



Principal's Message



October 2024

Dear SDSS Students, Parents and Caregivers,

Fall is now in full swing as is the 2024-25 school year. We have made it through the first month of organizing the school, finding classes, meeting teachers, establishing routines and beginning to explore curricula. Thank you for all your efforts and support getting the school year started.

While most classes have settled by this point, a few teaching positions are or were unfilled in September and early October. It is unusual to have vacancies this late into the start of a school year, and it illustrates the staffing challenges faced in education these days. Thankfully, we have been able to hire teachers in all 3 open math positions – I expect these teachers will all be in their new positions within the next 2 weeks. Unfortunately, it is proving much more challenging to fill our open Applied Skills teaching position. Fortunately, students have been able to work on Applied Skills curriculum with temporary teaching staff, and we have a qualified temporary teacher now in place to work with our Grade 9-12 Woodwork classes. We will continue to pursue all avenues to find a suitable permanent teacher for the position.

On a very positive note, planning is well underway for fun events such as our Grad Fright Nights and grade 8/9 school dance, and our Athletics teams have had great starts to their fall seasons. I'd like to express my gratitude to all the coaches, staff members, and parents/caregivers who are giving their time to help organize these events and support our teams. I know our students appreciate it!

Please see below for specific information on events (both past and upcoming) and some important reminders for students and families.

Best wishes for an enjoyable Thanksgiving weekend. If at any time you have any comments or questions, please contact me at the school (604-943-7407) or by email, bscarr@deltaschools.ca

Sincerely,

Benjamin Scarr
Principal
South Delta Secondary

VTRA Protocol – Fair Notice

The Delta School District is bringing to your attention an updated version of the Threat Assessment Protocol information that all parents and students need to be made aware of. We call this “Fair Notice” so that all families are aware of the process we follow to gather information and respond to any threats of violence that come to the attention of the school. The fair notice form is now uploaded and available with other school forms for parents to acknowledge electronically.

More information on the Threat Assessment Protocol can be found in Appendix B of Administrative Procedure 350 – Student Code of Conduct and Discipline.

A link to the Administrative Procedure is below:

Administrative Procedure 350 – Student Code of Conduct and Discipline
<https://district.public.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/07/Procedure-350-Student-Conduct-and-Discipline-with-appendices.pdf>

Personal Digital Device Policy Update

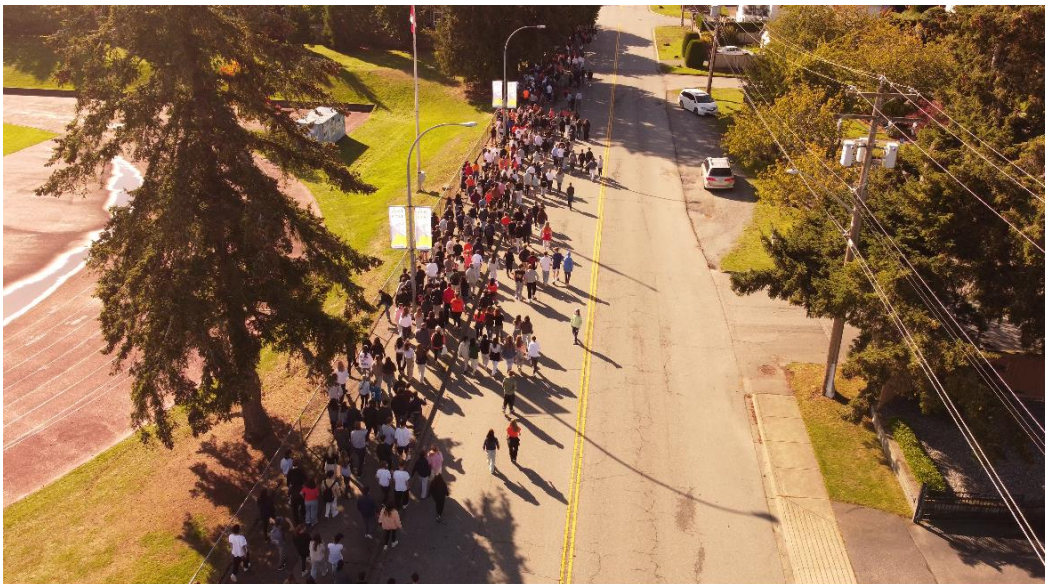
School staff are happy to report that, for the most part, students have done an excellent job adjusting to the new Personal Digital Device Policy. Students have adjusted to the new rules and have committed themselves to disengaging with their devices during class time. As well, staff and parent/caregivers are to be commended for helping students with the changes that have occurred and for supporting a learning environment free of digital device distractions. Well done everyone!

