

Summerland Secondary School Newsletter

AUGUST 2010

Welcome Back Everyone

We hope you have had (and are still having) a great summer! It is time to start thinking about coming back to school though. We are going to work with you to make this year the most successful one you have ever had in school and will strive to both challenge and support you so you can get the most from your time in high school.

Welcome to all of our new students. The first days at a new school can seem a little intimidating so please ask if you have any questions and don't worry, you'll be an expert by the end of the second week.

Start Up Info for Students and Parents

Counselors will be available for course changes and registration as follows:

Monday, August 30th – Thursday, Sept. 2nd

9:00 am to 12:00 pm and 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm

Opening Day Times and Routines

All students will attend from 8:45 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 7th. Busses will run at the regular time in the morning and will run again at the end of the school day.

Those of you returning to SSS will notice that our Opening Day is different this year than it has been in past years. In the past the opening day has been one where we take care of some organizational work (lockers and timetables for example). There is much more to school than bureaucracy and we plan on using this opening day to kick-off the school year with a bang. We are looking forward to a great year and can think of no better way than to start it off with this special event! Just remember to come prepared to be outside for most of the day. Students will be receiving a t-shirt denoting their house team and a hot dog lunch. Students may want to bring water and a snack as well.

Almost everyone has returned their signed permission forms for the day however we are still missing a few of them. The forms need to be returned to the school office as soon as possible and are available at the school's website <http://sd67.bc.ca/schools/sss/> Students who do not return the completed permission form will not be able to take part in the special event.

Using Classroom Time

It is our expectation that students will strive to be engaged in their school work while in class.

Lates and Unexcused Absences...Both of these behaviors hamper the ability of a student to do as well as they can in a course. Please encourage your student to get to class and on time.

Use of Cell Phones - Cell phones are permitted at school however they (like all electronic devices) are not to be turned on or used in class without the respective teacher's permission. We respectfully remind students and parents that class time is to be used for class work and that it is not an appropriate time for students to be making or receiving calls or text messages. If there is an emergent situation that a student needs to be reached, let the school office know and we will make those arrangements

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.

Student Agendas

A student agenda is provided to every student at SSS and is an excellent resource for everything you need to know about the school. It includes our school code of conduct and important information regarding our RUBRIC.

General School Fee

As last year, there will be a general school fee of \$45.00 for each student. The school fee covers student agendas, cultural presentations, and school wide activities (often organized by our leadership classes).

Textbook Deposit

Every year lost and damaged textbooks cost SSS thousands of dollars and we have had a very difficult time recouping these losses. In an attempt to decrease the costs to the school we have implemented a textbook deposit of \$45 to be paid by all students at SSS. Students enrolling at SSS for the first time are required to pay the textbook deposit (Grade 9 students and new enrollments Grade 10 -12). This fee is to be paid once and will be reimbursed when the student leaves school if they have no outstanding fees from lost or damaged textbooks incurred in their time at SSS. For your information, there has been a significant rise in the cost of school resources (for example the cost of a biology textbook now exceeds \$100).

Yearbook

The Summerland Secondary yearbook is only \$50. This year's book is in full colour and includes autograph pages, a page ribbon, and custom dust jacket. Any students wishing to purchase a yearbook can pay for it at the same time as they pay their school fees. *Yearbook is not included in our mandatory school fees.

Fees Envelope

We have included a fees envelope with this newsletter. If you have more than one student in the school and wish to submit one cheque, please document the names of each student and the fees you are submitting payment for.

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.

Grade 9 Parent Meeting

Parents of our grade 9 students (the grad class of 2014) are invited to come out to an informational evening on Thursday, September 9th at 7:00 pm in Centre Stage Theatre. We are excited to welcome this class.

Grade 12 Parent Meeting

Our first organizational and information meeting of the parents of our grade 12 students (the grad class of 2011) will be held on Thursday, September 16th at 7:00 pm in Centre Stage.

