



Wednesday, December 19th, 2018

Principal:	Mr. R. Mesich	(Grade 12)
Vice-Principal:	Mr. M. Robinson	(Grade 8 & 10)
	Mr. B. Scarr	(Grade 9 & 11)
PAC Co-Chairs:	Ms. Julie Barrett & Mr. Andy Fontana	
Assistant Superintendent:	Mrs. Nancy Gordon	(ngordon@deltasd.bc.ca)
Liaison Trustee:	Mr. Daniel Boisvert	(dboisvert@deltasd.bc.ca)

School Goal: Will a school wide focus on fostering student health and wellness have a positive effect on student well-being, engagement and achievement?

Acknowledging the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen and Musqueam First Nations and all of the Coast Salish peoples who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial. We offer gratitude to the Musqueam people who honour our school with the name, Seaquam, which in their language means sunshine. We would also like to offer our respect to all the Elders who have gone before us and to the elders and First Nation people who are with us today.

Dear students, parents, guardians and staff,

We are quickly approaching the holiday season where we can spend time with our families and friends and celebrate the coming of a new year. Although our community experienced a sudden loss, our students and staff persevered and continued to participate and excel in a number of student-led endeavours that demonstrate how we continually relate classroom teachings to practical applications and connections to real world experiences. I am always impressed with the number of opportunities our staff provide our students to showcase their learning.

In late October, our community was shaken by the tragic death of one of our students. This tragedy had a deep impact on our students and staff as we grieved this loss. We were all tremendously appreciative of the outpouring of support from the district staff, other Delta schools, Seaquam families and community members. Our students who were directly affected by this loss or had this incident trigger past trauma have been experiencing ongoing counselling and support. This process will take time and our hope is that we find positives from this tragedy. We are so proud of our student's resolve and resiliency since the loss.

As a staff, we are continuing to investigate our school goal question focusing on our student's physical and mental health. At the last Professional Development Day, representatives from the North Vancouver School District provided a presentation on the implementation of Dr. Stan Kucher's Mental Health curriculum (<http://teenmentalhealth.org/schoolmhl/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/DRAFT-6-2015-Version-New-Design.compressed.pdf>). In North Vancouver, they have implemented the curriculum for all grade 9 students in the district to help their students have a better understanding about some of the feelings they may be experiencing. Our staff were extremely receptive to the presentation and have developed a team to be trained with the curriculum in February 2019, then develop a program for our students. More information will be shared with our community once the program is developed.

The first term report card was distributed on Thursday, December 13th through Parent Connect. This is an opportunity where parents and guardians obtain an understanding of their child's progress in each of their courses. The end of a reporting period should be a time of reflection, goal setting and action planning based on the results of the report card. The report card data needs to be used in a process for improvement or maintenance. Students must take the responsibility of working through the improvement process to create a plan for success. The part of the process that tends to break down over the course of a term is the execution of the plan. Students need to be committed, with the support of their families, to their scheduled activities in order to create positive routines. In meeting with families regarding report card results, the same themes seem to come up over and over again. The themes include committing to an organizer (paper-based or electronic), regular attendance and establishing a focused study routine at home. Ultimately, it comes down to creating positive work habits at school and at home.

We would like to express our gratitude to Mr. Robinson, who will be leaving the Seaquam community to take on the role as Principal at Sands Secondary starting in January 2019, for his support of students, parents and staff over the past 4 and a half years. He will be truly missed by our community and we wish him well in his new role.

We would like to welcome Mr. Colin Sharpe to Seaquam who will be taking on Mr. Robinson’s administrative portfolio supporting students in grades 8 and 10. Mr. Sharpe brings a great deal of experience to Seaquam including having taught at Seaquam for many years. Mr. Sharpe will be joining the Seaquam community after the Winter Break. Welcome Mr. Sharpe!

The reports below provide you with information on past and upcoming events. Please feel free to contact us at any time to learn more about our school, our programs and other opportunities we provide our students.

