

Thursday, November 9th, 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,

Today, our Community Ambassador students planned and executed our Remembrance Day Ceremony where we honoured those who made the ultimate sacrifice to ensure the freedoms that we all experience today and to be hopeful for a peaceful future. We also recognized National Indigenous Veterans Day which is a memorial day observed in Canada in recognition of aboriginal contributions to military service, particularly in the First and Second World Wars and the Korean War. We distributed poppies to all students and staff prior to our ceremony. The link below provides information on the origins of the poppy and why we recognize a day of Remembrance on November 11th each year.

<https://www.iwm.org.uk/history/why-we-wear-poppies-on-remembrance-day>

I encourage all staff and students to wear a poppy this weekend to recognize our fallen soldiers, those who are serving throughout the world today and to demonstrate hope that our future will be without conflict.

On Tuesday, November 14th Sands Secondary Student Council will be celebrating Diwali, the Festival of Lights. Diwali is a festival celebrating new beginnings and the triumph of good over evil and light over darkness. It is celebrated by illuminating our surroundings with oil lamps, enjoying good food, and dressing up in your best outfits. We encourage all Scorpions to dress up in their cultural clothing. We look forward to seeing all Scorpions participate in this incredible festival! Please see the link below to learn more about Diwali.

<https://deltalearns.ca/multicultural/files/2022/10/World-Celebrations-Article-Diwali-2022.pdf>

Please see the important information items below:

Important Dates:

- November 10th District Closure Day (classes are not in session)
 - November 13th Remembrance Day Statutory Holiday
 - November 14th Diwali Celebration
 - November 15th Band Concert 7:00pm-8:00pm Canteen
 - November 17th Reporting to Parents Early Dismissal (1:00pm Dismissal)
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- November 21st PAC Meeting 7:00pm Sands Secondary Library
- November 23rd Mid-Semester Written Update Posted
- November 27th Professional Development Day
- December 1st Linear Classes Term 1 Written Update Posted
- December 5th Parent Teacher Conferences
Early Dismissal at 1:00pm

Reporting to Parents Early Dismissal Day – Friday, November 17th

Next Friday, November 17th, we will be dismissing students at 1:00pm for teachers to have an opportunity to connect with parents. The schedule for next Friday will be:

Early Dismissal Bell Schedule

Warning Bell	8:23	
Period 1	8:30	9:30
Period 2	9:35	10:35
Nutrition Break and Transition	10:35	10:55
Period 3	10:55	11:55
Period 4	12:00	1:00

World Kindness Day – Monday, November 13

World Kindness Day is a time to participate in acts of kindness, big or small, and to highlight good deeds in the community. If you’re looking for a way to celebrate World Kindness Day here in Delta, why not consider the Kindness Meter Program? Small change collected through the five uniquely painted, re-purposed parking meters across Delta supports those in need in our community. For more information, visit:

<https://www.deltasd.bc.ca/news-events/news/why-not-do-something-kind-on-world-kindness-day/>

Cereal Box Domino Train Campaign

Get ready to kick off our super exciting Holiday - Cereal Box Domino Train Campaign for Donations! Let's turn breakfast into a force for good! Together, we can make a HUGE impact and help those in need. So, grab those colorful cereal boxes, bring your enthusiasm, and let's show the world the power of our giving hearts!

🌈❤️ Let's do this! #CerealBoxMagic #MakingADifference" We are aiming to collect a minimum of 1000 cereal boxes to make the domino train in our school.



Campaign period : Tuesday, November 13th - Friday December 15th

Deposit location : Main office

Careers:

Please see the Delta School District's careers website for up to date opportunities for students in their investigation of a potential career path.

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

Highlights in this edition:

Junior Firefighting Camp Academy – Apply before November 17, 2023

Career Articles: School-Work Skills Gap

Junior Firefighting Camp Academy

Do you have students in grade 11 or 12 that are interested in pursuing a career as a firefighter? Have them apply for the Delta Junior Fire Academy Camp. Applications are due November 17, 2023. Students should see their career program facilitator at their school or learn more here:

<https://deltalearns.ca/careers/firefighting-camp/>

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 Graduate Scholarships; three \$30,000 scholarships are 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 and instructions can be found online at www.thecmolikfoundation.com.

Vera J. Kirkness Education Foundation Scholarships and STEM Camp

Students with Indigenous ancestry in grades 10, 11 and 12 and who enjoy STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) are invited to register for a weeklong immersion camp experience. The link below provides more information on this incredible opportunity for our Indigenous students.