As a reminder, you can view the District's PDD policy, please click [here](#).

Parent/Caregiver Excused Absences

Parents/Caregivers, please remember that if you are excusing your student from a class, you are expected to assume responsibility for supervising your student, either by picking them up from the school or by permitting them to leave the school to go home. Students are not permitted to remain at the school unsupervised when excused by a parent/caregiver. Please contact the school administration if you have any questions regarding this matter.

Walk for Truth and Reconciliation



On Friday, September 27th, South Delta students and staff participated in a walk to recognize the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Participants met on our field then walked briefly through the community to raise awareness and show support for Truth and Reconciliation. Students then watched a virtual ceremony outside Delta City Hall where they heard stories from members of the Indigenous community and fellow students. Thank you to our students, volunteers and staff for participating in this important day.

Parking at Tsawwassen United Church

Parents/Caregivers are asked to please refrain from parking at the front of Tsawwassen United Church on Thursday evening between 6pm – 8:30pm, as the congregation has a regular Thursday evening event. Parking at the back of the church is ok. Thank you for helping our neighbor out.

Provincial Assessments

On October 29th, students in grade 12 will be completing the Literacy 12 provincial assessment. Provincial assessments are required for graduation with 3 assessments (Literacy 10, Numeracy 10 and Literacy 12) to complete. To accommodate the writing of this assessment, Grade 12 classes will not be in session on Oct. 29th, and grade 12 students will be assigned a morning (8:30-11:45) or afternoon (12noon to 3:15pm) session to complete the assessment. Students will be expected to attend their session for the Literacy 12 assessment. Students who do not have an assessment session or a class to attend are not expected in the building. More information will be shared with grade 12 students and families soon.

If you are a grade 12 student expecting to graduate this year and you have not completed the Literacy 10 or Numeracy 10 assessment, please contact Ms. T. Farnden to set up a session for you to complete these assessments.

Later in the year, grade 10 students will have sessions for Literacy 10 and Numeracy 10. For more information on provincial assessments, please visit <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/assessment>

Fright Nights

Attention Grads! Fright Nights Grad Event is coming up next week! Thank you to those students who have purchased a ticket. Remember that you must have your Grad Agreement letter signed and submitted to the office (by Oct. 15th please) before you can participate in the event. Grads attending the trip are to meet at the school at 4pm sharp on Thursday October 17th for security check and to get on the buses!

Emergency Preparedness – Great British Columbia ShakeOut

On Thursday, October 17 at 10:17a.m., students and staff across the district will practice how to “Drop, Cover and Hold On” during the Great British Columbia ShakeOut Earthquake drill. B.C. is the most seismically active area of Canada, and experiences thousands of minor earthquakes each year. The Great British Columbia ShakeOut is an annual opportunity for individuals, communities, schools and organizations to practice essential earthquake safety measures.

This year, the district has introduced a new annual Emergency Preparedness Fee of \$10 per student. This is to cover the maintenance and replenishment of emergency provisions, including food, water and first aid items, to help care for students in case of a large-scale incident such as an earthquake. If your family requires financial support in relation to this fee, please contact the school office.

Bosch Foundation Visit

On September 25th, South Delta Secondary hosted a group of educational leaders from the Bosch Foundation and various education ministries in Germany. The purpose of the visit was to showcase how SDSS, the Delta District and the province of B.C. create an inclusive environment for students and include neurodiverse learners in our classroom spaces. Participants were extremely impressed with our school, staff and students as they participated in a presentation and toured the school, and they left with some innovative ideas about how to incorporate inclusion into the school system in Germany.

