

4615 - 51 Street, Delta, BC V4K2V8 604.946.4194 [deltasd.bc.ca/de](http://deltasd.bc.ca/de)

December 15, 2023

Dear Pacer Families,

With only one more week before the holiday break, there is much anticipation for time to relax, recharge and connect with family and friends. A reminder to families our **final day of instruction will be Friday December 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

December has been a busy month for our school with many initiatives, activities and events happening in and around our school. Basketball season is officially underway, school clubs have been busy with their many leadership and service initiatives and our office elves helped launch another successful holiday door decorating competition.

December also brought many student successes and celebrations outside of the classroom, where our students demonstrated their #pacerpride:

- The fourth annual *Twenty Days of Giving Campaign* comes to a close today and it has been wonderful to see our school and the Ladner community come together to help local families. While we do not have a final tally at this time, we are proud to share that our efforts of collecting food, toiletries, gift cards and cash donations will help 26 families this year through our holiday hampers. Thank you for your generosity and support of this school initiative. Special thank you to Mrs. Blatz, Mrs. Haynes, Mrs. Day, Ms. Collings & Mr. Harkley for your leadership and efforts to help make this year's campaign a success.
- DYAC also organized and hosted a Games Afternoon "Global Games" with our international students. From monopoly to giant sized Jenga, there were many laughs and great conversations over the games and an opportunity for our students to make connections and build community.
- On Thursday December 7<sup>th</sup>, our Fine Arts Department showcased the many talents within our school. Mrs. Campbell's Beginner, Intermediate and Senior Band along with our Choir and Wind Ensemble performed a variety of festive and classical songs to parent and family, highlighting the musical talents of our students. Mrs. Langtry's Art & Ceramic Students showed off their amazing talents with our "Art Attack" exhibits that were on display in the upper and lower lobby.
- Special thanks to Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Khara, Mrs. Hay and our Math Department for their Math FUNction event that also took place in our library last week. Students and parents were impressed with the many exhibits and displays of how math is used in our everyday lives from baking cookies to designing roller coasters. Special thanks to all the parents and family members who came out to support this event.

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- Special thanks to our Grad Council, Mr. Allan, Mr. McNaughton, Mrs. Pilling and the staff who assisted with our Grade 8 Breakfast with Santa. It was a wonderful morning of festive cheer, draw prizes, holiday songs and a delicious breakfast. Thank you, Grads of 2024, for putting on this event!

In addition to this letter, information regarding general school information can be found on our **school website**: <https://de.deltasd.bc.ca/> . Please see the important information items below:

### **Important Dates:**

- December 9 – 18      Artona Grad Photos, Mobile Studio (book online)
- December 15<sup>th</sup>      Twenty Days of Giving Ends – Bring in your Food Items!
- December 22<sup>nd</sup>      Last day of classes before the winter break
- January 8<sup>th</sup>      First Day of classes after the winter break
  - *Delta Secondary will be closed from December 25<sup>th</sup> – January 5<sup>th</sup>*

### **Grad Photos/Composite Photos:**

Graduating students are reminded to sign up for their grad composite photo (grad photos) with the Artona Photography Group. Artona will have a mobile studio in our back parking lot from December 9<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> for students to book a photo session. For more information, please visit their website: <https://artona.com/schools/DELT>

### **Transition Days / I- Days – January 30 & 31**

**Semester classes only will not have scheduled classes on Tuesday January 30<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup>.** These days are “transition days” for semester teachers to wrap up their semester 1 responsibilities (transition plans for students, invite specific students to come in demonstrate any learning standards to provide a student a final mark for the course, to allow teachers time to finalize any reports or mark any pending or missing student work).

- *“I-days/Transition Days” are NOT a time for students to submit substantial amounts of incomplete assignments or write multiple assessments without prior coordination with the teacher. Any students with an “Insufficient Evidence” or in jeopardy of failing a course should be making plans with their teachers and using Flex time prior to the end of the semester.*

**Linear classes WILL have scheduled classes on Tuesday January 30<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday January 31<sup>st</sup>.** Students will follow their regular schedule as their classes run the entire school year (September – June) and students will be expected to be in session for those days. Any linear students who are struggling to meet minimal expectations in their course work should also utilize Flex time to address those concerns.