I hope your family has a wonderful and safe holiday season and a joyous New Year!

Rick Mesich
Principal
Seaquam Secondary School

Graduation Events Information

Our graduating students are working towards their post-secondary careers and with the publication of the first term report card, they will have a snapshot of their progress. In preparation for our graduation celebrations, we want to ensure our community is aware of the events that will take place in June. The events will include:

Thursday, June 20th

Commencement Ceremony
6:30pm doors open
7:00pm start
South Delta Baptist Church
1988 56th Street

Gown and hat costs are part of the Grad Fee and will be distributed in the first 2 weeks of June. Our graduating students will be able to keep their gowns and hats to allow for more opportunities for families to take photos to commemorate the events.

Each graduating students will receive two complimentary tickets and additional tickets may be available for a \$5.00 fee based on space at the venue. If students are not going to use their tickets, we ask them to inform Mr. Wong.

Saturday, June 22nd

Red Carpet
Seaquam Secondary (front of school)

Reception (immediately after the Red Carpet)
Seaquam Secondary

This year, there will be no cost to families to attend.

Students will be transported from Seaquam to the Wall Centre for their Dinner and Dance with stops along the way for photo opportunities.

Dinner & Dance
The Sheraton Wall Centre
1088 Burrard Street

Students will be charged \$175.00 and tickets will be sold later in the Spring.

Students will be transported from the Wall Centre to the North Delta Rec Centre by bus.

Dry Grad (sponsored by the Parent Dry Grad Committee)
North Delta Rec Centre
11415 84 Avenue

Specific times for the Saturday events will be published later in the school year.

Flex Time Investigation

The Seaquam community will be undergoing an investigation on a schedule that includes Flex Time. Flex time is a period of time in the school day where students have time to choose where they want to focus their learning. The other 6 secondary schools in Delta have Flex Time built into their weekly schedules. Seaquam has not adopted this schedule, so we have created a committee to investigate whether this schedule will work for our community. The committee is made up of 9 teachers, 2 parents and 3 students. The goal of the committee is to gather information from schools with Flex Time, then present their findings to students, parents and staff.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies

Music and Drama students performed several musical pieces and dramatic scenes for all students and staff on Friday, November 9th. Seaquam Alumni, Petty Officer Troy Stickley, spoke at the ceremonies about his experiences and visited several classes over the course of the week. The community is so proud of this group of students who continued to perform after passing of their class mate. The student performances were tremendous. Thank you to Ms. Sparrow-Ng, Mr. Lebourdais and Ms. Ng for their time and effort in organizing a memorable event.

Music Department - December 2018

The Music Department had a memorable fall Season. Ensembles were heard in a number of performances at Seaquam and elsewhere - Squeak & Squawk in October, Remembrance Day Ceremonies, and Premiere Concert in November, and at our local Starbucks in December.

The Wind Ensemble also experienced the unique opportunity of travelling to UBC to work with composer Joel Puckett on his piece *My Eyes are Full of Shadow* and watch a dress rehearsal of the UBC Symphonic Wind Ensemble under the direction of Dr. Rob Taylor.

This year Seaquam Music students have been participating in the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra's (VSO) Connects Program. The program includes Master Classes and workshops with VSO musicians, attending an open rehearsal, a concert at the Orpheum and a rehearsal with Maestro Otto Tausk, the Conductor of the VSO.

In January we will be focusing on connecting with all four elementary schools in the Seaquam family, with the Elementary Honour Choir and Seaquam Ensembles performing concerts at each school.

Students Supporting Vulnerable Citizens

The Health Science Club and Solutions Society ran a campaign to collect hygiene products for people without homes. As we get further into winter, staying healthy in the cold weather becomes more difficult. Through their "Healthy Holiday" campaign, students donated 80 toiletry kits to the Gateway and Parkway shelters in Surrey, B.C. These kits contained a toothbrush, toothpaste, a bar of soap, shampoo, a razor and other items they collected in-school and from local businesses in the community.



