



Summerland Secondary School Newsletter

November 2011

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The snow is falling and winter is already upon us so it seems like a good time to review the school startup and the fall months at Summerland Secondary.

As many of you know, this is my first year at Summerland Secondary. It has been a wonderful transition for me and my family. I am very happy to report that we have had a very successful startup to the school year with both the students and the staff doing their best to make this a great year so far. There are too many things to mention them all, but some of the many highlights include strong athletic showings from our fall sports, great leadership activities, and a wide variety of volunteer club activities. I am so proud of our students for the excellence they demonstrate in academics, athletics, applied skills and the arts.

With the first term behind us, parents should have received report cards with information regarding how to contact teachers about their child's progress. Unfortunately, due to the provincial job action, these report cards did not contain the same amount of information as they usually do. I received a number of calls about this, and I want to reiterate that parents should be hearing from teachers regarding class performance. If you as a parent are not hearing from any of your teachers, please do not hesitate to contact the teacher directly.

There are so many great activities coming up over the next few months at SSS, and we are excited to see you come out for them. I encourage you to stay connected with the events through the school website – (www.mysss.ca), and if you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the school.

Chris Van Bergeyk
Principal

Upcoming Events

Nov. 30 th	2:30 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.	Centre Stage Theatre	Jazz Band Concerts
Dec. 5 th	3:30 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.	Student Lounge	Grad Photo Order Assistance
Dec. 7 th	7:00 p.m.	Library	PAC Meeting
Dec. 13 th	7:00 p.m.	Library	Dry Grad Parent Meeting
Dec. 14 th	2:15 p.m. & 7:00 p.m.	Centre Stage Theatre	Jazz Band Concerts
Dec. 19 th – Jan 2 nd			Winter Break
Jan. 12 th – Jan 13 th		Student Lounge	Grad Photo Retakes
Jan. 23 rd – 27 th			Exam Week
Feb. 15 th – 18 th Feb. 22 nd – 25 th	7:00 p.m.	Centre Stage Theatre	The Phantom of the Opera

Keep Us Up-to-Date

Please keep us up-to-date with your contact information. Changes can be made by emailing sss@summer.com or by contacting the main office.

Medical Conditions

It is the primary responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school of their child's medical alert condition. Please contact us to complete a Medical Alert Planning Form. If you have previously completed this form, please note that you are required to review the Medical Alert Planning Form each September and at any time there is a change in your child's condition.

Legal Alerts

If there is a legal situation that the school needs to be aware of, please contact the principal or a school counsellor.

Absences/Lates

Parents are reminded to contact the school if your child is going to be absent or late to class. Please leave a message on the school answering machine or send an email note to sss@summer.com.

Messages for Students

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.

Lockers

A reminder to students that lockers should not be left open unattended. Please ensure to check your locker is secured by closing the lock and pulling down on it. Never share your lock combination with anyone. We strongly encourage you to leave your valuables at home.

News from Around the School

The past two months have been busy for our school community. Some notable events that have taken place during the first term are:

On October 19th, representatives from the British Columbia Institute of Technology, Simon Fraser University, University of Victoria, Thompson Rivers University, Trinity Western University, Okanagan College, Selkirk College and Military College visited the school. Grade 11 and 12 students were given the opportunity to attend presentations by these institutes.

On November 2, 2011, SSS hosted a **Grade 12 Parent Night** to discuss a variety of topics including post secondary applications as well as bursary and scholarships.

Our school counsellors plan to hold post-secondary application process seminars for students in the coming weeks.

On October 26th, a group of grade 9 and 10 students attended the annual **Unity Leadership Conference**. The conference offers the students the opportunity to have fun, meet new people and learn more about themselves and others. Students explored ways in which they can make positive contributions to their school and community.

SSS Leadership students were busy with a variety of activities. They hosted the first dance of the year, a grade 9 event, several spirit days, and our first Rocket Rally of the year. On October 31st, our leadership students were seen out and about in our community collecting canned goods for the Halloween for Hunger Project. This project highlighted the year long need for food bank donations. The goods collected were donated to our local food bank and we thank the community for helping make this event a success. Members of the Senior Leadership class also lead workshops for the grade 9s and 10s at the recent Unity Leadership Conference. On October 28th leadership students assisted the Bahiti Belly Dancers with their annual Breast Cancer Research Fundraiser, raising over \$1000 for the cause. Upcoming events include Canoe Races, Christmas Week, along with another school dance and Rocket Rally!