PAC Meetings

Our PAC meetings are on the first Wednesday of each month (the 8th of September for the first 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 and hope to see you there.

Daily Physical Activity Tracking

DPA Tracking forms (gr. 11 & 12 requirement) are available in student services. These forms need to be completed for each reporting period (November, January, April, June). We will review these with you at our first assembly.

Do you know where you are heading?

If you already have plans for life after high school then let us help you make that happen! Students from SSS move on to be successful in all kinds of careers and lifestyles – Let us help you find a direction and find success!

Stay Up-to-Date

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

Passport to Education

Summerland Secondary received 23 passport stamps (or less) per grade from the Ministry of Education. Letters have been sent to those students who were awarded this significant achievement.

Governor Generals Award Winner

The Governor General's Bronze Academic Medal is presented to the student in the graduating class who achieves the **highest average** upon graduation from a secondary school. The average includes **all grade 11 and grade 12 courses**.

Matt Numsen has won the Governor General's Award for the Summerland Secondary School Grad Class of 2010. Congratulations Matt on this accomplishment.

Provincial Scholarship Winners

Congratulations to Stephen Manders and Matt Numsen who both received \$1000 scholarships based on their Provincial Exam scores.

District Scholarship Winners

These students received \$1000 scholarships based on their accomplishments in the following areas:

Jan Bitara – Music (Piano)
Coulson Boothe – Athletics (Karate)
Shelby Cowie – Fine Arts (Photography and Sculpture)
Rebecca Fafard – Textiles (Fashion Design)
Johanna Krieger – Textiles (Fashion Design)
Carmen McDowell – Music (Trombone)
Danelle Schiele – Fine Arts (Musical Theatre)

Get Involved

One of the keys to enjoying your high school years is being involved...there will be plenty of clubs and teams this year that students can be involved in so keep your eyes and ears open for opportunities...

Fall Athletics

SSS Multi Sport track suit fitting will take place September 9th and 10th at lunch hour in the main foyer.

All student sports enthusiasts get a great chance to show off their Summerland Rockets pride! SSS Multi Sport Group will be joining Big Kahuna Sportswear Company to get fitted for NEW SSS Multi Sport track suits. All soccer players and other student athletes are welcome and encouraged to try on suits as well. The track suits will be approximately \$85.00 for the top and bottom. Special SSS ROCKETS

cresting included. See Mr. Fry for more details.

School teams starting right at the beginning of the school year will be:

Boys Soccer – Mr. Mayer

Girls Field Hockey – Ms. Clarke
Tryouts Sept. 8th and 9th after school.

First game Monday September 13th!

The girls will have two tournaments Sept 24th and 25th in Oliver and Sept 30th to Oct 2nd and will be looking for parent drivers. We hope you can help out!

Junior Girls Volleyball – Mr. Brickenden

Junior Boys Volleyball - TBA

Senior Girls Volleyball – Ms. Verrier and Mr. Knowlton

Senior Boys Volleyball – Mr. Sands

Crosscountry – Mr. Salter

Ping Pong - There are 3 ping pong tables in the science wing that are available for students to use before and after school, as well as at lunch and nutrition break. We are always looking for ping pong paddles and balls. If anyone has any of these that are not being used and would like to sell reasonably or donate to the school for students to use, please contact G. Northcote at gnorthcote@summer.com or contact the school.

Fly Tying Club - The S.S.S. Fly Tying Club will be up and operating this fall.

Instruction is offered 2 lunch hours per week but once students become proficient tiers, they may use the materials at any time. For regular members, a 3 day wilderness fly fishing trip is offered at the beginning of June. The club will happily accept any donations of fly tying equipment and fly fishing gear (rods, reels etc.) for the students use. Please contact G. Northcote at gnorthcote@summer.com, or contact the school.

