



The Grapevine

Alberni District
Secondary School

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OKLAHOMA A HUGE HIT !

It will come as no surprise to those of you who have followed Musical Theatre at ADSS that our latest collaboration—Oklahoma—was a complete success. This collaboration between many staff and students saw excellent community support in spite of bad weather and school closures. For the trivia collectors among you it will also be remembered (sadly) as the last collaboration between Drama teacher Kerry Robertson and departing Superintendent, Harry Janzen.

The production involved many many students and members of the staff and community. We could not undertake such a big production without the help and support of many partners. We would like to thank them all for the hard work and commitment they have shown in bringing this show to production. Congratulations to the huge cast for all of their hard work and outstanding and enthusiastic performances!

Special mention has to be made of the wide variety of talents that were showcased during the performances—dance, drama, as well as excellent signing. Well done all.

ADSS PAC 2006/07

An executive has been found and the PAC is up in full operation. Thank you to those people who have stepped forward to take on positions for this year. The executive will be: Star Cameron—Chair, Elisa McFarland—Vice Chair, Kim Lund—Secretary, Peter Debourcier—Treasurer, And Sheila Aolick—DPAC rep. Thank you so much for taking on these roles.

Grad News

DRY GRAD PLANS MOVE AHEAD

A number of important fund raisers are currently underway and many people have been working tirelessly to bring these efforts together. The current fundraising highlights are the annual Samosa sale which, unfortunately had to be postponed. The ongoing store front window painting project is going well. All over town windows are being dressed up in Winter finery.

Student volunteers are always needed and increasing numbers of students would make many of these efforts go much easier. If you can help out, see your Grad executive for opportunities.

IMPORTANT DATES

Dec 13	PAC Meeting 7 PM
Dec 19/20	Band Concerts
Dec 22	Last day to purchase year-books and final day of Classes before Christmas Break
Jan. 8	Return to School
Jan. 10	PAC Meeting—7 PM
Jan 12/13	TOTEM 52!
Jan 13	BAND Bottle drive
Jan 18	Senior Drama Performances.
Jan 25—29	District Math assessment For all grade 9 math students.
Jan 29-Feb 2	School and Provincial Exams.

HAT'S OFF TO STUDENTS!

I know it will be well after the fact when this gets home, but good news stales slowly. Our Remembrance day assembly was one of the finest examples of ADSS at its best. The student produced and student run ceremony was outstanding. Mr. Freethy and his Leadership class did a wonderful job—the best I have witnessed in 30 years in schools. MC's Andrea Harvey, Tiana Martin and Foster Coulson did an excellent job.

Beyond that, which was noteworthy by itself, was the response of the students in the audience at each of the assemblies. The rapt attention and clear respect that was shown by both groups of students was outstanding—a moment in the history of ADSS I will remember for a long time. So, again, congratulations to all, and sincere thanks.

URGENT DRY GRAD NOTICE!

Hi Everyone I need to get this message out to as many people as possible:

It is very important that we get at least 3 people to volunteer to be on the fundraising committee. As it sits right now we only have 1 parent on the committee which does not function well and causes her to have way too much work. This does not mean you have to be at every fundraiser what it entails is working with your committee to arrange fundraisers such as raffles, chocolate drives etc.. and finding a parent to head up each individual fundraisers . We do this through our phone tree (thank you everyone) , meetings and emails. Fundraising is the base of everything for Dry Grad without it there is **no** Dry Grad. We are off to a rough start seeing there is not enough volunteers but I know there is parents out there that realize how important Dry Grad is to our kids . Please come on board make Dry Grad 2007 most memorable for our children. If you can volunteer for this position please contact me , Angela at home at 723.1380 or via email at drygrad2007@hotmail.com I urge you to pass this message on to as many people as possible.

CAREER EDUCATION AND CAREER PLANNING

In Mid November, the BC Career Educators come together in Vancouver to discuss programs and plans for assisting students to make that transition from Secondary school to post secondary programs or in to the labour force. This year's conference was full of interesting insights.

There is currently underway a very significant shift in the needs of the labour market. For the first time in many years, the projections are all in agreement that there is a huge need in the area of skilled trades. Up to 49% of the labour market will need to be filled with people who have completed Grade 12 and have gone for one to two years of post secondary training in any of the skilled trades areas. This is the first time in recent memory where the need has shifted away from University Graduates back to the skilled trades areas.

The implications for ADSS are quite staggering. We are currently gearing up to expand on our trades programs and our apprenticeship and pre-apprenticeship programs as well as our connections to the colleges. Many secondary schools in Northern BC are already establishing articulated programs where Grade 11 and 12 students are able to do course work towards high school graduation as well as apprenticeship training through the colleges. This means that when they graduate they are well on their way to completing their training and are able to enter the job market with skills that are highly in demand.

The level of skill necessary in many of these areas provide opportunities for our very capable students to use their natural skills in creative ways. There also exists many entrepreneurial opportunities for students after they have worked a short time in the various industries. We all need to look at these opportunities for our students in new ways. Stay tuned for more news.

ABORIGINAL PROGRAMS A FOCUS AT ADSS

This year marks a real commitment by the staff of ADSS to make successful and relevant programming for our Aboriginal students. This year has seen the development of a number of new courses aimed at meeting the needs of these students. Courses new to ADSS this year are Reading Workshop, Media Analysis and two leadership courses. It is imperative that we continue to expand our offerings to all students to ensure that we respond to changing needs. This is particularly important for our Aboriginal learners as we have not had the level of success that we would like to see. So, increasing our offerings of relevant course work should prove to be effective in achieving greater success for these students.

We will continue to investigate new program possibilities for our students. As well, there is currently a strong District committee working on developing curriculum specifically geared to our local communities. These efforts again will increase the relevancy of the programming available to our students.

ADSS School Goal

Our single goal is to increase the number of students who successfully complete graduation requirements in the six year period following their grade 8 year.

The ADSS Code of Conduct

Developed two years ago, largely by students but under the supervision of staff our current Code of Conduct uses the ADSS ARMADA as an acronym for us to remember proper conduct.

A—Attend Class
D—Determined
S—Self Disciplined
S—Supportive of Each Other

A—Academically Focused
R—Respectful
M—Mature
A—Accountable
D—Dressed Appropriately
A— Acting Safely

There will be much more discussion of the code with students as the year goes on!

The Last Word - Jim Ansell, Principal

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Events during the past month have brought to light a number of key points in our planning in preparation for the inevitable events that are caused by our interesting West Coast climate. First and foremost was the excellent response of members of staff who in every instance used existing plans and excellent intuition to make themselves present and available where they were needed to fill in during power outages and during early dismissals. Having a staff committed to student safety is a very comforting fact for all of us.

We now know that we have to do some things differently as well when it comes to dismissing students. Once we lose power, we have no access to student timetables on our computers—so we now have a binder in the office that shows us where students can be found when parents arrive to pick them up. We also know that we need alternatives to cell phone use to stay in communication around our campus and with the District office. Cell phone lines were so clogged that it was difficult to stay in touch with all of the people who had or needed information during these events.

Specific plans are being developed to ensure that students are released when it is safe and to ensure that proper supervision can be assured while we stay in the school waiting for the appropriate dismissal.

It can be challenging to deal with a large population of students who feel quite capable of making their own decisions, especially when they have cell phones and are in communication with their families. It is important to have parent support in ensuring that students follow directions of the staff so that we can release students safely and that we have a record of what happened with each student so that they can be located by family members.

We will make certain that, as plans are developed they are shared with all of our students and their families.

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