

Friday, September 15th, 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,

It was tremendous to welcome students back to school last week for their Homeroom classes, Photo Day and the start of their semester 1 classes. Our staff are quickly establishing routines in their classes so students can focus on progressing through the curriculum of each of their classes. Prior to the start of school, we hosted our new grade 8 students and their families for a community barbecue to help ease some anxiety and stress about the first day of high school. Our students were able to tour the building, have a meal together, win some prizes and meet our senior student mentors and staff. Our senior mentors helped to assist students and their families through the evening, and we were appreciative for their presence to welcome our new families to the Sands Secondary community. This event was a great way for our grade 8 students to start their high school experience.

Although COVID-19 is not as concerning as it has been in the past, we still need to recognize that the virus is still in our communities and can be impactful on some people. The safety guidelines are like the guidelines from last June that include:

- Getting vaccinated
- Washing your hands regularly
- Sneezing and coughing in the crease of your elbow
- Staying home if you are sick and follow the BCCDC Guidelines
 - <http://www.bccdc.ca/health-info/diseases-conditions/covid-19/if-you-have-covid-19>
- Wearing a mask is a personal choice

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

We encourage all Sands Secondary students to take advantage of everything our school community offers, which includes extra-curricular activities. Many extra-curricular activities are starting up and we highly encourage all Sands Secondary students to get involved, in some way, in activities outside of class time. Some activities include Athletics, Clubs, Student Council and Grad Committee. Information on these activities will

be shared through our communication streams that include the Sands Secondary App, the Sands Secondary website and through the daily announcements.

Over the summer, we had an opportunity to improve our school with the following upgrades:

- Building exterior painted
- Cameras upgraded
- Sound system mixer upgraded (Gym)
- Office renovated
- Library furniture upgrade (waiting on delivery)
- Portable Chromebook Cart
- Library Computers Upgraded

We hope that all of these investments in our learning environment will improve our students' pride in being a Sands Secondary student and to create a positive learning environment for everyone.

We will be publishing the Family Newsletter twice a month this year to provide our school community with updates on timely events and information. We hope to keep everyone informed on the latest Sands Secondary news as it develops over the school year.

We hope all our students have a satisfying and successful school year.

Please see the important information items below:

Important Dates:

- September 18th Pep Rally (during FLEX)
- September 19th PAC Meeting 7:00pm School Library
- September 20th Grad Boat Cruise
- September 21st Terry Fox Run
- September 29th Truth & Reconciliation Assembly
- October 2nd Non-Instructional Day: BC – Day of Truth & Reconciliation

Discontinuation of Deltalearns Google Login for Student Access to Third Party Apps and Services

We have been informed by our district staff that students will no longer have access to apps and services that use their deltallearns Google account for authentication. This decision stems from policies Google implemented to restrict access to apps and services for users designated as under 18. The district is also committed to safeguarding our students' personal information and complying with the evolving data privacy regulations. As technology continues to advance, so do the potential risks associated with sharing sensitive data online.

If students have accessed an app or service using this authentication method in the past, they will be able to continue to do so until October 3, 2023 (this date has been moved up to allow us time to configure apps and services within the Google Console). For these students, we recommend that they modify their account settings to allow them to sign in with a personal email account, providing they meet the terms of use. This must be done prior to October 3rd to ensure uninterrupted access.

We will continue to provide updates on this issue as we receive updates from the district.

Student Recognition Award

To recognize the positive contributions our students make on a daily basis to their own learning, to the learning of others and to our school community, we are going to be recognizing students with a weekly award. Staff will nominate students and describe the student's positive contribution. Nominated students will be called to the office to learn about their nomination and the staff member who nominated them. The student will receive a gift certificate to the Canteen for lunch.

We believe our students do not get enough recognition for their positive contributions to our school community and their learning. We hope this endeavour will provide an opportunity to demonstrate our appreciation of our students.