<https://vjkf.file.force.com/servlet/servlet.EmailAttachmentDownload?q=4oeZiBHwOjiiSVsUUELgd%2BpGfkFX6QttkQ%2BDniVus2kDfF0PubSAH0wbjEf5tF8xw6pk0PrXZODPWJpTgsAOoQ%3D%3D>

Volunteer Opportunity:

BC Blind Sports will again be providing gift wrapping services at Tsawwassen Mills Mall for the 2023 holiday season to raise funds for their programs. They are looking for enthusiastic volunteers and invite students to join in to help raise funds to support their sport and recreation programming for individuals who are blind, partially sighted, and deaf blind.

They will be operating the community kiosk gift wrapping booth at Tsawwassen Mills Mall (5000 Canoe Way, Tsawwassen) from November 24th to December 24th. Student volunteers will be supervised by staff and key volunteers of BC Blind Sports. Volunteer shifts are 4 hours each and 2 to 4 volunteers are needed per shift.

DUTIES INCLUDE - Customer service, wrapping presents, tracking the number of presents wrapped, collecting donations, and keeping the booth organized.

TRAINING - In order to provide a consistent quality of wrapping, first-time volunteers will need to attend a training session prior to volunteering. These sessions will be at Tsawwassen Mills. There are five training sessions available to choose from:

Sunday, November 19th and 26th at 2pm to 4pm,
Tuesday Nov 28th at 6pm to 8pm,
Sunday December 3rd 2pm to 4pm
Tuesday December 5th 6pm to 8pm.

SIGN UP TODAY! - Email Tami at giftwrap@bcblindsports.bc.ca to register for your preferred training session.

Once students have completed the Volunteer Training, they will be contacted by Tami to choose their volunteer shifts.

Family Opportunities:

We would like to invite you to our "In the Know" virtual events. All of the information to register is found in the links below. As always, our events are free to attend. These events are offered 5 times a month, so you can choose the date and time that works for you.

FamilySmart Virtual Event: Emotion Regulation

Description: Join us in watching a video conversation with Nicole Allen, Clinical Counsellor at Fraser Health's START Program. Nicole offers support to parents and caregivers with information and strategies to cope with emotion dysregulation and the challenges which many young people begin to experience as they enter and move through the adolescent years.

Registration: [FamilySmart - Events](#)

Dates: November 14th 6:30pm-8pm
 November 16th 12pm-1:30pm
 November 21st 6pm-7:30pm
 November 23rd 6:30pm-8pm

Legal Name Changes, Trans and Gender Marker ID

Proud2Be from Family Services of the North Shore would like to invite you to a free virtual event on Saturday November 4th for families looking for information on Legal Name Changes, Trans and Gender Marker ID.

Information can be found here: [website](#)

Registration can be found here: [eventbrite registration](#)

ERASE Learning Sessions:

Two virtual ERASE learning sessions for families and children will be held on November 8, 28 and 30 focusing on establishing safe, caring, and respectful digital communities. These online sessions are best suited for families and youth aged 10 and above.

Family Session: Establishing Safe, Caring, & Respectful Digital Communities – Everyone Welcome!

Details: Recommended for Parents/Caregivers/Grandparents and youth aged 10 and up as a way to facilitate the conversation of safe and caring use of technology at home and in the community. This session covers all things digital, from how to be a good digital citizen, the criminal consequences of cyberbullying, and how to report and receive support in cases of sexting/sextortion. Some of the most prominent concerns currently surrounding use of social media platforms, smartphones, and artificial intelligence will be discussed.

STUDENTS WILL LEARN:

- Digital media habits, oversharing, and digital addiction
- The permanence of online posts/activity
- The significance of your digital tattoo in how others perceive you (e.g., sports teams, college admissions, and potential employers)
- The importance of caring for peers both online and offline
- Geo-locational settings and the dangers of social media and cell phone misuse
- The social and legal consequences of cyberbullying behaviour as well as possession and distribution of intimate images (sexting and sextortion)
- An anonymous student reporting tool that can help you and your friends stay safe both online and offline

Schedule:

November 28, 2023 7:00pm – 8:00pm <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/732343096917?aff=oddtcreator>

November 30, 2023 6:30pm -7:30pm <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/732346587357?aff=oddtcreator>

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.

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 everyone.

Rick Mesich
Principal

Tom Inkster
Vice Principal