Seaquam Student Meets the Dalai Lama

Congratulations to ABHAY SACHAL who travelled to Toronto in November to speak at the World Religions Conference. Abhay was a feature speaker along with His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. What a tremendous experience for Abhay!

Environmental Club News

Seaquam Environment Club leaders Kisa Naqvi, Abhay Sachal, Abeera Irfan and Megan Nguyen presented to thousands of educators from 50 different countries at the 2018 North American Association of Environmental Educators Conference from October 9th to 14th in Spokane, Washington. Please see the links below showing the presentations of our students.

https://environmentaldefence.ca/2018/11/13/naaee_conference1/
https://environmentaldefence.ca/2018/11/13/naaee_conference1/

Seaquam grade 12 student, Abhay Sachal, posted his reflections in a blog that later was published in the North American Environment Educators Association journal based on his experiences at the October conference. The following link takes you to Abhay's blog. <https://naaee.org/eepr/blog/climate-conversations-change>

In addition, Seaquam grade 10 student, Megan Nguyen, created a blog publication on her experiences at this conference.



Seaquam Athletics

The 2018 Fall season proved to be another successful season for the Seahawks. Our Seaquam program continues to thrive with athletes who are committed and dedicated to their sport.

Both the Senior and Junior Boys Volleyball teams competed in the Fraser Valley tournament and our Seniors moved on to the Provincial Championships at the Langley Events Center for the third year in a row. On the girl's side, all teams were crowned Delta Champions, attended Fraser Valleys and Provincial Championships. Seaquam played host to two Inaugural Provincial Championships at the grade eight and tier two Senior Girls levels. Our Grade 8 girls finished fourth and Senior Girls B team finished fifth.

Our Junior Boys soccer team were also Delta Champs and competed hard in the Fraser Valley Tournament. They lost to the eventual Fraser Valley Champions in a semi-final match that was decided in the last two minutes.

Cross-Country lucked out with a fairly dry September and October. Athletes competed in multiple meets, where team stand out, Hannah Milic, finished as a high as third.

The Seahawk swimming team had a successful year with Olivia Roschat coming home with a Gold medal in the 50m Backstroke.

Though our Senior Boys Football team did not make the playoffs this year, they competed very well against all the top teams. They finished the year with a strong win over Handsworth Secondary. The Junior Boys Football team had a very successful year finishing the season with a winning record and qualifying for the playoffs.

Adopt-A-Gorilla Campaign

The Environmental Club raised \$220 to support Dian Fossey's Gorilla Fund. The Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund International is dedicated to the conservation, protection and study of gorillas and their habitats in Africa. The money will help to save gorillas and support the continued research of gorillas in the wild. The campaign included a classroom competition for raising the most money. Congratulations to Mr. De Pieri's Homeroom class who received a Pizza lunch for their efforts. See the link below for more information on the Dian Fossey Gorilla Fund.

<https://gorillafund.org/who-we-are/>

Delta Golf Academy

The Delta Golf Academy allows students to participate in a complete golf program for two blocks every other day. This year we went through a major change shifting from Northview and Delta Golf Club to Mayfair Lakes in Richmond. We are very thankful for the team at Northview that helped us to establish a balanced and effective golf academy. This team helped the Delta School District to become one of the strongest School Golf Academies in BC and saw us grow into two separate Academies (South and North,) both of which carry waiting lists every year.

Previously we had our playing privileges at the Delta Golf Club, which was a great fit for most of the Academy students but lacked the distance that a few of our better players needed to prepare for tournament golf. This led us to a new relationship with Mayfair Lakes Golf Club. We are thrilled to be working with Keri Moffat who is the Director of Instruction at Mayfair and the UBC assistant Golf Coach as well as Shingo Akizuki who has been teaching at Mayfair for 15 years and even played on the Canadian Tour during that time. Already we have seen students make some significant improvements to their golf game. Our Academy tracks individual skills as they relate to PGA standards and can see that students are developing the skills necessary to play and even excel at tournament golf.

