



Summerland Secondary School

FALL 2020

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Summerland Secondary School Mission Statement
 To educate students in a supportive, diverse, and challenging learning environment where every student develops the knowledge and skills to be self-advocating and reflective lifelong learners, and a healthy, productive member of society.
 EMPOWERMENT ENGAGEMENT & ENLIGHTENMENT



Principal's Message

I met a man the other day, outside the school walking his almost white, albino-looking Australian shepherd. It was a handsome and startling combination. I didn't know he was a she at the time, implying that I might have used a different adjective than handsome to describe her. After noticing my passing glance, the man struck up a conversation with me. He started with, *she's blind and has been her whole life. She's 14 years old. She can find her way around the office and the yard. She can play and roughhouse.*

Marshmallow, that's her name, doesn't know what it means to see. Her other senses are heightened. She wandered over my way and sniffing the air and then wagged her stubby tail. I wouldn't have guessed that she was blind. She didn't behave like an older dog or a dog with a disability. This interaction reminded me about some of the

assumptions I make about others' abilities, gender, and age.

First off, I thought she was a he. This perception is loaded with assumptions. What is interesting to me is that Marshmallow doesn't know or even care which gender she belongs to and by extension whether she is handsome or not. Assumption two, I thought she was a much younger dog. Her coat was healthy, and her movements were light-footed and sprightly. Her age is not an obstacle for her. Finally, and I assume yet again, that she knows what blindness is. Her lack of vision is not a disability for her. You can't even call it compensating when she doesn't know what it means to see. That's me projecting my assumptions once again. Marshmallow is a mature dog that behaved like a typical dog behaves. Is she resilient? Yes, by my standards, not hers. Has she adapted? She doesn't know the difference. This is her normal.

This week at Summerland Secondary we had over 400 students filing through the front doors. All of them are wearing masks and pumping the hand sanitizer as they walk by me. I've worked with teenagers for the last 30 years. When they are in crisis you can usually tell. Wearing masks as they walk by every morning, means that I can't read their facial expressions. I know they must be feeling anxiety, yet close to ninety-eight percent of our student population has returned to school this week and are attending classes despite the threat that the pandemic presents. We have also had a 5 percent increase in new students this month.

It's been six months since we've had a building full of students and teachers. It is tempting to underestimate how prepared our students were for this return. They arrived habituated to the safety protocols. In the building, very few of them needed reminders to wear a mask or to physically distance. They have accepted that the significant changes to their schedules, to their breaks, to their physical space, and to their socializing, etc. are in their best interests. They trust us to help manage this invisible threat despite the fact that we are all feeling vulnerable and blind to the full implications of this illness.

In face of this disruption to our routines and potentially our health, all around the school I am pleased to be observing examples of resilience and compliance, courtesy and kindness. This too has challenged some of my assumptions.

There has been much preparation for this first week of school and as a result it has been a very smooth start-up. Everyone has had to adapt, and everyone has had to modify their expectations. Until COVID, there were many things that we took for granted and unlike Marshmallow, we know how good it was to take simple conveniences for granted. We know what normal looks like. We want it back. Returning to school with all the safety rules, guidelines, and protocols is the beginning of reclaiming normal; realizing all the while that things can never be like they were. Our students are a reminder that during

these times we must be informed and at the same time be prepared to dismiss our assumptions by embracing the obstacles and challenges preventing us from living fully.

Maybe you have met Marshmallow on Main Street too but weren't aware of her unique capacities. Perhaps we need to be reminded of the value of perspective in times when we could all be more caring and kinder. Marshmallow makes no assumptions and yet she is exceptionally resilient and doesn't even know it. I want to be more like Marshmallow.

We are looking forward to a school year unlike any other and yet despite adversity brought about by a virus, wildfires, and social unrest we continue to persevere with hope and optimism as manifested in the energy and enthusiasm of our youth. Speak with any Summerland Secondary School student on Main Street and decide for yourself.

Indigenous Education Department

Orange Shirt Day: On September 30th SSS staff and students wore *Every Child Matters* t-shirts, orange clothing and/or orange ribbons as a way of acknowledging truth and reconciliation endeavours relating to the Commissions finding back in 2015. "Not only is Orange shirt day about raising awareness of the atrocities of residential schools, another key part of the day is about sharing the story of Indigenous resiliency." The video below is a great example of just that.

<https://www.okanagan.bc.ca/aboriginal-services/youth-exhibition-powwow>

SD 67 Cultural Advisor Anona Kampe and Sandra Hussey also went into Mrs. Mennell's Textile class and taught the students about harvesting, and the traditional uses of Tukwtan (Tule):

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6C8jInMeug0&list=PLTs_o5uYiEqm6VzVRgL0fuvvaUnP2Nlag-&index=2&fbclid=IwAR3XUgg7VknRqf2R3sXRv03OoPjRjgXDBr37ubIvXWjzqrLzuiUHEIPTAU8

Students weaved a mini Tule mat and beaded pictographs for embellishment.