### **Pacer Athletics:**

Our Winter Sports Season is underway with Gymnastics, Curling and Basketball teams representing Delta Secondary.

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Thank you to all our staff, parent and community coaches who are volunteering their time to coach and mentor our student athletes. For more information regarding athletics, please follow our teams on Instagram [@deltapacerathletics](https://www.instagram.com/deltapacerathletics)

### **Athletic Home Games**

Tuesday December 19<sup>th</sup> Jr Boys (3:30pm) & Jr. Girls (5:00pm) Basketball vs Seaquam  
Thursday December 21<sup>st</sup> Sr. Boys (7:30pm) Basketball vs. Delview

### **Counsellor Support:**

A reminder to students and families that our counsellors are available to meet with students to address any concerns, issues or challenges they may be having in or out of the classroom.

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|--------------------------------------|-------------------|--|
| • Last Name A – Che                  | <b>Ms. Colls</b>  | <a href="mailto:hcolls@deltaschools.ca">hcolls@deltaschools.ca</a>   |
| • Last Name Cli - Lei                | <b>Ms. Greene</b> | <a href="mailto:sgreene@deltaschools.ca">sgreene@deltaschools.ca</a> |
| • Last Name Leo – Or & International | <b>Ms. Rohwer</b> | <a href="mailto:erohwer@deltaschools.ca">erohwer@deltaschools.ca</a> |
| • Last Name Os – Z                   | <b>Ms. Gillis</b> | <a href="mailto:bgillis@deltaschools.ca">bgillis@deltaschools.ca</a> |

### **A – Z of Vaping – Resources:**

The Province of British Columbia recently launched another A-Z of Vaping social marketing campaign, that provides youth and their caregivers with information and resources related to the risks of vaping. This campaign concept was developed with input from youth and is currently running on most popular social media platforms. Posters, brochures and exterior signage have arrived from the Ministry for each of your schools.

- Link: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/vaping/tools-for-schools>
- BC Lung Foundation: <https://bclung.ca/how-we-can-help/vaping/vaping-prevention-toolkit>

### **New 9-8-8 Mental Health Crisis and Suicide Prevention Helpline**

The [9-8-8 Suicide Crisis Helpline](https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/9-8-8) is a new service available 24/7/365 to help Canadians when they need it most. **The service, accessible via call or text to 9-8-8, offers trauma-informed and culturally affirming support to anyone who is thinking of suicide or who is worried about someone they know.**

### **Dry Grad Information:**

Dry Grad Parent Committee is looking to borrow 6 – 8 propane fire pits and bean bag chairs for this year's Dry Grad Event on May 31<sup>st</sup>.

If you can assist or require more information, please contact Kari at [decorating@dssdrygrad.com](mailto:decorating@dssdrygrad.com)



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## Communicable Disease, Student Illness, and Procedures

With cold and flu season upon us, we want to remind families that students should not attend school if they are sick or exhibiting symptoms of illness. To ensure we are collectively doing our part to keep our school community safe we are going to ask that students and families continue to do the following this year:

- **Complete a Daily Health Check** and **stay home when your child is sick**
- **Do NOT come to school if you are ill, have symptoms or not able to participate fully in routine activities**
- **Respiratory etiquette** and respect the personal space of others
- **Good hand hygiene** - wash and sanitize your hands often
- **Remember to “Be kind, be calm, be safe” to others.**

We would like to take this opportunity to extend our wishes of peace, love, joy and hope to all members of our Delta Secondary community. We hope this holiday season provides all of you an opportunity to relax, rest and connect with family and friends. From our families to yours, we want to wish everyone a Happy Holiday and continued health, happiness and prosperity in 2024.

Sincerely,

John Pavão,  
Principal  
Grade 12's

Mike Annandale,  
Vice Principal  
Grade 9 & 11's

Joanna Macintosh,  
Vice Principal  
Grade 8 & 10's