Students collect points throughout the year for prizes based upon skills games completed during practice, top scores during assessment and greatest improvement at each term. As well we have developed a team and individual Best Ball tournament format to help players of all ability learn to compete together. These events are handicapped based upon ability and has the desired effect of making it fun for newer players who are able to contribute net birdies as well as putting more pressure on the experienced low handicap players. Our hope is that we continue to engage students in a complete program that makes learning fun. Learning cannot always be fun as students are still forced to sit through ball flight laws and swing fundamentals lessons when the weather is subpar. This is purposeful as we enjoy hearing students ask to practice in the freezing rain even if it is just to get out of spin axis lessons. I am excited to see Seaquam students enjoying golf and competing at their personal best and look forward to the competitive season this Spring.

Seaquam Robotics

Seaquam Robotics is a competitive robotics program that currently builds 6 robots for competition. Teams are made up of 5 students who work together to research and design the best possible solution to this year's Vex Robotics Challenge. Students have been tasked with flipping disc shaped caps, throwing balls at flags and battling for a stepped platform. The most efficient robot with a strong autonomous program and skilled driver will have a chance to win each Provincial qualifying tournament throughout the Season. There is added pressure for Seaquam students as we have been asked again to host the Vex Provincial Championship on March 1st and 2nd. Seaquam started the year humbly with our first tournament showing no awards and only one robot seeing action in the quarterfinals. We decided to travel to Shawnigan Lake on Vancouver Island for our second tournament where we collected ourselves and decided to increase our scope of complexity. This helped us to get nearly all of our robots into playoff action and take home the Build Award, which is awarded to the team that has constructed and assembled their robot to a professional quality; robust, clean and elegant. Students realized how close they were to the top teams in the field and rallied in the lab and shop to prepare for the December Qualifier tournament that just happened to be the largest tournament in BC history (with 90 robots across two divisions.) This dedication, focus and hard work paid off at this last competition before winter break. Seaquam made it to the Semi-Finals, which because of the size of the tournament qualifies us to the Provincial Championship. Again we won the Build Award and then became the first team in BC to be recognized for the newest Think Award that specifically honors programming that is cleanly written, well documented and uses advanced techniques and sensors to control motion. If that wasn't enough Seaquam is now part of the conversation for the top Skills robot as we are now ranked 9th in the World and Second in all of Canada. We are very proud of our Robotics Students and hope they continue on the path toward competitive greatness and success. Great work team.

Snowball Dance

The Student Council hosted another successful Snowball Dance on December 5th. The theme this year was Snow Globe and it was DJ'd by Divinity DJs. Students in grades 10-12 strutted their stuff down our very own red carpet and enjoyed good tunes while dancing the night away. Thanks to some yearbook students, the students were able to get their photos taken in a photo booth to celebrate the night and show off their awesome outfits. Divinity DJs also provided a photo booth and students were able to take home a souvenir photo of their special night! What a great night! Congratulations Student Council.

Life Skills Class Wins Z 95.3 Contest and Pizza Contest

In November, the Life Skills class had a lucky streak where the class won 2 community contests. The students were surprised when representatives from the radio station 95.3FM showed up to their class to see if they were listening to 95.3 FM. The station was on the radio and the class won a lovely Gift Basket.

Also, the class entered a contest at the Pepperoni Grill and won a Pizza Party for the class.

The Life Skills students were extremely excited and appreciated their teachers facilitating their contest entries. Congratulations Seaquam Life Skills students.

Seaquam Students Participate in a Tree Planting Activity

Seaquam students took part in a tree planting initiative that occurred over a weekend in December. The link below is an article that describes the initiative in more detail.

<https://www.greenteamsCanada.ca/2018/11/11/cougar-creek-nov-10-2018/>

Some of our students provided quotes to describe their experience in helping in the community.

