

**South Delta Secondary School** 750 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, Delta, BC V4M 3B7 phone 604• 943-7407 fax 604• 943-7405



## Principal's Message



January 2025

Dear SDSS Students, Parents and Caregivers,

Wow, what a two month stretch! From fundraising initiatives to musical performances to athletics playoffs to a well-deserved Winter break, it's been an amazing time. On behalf of the staff at South Delta Secondary, I hope you enjoyed a restful and rejuvenating holiday season and are excited for 2025.

As we enter the middle part of the school year, there are several upcoming events and activities to be aware of, and some important information to know. We are also beginning to plan for the next school year, and will be sharing information and presenting to students and families about next year's course options in the coming weeks.

January and February can bring much optimism as we celebrate a new year and work on our resolutions. It can also be challenging for some as we work through the winter months. Please remember to reach out for support at the school if you are finding things hard and would like help.

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](mailto:bscarr@deltaschools.ca)

Sincerely,

Benjamin Scarr  
Principal  
South Delta Secondary

### **Winter Formal Grad Event**

The Grade 12 Winter Formal Grad event is coming up this Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup> beginning at 6pm. Students will be socializing and taking fun pictures until dinner at 7pm. Our Culinary Arts team will be providing a delicious dinner from 7-8pm, then there will be dancing and music until 9:30pm. Though advertised as formal, the event has a semi-formal dress code. A variety of food will be available to students, and any students who have questions about the menu are encouraged to speak with administration leading up to the event. As a school event, please remember that all school rules and expectations apply. Looking forward to a fun Grad event!

A big thank you to the organizing teachers and our Culinary Arts program for helping make this evening possible!

### **Parent Teacher Interviews**

The school will be hosting Parent Teacher Interviews (PTIs) on January 23<sup>rd</sup> for parents/caregivers who would like to meet with a teacher regarding their student's progress. Teachers will be available between 2-4pm and 5:30pm-7:30pm to meet with parents/caregivers. PTIs can be booked through Parent Connect when the system opens on January 16th (an email will be sent to all parents/caregivers with detailed instructions on how to book an interview). The system will remain open to accept appointments until the day of PTIs. We look forward to a positive night full of productive conversations!

If parents/caregivers are not able to secure Parent Teacher Interview at a time that works but would still like to connect with a teacher, please reach out to the teacher via email or telephone to connect with them.

Please note that there will be an altered schedule for students on January 23<sup>rd</sup> to accommodate PTIs. Students will be dismissed at 1pm that day.

### **Informal Progress Reports – Jan.23 - Feb. 6**

Teachers will be communicating an update on student progress between January 23 and February 6. Parents/Caregivers should receive an update on how their student is doing in every class they are enrolled in. Parent Teacher Interviews on January 23<sup>rd</sup> count as an informal update on student progress – parents/guardians who attended a PTI and met with a teacher should not expect an update through other means in the classes for which they attended a PTI. If no PTI occurred with a teacher in a particular class, much like in October, parent/caregivers should expect to receive an email, a phone call, a written update sent home with a student or an in person meeting after January 23<sup>rd</sup> (depending on the means of communication chosen by the teacher). 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. Also, if parents/caregivers do not receive an informal update from a teacher by February 6<sup>th</sup>, please contact the school office so that we can ensure an update is received.

### **Personal Digital Devices**

With the start of a new year and with many students enjoying new devices received over the holidays, it is an opportune time to remind everyone of the Personal Digital Device policy that came into effect this year. Cell phones and other personal digital devices (including earbuds and headphones) are only to be used during class time with the express permission of a teacher and for an educational purpose. Otherwise, devices should be kept in storage units in each classroom, securely put

away in bags or lockers, or kept at home (not on a student's person during class time). Your cooperation with this policy is appreciated.

For more detailed information, please see the School Opening Information on our website: <https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/our-school/2023-24-school-opening-information/>

## **Provincial Assessments**

On January 16<sup>th</sup>, SDSS will be holding sessions for our grade 10 students to complete the Literacy 10 Provincial assessment. This assessment is one of three required Provincial assessments students who are graduating with a Dogwood diploma must complete to meet graduation requirements. For more information about the assessments, please visit the Ministry Provincial Assessment page [here](#).

To facilitate the Literacy 10 assessment on Jan. 16<sup>th</sup>, grade 10 classes have been cancelled for the day. Grade 10 students are expected to attend school during the time of their assessment but are not expected in attendance the rest of that day. Gr. 10 students and parents/caregivers should have received an email explaining when and where students will be writing their assessment. If you have any questions regarding the assessment, please contact Mrs. Farnden ([tfarnden@deltaschools.ca](mailto:tfarnden@deltaschools.ca)) or call the school.

## **Course Selection 2025/26 School Year**

Although we are almost 8 months from the start of the 2025/26 school year, SDSS staff are beginning to prepare for next year. The school will share updated Course Selection information on our website by January 20<sup>th</sup>, and for the first time, will include the course selection booklet as a single document and as dropdown sections directly on the webpage. Students and parents/caregivers are encouraged to look over course offerings in preparation for course selection through MyED.

