

Summerland Secondary School Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2010

A Word from our Principal, Mr. Dave Searcy

A Great Start!

We would like to thank all of our students for making this September such a good month. The beginning of the school year has been fun and smooth – and our students have received praise from a guest lecturer (Andrew Weaver, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize with Al Gore) who said that they were the best group of high school students he had spoken to and from passers by on the opening day who marveled at our students ability to collaborate.

Thanks to all of you who attended our Grade 9 and Grad Parent Evenings. We wish to remind you that communication with us is key to student success. Please call or email those teachers who are working with your sons and daughters and stay in touch!

We have also included a fridge magnet with this newsletter so you can keep track of coming events.

Upcoming Events

October 5	Social Bullying Workshop – Gr. 9 & 10 Girls
October 11	Thanksgiving Day – school not in session
October 13	Photo retakes
October 19	Various universities visit SSS
October 20 7:00 pm	Band Parent Meeting – Band Room
October 26 7:00 pm	Grad Parent Informational Meeting – Centre Stage
November 1 – 4, 8	Grad photos
November	SSS Character Rubrics mailed out
November 11	Remembrance Day – school not in session
November 12	School closure – school not in session
November 25	Report Card pick-up and conferences – early dismissal
November 26	Early dismissal

Opening Day Event

The opening day event was a great success. The students were divided into house teams and received a SSS t-shirt in their house colour. The teams were divided into multi-aged groupings which we hope will promote mentoring opportunities. We will hold more events with friendly competition between house teams. The leadership students have created a bulletin board filled with pictures of the event. If you're by the school, please check out the bulletin board titled SSS Rocks located across from the main office.

Social Bullying Workshop

As part of our school focus on the character rubric we are going to have a special afternoon on Oct. 5th to talk with our grade 9 and 10 girls on social bullying. This workshop will consist of a grade wide talk and then we will break out into small grade groups to discuss such topics as: cyber-bullying, bystander behaviours, and power behaviours. Our learning intention for the workshop is for our junior girls to understand that bullying behaviours are not acceptable and what course of action is required by all members of our school.

General School Fees and Textbook Deposits – Now Due

Thank you to those who have already submitted payment. Receipts will be sent home with November reports cards. If you haven't paid, please submit payment to the main office as soon as possible. If you are unable to submit payment for student fees, please contact a school counsellor or administrator to discuss.

If you are submitting fees for previous years or for lost textbooks, please include the fees due statement sent to you in the June report card or clearly specify what charges you are paying on any available space on the fees envelope. Doing so will assist us in applying payments accurately. Please note that payment for student fees will be applied to the most outstanding fees first.

Yearbook

Purchase your SSS yearbook before the end of October to take advantage of the early-bird price of \$50. The price increases to \$55 effective November 1st. Yearbook is not included in our mandatory school fees.

Student Information Forms

Please submit the student information form sent home in the August newsletter. If there are no changes, please note that on the form, sign and forward to the main office. Please contact the office any time throughout the year to update your child's information.

Student Messages

We would appreciate if appointment reminders are made prior to coming to school and written in the student agenda by a parent/guardian. We are unable to disrupt classes to forward messages.

Dry Grad

Our first Dry Grad Parent Meeting will be taking place on Monday, October 4th in the library at 7:00 pm. Everyone is welcome!

Grad Parent Meeting

Our counsellors will be holding an informational meeting for parents of grads on Tuesday, October 26th in Centre Stage at 7:00 pm.

Grad Rings

Grad rings will be available for order on Monday, October 4th after school. More information is available at:

<http://www.messagefromjostens.com/SUMMERLANDSECONDARYSCHOOLGRADRINGORDERDAY>

PAC Meetings

Our PAC meetings are held on the first Wednesday of each month. Our Parent Advisory Council and our School Planning Council have a significant impact on the direction that we follow as a school. We are always looking for more active members. We are looking forward to a great turnout on October 6th at 7:00 PM in Room 8.

Stay Up-to-Date

Check out the Summerland Secondary website at <http://sd67.bc.ca/schools/sss/>

News from around the school

Breakfast Club

The Breakfast Club is once again looking for donations. We run on donations from members of our community, staff, and government programs. Last year we had a few generous families that helped to keep us going. If you are able to help fund the breakfast program, it would be greatly appreciated. All donations can be made payable to SSS and given to the office. We feed students daily and put out a breakfast spread 2 times per week to feed hungry students - many of them morning athletes or students with classes outside the timetable.

