



Thursday, December 21st, 2017

Principal:	Mr. R. Mesich	(Grade 12)
Vice-Principal:	Mr. M. Robinson	(Grade 9 & 11)
	Mr. B. Scar	(Grade 8 & 10)
PAC Co-Chairs:	Ms. Julie Barrett & Mr. Andy Fontana	
Director of Instruction:	Ms. Nancy Gordon	(ngordon@deltasd.bc.ca)
Liaison Trustee:	Mr. Nick Kanakos	(nkanakos@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. We had a fabulous start to this school year 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.

As a staff, we continue to engage in conversations regarding the BC Education Plan where the grade 8 and 9 curriculum is currently being implemented to better support the needs of our students in preparation for their journey to pursue a career of their choice when they graduate from Seaquam. It was recently announced by the Ministry of Education that the grade 10 curriculum will be implemented for the 2018-19 school year and the grade 11 and 12 curriculum will be delayed until the 2019-2020 school year. For more information about the curriculum redesign, I encourage parents and guardians to visit the Ministry of Education website at <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

The first term report card was distributed on Friday, December 8th 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.

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

BC Students Out Perform Other Students Globally

Every three years, the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) tests 500,000 grade 10 students from 72 countries in reading, science, and mathematics. All 10 Canadian provinces participate in PISA tests, which is coordinated by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD).

Last December, we learned that BC students outperformed students in all OECD countries in reading results. Last month, PISA released the results of its Collaborative Problem Solving assessment and BC students, tied with students from Singapore, outperformed all other OECD countries. So, for the past two years, PISA assessments have revealed that BC students outperform their counterparts in the rest the world.

Our students continue to acquire firm foundations in literacy, numeracy, and science, and our schools today also set expectations and build the learning culture where key interpersonal competencies are equally emphasized. Critical thinking, communication, ethical citizenship, and collaboration are important outcomes of our public education system. Mastery of those skills will be a profound building block for our students and their future achievements. The OECD states that collaborative problem-solving is a critical and necessary skill used in education and in the workforce. While problem-solving in itself is an essential skill, "...collaborative problem-solving has distinct advantages over individual problem-solving because it allows for: an effective division of labour, the incorporation of information from multiple perspectives, experiences and sources of knowledge, enhanced creativity and quality of solutions stimulated by the ideas of other group members."

This is one indicator that demonstrates we are outperforming other countries in these areas. I am proud of our students and staff for their commitment to excellence.

Seaquam Recognition Award

This award started at the beginning of the school year where staff will nominate students on a weekly basis for their contributions to the school community or to their learning. Every week we acknowledge students by letting them know who nominated them and why they were nominated, they are given a \$5.00 voucher and their name is placed on the Seaquam website as part of our ongoing Recognition Award list. Congratulations to all students who have received this award so far.

Delta Enviro-Action School Conference

On Thursday, November 23rd Seaquam's Operation Green Club organized the Delta Enviro-Action Conference for Elementary School student leaders (Grades 5-7) to discuss environmental issues and develop plans to implement at their schools. The conferences started with a general assembly of the students, then students were divided into small groups led by Seaquam students. The event was extremely successful and inspired many students from Delta Elementary schools to conduct environmental projects in their school communities. Congratulations Operation Green.

Remembrance Day Ceremonies

Music and Drama students performed several musical pieces and dramatic scenes for all staff and students on Friday, November 10th based on the theme "Who suffers?" to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Battle of Vimy Ridge. Seaquam Alumni Petty Officer Troy Sticklely spoke at the ceremonies about his experiences and visited several classes over the course of the week. Thank you to Trustees Nick Kanakos and Rhiannon Bennett for attending the ceremonies. Thank you to Ms. Sparrow-Ng, Mr. Lebourdais and Ms. Ng for their time and effort in organizing this event for our school. Congratulations to all of our students who participated in making this event tremendous.

