

Friday, April 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024

*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,

On Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup>, families will be able to access the Mid-Semester Report Card in the MyEd Parent Portal and can schedule meetings with their child's teachers at our Parent Teacher Interviews on Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup>. An email will be sent to all families with instructions on how to schedule interviews through Parent Connect. Families will be able to schedule appointments until Monday, April 29<sup>th</sup> at 3:00pm. If families have difficulty with scheduling appointments, we encourage you to contact the main office at 604-594-3474 for help. If families are not able to schedule an appointment on April 30<sup>th</sup> with a particular teacher, please contact your child's teacher(s) after April 30<sup>th</sup> to schedule an appointment by phone or for an in-person meeting. A reminder that students will be dismissed at 1:00pm on April 30<sup>th</sup> to accommodate our Parent Teacher Interview schedule.

As we are quickly coming to the end of semester 2 and the school year. It is vital that students and families use these feedback opportunities to create an improvement plan for the next 2 months. We highly encourage students to take advantage of the supports they can access through Flex Time and the Homework Club that takes place after school every Wednesday in the Library. If students need help in creating an improvement plan, we encourage them to contact Ms. Diomis or Mr. Abernethy, Counsellors, who can help.

## **Important Dates:**

April 19 <sup>th</sup>	Early Dismissal at 1:00pm Reporting to Families
April 23 <sup>rd</sup> –	Parent teacher Interview Scheduler Open for Appointments
April 29 <sup>th</sup>	
April 25 <sup>th</sup>	Mid Semester Report Card (Semester classes only)
April 30 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Teacher Interviews (1:00pm Early Dismissal)
May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	50 <sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration 4:00pm – 7:00pm

Please see the important information items below:

## Sands Secondary 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

The 2023-24 school year marks Sands Secondary's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. We are excited to welcome past and present students and staff to celebrate this momentous occasion. As a school community, we will be hosting a celebration on Friday, May 3<sup>rd</sup> from 4:00pm to 7:00pm that will include food, performances, photos, tours, an Alumni Volleyball game, cake and much, much more. We encourage our community and alumni to join us on May 3<sup>rd</sup> to connect with former friends and staff, walk down memory lane and to celebrate our school. Please spread the word about this celebration and we hope to see many of you in attendance. Please see the poster below with a QR code that will allow alumni to share memories of their time at Sands Secondary.



## 2024/2025 Draft Budget Recommendations

Phase 1 of this year's budget public consultation process resulted in more than 180 online survey responses from parents/caregivers on their priorities for the upcoming school year. Thank you for taking the time to provide your feedback.

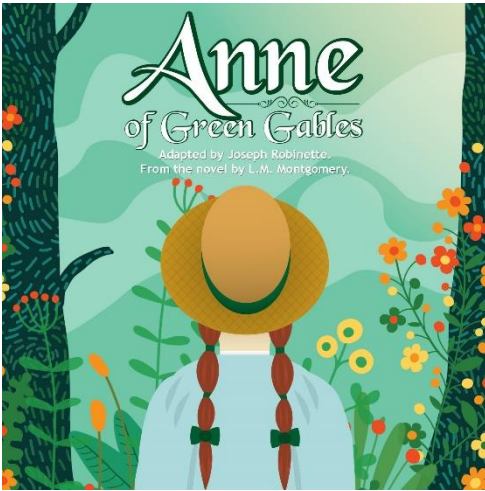
Following a review of this feedback and the Ministry's funding announcement, the [draft budget recommendations](#) were released on Thursday, April 18 on the district's website and in the local media. The Delta Board of Education is now inviting you to provide feedback on the draft budget recommendations via this [online survey](https://forms.gle/69ZdPF9LcrQXhVdX9) (<https://forms.gle/69ZdPF9LcrQXhVdX9>) or by sending an email to [budget@deltaschools.ca](mailto:budget@deltaschools.ca), or attending the public board meeting at 7:30p.m. on Tuesday, April 23. The deadline for completing the survey or sending an email is noon on Monday, April 22 so that the information can be shared with the board prior to the public board meeting. Also, if you would like to speak at the public board meeting on April 23, please email [rsonsalla@deltaschools.ca](mailto:rsonsalla@deltaschools.ca) by noon on April 22.

