

## **FEBRUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER**



### **Principal's Message**



February 2026

Dear SDSS Students, Parents and Caregivers,

It has been some time since I last sent a newsletter home to update our school community on what has been happening at South Delta Secondary. Many great events have happened through Remembrance Day, Winter Events, the New Year and now the Lunar New Year, and we are looking forward to many exciting events at the school in the weeks leading up to Spring Break.

However, my thoughts lately have dwelled on the community of Tumbler Ridge and the tragic events that occurred there recently. As I shared with parents/caregivers at our course planning sessions online, please take a little extra time to hug your students and check in with them regularly. If any students are feeling impacted by this tragedy and would like to talk, please come see a counsellor or an administrator. We are here to help!

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](mailto:bscarr@deltaschools.ca)

Sincerely,

Benjamin Scarr  
Principal  
South Delta Secondary

### **“Not So Different After All” - Parent & Caregiver Presentation February 25th**

Presented by Delta Parent Advisory Council, this presentation is developed for parents and caregivers to help give them a better understanding of how kids use and perceive social media and more recently to include the significance of AI in the world of youth. Parents and caregivers will gain insight into apps that youth are using that adults may not be aware of as well as some of the ways Social Media can change the way youth perceive themselves and the world around them. It will also highlight that the differences in the human experience between youth and their parents/caregivers is not as great as what many believe. The wants and needs of children and their parents/caregivers (when they were children) have not changed. It is the adult perspective and thoughtful strategies that need to change in order to strengthen connections with those lost in their handheld devices.

PRESENTED BY: Madison Cameron, Youth Specialist

About the Presenter: Madison is a Youth Specialist at the Center for Trauma Informed Practices as well as the Assistant Men's Basketball Coach at the University of Lethbridge. She is a former university athlete who spent her college basketball career playing in Michigan and Georgia. Madison's early experience as an Educational Assistant, Crisis Intervention Worker, and Community Support Leader laid an early foundation for this work. Madison has also had ongoing opportunities collaborating with youth organizations across Canada and the United States.

Madison Cameron is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Time: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 06:15 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting:

<https://ctipractices.zoom.us/j/81949748217>

Meeting ID: 819 4974 8217

We encourage our families to listen in! For additional information, click [here](#).

### **Delta District Budget Consultation Process**

Each year around this time, the Delta School District begins developing the budget for the upcoming school year. Your voice plays an important role in this work, and we invite all families, staff, students, partners, rights-holders and community members to take part in the consultation process.

As in previous years, you can provide input through an online survey, email, regular mail, or your school's PAC.

You'll have two key opportunities to share feedback:

- Tell us your general priorities by March 13.
- Respond to the draft budget recommendations between April 16–21.

Please take a moment to review this [handout](#), which outlines the budget consultation process and [click here](#) for the online survey to share your feedback by 4p.m. on Friday, March 13.

We sincerely appreciate you taking the time to share your thoughts with us.

### **Pink Shirt Day – February 25<sup>th</sup>**

Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup> is Pink Shirt Day where wearing a pink shirt signifies a stand against hurtful behaviour. Inspired by a simple act of kindness in a small Nova Scotian town, Pink Shirt Day has bloomed from its humble origins in 2007 into a global movement against hurtful behaviour. The tradition is now being practiced in over 25 countries and has even been recognized by the UN.

Pink Shirt Day is a reminder to everyone that it's not cool to victimize people for any reason — the colour of their skin, their abilities, their heritage, background, culture, religion, how they look and how they identify.

Pink Shirt Day first started after a grade nine Nova Scotian student received threats for wearing a pink shirt to their first day of school. After witnessing the attack, two students decided they would do something about it. After consulting school staff, purchasing dozens of pink T-shirts and garnering support through social media, the youths began distributing the shirts in school. They ran out in minutes.

The next day, more people came wearing pink than they ever expected. It was reported that approximately 75 percent of the school, showed up in a stunning display of solidarity. As news of the event spread, neighbouring schools began to follow suit. Now, anti-bullying fundraisers are popping up in countries around the globe.

We encourage our students and staff to support this important day by wearing a pink shirt to make a statement of kindness towards one another.

### **Walk for Truth and Reconciliation September 2026**

We are honoured to announce that South Delta Secondary School has been chosen to host next year's Walk for Truth and Reconciliation. This is a great opportunity to demonstrate our leadership in raising awareness and making progress towards Truth and Reconciliation. This event also provides an opportunity to collaborate with our family of schools and gives our students the chance to demonstrate their skill and passion. We will be engaged in significant planning with our staff and students during the coming months as we prepare for this late September event.

