

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, May 7th, 2021

Dear Parents, Guardians and Students,

Quarter 4 is now two weeks in, meaning there are only 7 weeks remaining for this 2020/2021 historical and unprecedented school year! Thank you to the entire community for your COVID diligence in helping to make our community and Stelly's Secondary School safe places to be. Additionally, we would like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Isabel Lizama, Ms. Michelle Cunningham, and Ms. Linda Jackson for all of their hard work organizing and helping grade 12 students complete their final Capstone presentations, fulfilling the CLC graduation requirement. In any year this is a daunting task, but in a COVID year, the extra layers of complexity for health and safety reasons have been enormous. Thank you for the very efficient and smoothly run day and for your work with all 66 of our students to help them produce such excellent Capstone Presentations!

HÍSWKE, Merci, and Thank you!

Saanich International Student Program Host Families

The Saanich International Student Program (SISP) is very actively looking for new Host Families for the international students joining us this September. Make lifelong friendships, receive a generous allowance to offset expenses, and share the beauty of your home and community. Find more information [here](#) or simply [apply](#) now!

Graduation Verification

As of May 4th, a list of grade 12 students that are eligible to graduate in June is posted in the main foyer. If grade 12 students do not see their names on this posted list, it means they are not in a position to graduate for one, or a combination, of the following reasons:

1. Textbooks and/or other Library books, missing or overdue
2. School materials like uniforms, graphing calculators, Chromebooks, etc. are not turned in
3. School fees not paid
4. Grad fees not paid
5. Graduation course requirements not met
6. Distance education courses needed for graduation not yet 70% complete



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Graduation Verification (continued)

For items 1 - 4 listed above, students should return books, materials and pay fees as soon as possible and then see Ms. Batham at the main office with forms/receipts showing fees are paid and books/materials are returned.

For items 5 and 6 listed above, grade 12 students should be booking an appointment with Mr. Redlin as soon as possible to review their plan to complete all required courses for graduation by June 25th.

Stelly's Spring Music Concert

Please check out the [Stelly's Website](#) to see the excellent Spring Music concert by students and staff of the Stelly's Music department featuring the Stelly's Choir, Vocal Jazz Group, the Stelly's Jazz Band, and the Senior Concert Band! What a beautiful way to spend an evening full of wonderful music.

Non-Instructional Days/Professional Development Days

Our last Non-Instructional Day (NID) for students (a day off from school - April 23rd), was a very full and enriching workday for staff. This April 23rd Professional Development Day (Pro-D Day) found staff working individually and within subject areas, reviewing School Growth Plans/School Goals and analyzing our latest Student Learning Survey data as we embark on the process of preparing our school goals and school growth plan for next year. These very rich conversations produced excellent feedback with very thoughtful and reflective details to support our students, staff, and school community moving forward.

This alone could easily be considered a most worthy and hard-working day, but the wonderful staff at Stelly's also participated in a full workshop on the very sensitive, timely and important topic of Anti-Racism. Thank you to school counsellor, Ms. Kim Koenig, for connecting us to Dr Lisa Gunderson who, as our keynote speaker, helped us embark on the exploration, understanding, and awareness of systemic racism. This included anti-racism conversations and actions we can continue to explore as a school community and will help us feel more confident in having conversations about this sensitive topic with our students.



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Non-Instructional Days/Professional Development Days (continued)

Thank you also to the entire Stelly's Pro-D Team: Ms. Shannon Moore, Ms. Michelle Cunningham, Ms. Heidi Hackman, Mr. Chris McDonald, Ms. Tasha Liberatore, Ms. Aimee Lampard, and Ms. Kim Koenig for bringing together (virtually) many other speakers for breakout sessions, including presenters from Royal Roads University, UVIC, and even from as far away as Dubai, U.A.E. This truly was a very full, busy, thought-provoking, enriching and valuable Professional Development workday. Thank you to all Stelly's staff members who participated so willingly and openly on this important day.