Grad Breakfast Can Food Drive

On Wednesday, December 6th the grade 12 class had their annual Breakfast with Santa event organized by the Grad Committee. Part of the entrance fee was for grade 12 students to donate a non-perishable item to support the Food Bank. Congratulations to the Grad Committee for their efforts in organizing the event and all grade 12 students for helping to make a sizeable donation.

Seafast Fundraising Event

The Seafast fundraiser will take place on Friday, March 2nd where students will raise money to support "Plan International Canada's Gift of Hope Campaign". The students will stay overnight at the school and fast for 24 hours to raise funds for this cause. Last year, the Seafast event raised just over \$9600.00 and the target amount this year is \$10,000 with plans to help build a school for girls. Thank you Mr. Rickey for sponsoring this event and good luck with reaching the \$10,000 goal.

Senior Football Big Brother Jacket Drive

The Senior Football team conducted a Jacket Drive to support the Big Brothers organization. The drive took place from Monday, November 27th to Friday, December 8th. The team was able to collect over 100 items. Thank you to our community for donating generously to this cause. Congratulations to the Senior Football team!

Seaquam Core Class Raises \$1000.00 for Pediatric Cancer Research

Seaquam's Core Class, specifically the grade 12 "Be the Change" students, held a Christmas Cookie and Teacher Mug Appreciation Fundraiser to raise money for pediatric cancer research. The students all worked really hard purchasing supplies, baking cookies in the Cafeteria, assembling the cookies and mugs with Christmas wrapping, and delivering the mugs throughout the school. Ms. Miller and Mr. Graham would like to recognize Chef Boyle, Tom, Judy and Lois for all their help in the Cafeteria and to the amazing Educational Assistances who worked tirelessly alongside the students to make our first big fundraiser a success. The students raised \$1000 to donate to BC Children's Hospital! Ms. Miller and Mr. Graham were tremendous in helping the students learn about the gift of giving.

Thank you to everyone who supported our class fundraising efforts to raise money for such a worthy cause!

Music Department Fundraising Initiatives

The Music Department has finished all of our individual fundraisers our three individual fundraisers - Entertainment Books, Purdy's Chocolates, and Cookie dough sales for the school year. Students are given the opportunity to raise funds to offset their costs for our annual Music Tour, which this year will be to Tofino, BC, April 5th to 7th, 2018. Thank you to all who supported our students.

In addition to raising funds for the cost of their own trips, Seaquam Music students are fundraising for The Megan McNeill Memorial Scholarship on an ongoing basis. For the past two years, donations collected at the door for our concerts, specific scholarship fundraising concerts, and any honorariums earned through students' performances have supported this project with 50% of the funds going to a \$500 scholarship for a graduating music student, with the other 50% going to a \$500 donation to the BCCCPA (BC Childhood Cancer Parents Association). If you are interested in making a donation, please contact Jill Sparrow-Ng or Hannah Hg.

Seaquam Students at The United Nation's 9th World Environment Education Educator Congress

Congratulations to ABNASH BASSI who spoke at the United Nation's 9th World Environment Education Educator Congress on Wednesday, September 13th. The UN Foundation for Environment Education (FEE) also funded Seaquam students Parvin Malhi, Abhayjeet Sachal, Sarvan Gill, Drydan Weibe to attend the conference as members of the international media because they were all winners of the National YRE Program last spring. The link below is to a website that contains articles written by Seaquam students on their experience: <https://yreint.exposure.co/>

The links below provide photos of the event.

