

Stelly's Secondary School

1627 Stelly's Cross Road, Saanichton, BC, V8M 1S8 - stellys.sd63.bc.ca - 250.652.4401

“Bee” Informed - An Update for Stelly's Families

Friday, February 5th, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

We are over halfway through the school year! Quarter 3 is now underway and once again students have settled into their classes and the productivity buzz in the hive is alive! In some ways the start of this Quarter seemed...almost “normal”. This is the third time we've “started” and there are some definite advantages that come with learning from the last two quarter start-ups and having some semblance of routines now. We are constantly amazed at how quickly and how well the wonderful Stelly's students and staff adapt to our circumstances and not only make the best of a challenging situation, they constantly excel within whatever our latest “new normal” is!

A great example of this type of adaptation can be seen on the Stelly's website. Through the creative and hard work of many teachers and students, and with the excellent cinematic skills of Mr. Brad Hart and Mr. Trevor Barchen, the École Secondaire Stelly's Secondary Cinema Showcase Series was launched last Sunday. Since we are unable to have an in-person Open House/Explorations evening for our school community – pivot – we have produced a cinema showcase sampling of our subjects, programs and courses for everyone to see from home. My heart-felt thank you to Mr. Barchen and Mr. Hart and many other staff and students for seeing this work accomplished at such a busy time and in such a short timeline. HÍSWKE, Merci, and Thank you!

As we begin Quarter 3, the following are topics of interest:

École Secondaire Stelly's Secondary School Cinema

Please check out the [Stelly's Website](#) to see the series of videos created by students and staff to showcase some of the wonderful activities and learning opportunities for students.

Welcome to our Newest Stinger

We wanted to introduce you to the newest member of Stelly's team! Mr. R is a certified service dog who is supporting a Grade 9 student. Students were given an introduction to Mr. R and the guidelines of how to interact with him. It has been a smooth transition and one that fully supports our vision of inclusion and diversity.



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Enhanced Health and Safety Measures

Yesterday the Provincial Health Officer announced new health and safety measures for all K-12 schools in the province. We are confident that these new requirements will be seamlessly adapted to the already robust health and safety measures we have here at Stelly's. The following highlights some of the main adjustments we will be including starting today.

All middle and secondary students and K-12 staff will now be required to wear non-medical masks in all indoor areas, including when they are with their learning groups. The only exceptions are when:

- *sitting or standing at their seat or workstation in a classroom;*
- *there is a barrier in place; or*
- *they are eating or drinking.*

Prior to these changes, masks were required for middle and secondary students and all K-12 staff in high-traffic areas, like hallways and outside of classrooms or learning groups when they could not safely distance from others.

To view the Enhanced Safety Measures for K-12 schools please click on this [link](#).

Quarter 3 runs from February 1st to April 22nd

At this point students have settled into their routines and those students that are on a Day1/Day 2 schedule know what days they are to be at school and what days they are home completing self-directed independent study for assigned work from their teacher.

Bussing

There will be no changes to our bussing schedules in Quarter 3 meaning that regular bus pick-ups before and after school will continue, as will the mid-day (Lunchtime) bus pick up at the school for those students that are on a Day1/Day2 schedule. If you are picking up your child on a Day 1/Day 2 schedule, please remember to do so at the beginning of the lunch period.



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Daily Health Check Form

Parents are reminded to reference/use the latest [Daily Health Check Form](#) as posted on the main page of the [Stelly's website](http://stellys.sd63.bc.ca) (stellys.sd63.bc.ca), especially when your child is showcasing symptoms of illness. Please ensure that you communicate with your student's teacher(s) and leave a message on our absence phone line (250) 544-0300 or email stellys_attendance@saanichschools.ca to let us know if your child has an excused absence and needs to stay home due to illness.

One of the most important factors to keeping schools safe is a daily screening for any COVID-19 symptoms, which is why daily health checks continue to be required. To support daily screening, a new K-12 health-checker app has been developed for students and their families and can be found at: <https://www.k12dailycheck.gov.bc.ca>

The app will allow people to answer simple questions every day. It will inform them if they can attend school or if they need to self-isolate and contact 811 to be screened for COVID-19.

Health and Safety

Although we can see a glimmer of "light at the end of the tunnel" with respect to the COVID-19 virus and the expansion of vaccinations coming to our communities, it is important to resist COVID Complacency and remember that it is equally important to continue to follow the very well-established structures and rules here at Stelly's. Maintaining our vigilance with adhering to the Provincial Health Officer (PHO), BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), and WorkSafeBC (WSBC) requirements helps us keep a safe and healthy environment for everyone.

Bayside Grade 8 Transition

In early February, we will begin our grade 8 to grade 9 transition for September 2021. The activities are specifically developed for the grade 8's from Bayside and we are very excited to start connecting with our future students. Please see the [Stelly's website](#) for [transition activities](#) and for the [2021-2022 Course Guide](#).

As happens every year, we have new grade 9 students that come from schools other than Bayside Middle School. We are equally happy to welcome these students and we look forward to meeting them. For those grade 8 students not attending Bayside, and are planning to come to Stelly's, please contact Mr. Ryan Braun. rbraun@saanichschools.ca



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PAC Meeting

The next virtual PAC meeting – via Zoom – will be Tuesday, February 9th @ 7:00 pm. Please contact Dana Jensen at danajensen54321@gmail.com for more information.

Non-instructional Day and Family Day

Just a reminder that Friday, February 12th is a Professional Development Day for Teachers and a Non-Instructional day for students so students are not expected at school. As well, Family Day is on Monday, February 15th and the school is closed for this Provincial Holiday. We hope you have a very safe and enjoyable long weekend!

Course Selection

All of our grade 9, 10, and 11 students will begin the course selection process from mid to late February. Staff will go through the forms with them and we will have a few online parent information sessions later in February. Please continue to check the [Stelly's website](#) for details and for the [2021-2022 Course Guide](#).

Grade 9 Immunizations

Just a reminder that Immunizations are still scheduled to be given to Grade 9 students at Stelly's on February 23rd. Consent forms were given to families back in the Fall and were returned to our local Public Health unit who will be organizing the clinic. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Mrs Laws (wlaws@saanichschools.ca) in the main office.

Parent Involvement Night

Please see this [link](#) for information regarding the Thursday, March 11th Parent Involvement Night virtual meeting. This is a new opportunity for all parents to connect on a district level. This will be a virtual meeting with the topic "What is Mental Health?"



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Numeracy and Literacy Provincial Assessments

These assessments were completed during their scheduled session from January 25th to January 28th. This was the second of 4 opportunities for students to complete these graduation requirement provincial assessments. 99.5% of our grade 12 students have now completed the Numeracy Assessment and the vast majority of our grade 11's are done as well. Also, the majority of our grade 11's and many of our grade 10's have completed the required Literacy Assessment. Well done to all of our students for completing these graduation requirements!

The next Numeracy and Literacy Assessment sessions will be near the end of Quarter 3 running from April 12th to 16th.

Thank You

Thank you for staying the course and working together to help ensure Stelly's staff and students remain safe and healthy. Thank you for having conversations within your family about the importance of maintaining our vigilance with respect to Health and Safety requirements, and not letting COVID complacency set in. And finally, thank you for doing your part out in the community to help flatten the curve. We have stated for some time that "how it goes out in the greater community will be how it goes within our school community". We are in this together and together we will get through this!

Bee Kind. Bee Calm. Bee Safe.

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