Bamfield Marine Biology Field Trip - The five day Bamfield Marine Biology trip will be held Sept. 13th thru 17th. The trip is open to grade 11 and 12 students. The cost is \$600 which includes all expenses except four meals on the travel days. The trip is full at this point but if you are interested in going and have not yet signed up, please check with Mr. Northcote to see if there are any spaces available.

gnorthcote@summer.com 250 494 5274 (h) or the school 250 770 7650

Students plan Ecuador Humanitarian Trip

"One of the most remote and neediest places on earth"

That's how most describe far reaches of Ecuador. In March students from grades 11 and 12 along with Mrs. Gartrell, Martin and Ms. Wnuk will have the opportunity to build a rural community school and volunteer in reforestation projects with locals in an exciting humanitarian experience in Ecuador. In doing so students will develop skills needed for awareness of their role in international aid and development and experience a life-altering, mind-opening travel opportunity by participating and observing a completely different culture and way of life.

Trip Details

When: Set aside the full 2 weeks of March Break.

Accommodations: We are looking at 2 alternatives, one which is a home-stay and cheaper and the other at a community-developed and operated tourism lodge.

Costs: Approximately \$3500/ student; we are trying to reduce the costs through fund raising. The more you raise the cheaper the costs to the student.

Who can go: Open to grades 11 and 12. There are 22 spots available and we have 17 signed up already.

How to sign up: See Mrs. Gartrell, Martin or Ms. Wnuk soon. We will have a general meeting of those interested during the first week of classes. Listen for the announcements.

Be part of the solution and join us for this memorable experience.



Office of the Superintendent of Schools

APPROVED SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 67 (OKANAGAN SKAHA) 2010-2011 LOCAL SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR ALL SCHOOLS Approved by the Board of Education May 10, 2010	
Schools Open	Tuesday, September 7, 2010
Thanksgiving Day – schools closed	Monday, October 11, 2010
Professional Development Day – schools closed	Friday, October 22, 2010
Remembrance Day observance – schools closed	Thursday, November 11, 2010
**School Closure Day	Friday, November 12, 2010
Schools close for Winter Vacation	Friday, December 17, 2010 (last day of school)
Schools Reopen	Tuesday, January 4, 2011
*Schools close for Spring Break and Teachers’ Professional Development Days	Friday, March 18, 2011 (last day of school)
Schools Reopen	Monday, April 4, 2011
Good Friday – schools closed	Friday, April 22, 2011
Easter Monday – schools closed	Monday, April 25, 2011
Victoria Day – schools closed	Monday, May 23, 2011
Administrative Day (students not in attendance)	Thursday, June 30, 2011

- Number of Days in Session: 192
- Number of Days of Instruction: 184
- Number of Non-Instructional Days: 6
- Number of Administrative Days: 1
- *Number of School Closure Days: 1

Notes: *School District No. 67 schools are closed for the provincial spring vacation week, March 21 through March 25, 2011 and for the following week, March 28 through April 1, 2011. This second week of spring break occurs as a result of four teachers’ professional days and one school improvement planning day, normally taken throughout the school year, being taken prior to the beginning of the school year.

**For the 2010-2011 school year, School District No. 67 schools will be closed on November 12, 2010. The 184 Days of Instruction in the school year will meet the Ministry of Education required hours of instruction for the 2010-2011 school year.

Average hours of Instruction (does not include recess, nutrition break, or breaks between classes):
 Half Day Kindergarten 144.8 minutes per instructional day
 Full Day Kindergarten – Grade 7 286.5 minutes per instructional day
 Grades 8 – 12 310.7 minutes per instructional day

2010-2011 Secondary Provincial Examination Schedule:
 Monday, January 24 through Friday, January 28, 2011
 Tuesday, June 21 through Wednesday, June 29, 2011

2011 Middle School “T” Days:
 Middle School (Grades 6 – 8) pupils excused from attending school except for “I Day” assigned time(s) (June 24, 27 and 28, 2011). Students attend school on Wednesday June 29, 2011.

