

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

Tuesday September 28, 2021

Dear Pacer Families,

With the start of our fourth week of school, I hope your child has settled into a routine, established good work habits, reconnected with classmates and teachers, and is finding success in their courses this semester. This past Friday, many of our staff had the opportunity to attend a virtual session with Dr. Jody Carrington, renowned psychologist and author of *Kids These Days* and *Teachers These Days*. Her presentation was on the importance of reconnection and the fostering of relationships with the return to in-person learning as we addressed topics of resiliency, mental well-being and trauma as we all are coming out of a global pandemic.

This week we turn our attention to Thursday September 30th and the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. On **Wednesday September 29th**, the Delta School District will be honouring and acknowledging Truth and Reconciliation with a variety of activities in class and we are encouraging all students and staff to **wear orange that day**. More information regarding Truth and Reconciliation can be found through our [Indigenous Education Department](#). I ask that all of you join me and take some time on Thursday to honour, recognize and reflect on the truth of our past, residential schools and the survivors of the residential schools. Please [click here](#) to read a *brochure on the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation*.

Moving forward, you will see and hear about adjustments to our safety measures based on mandates from Fraser Health and the Public Health Officer. Health and Safety is still a priority for us to ensure everyone's safety so we can offer a variety of curricular and extracurricular learning opportunities for all students. We thank students, parents and staff for their continued patience, flexibility and support of our safety measures as we navigate through this extremely fluid situation. I would like to thank the Delta Secondary staff for their efforts to make their spaces welcoming to students and to quickly develop classroom routines for students to experience transparent and predictable learning environments. I am proud of our staff's response to the pandemic environment and their efforts to instil a sense of normalcy for our students.

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:

- September 29th SD37's Recognition of **Orange Shirt Day**
- September 30th National Day for Truth and Reconciliation
- October 7th Post-Secondary Information Night (Zoom)
- October 11th Thanksgiving (School Closed)
- October 14th Interim Report Cards
- October 19th Photo Retake Day w/ Artona
- October 20th PAC Meeting, 7:00pm (Virtual)

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RE: Spectators for Indoor Events:

Under the current public health guidance and orders, indoor events, such as sports and other activities may resume. This is very exciting news.

Over the last couple of weeks, Secondary School Administrators and district staff have had many discussions regarding the possibility of having spectators at indoor events.

Several issues were raised including:

- **Concerns around safety** – the number of COVID-19 cases, including variants, is continuing to increase in our community.
- **Concerns around equity** – under the provincial public health orders and guidelines, our indoor spaces, such as gymnasiums, are subject to limited capacity.
- **Concerns around compliance** – operationally, it would be difficult for schools to monitor spectators' adherence to the current health and safety guidelines.

In order to help ensure the safe return to school sport and other indoor events for students, **Secondary School Administrators and district staff have made the decision to NOT allow spectators for indoor events for the time being.** This means that only students, staff members, coaches, and officials will be allowed in school gymnasiums or other spaces during indoor sporting, or other events.

We recognize that in the short-term, this decision may cause disappointment for families/caregivers and students. The possibility of allowing spectators at events will be monitored and reviewed weekly, and updates will be shared as appropriate.

Thank you for your understanding and continued support.

COVID information and Safety Protocols

With increasing case numbers in the surrounding communities, we want to remind everyone of our safety protocols and measures to keep everyone safe as we move into the Fall:

- Stay home when sick
- Do the daily [health check form](#) with your student before they attend school
- Wear a mask and avoid long face-to-face exposures with others
- Wash and sanitize your hands often
- Seek a COVID test as soon as possible after mild symptoms occur. This will significantly help to speed up the contact tracing process if the test result is positive.
- Check the [District website](#) for updates

Communication with Teachers

We encourage parents to be informed and actively involved in their child's learning. If you have any questions or concerns regarding your child's learning or progress, please do not hesitate to contact their teachers for updates and information.

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Counselling Update:

For any inquiries regarding your child this school year please do not hesitate to contact your child's counsellor:

- Last Name A – B (C – E) Mr. Lalli (W/R/F) hlalli@deltaschools.ca
- Last Name C – E (A – B) Ms. Keller (M/T/W/R) vkeller@deltaschools.ca
- Last Name F– H (R – Z) Ms. Greene sgreene@deltaschools.ca
- Last Name I– Q/International Ms. Rohwer erohwer@deltaschools.ca
- Last Name R – Z Ms. Gillis bgillis@deltaschools.ca
 - *Ms. Gillis will be returning mid-October to DSS and will work with students with the last name R – Z.*

Communications with Families:

Most of our communication will be done electronically through our website, monthly newsletters, emails and Parent Connect. **Please ensure you have provided us a current email address, updated all your contact information and are able to log into Parent Connect.** Please contact the office if you require assistance.

Permission Forms:

There are a number of permission forms on Parent Connect for you to review and authorize. Please login to Parent Connect, review the notices and select the appropriate response for each form. It is mandatory that all forms be reviewed and responded by each student's parent/guardian by September 30th.

We want to thank you for your continued patience and support during the month of September. Continue to stay safe, healthy and well.

Sincerely,

John Pavão,
Principal
Grade 12's

Mike Annandale,
Vice Principal
Grade 8 & 10's

Margaret Callendar,
Vice Principal
Grade 9 & 11's