

Thursday, October 24th, 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, October 31st Sands Secondary will be celebrating the 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://www.timeanddate.com/holidays/canada/diwali>

On Thursday, October 31st, we will be experiencing Halloween festivities where we encourage students and staff to wear costumes to celebrate. We ask that students wear appropriate costumes that are not offensive, do not include replica weapons and no full-face masks as we need to be able to easily identify students for safety reasons. Also, firecrackers and fireworks are prohibited on school property. According to the City of Delta website, selling, possessing, and transporting fireworks in Delta without a permit is prohibited. Ultimately, we cannot have fireworks or firecrackers at school as they pose a major safety risk to those who are igniting them and others in the vicinity. Thank you in advance to everyone for helping to make Sands Secondary a safe place for everyone.

On Wednesday, October 30th, the Sands Secondary Student Council will be hosting a Halloween Dance in the Canteen from 6:30pm to 9:00pm. Students can purchase tickets from the main foyer at lunch for \$10.00. This dance is a school sponsored event, and the expectation is that students follow the Sands Secondary Code of Conduct.

Please see the important information items below:

Important Dates:

- October 25th Pro D Day
- October 30th Literacy 10 12:00pm-3:00pm
Halloween Dance
- October 31st Diwali
Halloween

- November 4th Literacy 12 8:30-11:30am
- November 5th Numeracy 10 8:30am-11:30am
- November 6th Take Our Kids to Work Grade 9s (see below)
- November 8th Remembrance Day Assemblies
Indigenous Veterans Day
- November 11th Remembrance Day (classes not in session)
- November 19th PAC Meeting 7:00pm
- November 22nd Report to Parents Early Dismissal 1:00pm
- November 25th Professional Development Day (classes not in session)
- November 29th Written Update Report Card Posted

Electric Scooters

It has been brought to our attention that electric kick scooters should not be used by students travelling to school or while on school grounds. Despite their popularity in our province, electric kick scooters remain illegal for use on public roads, bike lanes and sidewalks across most of B.C., except in a handful of cities that are taking part in a [pilot program](#) to test the use of them. The City of Delta is not part of the pilot program. Even in the pilot program cities, it is illegal for a person under 16 years of age to operate an electric kick scooter. You can view the provincial rules here: [Electric Kick Scooter Pilot Project Regulation](#).

As we have several students using scooters currently, we felt it was important to share this information with you. We thank you for your attention to this matter.

Grade 8 Mentorship Workshop

The grade 8 students will be experiencing their first mentorship workshop facilitated by our student-led Grade 8 Mentorship Team. On October 28th, grade 8 students with last names starting with A to K will meet in the Library at the start of the FLEX period. On October 29th, grade 8 students with the last names starting with L-Z will meet in the Library at the start of the FLEX period.

This meeting will be an introduction to the topics that will be covered throughout the school year. Grade 8 students will be receiving a survey through their Deltalearns email accounts on our grade 8 student experiences so far this year.

Provincial Assessments

Students in grades 10 and 12 will be completing the Provincial Assessments in Literacy and Numeracy. The completion of these assessments is a graduation requirement. The Assessment Schedule will be:

- Wednesday, October 30th Literacy 10 12:00pm-3:00pm
- Monday, November 4th Literacy 12 8:30-11:30am
- Tuesday, November 5th Numeracy 10 8:30am-11:30am

Information outlining the details for the assessments will be sent to all families prior to the assessment dates. For more information on the Graduation Assessments, please follow the links below.

Graduation Literacy 12 Assessment

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/grade-12-literacy-assessment>

Graduation Literacy 10 Assessment

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/assessment/literacy-assessment/grade-10-literacy-assessment>

Graduation Numeracy 10 Assessment

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/grade-10-numeracy-assessment>

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.

UBC Women in Engineering

The UBC Women in Engineering (WiE) is holding a mentorship program for high school girls with an interest in engineering! This program will run from November 2024 to April 2025, and is focused on helping students in grades 10-12 to:

- Learn more about engineering and the various opportunities it offers
- Resolve inquiries about university applications through connecting with upper year students
- Receive guidance on the transition from high school to university
- Connect with current engineering students and learn from their experiences
- Explore different ways to get involved at university
- Join in on WiE events (eg. professional development workshops, design team presentations, etc)

The mentee application is currently open, and the deadline to apply is **November 4th, 2024**. The link for the application can be accessed here:

[WiE Mentorship Program Application Link](#)

Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP)

The Canadian Dental Care Plan (CDCP) aims at reducing the costs of dental care for Canadian residents who have a family net income of less than \$90,000 per year. Applications are currently open for Persons with disabilities and children under 18. The program will then expand to all eligible Canadian residents as of 2025. Please see the attached poster for more information. [CDCP-POSTER_EN.pdf](#)

Breakfast Program

Our Breakfast Program will continue this year for all of our students who may have 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. Our Child and Youth Care Workers, Kristie, Subreena, and Carol, Education Assistant, developed this program last year by acquiring furniture and breakfast equipment to bring this idea to

life. Breakfast will occur every morning until 8:15am (Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday) and 9:15am on Wednesdays.

Career Programs

Careers Newsletter: <https://deltalearns.ca/careers/newsletters/>

Highlights include:

- Take our Kids to Work Day: Nov 6, 2024
- [EducationPlannerBC](#): Online Seminar: Nov 20: Post secondary programs, Admission requirements
- [BCIT Engineering Panel](#): Nov 13



Take Our Kids to Work Day

Take our Kids to Work Day is on November 6! Please visit the career website for resources and forms! <https://deltalearns.ca/careers/district-programs/documentation/> Learn more about the day by visiting <https://www.studentscommission.ca/events/tokw2024/>



Parent/Guardian Opportunities:

Virtual Event: Obsessive Compulsive Disorder: It's More Than Overwashing Your Hands

Description: Living with OCD can present unique challenges that affect both our kids and us as families. For those living with it, simple tasks become overwhelming and disrupt daily life. Join us to discover ways to strengthen our understanding and support our kids living with OCD.

Registration: [FamilySmart - Events](#)

Dates: **November 6th 6:30pm-8pm**

November 13th 12pm-1:30pm

November 28th 6:30pm-8pm

Virtual Event: Supporting Safety at Home When Your Child Has a Mental Health Crisis

Description: When our child or youth has had a mental health crisis, knowing how to keep them safe can be overwhelming. Our concerns can include suicidal thoughts, self-harming and aggression. Listen to this discussion about some ways that can help us talk to our kids about their safety at home.

Registration: [FamilySmart - Events](#)

Dates: **November 7th 6:30pm-8pm**

November 26th 6:30pm-8pm

Virtual Event: Now What? A Beginning Conversation to Support Families Moving From Reacting to Responding When Our Kids Begin Experimenting With Substances

Description: Learning that our kids are trying substances can be scary. As families, we are a valuable resource to help them navigate the choices they are making, but it can be hard to know how to respond. This video introduces parents and caregivers to some ways that can help us move from reacting to our fears about substance use and towards a more thoughtful response that supports connection with our kids.

Registration: [FamilySmart - Events](#)

Dates: **December 3rd 6:30pm-8pm**

December 4th 12pm-1:30pm

December 5th 6:30pm-8pm

December 10th 6:30pm-8pm

December 11th 6:30pm-8pm

2024 BC Provincial Junior Chess Championship

The official BC Chess Federation junior chess tournament - 2024 BC Provincial Junior Chess Championship - will happen at the Bonsor Recreation Complex in Burnaby from November 16th - 17th, 2024. It is open to BC Juniors born after Jan 1, 2005. This is an excellent opportunity for juniors to meet over a chessboard, enhance their chess skills and make new friends in the spacious tournament hall.

When: Saturday Nov 16 - Sunday Nov 17, 2024

Where: Bonsor Recreation Complex (Banquet Hall, 2nd floor) - 6550 Bonsor Ave, Burnaby, BC

Tournament Director: Stephen Wright (FIDE International Arbiter)

Registration and details - <http://chess2inspire.org/bcjjc-2024>

http://chess2inspire.org/files/2024_BC_Junior_Chess_Championship_Flyer.pdf

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 students' 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.

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. We encourage families to schedule their family vacations during the Winter Break, Spring Break or Summer Break.

Flex Time

Every week students can make decisions about their learning and 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 to 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.

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 (Grades 11 & 12) Monday-Friday
Ms. A. Janda ajanda@deltaschools.ca (Grades 8-10) Tuesday- Thursday
Mr. Randhawa arandhawa@deltaschools.ca (Grades 8-10) Monday & Friday

Youth Workers

Ms. K. Watters kwatters@deltaschools.ca
Ms. S. Sidhu ssidhu@deltaschools.ca

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@deltaschools.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
VicePrincipal