



The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School
February 4, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Electives Fair

Truancy Concerns

This article was in last month's Grapevine, but it's worth a repeat because it's a slightly new process for Semester 2.

There have been some concerns with some of our students, primarily some younger students, who have persistent truancy profiles. The concern, of course, is that because of the missed classes, these students are unable to keep abreast of their educational program. Ultimately these students will negatively affect their final course grades. In some cases, this can even result in course failure resulting in the student having to re-take the course.

When a student is absent from school we require either a note or a phone call to the main office explaining that absence. If we do not receive that parent contact we can only assume that the individual student is truant. Therefore, students in this situation become doubly responsible for keeping abreast of any missed work.

Starting in Semester 2, students who miss any class without an excuse from a parent or guardian will be expected to remain behind on Friday when the rest of the school has been dismissed at 1:30 pm. This is in the interests of our students' academic success and we expect that parents will support this initiative.

A teacher will be in attendance to assist students during this time. Students will be expected to make up any time missed. Those who do not report for this time will face additional consequences.

What ADSS Is Reading?

A new feature from ADSS's library.

The Twilight rage ran rampant over the Christmas holiday with book sales hitting around 17 million and the movie grossing about 130 million dollars. ADSS has not been immune to the addictive storyline by Stephanie Myers. I first picked up Twilight at a library conference four years ago because a student had asked for books about vampires. Twilight drew me in with its

captivating cover and the vehement recommendation from the student working the sales booth. Since the book hit the shelves at ADSS the waitlist for it and each of its three subsequent installments began to grow. With all of the buzz you might be wondering what exactly is Twilight about? Well, like Rome and Juliet before it Twilight is the classic tale of star-crossed lovers; however, Myers' twist is that Twilight's male lead, Edward, is a vampire that struggles not only with a romantic longing for his leading lady, Bella, but a longing for her blood as well. His is a battle between love and destruction. The novel captivates quickly with its instant chemistry between the two as readers ponder questions such as: how do you handle being in love with someone whose natural instinct tells them to kill you, what do you do when while you age normally your boyfriend never does and of course will love conquer all? It doesn't hurt that Myers has created a romantic hero so addictive that he has students donning shirts such as "I only date Vampires" or "team Edward". All four installments of the Twilight series as well as Stephanie Myer's other novel, The Host, can be found in the library.



Hey parents!! Are you going crazy? STEP/Teen can help

STEP/Teen – Systematic Training for Effective Parenting of Teens offers a down to earth and practical way to meet the challenges of raising teens today. It's a group discussion program that paves the way to better relationships, more responsible behaviour at home, in school, and the community. STEP/Teen promotes self-esteem and self-reliance for everyone involved.

Through video segments, supportive group discussions, and lots of laughing, you'll learn some practical and easy skills; and how they can be applied to every day challenges.

The next group (6 sessions) will begin sometime in February when we have 10 folks registered. They will happen:

**Thursdays from 6:30 till 8:30 pm.
4259 6th Ave (around the back)
call 724-6166**

The group fills up fast, so please register early. Except for a suggested donation (\$10 - \$15) for the workbook, this program is free! Refreshments and good company provided!

For more information, please call Antonia at 724-6166 and leave a message and your phone number.

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Where in the World are They Now?

Each issue of the Grapevine tries to highlight one person, anywhere in the world, who attended ADSS. If you know of someone who is in this category and you'd like to share what they are up to now, please contact me.

This month's issue of the Grapevine, courtesy of **Quintin Winks and the AV Times**, January 29th, 2009, features **Trevor Morrison**.

Trevor Morrison, the Alberni kid who made a name for himself debating and running track, begins work on Monday as associate counsel to U.S. President Barack Obama.

Morrison will work for the new administration from his office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building, across the parking lot from the West Wing of the White House – a long way from his hildhood home in Beaver Creek, on the outskirts of Port Alberni.

“It's pretty exciting,” said Morrison, from his office at Columbia University. “I worked in the Federal Government's Justice Department in the Clinton administration, between 1999 and 2001. But the White House is a very different animal from the Justice Department, and so this is entirely new to me.”

Morrison, 37, was born in the Alberni Valley to his Kiwi father Hugh Morrison and American mother Anne. The young Morrison went to several local elementary and junior high schools on his way to graduating from Alberni District [Secondary] School in 1989.

Following his high-school graduation, Morrison went to the University of British Columbia on a full scholarship and graduated with honours in 1994. During that time he spent a year in Japan at Sophis University, which had an exchange program with UBC. Then Morrison received a full post-graduate scholarship to work toward a Ph.D. in Japanese History at Columbia University in New York. He then decided to switch to law, and three years later was awarded his law degree.

Last summer, taking advantage of his American citizenship from his mother, Morrison moved with his wife Beth and two daughters – one two years old and other seven – to Manhattan to begin work as a professor [of]constitutional law at Columbia University Law School. That, along with his high intelligence and experience working with the Bush administration, and more recently with the transition team to bring Obama in, helped make him a good choice for associate counsel to the new president.

There is much more to the article in the AV Times, but available space does not permit us to reproduce it in the Grapevine.

Important Upcoming Dates

- February 2 – semester 2 begins

- February 2 – 4 – textbooks issued to grade 11 to 12 students on a schedule during class time
- February 5 – Grad Photo Retakes
- February 10 – Report Cards issued
- February 11 – PAC meeting, 7:00 pm, staffroom
- February 12 – Electives Fair
- February 16 – start of students selection of courses for 2009/10
- February 18 – Pascal math contest (gr 9), Cayley math contest (gr 10), Fernet math contest (gr 11)
- February 18 – ADSS Band Jazz Night, 7:00 pm
- February 25 – American Math Competition B
- February 25 – March 1 – Lionel Hampton Jazz Festival, Moscow, Idaho
- February 27 – March 1 – Whistler ski/snow trip

Please contact me at 723-6251, extension 222, if you have questions or concerns about this newsletter.

Mike Ruttan,
Principal