GRADE 12 INFORMATION

NON-SANCTIONED ACTIVITIES

Traditionally in Summerland there have been parties that have marked both the beginning and the end of the school year. The 'sunrise' and 'sunset' parties have occurred near the beginning of September and near the end of June and have reportedly been attended by youth as young as 14 and by adults in their 20's. **These parties are in no way sanctioned, supported, or supervised by the school and Summerland Secondary School and the RCMP are greatly concerned with the safety of the youth who attend these activities.** These parties have also occurred outside of the jurisdiction of the local fire department and other emergency services and, in the past, criminal acts that have resulted in injuries have taken place.

Often, these parties have occurred on weeknights before school days and some students who have taken part have come into the school after spending the night out. Please be advised that any students coming to school wearing paraphernalia from, or showing the effects of, such a party will be asked to leave school property.

While these bush parties fall outside of the jurisdiction of Summerland Secondary School, in the interests of protecting the safety of our youth, we felt it was appropriate to give out as much information as possible regarding our concerns with these activities.

FAQ's for Grads and Grad Parents

When is our first meeting for parents?

First Grad Parent Meeting, Thursday, September 16th in Centre Stage at 7:00 PM
This is the first informational and organizational meeting for grad parents.

As a student how can I join the Grad Committee?

Have other grads and a teacher nominate you using the form available in the counseling office and then get that form to Mr. Gupta or Mr. Searcy.

When is the traditional Grad Run?

We will hold the traditional grad run towards the end of the first week! We'll also have a welcome back barbecue in the first couple of weeks as well as an assembly to answer any other pressing questions.

Do I have to write Provincial Exams?

All students in English 12 and Communications 12 must write a Provincial Exam (worth 40% of the final grade).

Provincial Exams in other courses at the grade 12 level are optional. In the past some universities in British Columbia required that students write these exams to be considered for entry however this is no longer the case. At SSS some teachers may require students to write a final exam for their grade 12 course if students opt to not take the provincial exam. This will vary by course.

What courses/marks do I need to go onto University/College/Technical Institute...?

Every Post-Secondary Educational Institute has different entry requirements and students need to enquire closely into any schools that they are considering in applying to as requirements vary

by school, program, and unfortunately year. Our counselors will be happy to help but we recommend that students look into these types of questions as soon as possible.

We will present more information on this (and other topics) at our evening parent meetings in the fall.

School Leaving Fees

These fees have paid for the Graduation Ceremony and a portion of the Prom in the past and have been just over \$100. This fee helps pay for the grad gown rental, the purchase of the grad "keeper caps", the program and invitations and the prom to name just a few of the expenses associated with the ceremonies. The fees for this year will not be finalized until after our first Grad Parent Meetings.

When are Grad Photos?

Grad photos will take place at the school from November 1st to the 8th. The company taking the photos will send out more information regarding packages. We ask that all grads have a photo taken even if they are not purchasing any so that they can appear on the school's grad composite photo and in the yearbook.

What is Grad Napping and what is the school's stance on this?

Grad Napping has been an event that has taken place annually at SSS. Girls in the grad class have in the past 'napped' some of the boys from their homes early in the morning before school and dressed them up as women.

Like the Sunrise and Sunset Parties this is a non-sanctioned school event. Over the past few years there have been incidents involving alcohol with the students involved and also with some harassment of younger students.

In an effort to work with the students the school has offered to organize an event with the grads that would take place within the school to replace this event. However, any event that the school will sanction and help organize will have to take place entirely at school within school hours. Any other type of activity cannot be sanctioned or supported by the school.

One last Question:

Are you interested in writing your Provincial Exams so that you can be eligible for the \$1000 Provincial Scholarship? If you are, see Mr. Searcy and become a member of the SSS Scholarship Club. Membership in this exclusive club will come with great reward!