## Facilities Upgrade

We created a feature wall in the front foyer to give the space some contrasting colour. Over Spring Break we had the entire gym painted. Both projects just added to making Sands Secondary a learning environment that is positive and demonstrates to students we are willing to invest in making our school a place where they feel comfortable, feel a sense of pride and creates a positive atmosphere.

## **Anne of Green Gables Production**

The Theatre students ended their run of Anne of Green Gables last Friday to an almost sold-out crowd. The students performed 6 times over 4 days and their performances improved immensely over the course of the run. Congratulations to Ms. Thomson for her endless support of Theatre students to create these massive productions and helping students move through the process of selecting a play, casting, set development and character development. This is a huge undertaking and takes many individuals to bring a script to the stage. The students' commitment to the production process is admirable and courageous as they become their characters or worked behind the scenes to support the actors on stage. We are so proud of the entire production team.



## **Delview Leos Club Opportunity**

The Delview Leos Club is hosting an exciting community event, the 2024 Delview Park Spring Cleanup Competition, that will invite students and families from across North Delta and Surrey to participate in a spring cleanup competition. This is the second year this event will run to help clean trash in the community, giving students volunteer opportunities and a chance to enjoy earth day related games, food, and free draws to win gift baskets and prizes.

The event will occur on Monday, April 22nd from 3-6pm at Delview Park (9098 116 St., Delta, BC), and all students and staff are welcome to attend, as well as family and friends.

## **Scholarship Deadlines**

Grade 12 students and their families need to be aware that numerous local scholarships and bursaries, with deadlines fast approaching, are now available for Sands students. These scholarships have been posted on the Sands Career Centre website, in the Red scholarship binder in the Career Centre, and on the Career Centre Bulletin Board. Students are welcome to drop in to see Ms. Sansregret, Career Advisor, in the Counselling Suite should they have any questions.

## **Student Learning Survey**

During the months of February to April, Delta School District is participating in the 2024 Ministry of Education Electronic Anonymous Student Learning Survey in cooperation with all other school districts throughout the province. Students in Grades 10 and 12 will be completing the survey in April. Parents/guardians can complete the online anonymous Student Learning Survey before midnight May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024. The survey information was sent out to families on Tuesday.

To complete the parent survey:

- Go to the **Ministry website**.
- Under the section **Parents**, go to the section titled **Direct Access**
- For the line titled **District**, select **37 – Delta** from the dropdown menu.
- For the line titled **School**, select **North Delta Secondary**.
- For the line titled **Language**, select the language of your choice.

We thank parents/guardians in advance for participating in this survey.

### **Breakfast Anyone?**

Recently, our Youth Workers, Kristie Watters and Subreena Sidhu, along with Carol Kirby, Education Assistant, have developed a Breakfast Program for any student who missed breakfast at home. This initiative is being supported by the Feeding Futures Grant that was provided to each school district to help support students and their families with food security. Students have always had access to snacks every day and all day if they were feeling hungry at school. Our team had a vision to expand our food program to include a hearty breakfast every morning. Over the month of February, Kristie, Subreena and Carol were acquiring furniture and breakfast equipment to bring this idea to life. We had our Life Skills students help to assemble all the furniture and help to make breakfast every morning.

Before Spring Break, their vision came to life with a breakfast buffet in the main foyer. Kristie, Subreena and Carol were glowing as the students started to enter the school with amazement when they noticed the sizeable breakfast buffet set up for them. Breakfast will occur every morning until 8:15am (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) and 9:15am on Wednesdays. A special thank you goes to Kirsten Hermanson, who is charged with allocating the Feeding Futures grant money. We are so appreciative of Kirsten's support of our program. If you wish to donate to this worthwhile initiative, please contact the Sands Secondary main office at 604-594-3474.



### **Family Smart Parent/Guardians Presentations**

Below are upcoming FamilySmart events that we invite you to join. We are excited to have [Kim Barthel](#) as our guest speaker for **National Child & Youth Mental Health Day!**

#### **Registration for virtual event: [Connecting with Kids](#)**

Date: May 7th 6pm-8pm PST

Description: We know that having caring, connected conversations can significantly impact the mental health of children and youth. Join us to listen to Kim Barthel talk about having more self-compassion, self-awareness and knowledge about the art and science of relationships. Our kids mean so much to us, and yet disconnection,

dissociation and even the potential for self-harm is very real. A holistic and engaging story-teller, Kim will introduce the basics of attunement, attachment theory, trauma-sensitive practice, sustainable self-care and above all the power of connection and inclusion.

