



Thursday, December 19th, 2019

Principal:	Mr. R. Mesich	(Grade 12)
Vice-Principal:	Mr. V. Nikic	(Grade 8 & 10)
	Mr. I. Close	(Grade 9 & 11)
PAC Co-Chairs:	Ms. Julie Barrett & Ms. Natalie Dusanj	
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. The start of the school year has been tremendous and in the Seaquam way, students and staff have participated and excelled 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.

This year, our staff have immersed themselves in bringing our school goal to life on the topic of mental wellness. We have focused our Professional Development Days on Mental Wellness topics that focus on how to best support students in class and for staff's personal wellness. As has been announced, our staff will be implementing the Mental Health Curriculum at Seaquam based on the work of Dr. Stan Kucher.

<http://teenmentalhealth.org/schoolmhl/wp-content/uploads/2015/06/DRAFT-6-2015-Version-New-Design.compressed.pdf> Dr. Kucher created this curriculum in response to the growing mental health issues youth are experiencing in their lives. According to Dr. Kucher's research, the onset of many mental health issues in youth occur between the ages of 14 and 15, so the recommendation is to implement the curriculum in grade 9. We will have a conference in mid-April where students will be experiencing the curriculum over 4 half days. Most impressive, we have 30 staff members who have committed to being facilitators of the curriculum during the conference. I am so proud of how our staff have embraced the need to implement this initiative to educate our students on mental health issues.

In addition, PAC requested that we provide parents/guardians with a presentation on the Mental Health Curriculum so that they can follow up at home to continue the conversation. At the last PAC meeting on December 2nd, Mr. Ryan Birt, educator and parent, presented on his experiences of implementing the curriculum in North Vancouver and provided a summary of the major themes that students will experience at the conference. This presentation was extremely informative and provided further information on where parents can look to access more information on the curriculum. The presentation was well received by those in attendance.

Connected to our mental health goal is the implementation of Flex Time at Seaquam that allows students to make choices about their learning. We are piloting Flex Time currently and are taking a mindful approach to how this initiative is impacting student wellness and learning. In conversation with many students, the informal feedback seems to be supportive. We will be conducting surveys in the new year to formally obtain feedback on the effectiveness of Flex Time from students, staff and parents/guardians.

The first term report card was posted on Thursday, December 12th through Parent Connect. This is an opportunity where parents/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.

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

My Education Conversion – January 2020

The Delta School District will be converting to the My Education student record database to be in line with all other school districts in B.C. The software will be integrated into our system slowly where we will start with teachers only entering attendance and the final marks in June.

The changes, at this time, that will impact parents and students is that students will be given a new student number to be in line with the software requirements, student course selection for the 2020-21 school year will be performed in My Education and there will be a 9:30am start on January 6th (first day back from Winter Break) to allow teachers time to familiarize themselves with the program and to set up their classes for attendance entry.

A letter was sent out on December 2nd to the community to notify all parents/guardians of the late start on January 6th. Please see the Seaquam website to read the contents of the My Education letter if families did not receive the letter. <https://se.deltasd.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/36/2019/12/MyEd-information.pdf>

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:

Saturday, June 13th

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 the Reception.

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

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 arranged by the Dry Grad Parent Committee.

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

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

Thursday, June 18th

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.

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. Isaak, Ms. Gardner, Mr. Lebourdais and Ms. Tseng for their time and effort in organizing a memorable event.

Music Department News

The Music Department had a memorable fall Season. Ensembles were heard in a number of performances at Seaquam and elsewhere - Squeak & Squawk in October, Delta Night of Music, Remembrance Day Ceremonies, and Premiere Concert in November, and a group of Seaquam singers could be heard sharing holiday songs at the North Delta Tree Lighting Ceremony and our local Starbucks in December. Our annual scholarship fundraising concert featured student's performances of all kinds.