The Me to We Club is off to a very active start this year. Thirty students attended the We Day Celebration in Vancouver this past October getting the opportunity to hear from such famous speakers as Mikhail Gorbachev and Mia Farrow as well as Child Soldier survivor Michel Chikwanine. The students were very inspired by all that they saw and heard and have been motivated to keep going after their goal of \$8500 to build a school in Haiti. So far they are at \$7,000! They are selling fair trade coffee, having weekly bake sales and have great plans for the 10th annual Summerland Talent Show coming this Spring. The students have also been active in the community helping with Halloween for Hunger and on November 12th spent several very cold hours cutting vegetables with the Gleaners in Oliver. A big thanks to parent drivers Mrs. Charlotte Venkataraman and Ms. Virginia McMillen.

Stay tuned for notices about their upcoming coat drive in December and January where they will be collecting as many coats as possible to distribute to the homeless in Summerland, Penticton and Kelowna.

The Jazz Band has had 4 concerts so far this year - twice for the school and twice for the public in the evenings. Our November concerts will be November 30th 2:30 pm to 3:00 pm and in the evening from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The Jazz Band will play a Christmas Concert on December 14th for the school from 2:15 pm to 3:00 pm and in the evening from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm. The music students thank the community for coming and supporting the bands. If you have not heard the school jazz band we invite you to attend the next concert.

Athletic Department News

Special thanks to Ms. Ayers, Mr. Brickenden, Ms. Clarke, Mr. Fry, Mr. Gupta, Mr. Holman and Mr. Knowlton who gave their time to make our **Fall Sports Program** possible. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated teachers and volunteers who devote their time and energy to provide these great programs for our students.

Congratulations to all the members of the **Summerland Cross Country Team** who competed in various races around the Okanagan this fall. Joe Stead, Eric Scherban, Emily Kaiser and Shannon Parker ran well at the Valley Cross Country Championships, with each runner finishing in the top third. Shannon Parker also won a spot to compete at the BC Championships on November 5th at Telemark. Big cheers go out to the entire cross country team on a successful season.

Nine **SSS swimmers** qualified for the High School Provincials in Richmond. The team placed 5th out of 15 schools at the Regionals, placing behind 3 AAA schools and one AA school. Well done Coach Clarke and the entire swim team.

The Summerland Secondary School **Girls' Field Hockey** team just returned from a successful provincial tournament. The girls qualified second in the valley and went into provincials in 12th position. With some outstanding play, they finished provincials in 8th place. The entire team was responsible for excellent play as well as sportsmanship. SSS was the only team to score a goal on the Provincial Champions, Shawnigan Lake, which was a feat! This season in tournament and league play up to the provincials, the girls had 11 wins, 4 ties and 2 losses, a very successful season!

Many teams and parents approached us to tell us how the girls' work ethic was fantastic as well as the enjoyment they displayed on and off the field.



A big **THANKS** to Summerland Sweets and B.Clarke Engineering for their monetary support making it possible for all the girls to attend provincials.

Junior Girls Volleyball Team Invited to London 2012 Olympics

In an unprecedented move the London 2012 Olympic Committee has invited a local high school team to compete on the international stage. The Summerland Secondary School Junior Girls Volleyball Team had such a successful season placing third place in the South Okanagan that it caught the eye of the top volleyball organizations around the world. Their coach Mr. Knowlton seems unphased by the invitation, "Yes the Olympic Committee called us last week, hardly a surprise when you have girls such as Kylie Erb, Laura Kohan and Brittany Parkinson on your team." Despite this unbelievable invitation it is undecided whether the team will accept the invitation due to other commitments, "A couple of our girls have jobs at Willowbrook Lane and Local Lounge so if the Olympic Committee is willing to schedule our games around those shifts we would consider it."

The **Senior Girls Volleyball** team just completed their season with a trip to the Okanagan Valley Championships. The team was placed in the toughest pool, and struggled against some of the very strong teams. The girls fought to the end however, and ended up tied for 7th place.

The team had a successful season, steadily improving each and every week. They only lost one league match to Princeton, and one playoff match to Princess Margaret. In a tournament in Grand Forks, the Rockets played their best volleyball of the season and narrowly lost to the host team in the final game, 15-13! It was extremely exciting!