Grade 8 Flex Time Ambassadors

This year at SDSS, we are piloting a Flex Ambassador program for our Grade 8 students. Specific teachers will serve as Ambassadors and students will be assigned to a teacher they will meet each Friday. During Flex Ambassador sessions with these teachers, students will develop skills in planning, executive functioning, organization, stress management, time management, binder organization, study skills among others. Grade 8 students will have the opportunity to develop a strong connection with a specific teacher in the school who will be able to check in with them weekly. Grade 8 students will be assigned to a Flex each Friday. Please reach out to the school if there are any questions or concerns.



Athletics

Fall athletics are well underway and many SDSS teams are having great seasons:

Volleyball: All our girls teams have had a great start to the year. Our junior teams are playing well, with our grade 10 girls winning the Seaquam tournament. The Senior team is ranked 3rd in the province and recently won the Camosun College tournament. The grade 8 boys team is just beginning league play.

Football: Both our junior and varsity teams have played some exciting games and have shown growth over the season. The junior team recently defeated Holy Cross and had an exciting last second loss to Lord Tweedsmuir, while our 4th ranked varsity team held a lead into the 4th quarter against the #1 ranked Vancouver College squad before ultimately coming up a bit short.

Girls Field Hockey: Our girls field hockey team has participated in multiple tournaments and has done very well. The team is comprised mostly of younger players, but has been very competitive against teams with more experience. Well done girls!

Boys Soccer: Both boys soccer teams are several games into their season and are competing hard. Keep working hard boys, the results will come!

Cross Country: Good luck to all our runners this year and especially in the South Fraser zone meets later this month!

SDSS 2024/2025 School and Course Fees

School fees have now been assessed for all students and can be viewed in Parent Connect. Fees are payable online or in-person at the school office. In order for your payment to be applied correctly, please include your student's five digit student number.

No fees will be charged for regular courses or programs. However, legislation has clarified areas where school fees may be charged. Fees must be paid in advance of participation in extra-curricular activities including overnight field trips or grad events. In accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines, fees will be charged in certain courses for various activities and/or materials as outlined below:

Student Activity Fees: All students are required to pay their student fee which covers the cost of the My School Day App and helps with Athletics, Student Council, Assemblies, Guest Speakers, Awards and Earthquake Preparedness.

Grad Fee: Grade 12 students will be required to pay a Graduation Fee to help defray costs associated with the purchase of caps, tassels, gowns and facility rental for Valedictory.

Athletics: Students playing on any school athletic team will be expected to pay a sport specific athletic fee to help offset the cost of transportation, officials,

registration, etc. Fees vary according to the expenses incurred by the particular sport and league.

Technical Education: No fees will be charged for any projects in Grade 8, however, in Grades 9 – 12 students will be charged the cost of materials for any take home projects and/or where enhanced materials are selected (e.g. higher grade of wood from the basic quality supplied by the school).

Home Economics: No fees will be charged for any projects in Grade 8 or ingredients for any Foods and Nutrition class meals. However, in Grades 9 – 12 students will be charged the cost of fabric for any take home projects and/or where enhanced materials are selected (e.g. student selects and purchases their own fabric). Due to the differences in thread qualities which can affect proper sewing machine function, a \$20 fee is charged for bulk purchase of consumables like thread, needles, snaps, etc.

Art: No fees will be charged for any projects except where students choose to paint on canvas rather than paper. Students in some courses will be expected to have a sketchbook, which are available through the school at cost.

Music: Guitar students have the option of bringing in their own or paying \$20.00 for the rental and use of in-house, school-supplied guitars. Rental fee also includes one set of strings and a pick. Choir students have the option of purchasing a music folder and/or black shirt at cost.

Physical Education: Particularly in P.E. 11 and 12, students will have the opportunity to participate in off campus field trips and activities at cost. Students will be given the opportunity to complete the Emergency First Aid certification at cost. In accordance with Ministry guidelines, a fee will be charged for Superfit.