Grad Boat Cruise – Wednesday, September 20th

The Grad Boat Cruise is quickly approaching. Ticket sales start on Thursday, September 14th at lunch. Tickets will be \$150.00 which includes transportation to and from Coal Harbour, a buffet dinner, a 3-hour boat tour and a DJ for dancing. Payment can be made in cash, by cheque (made payable to Sands Secondary School) or by debit/credit. Families will need to acknowledge the Field Trip Form and the Code of Conduct Form on Parent Connect before a ticket can be purchased.

Students will arrive to at the front of the school by 4:15pm to meet the buses. The buses will leave the school at 4:30pm to Coal Harbour. The ship will depart Coal Harbour at 6:00pm. Students will return to Sands Secondary by 9:45pm.

We are hoping for great weather so that the students will have the opportunity to enjoy the sites of Vancouver.

If families require financial help, please contact a Counsellor or Administrator.

UBC Geering Up Opportunity

Geering Up's Women* in Engineering: Career Explorations event will see a diverse panel of women* that come from varying engineering backgrounds and career paths. To begin, there will be a panel discussion. Next, you will engage in a career mapping session to explore your specific engineering interests and finally, you will work in teams to explore real-world problems in a field of your interest.

Curious who our panelists will be? Panelists will be unveiled on September 15th on Geering Up's Instagram account: @geeringup

Women in Engineering: Career Explorations (AG)*

Who: All-girl* students entering grades 10-12

Where: University of British Columbia - Irving K. Barber Learning Centre

When: September 23rd from 10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Cost: Free!

How to Register: Head to the [Geering Up website](#) or Scan the QR code in the attached poster

** All cis and trans girls, genderqueer or non-binary people, and those who identify as other gender minorities are welcome.*

North Delta Future Leaders Application: 2023-2024 Cohort

The North Delta Future Leaders is a program that empowers young people in our community through monthly educational opportunities, leadership seminars and skill building workshops facilitated by MLA Ravi Kahlon's Community Office.

The goal is to support young leaders in our community as they develop skills to succeed in the next phase of their lives. The first session will be held on Friday, October 6th, 2023 in the afternoon. Sessions will run monthly until June.

Due to the cumulative nature of our sessions, we do require students to have consistent session attendance and to actively participate in the program. As such, students with three unexcused absences from the sessions will no longer be able to participate in the program.

Applications are open to grade 11 and 12 students who live in North Delta. The application consists of three parts, with Part One providing general information, Part Two seeking permission from your guardian, and Part Three introducing yourself and sharing why you would like to join the program. Part Three can be done as a written submission or as a video.

How to Submit: Please submit this form to Ravi.Kahlon.MLA@leg.bc.ca no later than Sunday, September 24th, 2023 with the subject line, "North Delta Future Leaders – [Your Name]". If you require an alternative method of submission, please let us know by emailing Ravi.Kahlon.MLA@leg.bc.ca. Successful applicants will be notified by Friday, September 29th, 2023.

Flex Time

Every week students can make decisions about their learning where they decide which class they will attend to obtain extra support. Sands Secondary is fortunate to offer this opportunity to our students every Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. We encourage students to sign up for their Flex Time periods early on Student Connect. The expectation is that all students attend Flex Time to support the learning they experience in their classes.

Permission Forms

There are several permission forms on Parent Connect for families to review and authorize. Please log in to Parent Connect, review the documents and select the appropriate response for each one. We would encourage all families to review all consent forms and respond by September 29th. We appreciate your attention to this process as your consent is extremely important for your child(ren) to participate in various school related activities and events.

Food Service

Sands Secondary does not have a school cafeteria to provide food service, but the district has contracted Canuel Catering to provide a variety of hot and cold food options in the school Canteen. The food options meet the Healthy Food Guidelines established by the Ministry of Education for all schools in the province. Students have the option to pay for their food choices by cash or by debit. Canuel Catering meets and exceeds all appropriate COVID protocols for their food service. Food service will commence during the week of September 25th.

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://sandscarecentre.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.

We hope that all our students have a successful school year. Please reach out to us if you have any questions about the upcoming events listed above.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Rick Mesich
Principal

Tom Inkster
Vice Principal