

Friday, October 13th, 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,

The Thanksgiving long weekend was an opportunity to come together as families to share a meal and reflect on the positive aspects of our lives. We are thankful as a school community as the start of the school year has been extremely positive. For example, students have participated in several school wide events that included the Truth and Reconciliation Ceremony, the Terry Fox Run/Walk and a school wide Pep Rally. Our grade 8 students participated in the Grade 8 Retreat at Deas Island Park and our grade 12 students participated in the Grad Boat Cruise with a stunning evening on the water touring False Creek. All these events build a sense of community and belonging with our student body and staff that shapes who we are as individuals and as an educational institution.

On Thursday, October 19th, teachers will be sending Informal Updates to families for students who are receiving an “Emerging” Proficiency indicator in grades 8 and 9 and 60% or below for students in grades 10, 11 and 12. Informal Updates will be provided for both semester classes (September to February) and linear classes (September to June). The Proficiency Scale below provides an example of how students in grades 8 and 9 may be assessed in a particular course.

Proficiency Scale	Emerging	Developing	Proficient	Extending
	The student demonstrates an initial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a partial understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a complete understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.	The student demonstrates a sophisticated understanding of the concepts and competencies relevant to the expected learning.
<i>“I don’t get it yet, but I’m trying.”</i> <i>“I am just getting started and learn best with help.”</i>	<i>“I’m starting to get it.”</i> <i>“I get some of it, and I am beginning to do more and more on my own.”</i>	<i>“I get it.”</i> <i>“I can do it on my own.”</i>	<i>“I really get it and can teach others how to do it.”</i> <i>“I go beyond what is expected of me.”</i>	

For more information on the new student reporting order, please access information through the link below.

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/reporting/resources-for-parents-and-caregivers>

Please see the important information items below:

Important Dates:

- October 17th PAC Meeting 7:00pm School Library
- October 19th Informal Update Report Cards Posted
- October 20th Pro D Day
- October 30th Halloween Dance
- Literacy 10
- November 1st Literacy 12
- November 3rd Numeracy 10

Graduates:

Cmolik scholarship:

Grade 12 students can apply for the Cmolik Scholarship worth up to \$45,000 for books and tuition fees. Every year, the Cmolik Foundation awards up to 20 scholarships, each one a maximum of \$45,000 paid over five years of study, to students graduating from BC high schools. Scholarship recipients have faced adversity but have responded with positivity and tenacity, achieving academic and social goals. With hard work and support, their post-secondary dreams can become a reality.

What's more, students who are awarded the Undergraduate Scholarship are eligible to apply for our Graduate Scholarships, three \$30,000 scholarships awarded each year.

Eligible applicants must:

- Be a resident of BC
- Have lived in Canada for a minimum of 7 years
- Plan to graduate from a BC secondary school
- Plan to attend and study full time at a post secondary university or college
- Be ineligible for the BC Tuition Waiver Program (for former youth in care)
- Have experienced adversity or hardship
- Have exhibited a good work ethic
- Have demonstrated financial need
- Evidence of leadership involvement

Application deadline is February 7th. Successful applicants will be notified in late March or early April. Applications & instructions can be found online at www.thecmolikfoundation.com.

Parent/Guardian Opportunities:
Working Together: Families and Schools
Virtual Event: Working Together: Families and Schools

Description: When our kids struggle with their mental health, challenges can often have a great impact on their school experience. As parents, how do we take that first step and let the school know what is going on with our family? What are the supportive options available to my child? It can be hard to know where to begin and we may worry we will be judged for the difficulties our child is facing. Join us to watch a video which includes how a strength based perspective can help us collaborate.

Registration: [FamilySmart - Events](#)

Dates:

October 17th 6:30pm-8pm

October 26th 6pm-7:30pm

Careers Information:

Career Corner: <https://deltalearns.ca/careers/newsletters/>

Highlights in this edition:

Junior Firefighting Camp Academy – Apply before November 17, 2023

Take our Kids to Work Day – November 1, 2023

ChatCPT & Resume Building – Article

Halloween Safety

Halloween is fast approaching and as students gear up for a night of tricks and treats, it's important to remember to stay safe and respectful while celebrating the spookiest night of the season:

- If wearing a costume to school, students should be easily recognizable and/or able to identify themselves to any staff members when asked.
- Costumes that are offensive in any way will not be allowed. Please consider the rights maintained in the *Canadian Human Rights Act* when selecting costumes (e.g., race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, family status, genetic characteristics, disability).
- School codes of conduct must always be followed, even when in costume. This includes maintaining respectful and appropriate behaviour with others and with school property.
- Replica weapons (guns, knives, etc.) are not allowed.
- The use and possession of firecrackers or fireworks at schools is strictly prohibited at all times.

In recent years, there has been an increase in anti-social behaviour from some youth in the community at Halloween. We recognize that this type of behaviour varies widely from school to school, from community to community, and even from year to year. However, we would like to remind students that vandalizing property, setting fires, fighting and underage drinking can have serious and potentially lifelong consequences including suspension from school, criminal charges, a criminal record, and injury.

We would appreciate all parents/caregivers having a conversation with their child(ren) regarding the need to respect our community and to keep Halloween safe and fun for everyone.

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. Papkosta 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.

Student Fees

Families can check their child's student fee assessment in Parent Connect and can pay them online or in person in the main office. If families require assistance in covering these fees, please contact Mr. Mesich, Principal, or Mr. Inkster, Vice Principal.

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.

Reporting Student Absences

Please phone the school at **604-594-3474** or email **sands.sec@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 child. Parents should regularly monitor their student's attendance using Parent Connect.

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 in order 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. It is mandatory that all forms be reviewed and responded by each student's family. 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.

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.

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