Sister's in Spirit Vigil: A day when we honour the lives of missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls and gender diverse people, support grieving families, and create opportunities for healing. **SSS Sister's in Spirit Vigil (October 14, 2020)** will be held at lunch (11:27 – 12:12) outside in the front school grass area. Please join us, for a physically distanced, candle-light ceremony, with special guest Anona Kampe, who will drum and sing a traditional women's song.

Secret Path Week: On **Thursday, October 22nd at 10:45 a.m.** we are planning a school wide **Walk for WenJack** part of the larger Secret Path Week campaign (Oct. 17-22) designed to raise awareness surrounding the history and continued trauma caused by residential schools. This initiative was inspired by Gord Downie's determination to make Canadians aware of residential schools, and children like Chanie Wenjack and the 150,000+ children who were forced to leave their families to attend residential schools.

For information regarding our Indigenous Education Program, please go to our website at:
<http://www.sd67.bc.ca/summerlandsecondary>



News from the Cafeteria

Hey, did you know about our cafeteria? The cafeteria is a healthy, inexpensive AND convenient way to feed your child. The cafeteria has a variety of options to make lunch easy! Purchase a cafeteria punch card through School cash online. Cards come in \$10, \$20 and \$50 increments. Students can pick up their purchased punch pass in the cafeteria. Note that everyone will see this as an optional payment on School Cash Online. Another awesome convenience new to SSS - Students can also use their bank card as we now offer tap!

Lunches include Pad Thai, Macaroni and Cheese, Greek Platter, Caesar Salad, Veggie Trays, Pasta Salad, homemade Baked Fries, and our delicious cookies too!!!

Prices range from \$2 - \$4.

Remember, if you purchase a punch card through School Cash Online, have your child come to the cafeteria to pick up their punch card. Please note: this is an optional payment on School Cash Online, you will not be automatically charged.

Keep Us Up-to-Date

We ask that all families keep us up-to-date with your current mailing address, email address, phone numbers, emergency contacts and/or changes to legal or medical situations as they arise. Please notify us of any changes via email at sss@sd67.bc.ca

Upcoming Activities



- Pro-D Day – **October 23**
- Remembrance Day – **November 11**
- End of Quarter 1 – **November 13**
- Work Completion-No School for Students – **November 16**
- Pro-D Day – **November 20**
- 1st Report Card issued – **November 23**
- Last Day of School before Winter Break – **December 18**
- First Day back after Winter Break – **January 4**
- End of Quarter 2 - **January 27**
- Turn Around Days – No School for Students – **January 28 & 29**
- 2nd report card issued – **February 5**
- Pro-D Day – **February 12**
- Family Day – **February 15**
- Last Day of School before Spring Break – **March 12**
- First Day back after Spring Break – **March 29**
- Good Friday -No School – **April 2**
- Easter Monday -No School – **April 5**
- Pro-D Day – **April 19**
- End of Quarter 3 – **April 22**
- Work Completion-No School for Students – **April 23**
- 3rd Report Card issued – **May 3**
- Victoria Day – **May 24**
- End of Quarter 4 – **June 24**
- Final Report Card issued – **July 2**

School Fees

School Cash Online is our **PREFERRED** method of payment for school fees. Online payment options are Credit Card, eCheck or myWallet. The portal also allows you to stay informed and keep track of which school fees are outstanding and require your attention.

<https://sd67.schoolcashionline.com/>

Student fees can also be paid by cash or cheque at the Office. Hours are 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- Annual School Activity Fee, \$30 (COVID reduction)
- Textbook Deposit, \$50 (one-time fee for students enrolling for the first time.) All students must pay the textbook deposit in order to borrow school resources.
- PE 9-10, \$30
- PE 11-12, \$50
- Multisport 10-12, \$50
- Grad fees are to be determined
- All Sport Team Members (Fall = Jr & Sr Volleyball, Cross Country, Field Hockey and Soccer) Athletic Fee of \$25 is required
- **2020/21 YEARBOOK Discounted price of \$45** Order yours now. After January 1, price will go up to \$50



Outstanding required fees are carried forward to the next school year.

Student Photos

Student cards have been given out this week to all students that had pictures taken on Picture Day. To Order photos, please go to:

www.mountainwest.ca/Orders and use the WebCode on the student card.

Photo Re-take Day is November 3 and no pre-payment is necessary.