Our Life Skills Music class gave their first performance of the year on December 18. This concert featured students performing holiday and non-holiday music with drumming, a variety of percussion instruments, dancing, and hand bells.

This year Seaquam Music students have been our participating in our second year of VSO Connects, an amazing program offered by the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra. The program includes Master Classes and workshops with VSO musicians, attending an open rehearsal and concert at the Orpheum, and a rehearsal with Andrew Rusk, the Assistant Conductor of the VSO.

In January, we begin the busiest part of our concert season with concerts at all four elementary schools in the Seaquam family (Cougar Canyon, Sunshine Hills, Pinewood, Heath), hosting District Music Night, Kiwanis Jazz Festival, Spring Concert and our annual spring tour. Please see <http://www.seaquammusic.com> for all performances dates, times, and locations.

Robotics Program

Our robotics program at Seaquam has had an incredibly successful season. Since October we've attended 5 tournaments at Enver Creek, Walnut Grove, Gladstone, Shawnigan Lake, and West Vancouver Secondary. Our teams have consistently performed incredibly well, winning first place at each tournament and receiving multiple awards including excellence, design, amaze, and build. In addition to this being our best competitive season to date, the students are taking time for community outreach. Recently we visited Cougar Canyon Elementary to introduce grade 7 students to STEM and we also had a visit from the Mayor of Delta (featured photo).

Photo Link: (hosted externally so as not to take up so much space in email)
<https://photos.app.goo.gl/6hCutbUjmJeA94Er7>

Student Council

The Student Council hosted another successful Snowball Dance on December 4th. The theme this year was Frozen and it was DJ'd by High Voltage DJs. Students in grades 10-12 had a great time by 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. It was another great dance put on by Student Council!

Math Department News

The Seaquam Math Department has a strong history of excellence in mathematics contests. This past November, senior students participated in the Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge (COMC), sponsored by the Canadian Mathematical Society. Starting in February, the University of Waterloo contests will begin. Students in grades 9, 10, and 11 will write the Pascal, Cayley, and Fermat (PCF) contest, respectively. In April, grade 12 students will be invited to write the Euclid contest and students who scored well on the PCF will be invited to write the Fryer, Galois, and Hypatia contests. In May, grade 8 students will have an opportunity to participate in the Gauss contest. Registration for all of these contests will be through students' Math teachers. Thank you to the Seaquam PAC for financially supporting the registrations fees for each of these contests.

Crack The Code

The 4th annual Crack the Code Competition returns to Seaquam on February 3rd, 2020. Crack the Code is a puzzle-hunt/escape room styled competition that takes place in the school where the objective is to solve a number of puzzles, with each puzzle leading to a different location of the school, or leading one step closer to the final solution. The objective is to solve all the puzzles to unlock a box and claim the treasures that await inside.

This year's theme is Harry Potter and the Chocolate Frogs. Each year, many students are seen running around frantically looking for clues and solving puzzles. They come in early, work through lunch, and many stay late after school to try to be the first team to the prize. This week-long event creates much excitement, promotes school community, and is a lot of fun!

For more information, please visit <https://sites.google.com/a/deltalearns.ca/mwang/crack-the-code>

Athletic Program News

It has been a great Fall season for our Seaquam Athletics' Program. We had many successes over the season, both on the field and in the gym. On the soccer pitch, our Junior Boys Soccer team finished second in Delta and just came short of making the semifinals of the South Fraser Championships. Our Football teams also had a solid seasons running teams at the Grade 8, Junior and Senior levels. A special shout out to the grade 8 team who won the 9 Man Football Championships! Thank you to all the coaches who worked with our students to have them excel!

In the gym, it has been a busy Volleyball season. This year, Seaquam hosted the Grade 8 Girls, Junior Girls, Tier II Senior Girls as well as the Senior Girls AAAA & AAA Volleyball Provincials. A big thank you to all the coaches and volunteers who worked incredibly hard to make all these events possible.