I enjoyed planting trees and having fun – Cameryn

I enjoyed the fact that I got to meet new people and the feeling of accomplishment I had after doing something good for the environment. I also felt the impact was to bring people from all over the lower mainland together to do something important and impactful for the environment– Prabhleen

This program really makes a difference to the local area – Samantha

Congratulations to our students who participated in this initiative.

News from the Seaquam Library Learning Commons

Doing research online for assignments or projects?

- Access library materials from anywhere with our online digital resources, including *World Book Online*, *Britannica School*, *EBSCO* and *GALE* databases, magazine articles, and e-books.
- Connect with the library and explore the available digital resources at www.seaquamlibrary.com
- **Britannica School:** Our newest online resource at Seaquam Library Learning Commons.
 - ❖ One easy keyword search provides you with encyclopedia content in 3 different reading levels.
 - ❖ Access to 1000's of full text journal, magazine articles, suggested safe and relevant websites to support your search topic (all cleared and checked by the editorial staff)
 - ❖ Access to a wide range of eBook titles and primary source documents
 - ❖ Get a multi-dimensional approach to any subject area or topic you are researching.
 - ❖ Over 34,000+ Biographies
 - ❖ Electronic atlas, dictionary, and includes curriculum standards links for all provinces.

Available through www.seaquamlibrary.com Under Online Resources or <https://school.eb.com>

Username = seaquam Password = delta

Abnash Bassi Represents British Columbia in National Debate Seminar

Seaquam grade 12 student, Abnash Bassi, represented British Columbia at the 2018 Canadian National Seminar where she debated in both English and French. The seminar took place in Quebec City last September. Abnash placed first amongst the British Columbia representatives and was the top English speaker in the model Parliament simulation. Congratulations Abnash!

Seaquam Student Guest Lecturer at the University of Kassel in Germany

On November 20th, grade 12 student, Abhay Sachal, was a guest lecturer at the University of Kassel in Germany. Abhay spoke to the university students about his Break the Divide Club and the importance of connection and understanding of people from various places around the world. Abhay was skyped into the university classroom. The links below provide more information about Abhay's lecture. Congratulations Abhay!

<https://www.ringvorlesung-witzenhausen.de/guest-lectures-2018/>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ycZSWT09BQE&feature=youtu.be>

Break the Divide Club Wins a \$5000 Grant

Abhay Sachal, founder of Seaquam's Break the Divide Club, submitted an application to the Shaw Kindness Grant. The application was successful and Abhay received \$5000.00 and a beautiful trophy for his work in connecting youth from across Canada and around the world to promote social inclusion and break down the stigmas about Indigenous communities. Congratulations Abhay! See the link below for more information on Abhay's award.

<https://twitter.com/ShawInfo/status/1067137389145944064>

Seaquam Theatre

The Seaquam Theatre Dept. is very pleased to present our three new Official Theatre Lighting Technicians (left to right in the two pictures below):

Charmi Nimavat (Gr. 9)
William Yuen (Gr. 11)
Aryan Neb (Gr. 10)

These three students (and Drama teacher Mark LeBourdais) spent four hours Tuesday night (Dec. 11th) in a special training session by Mark Burge of Christie Lites to learn how to operate our school's brand new Element 2 Lighting console (pictured here). They are all VERY excited to be learning how to operate a state-of-the-art lighting console. Aryan is in the X-block Musical Theatre course, so he will be the Head Lighting Technician for our spring production of Legally Blonde: The Musical. Charmi and William are part of our volunteer Stage Crew, so they (along with Aryan) will be available to operate the theatre lights for all school assemblies and events for the next few years. They will also have the opportunity for occasional paid work operating the lights in the evenings and weekends for special District events or outside theatre rentals. Because they are learning on the industry standard console, they will also be well positioned to step into many excellent job opportunities in the theatre, film, TV, and Special Events industries, if they are interested in careers in those industries.

Please join us in congratulating these three on their commitment to being an integral part of this exciting new phase for Seaquam's Theatre Program.



Happy Holidays Everyone!