<https://deltalearns.ca/iachetta/files/2017/09/WEEC.jpg>
https://deltalearns.ca/iachetta/files/2017/09/20170909_105844.jpg
https://deltalearns.ca/iachetta/files/2017/09/20170913_154400.jpg

2018 Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) Conference

Congratulations to grade 11 Student Abhay Sachal who has been invited to present at the 2018 Southeastern Environmental Education Alliance (SEEA) Conference hosted by the League of Environmental Educators in Florida (LEEF). The conference is on Saturday and Sunday, March 17th and 18th, 2018 in St. Petersburg, Florida. Abhay is also invited to attend a special welcoming reception on Thursday, March 15th for presenters. CONFERENCE WEBSITE: <https://www.seea-leef2018.com/>

Unlock Your Future Scholarship Presentation

Brittany Palmer presented to our grade 12 students on Wednesday, October 25th about how to prepare themselves for applying for scholarships. Brittany shared her method of acquiring scholarships for herself during her grade 12 year that totaled over \$56,000. According to grade 12 students who attended the presentation, they found the information useful and had a better idea of how to organize themselves to apply for scholarships. To learn more about this presentation, students and families can visit: <http://www.keytoscholarships.com/>

Snowball Dance

The Student Council hosted another successful Snowball Dance on December 6th. The theme this year was Hollywood Red Carpet and it was DJ'd by Aftershock Roadshow. Students in grades 10-12 strutted their stuff down our very own red carpet and enjoyed snacks and 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. As per tradition, Mr. Onukwulu wowed the crowd when he was called up by the DJs to dance for the students. What a great night!

English Department

Ms. Dempster and Ms. Dandiwal have organized an Indigenous Oral Storytelling Workshop with Alex Thomson, Indigenous Success Coordinator, for their Communications 10 and 11 classes. Students in these classes will experience the Indigenous storytelling during the first week back after the Winter Break.

Mr. Campbell has just finished a unit in English 12 where the students attempted to understand the philosophical concept of identity through the prompt "Who Am I?". They dug into their understandings of their own identity through analyzing the characters of the texts. They then presented this understanding in a photo analysis, where they presented 10 photos to the class, and had 10 seconds to explain each of the photos. The students were challenged with this activity, yet a great deal of learning took place regarding their analytical skill development.

Place Based Learning – Humanities 9

Our Humanities 9 students were engaged in place-based learning during the first term of school this year. Throughout, students were encouraged to make connections between the natural world and human culture, specifically in relation to local indigenous peoples. In pursuing this learning, students engaged in a variety of experiences and activities, such as excursions to Watershed Park, storytelling, research, simulations, which culminated in a field trip at the end of October to Cates Park in North Vancouver.

Takaya Tours, an aboriginal owned and operated tour company, facilitated our cultural experience. Students were welcomed to Tseil-Waututh traditional territory with drumming, song, and story, before splitting their time between two immersive experiences – canoeing and an interpretive forest walk.

One half of the tour had students paddling in replica ocean-going canoes to experience the geography of the territory from the water. Our guide, who happened to be the great-grandson of famous Chief Dan George, told stories about those who came before and how lifestyle and culture would have been shaped by the community's physical surroundings.

The other half of the tour, a forest walk through the park, was led by Tseil-Waututh elder Cease. Cease taught students about the medicinal and cultural uses of local indigenous vegetation, as they sampled licorice root and got sticky with sap. Students demonstrated genuine curiosity and interest in this part of their afternoon by asking good questions and lining up to participate in the demonstrations.

Overall, this field trip was a powerful and authentic experience for these grade 9s. The discussion upon our return to class was rich and enthusiastic, with students making excellent connections to their learning.



Music Department

The beginning of 2018 will see the busiest part of our concert season. From now to Spring Break, Seaquam students will be performing at and in collaboration with our family of elementary schools, other Delta secondary schools and our festival season will begin. We welcome everyone to join us at our performances. Performances will be at Seaquam's Theatre and start at 7:00pm, unless otherwise stated.

Elementary Concerts - January 25th and 26th (specific schools and times TBA)
Choral Celebration – Tuesday, February 6th
Delta night of Music – Tuesday, February 13th
Kiwanis Jazz Festival – Friday, February 15th (Bethany Baptist Church time TBA)
Spring Concert – Wednesday, March 7th

Theatre Department

It's been a very busy first term in Seaquam's Theatre Department. Here are the highlights:

“The Flash” TV show filmed at Seaquam Theatre (September 20th to 22nd). The Seaquam Theatre was taken over for three exciting days as the cast and crew filmed parts of Season 4, Episode 7. This was a fantastic opportunity for many Drama and Film/TV students to watch and learn about how a TV show is produced in the field, and to learn about career possibilities in the vibrant Film and Television industries.