Both of our Grade 8 Volleyball teams started their first year of high school sports with a bang! Our boys came 1st in the Delta League and finished 2nd in the South Fraser Championships. While, our girls team came 1st in the Delta League, were South Fraser Champions and won bronze in their Provincial Championships. Our Junior Volleyball teams also had great seasons! Both teams had strong finishes in both the Delta League and the South Fraser Championships. The Junior Girls also earned their spot into the Provincial Championships. Lastly, our Senior Girls and Boys teams had strong seasons, earning their way to the Provincial Championships at the Langley Events Center. Our Senior Boys finished 12th, while our Senior Girls finished 10th in the Province. Congratulations to all of our volleyball players and coaches on their great seasons and thank to our grade 12 athletes for their five years of hard work and dedication.

Lastly, our Aquatics and Cross Country teams had an amazing year! Multiple Aquatics athletes competed in the South Fraser Championships and earned their way to Provincials hosted at Watermania. Jacelyn Wu was our stand out aquatics athlete as she won the Top Female Athlete at the South Fraser Championships, Congratulations Jacelyn! As for Cross Country, Ria Gill raced her way into earning herself a provincial berth. Thank you for representing Cross Country and Seaquam Athletics so proudly, Ria!

As we move past our fall season and into our winter season, we are excited to start a new year of basketball, curling and gymnastics!

Congratulations to our Athlete(s) of the Month:

September - Alex Mackenzie (Grade 8 Boys Volleyball) & Sebastien Kler (Sr Boys Volleyball)
October- Jordan Murrell (Jr Girls Volleyball) & Ria Gill (Cross Country Team)
November- Jacelyn Wu (Aquatics) & Lucas Shannon (Grade 8 Football)

GOLF ACADEMY

As we reflect on 2019 and the first term at the two Mayfair Lakes Golf Academies and our third Academy at Beach Grove, we have really worked hard to set the tone and the foundation for our school year in Golf. The special events, tournament scores, teaching strategies and our unique data-based assessment that has been designed to promote skill development and engagement for our students are central to our golf program. But, what might be of greater interest is what the students had to say about their year so far. Students were asked to complete a survey following term 1 and comment in order to help improve the program and give coaches feedback. Students were asked to complete the following sentence, “The Golf Academy is...” What we got back was encouraging and worthwhile sharing with the community.

Below are all of the unedited answers from our almost 40 golfers in the three programs recorded in the order they were handed in: “A good stress reliever. An amazing academy, that I absolutely love. A fun place to learn. The best Academy in Delta. A great place to play a sport I like every other day. Fun. A great way to focus on your sport. A great Academy. Fun. A place that will severely improve your game. A great community and a fun time. Very fun. An amazing place to learn how to play golf. Fun. A sport in which concentration and patience are built. A good place to improve at golf. The pinnacle of my grade 8 year. The academy for golf. A great and fun experience to have and it is very helpful for anyone who is trying to improve their golf skills. Really fun. A great Academy. Always something to look forward to. A good place to be instead of school. A good way to get you outside and active. The best thing that has happened to me. A good way to learn the game of golf in a fun way. Highly educational in terms of how to improve my game. A good place to be – I really like the people and the environment, it’s very calm and the coaches and other students are very nice. A place to play golf. A way for students to get out of class and improve their golf skills. A place to improve your golf skills. Very fun.”

Thank you very much to all of the students and families involved in the Golf Academy. On behalf of the coaching staff we wish you a merry Christmas and look forward to our work together in the New Year.

Student Recognition Award

Over the course of the school year, students are recognized on a weekly basis for their positive contributions to their learning and to the community. Staff nominate students to receive this award and students are invited to the office to be informed of the teacher who nominated them, why they were nominated and given a \$5.00 certificate to have lunch in the Cafeteria. Students are thrilled when they are recognized and sometimes surprised that their teachers have nominated them. Congratulations to all students who have received this award in Term 1.

Happy Holidays Everyone!