Please note the following dates:

January 28

Grade 7 Parent Info Evening – 7pm in person in SD Theater

Feb 3-Mar 7                      New Student Registrations and Applications accepted for 2025/26

**February 3-14                      Course Selection Opens on-line on MyED for Grade 7s**

Early to Mid Feb                Counselors to arrange Flex presentations to discuss course selection  
Grade 8s - Feb 7, Grade 9s - Feb 3, Grade 10s - Feb 6, Grade 11s - Feb 4

Feb 12                              Junior (current Gr. 8-9) Course Selection Night (Virtual) - 7pm

Feb 13                              Senior (current Gr. 10-11) Course Selection Night (Virtual) - 7pm

**February 10-28 Course Selection Opens on-line on MyED for 8-11s**

Staff will be visiting our family of schools to speak to Grade 7 students and will be arranging Flex sessions with each of our Gr. 8-11 groups to review course selection information. There will also be Course Selection presentations for students, parents and caregivers to help share information and answer questions about selecting courses (links to virtual meetings will be shared closer to the date of the presentations).

*It is extremely important for students and families to carefully consider the courses they need/want for the coming school year, and to indicate their preferences through the course selection process. Whether courses run or not, how many blocks of a course we offer, and staffing decisions for the school are all heavily influenced by what courses students select. Once course selections are used to organize next year's timetable, it can be very difficult to change what the school is able to offer or change a student's schedule. **The more accurate course selections are, the better student schedules will be.***

**Yearbooks and Student Fees**

The school is approaching the time of year when we must indicate how many Yearbooks we should order for students and families. To determine this, we need families to pay for their Yearbooks through Parent Connect if they plan to get a Yearbook, and if not, to request that we remove the cost of a Yearbook from student fees by emailing Ms. Jerome ([ljerome@deltaschools.ca](mailto:ljerome@deltaschools.ca)) by February 21<sup>st</sup>. Families can expect several reminders about Yearbooks in the coming weeks.

As well, please remember to pay student fees through Parent Connect if you have not done so already. For any families who may need financial assistance with School Fees, please contact the administration team (see below).

### **Winter Music Performances**



Congratulations to our Music department for two amazing evenings in December showcasing the incredible talents of our students. Over two nights, solo and small group performances, our jazz band, our choir group, our grade 8 band and our concert band filled the cafeteria and theater with the sweet sounds of the season. Congratulations to all the performers, the stage crew, Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. Chan and Ms. Prefontaine on a job well done!

### **French Cafe**

Congratulations to the French Council and our French Immersion students for putting on a successful French cafe for students and staff. The sounds and sights of Paris were replicated along with crepes and other French goodies to give all who

attended a taste of French culture (literally!). Felicitations aux élèves pour organiser une expérience chic, authentique et agréable!

## Athletics



Late November saw an incredible finish to SDSS's fall Athletics with several of our teams making deep runs in the playoffs. Our Senior Boys Football team had a spectacular run to the Provincial title game, with perhaps the most exciting semifinal win in Provincial football history. The boys played their hearts out, finishing 2<sup>nd</sup> in the province. Our Senior Girls Volleyball team also played extremely well in their playoff run. After a slow start during seeding, the girls found their form and played some of their best volleyball of the year to finish 3<sup>rd</sup> in the province. The school and community are so proud of both senior teams and all the fall athletes who have represented the school and community with pride. Congratulations on a great season!

Winter sports are now in full swing with basketball teams now in mid-season. Our senior girls have risen to Honorable Mention in the province and have a showdown with #1 ranked Seaquam this week. Our senior boys are also off to a solid start, while several teams at the junior level are currently undefeated in league play. We also have a curling team at the school for the first time in several years. Good luck to all our Winter sport athletes!



## **2025 SDSS Musical**

The Performing Arts department is proud to present The Wizard of Oz musical this year. Staff and students are furiously preparing and rehearsing for upcoming shows in late February. There will be several matinees and evening shows, so please come out to support our actors, dancers, musicians and stage crew as they put on a great performance! Tickets will begin to go on sale in early February and more information about the performance will be shared in the coming weeks. A huge thank you to all the students involved and to Ms. Shantz, Ms. Prefontaine, Mrs. Hamilton and Ms. Lawton for all their hard work preparing for the show!

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

January PAC Meeting - Wednesday, January 15<sup>th</sup>

Grad Winter Formal Event – Thursday, January 16<sup>th</sup>

Parent Teacher Interviews (Alternate Schedule) – Thursday, January 23<sup>rd</sup>

Professional Development Day (no school) - Friday, January 24<sup>th</sup>

Grade 7 Parent/Caregiver Information Night – Tuesday, January 28<sup>th</sup>

Grade 9 Immunizations – Wednesday, January 29<sup>th</sup>

Course Selection Opens for Gr. 7s – Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

New Student Registration and Application Open – Monday, February 3<sup>rd</sup>

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](mailto:bscarr@deltaschools.ca)

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

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

### **Counsellor Assignments**

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

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

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

Ms. Kristy Abel – Grade 12 and Grade 8 (E-K) – [kabel@deltaschools.ca](mailto: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](#)**