“Out of The Wings” District Drama Conference (October 27th): A busload of Seaquam Drama students spent the day at Delta Secondary School with over 150 students from across the district, taking workshops on a wide range of topics, such as playwriting, stage combat, improvisation, and musical theatre. The sessions were facilitated by professionals from the film, TV and theatre industries.

Senior Drama Night (November 30th at Seaquam) / Festival of One-Act Plays (December 5th to 7th) at North Delta Secondary School: Seaquam's Drama/Acting 10-12 class performed several short one-act plays at the Seaquam Theatre on November 30th and then again as part of the District Festival of One-Act Plays the following week at North Delta Secondary School. These evening shows were a wonderful opportunity for our senior Drama students to showcase their talents to their peers, families, teachers, and the local community.

Spring 2018 Major Production: Seaquam's X-block Theatre Company Class is in the midst of rehearsals for “The Great Hollywood Musical Disaster” play. This production will be a hilarious comic farce about a Hollywood film studio. The production will be running from April 16th to 21st, 2018, in the Seaquam Theatre. Stay tuned for more information about tickets in Term 2!!

Stage Crew Club: Our volunteer Stage Crew Club meets twice a week (Thursdays at lunch and Fridays after school) to work on a wide range of projects in the Theatre, such as set design and building props, costumes, sound and lighting, and cleaning and organizing the theatre space and storage areas. We also choose each year's running crew for the spring production from the Stage Crew Club. All students are welcome, and students receive volunteer hours!

Improv Club: Our student-run drop-in Improv Club meets every Tuesday after school to play theatre games and perform improvised skits on stage. All students are welcome and no experience is required.

Physical and Health Education 8-12

The junior Physical and Health Education (PHE) classes are now immersed in the new BC curriculum. Most classes have completed their first three knowledge lessons that have focused on healthy relationships, decision-making and an introduction to nutrition. The intent is for students to progress from Grade 8-10 building upon their knowledge in these areas. All PHE classes are now finishing up the 2017 year with square and line dancing; a nice send off for the Winter Break.

In grades 11 and 12, students are given a little more choice in their PHE classes. They have the option to take general PE, Strength and Conditioning or Women's only PHE. Our senior PHE classes have already experienced a few field trips this year including: bubble soccer, snowshoeing at Grouse Mountain, archery tag, and ice skating. In the new year, both grade 11 and 12 classes will also have the opportunity to try out Parkour and our annual trip to Quarry Rock. The Women's class has participated in Hot Yoga classes in the community and Zumba with a certified instructor.

A special thank you needs to be extended to our Grade 10 Leadership class and Mr. Mackenzie for all of their hard work around the school. There are many students who have volunteered countless hours to give back to the school and the Athletics Program. Without their hard work and dedication, we would not be able to host as many events as we do at Seaquam. Thank you PHE Leadership for all your work during term 1!

Home Economics Department

The Seaquam Home Economics Department is pleased to welcome two new staff members. Ms. Liu who is teaching Food Studies 10 and Ms. Serres who is teaching Textiles 8-12.

Over the course of term one the foods classes have prepared a variety of recipes ranging from quickbreads, sushi, butter chicken, and perogies. Many students enjoyed what they made in class so much they brought the recipes home and made some of the recipes for their families. Ms Withenshaw's senior foods classes took a trip to the Purdy's Chocolate factory where they had a tour of the factory and had an opportunity to make their own chocolate!

In the textiles classes, the junior students made pajama pants and aprons while the senior students completed their term one projects. These individual projects ranged from a wool jacket to a saddle blanket. Over the last few weeks, the students have been getting festive by making ornaments and ugly sweaters.