Yoga Club

Students are welcome to attend Thursday Yoga Club practices beginning September 30th, 2010 from 3:15-4:00 pm in the Band Room. All interested participants are requested to submit their signed permission slips to Mrs. Hughes (Room 31) prior to attending their first practice. Attendance will be drop-in to allow participants to go to their other activities throughout the year. Any questions about Yoga Club can be directed to chughes@summer.com.

French Immersion

Students in French Immersion have been continually demonstrating their enthusiasm and willingness to try different learning strategies in Madame Hughes classes this September. She is very impressed with all of her student's strengths in French language acquisition. Areas that we have been working on so far are: reading comprehension, vocabulary development, reflective journal writing, grammatical devices, verb conjugations, idiomatic expressions and more. Please feel free check out our class website: <http://www.sd67.bc.ca/teachers/chughes/>

Science 9 For Parents

On September 13th, Ms. Seddon and Mr. Gupta hosted a grade 9 science class for parents. Twenty-eight parents attended the session dedicated to introducing and understanding chemistry at the grade 9 level. The purpose was to assist parents in assisting their children at home. Three more sessions will be held this semester; each will deal with a different unit of study. Be on the look out for the next invite!

Math Workbooks

A Math 10 Foundations and Pre-calculus Preparation and Practice Workbook is available for purchase for ten dollars. The workbook partners along with the text and gives step by step guided practice. Students are encouraged to see their math teacher if they would like to look at one and/or purchase one.

Sew News

Students in fashion design and textiles have been busy making 80 book bags for the community library. These bags are given out to parents and young readers. The program encourages literacy at a young age. Friends of the library raise funds to enable each bag to contain a board book, a CD of rhymes and information about community library programs. The girls are making these bags in honor of Frankie, one of our community's volunteers who has been making the bags

for years and we are calling the bags Frankie bags.



Girls Field Hockey

2010 Schedule

All League Matches should start at 4 pm.

Thursday, Sept. 30 – Saturday, Oct. 2
Tournament UBC – Vancouver
Departure: Thursday at 12:00
Return: Saturday evening

Monday October 4
Summerland @ Maggie

Wednesday October 13
OKM @ Summerland

Monday October 18
SOSS @ Summerland

Monday October 25
Valley Championships @ League # 1

Wednesday October 27
Interior Wild Card Game
Okanagan # 2 vs. Kootenay # 2

Wednesday, Nov. 3 – Friday, November 5
Provincial Championships in Burnaby

To: All parents of School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha)

In order for students to be eligible for transportation services, they must qualify under the following guidelines:

- Grade K-3 must reside more than 4.0 km from their catchment area school
- Grade 4-12 must reside more than 4.8 km from their catchment area school

Over the past years, the School District has been able to provide some students with transportation even though they have not qualified under these guidelines. These students are classified as *Courtesy Riders*.

Please be advised that from time to time the School District may be required to limit the number of courtesy riders on some bus routes.

Where bus transportation is not available for students residing more than 4.0 km away from the school, **special needs students only** may obtain a Transportation Assistance Application form from the child's school office. Please fill the form out and forward it to School District No. 67, Attention: Accounts Payable, 425 Jermyn Ave., Penticton, BC, V2A 1Z4 .

All applications for transportation assistance must be received by the School Board office by June 30th of the school year in which they pertain.

IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance

Did you know that School District No. 67 (Okanagan Skaha) does not insure expenses for student injuries that happen on school grounds or during school activities? You are responsible for these expenses as a parent or guardian.

IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance offers protection against the high costs of serious injury from unexpected accidents, and is especially valuable for families who:

- do not have medical or dental plans,
- have limited plans, as it may help supplement health and dental benefits, or
- have active children who enjoy sports and outdoor activities.

For your convenience, we have made arrangements for families to voluntarily purchase student accident insurance through the IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance program, underwritten by Industrial Alliance Pacific Insurance and Financial Services Inc. ("IAP").

Accidents can, and do, happen.

IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance has a selection of plans to suit most budgets. Benefits include coverage for:

- The full school year (September to September), 24 hours a day, whether at school or at home;
- Expenses that are often limited or not covered by private or group insurance plans, or Provincial Health Insurance Plans - such as ambulance, physiotherapy, private tutoring, counselling, and much more;
- Injury-related dental treatment (including future dental treatment up to age 26);
- Out-of-province or country emergency medical expenses.

If you change address during the school year, your IAP Kids Plus™ Accident Insurance plan is transferable from school to school, anywhere in Canada.

Insurance premiums range from \$13.50 to \$31.95 per year, depending on the plan selected, and your child is covered all the time, not just while at school. A discounted premium is available for families with 3 or more children.

For more information or to apply online, please visit www.iapkidsplus.com, or speak with an IAP Kids Plus™ Customer Service Representative at **1-800-556-7411**.