



Principal's Message



November 2024

Dear SDSS Students, Parents and Caregivers,

As we enter November together, a few things occur around the same time – the days are shorter, the weather is wetter, and we get to a point in the school year where teachers have had enough experience with students to get a good idea of how things are going for each of their learners. Thus, it makes sense that the first official communication from teachers to parents/caregivers about how a student is progressing in their class comes at this time of year. The Informal Reports that have been distributed and will continue to be distributed through the first week of November are important sources of information on student behavior and progress for parents/caregiver, and I encourage all parents/caregivers to review these communications and have conversations with their student about how things are going in their classes.

Feedback from teachers to parent/caregivers, although necessary and valuable, can also sometimes be a stressor for students, particularly if things haven't gone as well as a student hoped, and this has been unknown to parents/caregivers to this point. As supporters of your student, please remember that 'tough' conversations with a child about challenges in school are necessary for accountability, resiliency and making changes to find more success, and that we also need to be mindful of a student's mental health. If you are concerned that your student is struggling with mental health challenges, please reach out to their grade appropriate counsellor at the school (see the end of this newsletter).

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

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

Extended Absences

Over the course of a school year, students may be absent for short periods of time for a variety of reasons. Extended absences, for reasons other than student health, should be carefully considered by families. To ensure that our students miss as little time as possible from school, we ask for parents' cooperation in scheduling family holidays outside of school time.

Schools are not in a position to approve or deny permission for student absences for family holidays or other extended absences. This decision lies with the parent/guardian. Please do inform the office and teachers in advance of the absence so they are aware. Should parents wish to remove their child from school for a lengthy period of time, consideration should be given to the implication this may have for their child's education. Important learning is missed by students during any absence which puts them at a disadvantage compared with those in regular attendance.

Should a family decide to remove their child for an extended vacation absence, the school is not required to provide educational materials. Being present and engaged in the school setting goes beyond the materials provided. Teachers are not able to replicate the school experience by providing homework. Please note that teachers are not obliged to provide learning materials or assignments during an extended

vacation absence. Should a student be absent for a significant period and therefore is not able to demonstrate the learning outcomes for a particular course, it may not be possible to provide an appropriate proficiency scale or letter grade for their courses, which may result in the child not being successful in course completion.

If families have questions about extended absences from school, please contact the grade appropriate administrator at the school.



Halloween at SDSS.

Congratulations to Student Council for putting on a fun and scary Haunted House on October 31st. Council members organized, decorated and ran the Haunted House at lunch, with many students partaking in the opportunity to get spooked. Big thanks to the students who spearheaded this fun event and to the student actors who made the Haunted House 'come alive'.

As well, thank you to the students and staff who participated in Halloween by dressing up this past Thursday. There were many creative and amusing costumes in the school, and several groups of staff had great themes to their costumes.

Finally, a huge congratulations to the volunteer parents/caregivers and members of the Parent Advisory Committee who volunteered their time to organize, set up, supervise and clean up the Grade 8/9 Halloween themed Dance. Over 250 students came to the school full of energy, with many wearing costumes, and danced away in the cafeteria. Many students expressed how much fun they had and were very appreciative of the opportunity to have some fun with their peers. I'd like to

especially recognize Morgan Dolejsi for taking the lead in organizing this very successful event. Thank you!

Informal Reports

As mentioned above, Informal Reports are currently being distributed to parents/caregivers from teachers. Parents/Caregivers should receive an update on how their student is doing in every class they are enrolled in sometime between October 24th and November 7th. As shared in October, this year, these informal updates from teachers will come as an email, phone conversation, in person meeting, or written report sent home with the student depending on the preference of the teacher. The Informal Reports are not required to contain specific information on achievement (ie. a percentage or performance indicator) but should provide a general update on what is going well and if there are any concerns for students.