Cook Training: In accordance with Ministry guidelines, students are charged \$25.00 to pay for the cost of purchasing a uniform/apron and having it freshly laundered each day. Impeccable laundry hygiene must be adhered to in order to prevent food contamination from day to day.

Work Books: No fees will be charged for any textbooks; however, in some courses students will be offered the option of purchasing a supplemental student workbook. These books may be taken home, written in, and used at the students' discretion. School copies of the workbook will be available to students not wishing to purchase their own, but student must not write in them and must return them at the end of the school year in good condition. In some cases a deposit will be collected for school supplied work books.

Field Trips: Throughout the year, in various courses, students will be invited to participate in course related field trips at cost. Although these trips are designed to enrich students' learning experience, participation will be optional.

Accommodating Hardship: Where economic hardship is a barrier to participation, the school will work with parents and students to find alternate means to allow the student to participate. Questions regarding this process should be addressed to the Principal or your child's counsellor.

Yearbook: Optional purchase. All other schools fees much be paid before a yearbook can be purchased.

Important Upcoming Dates

Parent Advisory Council Meeting (PAC) – Wednesday, October 16th 7:00 pm Library

Fright Nights Grad Event – Thursday, October 17th 4:00 pm – 10:30 pm

Dry Grad Meeting – Wednesday, October 23rd 7:00 pm Library

School Photos Retakes – Thursday, October 24th

Non-Instructional Day – Friday, October 25th

Literacy 12 Assessments – Tuesday, October 29th

Grade 8/9 Dance presented by PAC – Wednesday, October 30th 6:30pm – 9:00 pm

Take Your Kids to Work Day (grade 9s) - Wednesday, November 6th

For a complete calendar of events, check out the SDSS website:

<https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/events-calendar>

<https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/31/2024/08/CALENDAR-APPENDIX-II-24-25-Parent-Version-REVISED-Aug-23-1.pdf>

Contacts

Administration

Mr. Ben Scarr, Principal (Grade 12s) – bscarr@deltaschools.ca

Mr. Kevin Dalgetty, Vice-Principal (Grades 8 & 10) – kdalgetty@deltaschools.ca

Mrs. Terri Farnden, Vice-Principal (Grades 9 & 11) – tfarnden@deltaschools.ca

Counsellor Assignments

Ms. Val Hayes – Grade 9 and Grade 8 (L-Q) – vhayes@deltaschools.ca

Ms. Karen Kilpatrick – Grade 10 and Grade 8 (R-Z) – kkilpatrick@deltaschools.ca

Ms. Andrea Burns – Grade 11 and Grade 8 (A-D) – aburns@deltaschools.ca

Ms. Kristy Abel – Grade 12 and Grade 8 (E-K) – kabel@deltaschools.ca

[Click here](#) for a complete SDSS staff directory.

Mental Wellness Resources

From time to time, we all need additional support. Students are encouraged to contact their counsellor for support and/or access the resources below:

CRISIS HOTLINES

- [BC CRISIS CENTRE](#)– 1-800-784-2433 or 310-6789 no area code needed
- **CRISIS SERVICES CANADA**– 1-833-456-4566 or text 45645
- [First Nations and Inuit Hope for Wellness Help Line](#)– 1-855-242-3310
- [Canada Drug Rehab Addiction Services Directory](#)– 1-877-746-1963
- [National Eating Disorder Information Centre](#)– 1-866-633-4220

RESOURCES

- [Bell Let's Talk](#)
- [Canadian Association for Suicide Prevention](#)– 613-702-4446 (not a crisis line)
- [Canadian Mental Health Association](#)– 416-646-5557
- [Canadian Psychological Association](#)– 613-237-2144 or 1-888-472-0657
- [Mood Disorders Society of Canada](#)– 613-921-5565
- [Schizophrenia Society of Canada](#)– 1-204-320-3188
- [Mental Health Commission](#)– 613-683-3755

Parents are also encouraged to access the [Teen Mental Health Parent Resources](#)