and have assembled a group of dedicated and knowledgeable Peer Mentors to help students. We encourage all students to use this school support.

Sands Secondary Yearbook

The Sands Secondary Yearbook team is developing the Yearbook for this school year for our school community to capture students in a variety of school events and to create a keepsake of memories for all students. The Yearbook team would like to encourage our community to follow their Instagram account, Instagram [sandsyearbook](#), to view up-to-date photos of what they have captured so far.

We encourage all students to purchase one of these long-lasting memory keepsakes of your time at Sands Secondary. The team is excited about how the Yearbook is progressing so far and are confident that this year's Yearbook will meet and exceed the standards set by previous award-winning Sands Yearbooks. The price for the Yearbook is currently \$60.00. Students and families can purchase a Yearbook through Parent Connect or at the Main Office.

COVID-19 Safety Guidelines

With the risk of COVID-19 infection remaining high in B.C., it is critical that we each do our part to help reduce transmission by continuing to follow the latest health and safety protocols for K-12 schools: Provincial Communicable Disease Guidelines for K-12 School Settings and BC Centre for Disease Control's Public Health Communicable Disease Guidance for K-12 Schools.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/assets/gov/education/administration/kindergarten-to-grade-12/safe-caring-orderly/k-12-covid-19-health-safety-guidelines.pdf>

The best way to keep COVID out of our schools is to stay home if you are showing signs of illness. We strongly encourage everyone to complete a daily health check prior to attending school.

We also encourage everyone to:

- Get vaccinated. Vaccination protects from serious illness due to COVID-19 and is the most effective way to reduce the impact of COVID-19 on our communities.

- Wash and sanitize your hands often.
- Practice good respiratory etiquette.
- Respect the personal space of others.
- Respect the choice of staff and students who wear a non-medical mask or face covering throughout the day or for certain activities.

If we can follow these guidelines regularly, then we will keep our school community safe from spreading COVID-19.

Counselling and Youth Care Worker:

There are many supports we have for students at Sands Secondary and at times students may need social/emotional support, help with scheduling, career planning and other counselling services. The Sands Secondary Student Services team is always ready and willing to help. We encourage our families to connect with our Counselling Team on any issues related to their child(ren). Our Counselling team is an excellent resource to help make your child's experience at Sands Secondary positive. Please connect with the Counsellor by calling the school at 604-594-3474 or emailing them (see below).

Counsellors (students can choose to see either counsellor)

Mr. A. Randhawa arandhawa@deltaschools.ca
Ms. K. McPhedran kmcphebran@deltaschools.ca

Youth Worker

Ms. K. Watters kwatters@deltaschools.ca

Mental Wellness Resources

As we move through our school year, many students may be struggling with social and emotional issues. As a school, we are investigating how a coordinated approach on mental health can have a positive impact on the student's experience at Sands Secondary. As a staff, we will be learning about the Teen Mental Health Curriculum created by Dr. Stan Kucher, Professor at Dalhousie University. Some of our staff are already trained in this curriculum and will be offering training to our entire staff.

Part of Dr. Kucher's curriculum includes a Parent Guide. Please see the link below to access the resource, "How to Parent My Teen".

<http://teenmentalhealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/How-do-I-parent-my-teen.pdf>

The complete parent resource section of the curriculum can be accessed in the link below.

<https://teenmentalhealth.org/parents/>

The entire Mental Health Curriculum can be accessed in the link below.

<https://teenmentalhealth.org/>

Other helpful community resources for students and families are listed below.

Crisis Hotlines

- [BC CRISIS CENTRE](#) – 1-800-784-2433 or 310-6789 no area code needed
- CRISIS SERVICES CANADA – 1-833-456-4566 or text 45645
- [First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line](#) – 1-855-242-3310
- [Canada Drug Rehab Addiction Services Directory](#) – 1-877-746-1963
- [National Eating Disorder Information Centre](#) – 1-866-633-4220

Resources

- [Bell Let's Talk](#)
- [Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention](#) – 613-702-4446 (not a crisis line)
- [Canadian Mental Health Association](#) – 416-646-5557
- [Canadian Psychological Association](#) – 613-237-2144 or 1-888-472-0657
- [Mood Disorders Society of Canada](#) – 613-921-5565
- [Schizophrenia Society of Canada](#) – 1-204-320-3188
- [Mental Health Commission](#) – 613-683-3755

Reporting Student Absences

Please phone the school at **604-594-3474** or email sands@deltaschools.ca to report a student absence. Students who need to go home due to illness or for other reasons should come to the office to contact a parent/guardian. Office staff will speak with a parent/guardian before students are given permission to go home. If appointments are scheduled during school hours, please send a note with your student. Parents should regularly monitor their student's attendance using Parent Connect.

If you require support or are seeking answers, please contact teachers, counsellors, administrators, or the Main Office. We are here to help families and students.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Rick Mesich
Principal

Joanna Macintosh
Vice Principal