The Cafeteria Program welcomed back Trevor Connie, the Master Chef Canada Winner. Trevor Connie, a former student of Seaquam, returned to where his love for cooking started and met with current culinary arts students. Trevor spoke to the students about his experiences on Master Chef Canada while he worked with them to prepare different dishes for the cafeteria.

Athletics Program

Fall is a busy time of year for Seaquam athletes. We are fortunate to offer more sporting opportunities than the average high school. This is a testament to an army of hard working volunteer coaches. Our athletes performed well this fall, and represented Seaquam proudly. The following is a list of accomplishments.

Senior Boys Football – This was the first time Seaquam played in the AAA division and they did very well. For most of the season, they were ranked provincially in the top 5. The boys lost a hard fought game in the quarterfinals of the Provincial Championships.

Junior Boys Football - Lost in the quarterfinals of the playoffs.

Grade 8 Boys Football – Lost in the quarterfinals of the playoffs.

Senior Boys Volleyball – The Senior boys had one of the most successful seasons in school history. They were ranked in the top 10 all season long. The boys finished 4th in the Provincial Championships. This tied their result from the 2016 season.

Senior Girls Volleyball – Our Senior girls had a terrific season; they were ranked in the top 10 all season and competed well against everyone. They finished 8th at the Provincial Championships. Special acknowledgement to Mr. Clarke for organizing and running the Senior Girls Provincial Volleyball Championship Tournament at the Langley Event Centre.

Senior Girls Tier II – This was the first year Seaquam ran a second team at the Senior Girls level. The girls competed well and went undefeated in the Tier II League.

Junior Boys Volleyball – The Junior boys competed well in league play. They learned a lot and improved immensely.

Junior Girls Volleyball – Finished 1st in Delta, 8th in the Fraser Valley, and 9th in the Provincial Championship.

Grade 9 Girls – Finished 1st in Delta, 2nd in the Fraser Valley, and qualified for the Provincial Championships.

Grade 8 Girls Volleyball – The grade 8 girls were well coached and worked hard this year. They finished 1st in league play in a very tough Delta division.

Grade 8 Boys Volleyball – Finished 2nd in the Delta Championships and qualified for the Fraser Valley Championships.

Senior Boys Soccer – The boy's team did well in league play and then lost in the playoffs.

Junior Boys Soccer – The Junior Boys won the Delta Cup. They were then eliminated in the quarterfinals of the Fraser Valley Championships

Cross Country – Seaquam's cross-country team performed well in all their meets. Ria Gill qualified for the Provincial Championships. Hannah Milic finished 17th as a grade 11 student at the Provincial Championships.

Swimming – The Seaquam Swim Team performed very well this year. 21 athletes competed in the Fraser Valley Regional Championship. Congratulations to Olivia Roschat, Vijay Reddy, Callum Wilkie, and Vega Jones for qualifying for the Provincial Championships.

Thank you to all the athletes who represented Seaquam so well during the Fall Season. Last but not least, thank you to all the coaches for their countless hours and energy making sure that our athletes have an opportunity to play high school sports.

Go Seahawks!!

2017-18 Grad Games

The Grad Games at Seaquam are in their inaugural year. The Games pit the Staff against the Grads in a series of sports (best of 5 wins the trophy) – volleyball, floor hockey, basketball, indoor soccer and softball. In December, we held our first event, Indoor Soccer, at lunch with the Staff scoring the game winning goal in the last minute. The purpose of the games is to build community through positive and healthy competition. It was certainly on display at lunch that day. Students are charged an entrance fee of \$1.00 with proceeds going towards a scholarship and to help offset costs for the Grad Reception in June.

The remaining events in the series will be held after the Winter Break culminating in the afternoon softball game between the Grads and Staff in May. The completion of the series will be celebrated with a BBQ and the presentation of the Grad Games Trophy to the winning team. We are encouraging all Grads to get involved and sign up for the Games using the link on our school web site.

Happy Holidays Everyone!