For more information on the District's Truth and Reconciliation Walk, please visit this link: <https://deltalearns.ca/indigenouseducation/trcwalk/>

## MyED Interface Change for Families and Students

In early February, the parent and student view on MyEducation BC changed to Aspen Go. Please refer to the email sent by Vice Principal Kevin Dalgetty earlier this month. To learn more about the new look of MyEducationBC, please visit:

<https://www.myeducationbc.info/wp-content/uploads/New-Family-and-Student-Portal.mp4>

If you have questions about the new portal, please contact the school.

## Course Selection for 2026/27 School Year

Course selection for the next school year is underway. Selections are made through MyED and can be made for students currently in grade 8-11 until March 1<sup>st</sup>. The course selection booklet can be found here: <https://sd.deltasd.bc.ca/course-selection/course-planning/>

*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. As well, students are expected to remain in the courses they select during the coming school year. 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.***

Please contact your counsellor or a school administrator if you have questions about courses or are having trouble selecting your courses.

## **Numeracy 10 Provincial Assessment**

As part of the Graduation requirements, all SDSS grade 10 students will write the Numeracy 10 Provincial Assessment on Tuesday, April 21, 2026. More info will be sent to both students and guardians prior to Spring Break.

For those students wanting to look at practice assessments etc, please go to <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/provincial/grade-10-numeracy-assessment>

Any Grade 12 and Grade 11 students who have not written the Numeracy 10 Provincial Assessment will write on Thursday, April 23, 2026. More info will be sent to those students and guardians still needing to complete this assessment.

## **Student Learning Survey**

Parents and Caregivers, we want to hear from you! Please share your thoughts about your child's learning by completing the BC Student Learning Survey (SLS). This survey happens every year and helps us make education better for all students in BC.

Why your opinion matters:

- It's the only survey that asks parents across BC about their child's learning.
- Your answers add to what students and staff share, giving a full picture.
- Results help identify areas of concern and guide improvements.

Please complete the survey by May 1, 2026:

[https://www.awinfosys.com/surveyfull1/central/main/access\\_Parent.asp](https://www.awinfosys.com/surveyfull1/central/main/access_Parent.asp)

- Available in 18 languages
- Takes about 30 minutes
- Voluntary and anonymous

Your responses are anonymous, securely stored in Canada, and not linked to your child.

Need help? Call 1-866-558-5339 or email [support@awinfosys.com](mailto:support@awinfosys.com)

Thank you for helping us improve education for all BC students

<https://www.awinfosys.com/SurveyFull1/central/main/access.asp>

## **KPU Summer Short Programs**

KPU offers immersive camp programs that offer fun, hands-on activities in design, trades, science, arts, and business for youth. The KPU summer camp experience helps kids build confidence and explore new skills. For more information, please see the link here: [KPU Summer Programs](#)

## **Family Smart Presentations**

Please see below for a series of upcoming presentations by Family Smart, an organization that support parents and caregivers. For more information, please see <https://familysmart.ca/>

### Mental Health and Preparing for the Transition to Post Secondary

After high school, post-secondary education for our youth can be exciting but also stressful if they have struggled with their mental health. Learn from Dawn Schell from the University of Victoria and Melissa Feddersen from the University of British Columbia (Okanagan). Discover some ways we can prepare our youth for school and support their mental health and independence while they are at school.

Join us and other families for this video presentation and discussion that's facilitated by a Family Smart Family Peer Support Worker. 6:30pm-8:00pm Pacific Time (British Columbia) on February 24<sup>th</sup>.

Registration: <https://familysmart.ca/event/mental-health-and-preparing-for-the-transition-to-post-secondary-10/>

## For Families: A Conversation About Eating Disorders

Knowing how to help our kids who are experiencing an eating disorder can be a terrifying, isolating and overwhelming experience. Learn about disordered eating, what to be aware of, the importance of connection, and strategies that help support recovery. Learn as Victoria Keddiss hosts a conversation with Eating Disorders Therapist & Educator Carmen Kaufmann, and Rylee McKinlay, a young person with lived experience, and Terri McKinlay, a parent with lived experience. At this event, Carmen Kaufmann, MSW, RSW Senior Manager EmbodyBC, will also join our discussion to help answer your questions.

Join us and other families for this video presentation and discussion that's facilitated by a FamilySmart Family Peer Support Worker. 6:30pm-8:00pm Pacific Time (British Columbia) on February 26<sup>th</sup>.

Registration: <https://familysmart.ca/event/for-families-a-conversation-about-eating-disorders-16/>

## Self Harm: There Is Always Help, There is Always Hope

Realizing that your child is self-harming can be scary and confusing. Learn from Ciara, a young person with lived experience, and Kim Leifso, a therapist, as they talk about why some kids harm themselves and some healthy coping strategies for your child and you. Discover helpful ways to respond to your child.

Join us and other families for this video presentation and discussion that's facilitated by a FamilySmart Family Peer Support Worker.