Use of Masks at School

As per our most recent Provincial Health and Safety Guideline updates, mask use continues to be expected at all times while indoors for all school staff, visitors to the school, and students at Stelly's. As well, we are encouraging students to wear their masks when outdoors in small groups. There are, of course, certain exceptions to this new mandate (ie: when having a drink, eating snacks or lunch at the right time and place, or if needing to remove a mask briefly to identify someone). With this in mind, we are also re-emphasizing and encouraging all students to maintain their social distance and head outside in the nicer, warmer weather to have the opportunity to take their masks off for a while. Stelly's students and staff continue to do an amazing job at complying with all of the health and safety mandates. The Saanich School District Safety Plan, found [HERE](#), highlights the specific Ministry guidelines that are new for us.

Timetabling for 2021-2022

Timetabling the school for next year is progressing very well. Our development of both Semester and Quarter models will allow us to respond quickly to directions given to us by Provincial Health Officer (PHO), BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), and WorkSafeBC (WSBC) and will honour the courses selected by our students, with clearer direction given hopefully by June. Please be assured that once we know more about the timetable model we will use for next year, we will communicate that to you as soon as possible. Thank you.



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Literacy and Numeracy Provincial Assessments

The third sitting of the Numeracy 10 and Literacy 10 Provincial Assessments has been completed. Students are doing very well overall, both in their personal achievements and in completing these graduation requirement assessments. The fourth and final sitting of the Numeracy 10 and Literacy 10 Provincial Assessments for this school year will take place from **June 14th to 23rd**. Students should be accessing the ministry website [HERE](#) to review sample questions in preparation for their assessments.

Student AM/PM Support

Just a reminder that we continue to have before-school (7:15 - 8:15 am Monday - Friday) and afterschool (3:05 - 4:00 pm or 2:35 - 4:00 pm Monday - Thursday) academic support in room 156 and the Learning Commons for those students requiring a little bit of extra help with their courses.

May 21st - Non-Instructional Day

This is a reminder that school will not be in session on Friday, May 21st as it is a Non-Instructional Day for students.

Quarter 4 (Q4) - April 26th to June 25th

As was done in all three Quarters this year, all classes for Q4 were discussed with every teacher to identify which classes will run at 100% (every day) and which run on a Day1/Day2 schedule. Each class was reviewed looking at a number of educational and health and safety factors to determine which schedule it will follow. Please remember that for those students who have a course on a Day1/Day 2 schedule it is critical that when they are on their "at home" day they keep up with their self-directed independent study for assigned work from their teacher.

Bussing

There will be no anticipated changes to our bussing schedules in Quarter 4 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

The province continues to prioritize health and safety within our schools. Our students and staff have done a great job with the new protocols brought in last month. We continue to make adjustments to ensure the safety of our students and staff.

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

We have also entered a time period where we have gone through our emergency preparedness drills. In recent weeks, students and staff have participated in earthquake, fire, hold and secure, and lockdown drills. Our students have done exceptional jobs managing these drills and received praise from both Central Saanich Fire and Police.

PAC Meeting

The next virtual PAC meeting – via Zoom – will be Tuesday, May 11th @ 7:00 pm. Please contact Dana Jensen at danajensen54321@gmail.com for more information.



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Parent Committee Supporting a Dry After Grad

Although the traditional "Dry After Grad" will not be occurring for the second year, the parent group supporting our graduates have been very busy. At the Parent Grad TEAMS meeting this past Wednesday, May 5th a plan has been put in place to support this year's COVID-friendly version of Grad. This meeting was well attended and represented by parents, staff, and administration. There was a strong sense of collaboration at the meeting as all representatives worked together to develop a fantastic, fun, safe, and unique grad experience for our grade 12 students. Thank you to parent Ms. Michele Wake for her de facto leadership keeping the lines of communication open for everyone throughout the year.

Please contact Michele Wake at mwake69@gmail.com for more information about the next meeting.

HÍSWŪKE, Merci, and Thank you!

Thank you for your continued involvement in your child's education. It is especially difficult to navigate these uncertain times and your open, honest, concerned, and supportive dialogue with us is very much appreciated. We are in this together and together we will get through this.

Bee Kind. Bee Calm. Bee Safe.

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