For next year, the team looks in great shape, as 6 grade 11's will be returning to the squad, (Amber Watson, Sydney Clements, Alexa Brickenden, Connie Bambey, Miriam Bambey and Nicole Hodgson) along with an enthusiastic group of grade 10's moving up. Coach Brickenden will definitely be looking to improve our standing at next year's Valley's, and will be setting a goal of attending the Provincial Championships!

Team members are to be congratulated for their efforts and dedication. A special thanks goes to Lindsey Jenner and Tammy Martinez for helping out with managerial duties. Congratulations also are extended to the graduating grade 12's (Leigha Sandrelli, Grace Manders, Chloe Kennedy and Claire Booth) who will be moving on to college or university play.

The **SSS Rockets Soccer team** had another successful season. The team started the season playing against some big schools in the Chilliwack tournament. The Rockets dominated the 7th place game against Pemberton winning 4-1.

The team went on to do very well in both the Kamloops tourney and also won the South Zone. The Valley's proved to be a very tough contest for the Rockets but look forward to next year as almost all players are returning. Congratulations to all of the players and good luck to those who are moving on!

Calling all sewers!!

The Textiles Department is always looking for fabric/sewing supplies that you no longer need. Donations would gladly be accepted. Please contact Mrs. Mennell at mmennell@summer.com or drop your donations off at the office. Thank you!

Wonderful creations have been coming out of the Textiles Department. We started the year

making book bags for the Okanagan Library's Early Literacy Program. Once those bags were donated, the students haven't stopped creating! From colourful Gap tote bags to fully lined jackets, both the Jr. and Sr. student's garments are amazing!

The **Senior Foods & Nutrition** class has been cooking up a storm! They canned their own jam and salsa, learned to make dahl and roti and have competed against each other in the first ever SSS Chili Cook-off! Many wonderful *spicy* creations however, it was Dylan Turner and Braydon Goss who walked away with first place!



The **Fly Tying Club** at SSS is up and running at lunch hours on Tuesdays and Thursdays. All students are welcome and the club also operates on a drop-in basis at any time. In June, any students that have been regularly tying will have an opportunity to go on a 3 day fishing/camping trip with Mr. Northcote, to use the flies that we have tied all year. The club gets some funding from P.A.C. but donations of materials (feathers, equipment, hooks, rods, reels, etc.) are gratefully accepted.

The **ping pong** tables in the science wing have been the scene of many hectic battles, and wild rallies lately. The students (and some staff) have really been enjoying the use of these tables. Many thanks to PAC for providing some funds to purchase paddles to keep the tables busy. They provide an important social activity and allow students from different grades to mix and also test some of the teachers' skills!

Breakfast Club continues to feed 40-50 kids at the school. Please help us out by donating breakfast items, cups, spoons or money. Cheques can be made out to SSS. Please state that the funds are a donation to the Breakfast Club. Ask your child if they know about it.

The Phantom of the Opera will be onstage Feb 15th thru 18th & Feb 22nd thru 25th. Tickets will go on sale by the end of November and can be purchased at the SSS Office and the Beanery.

This year's production of The Phantom of the Opera is under way. Students are working hard in rehearsals singing and dancing their way towards opening night and many parents are generously donating their time and expertise sewing costumes and building sets.

We are missing several things that we thought might be sitting in basements somewhere in Summerland. If you have any of the following and would like to donate to our production you can drop it off at the school in the drama department with our thanks.

We are looking for the following:

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| Motorized scooter | Garment bags | Lace or crocheted fabric |
| Candelabras | Victorian clothing/costumes | Sheets or duvets (10) |
| Small white LED Christmas lights | Ladies handheld fans | Opera glasses |
| Strong coat hangers | Formal gloves | Perfume atomizer (antique looking) |
| Door with door frame | Men's bow ties | Old jewelry |
| Heavy duty wheels | Ballet shoes | |
| Latex paint in white, grey, black, neutral colours | Gold, red, white & green strings of beads and embellishments | |

Thank you for your generosity.

Summerland Secondary School Presents

The **PHANTOM**
of the
OPERA

Feb 15 - 18 & 22 - 25 at 7^{PM}

Centre Stage Theatre Summerland

Tickets Available at SSS Office & The Beanery