Parents/Caregivers are encouraged to have conversations with their student(s) upon receiving the informal update. As always, parents/caregivers may contact teachers to have further conversations about their student. As well, if parents/caregivers do not receive an informal update from a teacher by November 8th, please contact the school office so that we can ensure an update is received.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh Award is an internationally recognized award system acknowledging youths' ability to be active, involved, and successful citizens. Students aged 14 and above set and achieve personal goals for community service, skills, fitness, and adventure. Achievement levels include Bronze, Silver, and Gold. For more information, please go to www.dukeofed.org

At SDSS, the Duke of Edinburgh program is managed by Mrs. Amber Young. We will be having a student and parent/guardian information night on Tuesday, November 12th at 7pm in the Library.

Take Your Kids to Work Day

On Wednesday, November 6th, grade 9 students will be participating in the annual Take Your Kids to Work Day. This is an opportunity for students to have an experience in a workplace setting and potentially get a chance to better understand what parents, caregivers, family or family friends do in a typical workday. We strongly encourage all Grade 9 students to participate as this experience is directly connected to the Careers 9 curriculum. Regular educational programming for grade 9 students will not be occurring on this day as we expect almost all grade 9s to be out of the building (though to school will still be open to grade 9s that are not able to participate in Take Your Kids to Work Day). Please make sure you get your permission forms into the office as soon as possible to participate!

Work BC 'Find Your Fit' Careers Event

For several days this past week, Work BC set up interactive displays, information booths and opportunities to speak to experts in a variety of Careers for our junior students. The East Gym was filled with presenters and information stations for a variety of careers for students to explore. Thank you to Mr. Martens and the PE department for organizing and accommodating this very successful event. Check out some of the photos below!



Fright Nights

Thank you to all our Grads and sponsor teachers for a very fun and successful Fright Nights Grad Event. We lucked out avoiding the rain and had lots of fun at Playland. The next Grad Event is Winter Formal in January with the official date to be announced in the next week!



Athletics

Fall athletics are beginning to wrap up with many SDSS teams preparing for playoffs this month:

Volleyball: Senior girls have been consistently ranked as one of the top teams in the province and just came off a thrilling straight set victory over top ranked Earl Marriott. Our grade 8-10 teams are all having excellent seasons and are preparing for playoffs and Provincials in the next month. Way to go girls!

Senior boys are competing hard in the Tier 1 division and will make playoffs. The boys have steadily improved over the course of the year and are looking to make a strong playoff run next month.

Football: Our senior boys are on a hot streak with three victories in the past 3 weeks, and have now moved up to #2 in the province. The team is primed for its upcoming playoff run and the boys have got their sights set on reaching the Provincial championship game.

Junior boys have earned a first-round bye going into the playoffs thanks to their strong league play. The team has shown steady improvement over the course of the season and should be a force in the playoffs.

Girls Field Hockey: Our girls field hockey team continues it's strong season and has finished 2nd in South Frasers. The team is moving on to the Provincials next week. Good luck girls!

Boys Soccer: The senior and junior boys seasons have come to an end. Though both teams had challenging years, the teams showed class and represented the school with pride. Congrats on a fine year!

Cross Country: The team had a very successful South Fraser meet recently with multiple runners qualifying for the Provincials. Congratulations to all our speedy Sun Devils and good luck to our Provincial qualifiers!

Swimming: Huge congratulations to the SDSS Swim team and coaches for their excellent showing at the recent regional swim meet. SDSS were the overall champions of the meet, and over 25 swimmers have now qualified for Provincials based on their meet performance. Congratulations Sun Devil swimmers!

SDSS 2024/2025 School and Course Fees

A friendly reminder to please pay School Fees that have been assessed 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.

For any families who may need financial assistance with School Fees, please contact the administration team (see below).

Important Upcoming Dates

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

Informal Learning Update Deadline – Thursday, November 7th

Remembrance Day Assemblies – Friday, November 8th

Remembrance Day (no school) - Monday, November 11th

Duke of Edinbrugh Parent Info Night – Tuesday, November 12th

Dry Grad Committee Meeting – Wednesday, November 13th

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) Meeting – Wednesday, November 20th

Grad Photos with Artona’s portable studio – November 21st-28th

Post Secondary BC Information Night @ Delta Sec. - Thursday, November 21st

Professional Development Day (no school) - Monday, November 25th

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](#)