As always, Family Smart events are **free** to attend. These events are offered multiple times a month, so families can choose the date and time that works for them.

### Virtual Event: Understanding, Supporting and Connecting with Teens with Depression

Description: Mood roller coasters are a part of normal development for our teens, but sometimes something more is going on with their mental health. How can we tell the difference? At what point should we intervene, and how can we go about it? Come together with other families to watch a video featuring a parent with lived experience and Karen Peters, a mental health therapist, for a discussion about understanding how depression shows up in teens and ways of journeying with them through it.

Registration: [FamilySmart - Events](#)

Dates:           **April 23rd 6pm-7:30pm**  
                      **April 25th 6:30pm-8pm**

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us at [SurreyDeltaWhiteRock@familysmart.ca](mailto:SurreyDeltaWhiteRock@familysmart.ca) or leave a message at 604-607-9587.

### **Extended Family Trips During the School Year**

As we moved out of the pandemic environment, traveling abroad has picked up substantially. We have been getting requests from families for their child(ren) to miss long periods of time for a family trip. As a school, it is not reasonable for our teachers to support students on trips of more than 2 weeks in length during the school year. If a family wishes to have their children miss more than 2 weeks for a family trip during the school year, then families will need to enroll their child(ren) in an online program like [Delta Access](#). We encourage families to reach out to a Counsellor or Administrator if there may be plans for an extended trip in the future that will impact their child's ability to attend classes daily.

### **Year-end Schedule**

In preparation for the end of school in June, the following schedule outlines dates for year-end routines to help families plan.

Full Year & Semester 2 End of Year Schedule:

Long Blocks:

June 17 (Monday)	June 18 (Tuesday)
Office Hours 8:30 – 9:15	Office Hours 8:30 – 9:15
Block A(1) 9:30 – 11:40	Block B(1) 9:30 – 11:40
Lunch 11:40-12:30	Lunch 11:40-12:30
Block C(1) 12:30 – 2:40	Block D(1) 12:30 – 2:40

June 19 (Wednesday)  
Block A(2) 9:30 – 11:40  
Lunch 11:40-12:30  
Block C(2) 12:30 – 2:40

June 20 (Thursday)  
Office Hours 8:30 – 9:15  
Block B(2) 9:30 – 11:40  
Lunch 11:40-12:30  
Block D(2) 12:30 – 2:40

Semester 2 & Full Year Courses End:  
Course Completion Days:

Friday, June 21  
Monday, June 24 &  
Tuesday, June 25

Semester 2 Final Report Card Published  
Last Day of School

Thursday, June 27  
Friday, June 28

If families have any questions regarding the year-end schedule, please contact the main office.

### **Food Security Support**

The provincial government has provided school districts with the Feeding Futures Grant to help students and families with food costs. We encourage families to connect with our Counselling Team of Mr. Abernethy, Ms. Diomis or our Youth Workers, Ms. Watters and Ms. Sidhu, if your family requires support in these difficult times. All requests will be kept confidential and ultimately, we want to help those in need.

### **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.

### **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](mailto:jsansregret@deltalearns.ca) to answer questions or book an appointment. Students can drop-in, but an appointment is recommended.

### **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

Mr. C. Abernethy [cabernethy@deltaschools.ca](mailto:cabernethy@deltaschools.ca)  
Ms. W. Diomis [wdiomis@deltaschools.ca](mailto:wdiomis@deltaschools.ca)

## Youth Workers

Ms. K. Watters [kwatters@deltaschools.ca](mailto:kwatters@deltaschools.ca)  
Ms. S. Sidhu [ssidhu@deltaschools.ca](mailto:ssidhu@deltaschools.ca)

## 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.

## Reporting Student Absences

Please phone the school at **604-594-3474** or email [sands.sec@deltaschools.ca](mailto: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 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                      Tom Inkster  
Principal                          Vice Principal