March 3 and March 5 at 6:30pm-8:00pm Pacific Time (British Columbia)

Registration: <https://familysmart.ca/event/self-harm-there-is-always-help-there-is-always-hope-11/>

## Parenting When Anxiety Shows Up As Anger

Anxiety in our kids can show up as anger, and that can make parenting extra challenging. Learn from Karen Peters, Registered Clinical Counsellor, to discover some strategies that can help us before, during, and after these hard moments.

Join us and other families for this video presentation and discussion that's facilitated by a FamilySmart Family Peer Support Worker.

March 11, March 25, and March 31 at 12:00pm-1:30 pm Pacific Time (British Columbia)

Registration: <https://familysmart.ca/event/parenting-when-anxiety-shows-up-as-anger-19/>

### **Performing Arts Presentations**

Congratulations to our Music department on an amazing Winter concert just before Spring Break. The concert and jazz bands and the choir played many holiday classics and brought joy to the audience. Bravo to all the student musicians and singers, Mrs. Hamilton, Mr. Chan and all those who helped put on the show!



Now, it is the Theater depts turn to put on a show! We have two upcoming presentations: The Play That Goes Wrong (Feb.25-Feb.28) and The Musical Revue (Mar. 4-7). Students and staff have been working hard for many months and are excited to showcase their talents. Please come out and support the show. For tickets and showtimes, please visit [equinoxtheatre.tickit.com](http://equinoxtheatre.tickit.com)

## Athletics



A huge congratulations to our senior girls volleyball team who won the Provincial Championships in late November!! The girls played an incredible championship tournament and an absolutely nail-biting 5 set thriller against rival Earl Marriott in the final game. With the score tied 11-11 in the final set, the girls showed their resolve, winning the final 4 points to secure the title. Congratulations to the players and coaching staff on this amazing accomplishment!



Congratulations and well done to all our Fall and Winter Sports Teams! We had some great performances and results for our teams (football program top 4 in the Province, curling and gymnastics at Provincials, several basketball teams making the South Fraser Championships). We are now beginning our Spring athletics season with rugby, ultimate, golf, girls soccer and track and field coming soon!

I'd like to thank all the coaches, staff, parents/caregivers and volunteers who have helped make this successful Athletics year so far! Without your time and passion, our student athletes wouldn't have had the great opportunities they've had to grow their abilities and represent our school.

### **SDSS 2025/2026 School/Course Fees and Yearbooks**

The school is rapidly 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 27th.

Also, 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 see below.

### **Accommodating Financial Hardship**

The District is committed to ensuring that no student of school age will be denied an educational program due to financial hardship and that charges will not be a barrier to student participation in school activities. If you are experiencing hardship, please reach out to Ben Scarr, Principal, [bscarr@deltaschools.ca](mailto:bscarr@deltaschools.ca), or another administrator or counsellor if you are in need of assistance with school supplies, fees or other school-related costs. As always, all requests will be treated with dignity and your privacy will be respected. We want to work with our families to ensure that our students, your children, have everything they need in order to be successful at school. Please do not hesitate to reach out if we can help.

### **Important Upcoming Dates**

Pink Shirt Day – Wednesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>

The Play That Goes Wrong – February 25-28

Course Selection Closes in MyED – Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup>

Musical Revue Theater Performance – March 4-7

Early Dismissal for Learning Update Preparation (1pm) - Friday, March 6<sup>th</sup>

Learning Update #2 (Report Card) Published – Wednesday, March 11<sup>th</sup>

Final Day of Classes before Spring Break – Friday, March 13<sup>th</sup>

School Reopens After Spring Break – Monday, March 30<sup>th</sup>

Good Friday (no school) - Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

Easter Monday (no school) - Monday, April 6<sup>th</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/31/2025/06/CALENDAR-APPENDIX-II-SD-25-26-Parent-Version.pdf>

## **Contacts**

### **Administration**

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

Mr. Kevin Dalgetty, Vice-Principal (Grades 9 & 11) – [kdalgetty@deltaschools.ca](mailto:kdalgetty@deltaschools.ca)

Mr. Ryan Birt, Vice-Principal (Grades 8 & 10) – [rbirt@deltaschools.ca](mailto:rbirt@deltaschools.ca)

### **Counsellor Assignments**

Ms. Kristy Abel – Grade 9 and Grade 8 (E-K) – [kabel@deltaschools.ca](mailto:kabel@deltaschools.ca)

Ms. Elisa Glennon – Grade 10 and Grade 8 (L-Q) – [eglennon@deltaschools.ca](mailto:eglennon@deltaschools.ca)

Ms. Karen Kilpatrick – Grade 11 and Grade 8 (R-Z) – [kkilpatrick@deltaschools.ca](mailto:kkilpatrick@deltaschools.ca)

Ms. Andrea Burns – Grade 12 and Grade 8 (A-D) – [aburns@deltaschools.ca](mailto:aburns@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](#)