



DELTA SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

December Newsletter

DSS Gr. 12 Student Wins Prestigious Award

Delta Secondary grade 12 student Inbal Tzafrir is successfully inspiring and innovating her way through high school. She recently won two prestigious awards at the 2024 Youth Innovation Showcase (YIS) for youth who have used science to solve a challenge in their life or community.



Inbal's groundbreaking personalized and adaptive mobile app, EaseApp, designed to treat misophonia, earned her both the YIS Innovator of the Year Award and the Visionary Award in the 16-19 age category.

Inbal was recently recognized for her award on the CTV Morning News. Congratulations Inbal, your school community is proud of your accomplishments.

Dear DSS Families,

We hope that all our families continue to be well. I know many of our students and staff are looking forward to their upcoming winter break. I hope these two weeks offer an opportunity for students, staff and families to recharge and spend some time together over the holidays.

Today's newsletter contains information for our families as we head into the new year as well as highlights a number of experiences and educational opportunities that have been going on at Delta Secondary over the past month.

Twenty Days of Giving- Donation Drive

For over 20 years, Delta Secondary School's 20 Days of Giving campaign has been a cherished holiday tradition, uniting students, staff, and the local community to support families in need. This year, the campaign successfully gathered donations to create holiday hampers for 30 local families, filled with food, clothing, and gift cards.

Throughout the campaign, DSS students and staff worked together to collect essential items. The local community also



played a key role in this year's success. The DSS Interact Club, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Ladner, hosted a Food and Donation Drive at Ladner Save-On-Foods on December 3rd, raising over \$1,500 in just 2.5 hours.

Gr. 8 & 12 Pancake Breakfast

DSS was excited to continue our tradition of hosting a pancake breakfast for our Gr. 8 students. Students enjoyed a meal from our cafeteria, won prizes and continued the tradition of singing the '12 Days of Christmas' with members of our school choir.



This year we were also excited to host a pancake breakfast for our Gr. 12's. Our 2025 Grads missed this opportunity in Gr. 8 due to COVID closures and we were happy to offer this event for grads.



Thank you to Mr. Allan, our Grad Council and all staff involved in making these events a success and providing this opportunity for our DSS students.



In addition, local organizations such as the Delta Firefighters Charitable Society and the DYSL-Delta Youth Support Link made generous contributions. Wallenius Wilhelmsen, a global shipping company, also made a significant donation, helping to ensure that each hamper was well-stocked. Several community members even "adopted" individual families, providing extra support to make their holidays even brighter.

"We're incredibly grateful for the outpouring of generosity from our students, staff, local businesses, and community organizations," said Colleen Blatz, campaign organizer at DSS. "This campaign has been a part of our school for over two decades, and it's heartwarming to see how it continues to bring everyone together to support those in need."

Thanks to the collective efforts of all involved, this year's 20 Days of Giving campaign once again demonstrated the power of kindness, compassion, and community support, making the holiday season brighter for 30 local families. Collectively, the school collected over **\$21,000** worth of donations and would like to thank everyone who helped make this another successful year.

Winter Holiday Hours

Below are the hours of operation for the school during the winter break.

SCHOOL CLOSED: Dec 23, 24, 25, 26 and Jan 1

8:00 am - 3:00 pm: Dec 27,30, 31 and Jan 2,3

Please note that custodians will be on site on the above dates. The DSS office will be open for parts for the day. Please call the school ahead of time if you require assistance from the DSS office.

Semester 2 Transition- Gr. 10-12

Reminder that the final day for semester 1 classes will be Thursday January 23rd. Friday January 24th is a non-instructional (Pro-D) day with January 27th and 28th scheduled as a "Transition Days". The "Transition Days" will be used by staff to allow students to complete missing assessments prior to the end of semester 1, and

Band & Choir Winter Concert

On December 5th DSS hosted our Winter Fine Arts Celebration. Families started in the auditorium with performances from our junior band before moving to the cafeteria for performances from the DSS jazz band. The night finished back in the auditorium with performances by the DSS choir and senior band students.



Also on display were art pieces from both our photography and art classes. It was a great evening showcasing the amazing talent that we have at DSS.

DSS Jazz Band

The DSS Jazz band helped get our students and staff into the Christmas spirit, playing winter favourites in the cafeteria through lunch.



Thank you to Ms. Campbell and all band members for bringing in some holiday spirit throughout the week.

allow teachers and support staff to prepare for the start of semester 2, starting on January 29th. Teachers will inform their students who are encouraged to attend the transition days as they have assessments to complete and/or an opportunity to show their learning on a previous learning outcome. Students planning to attend the transition days are encouraged to speak with their teacher ahead of time to make a plan. If you have any questions regarding whether your child has been encouraged to attend the 'Transition Days,' please reach out to your child's classroom teacher directly.

Please note that the transition days are only for our semester classes (Gr. 10-12). All Gr. 8 and 9 classes will continue to run on their regular schedule over the two days.

Semester 2 Schedules

In order to assist with a smooth transition to semester 2, we are asking students in **Gr. 10-12** to view their schedules on MyED ahead of January 29th. Any student who would like to request a course change are asked to email or see their counsellor.

Unfortunately, we are limited in the number of changes that we can make to a student's schedule due to class size, class composition, and timetable limitations.



Students must attend all scheduled classes until they receive a response from their counsellor. Please note that students current schedules may change before semester 2 as counsellors continue to work to balance classes.

Provincial Assessments- Literacy 10

All students prior to graduation, as part of the graduation program, are required to complete three assessments (Numeracy 10, Literacy 10 & Literacy 12) in addition to the 80 credits (minimum requirement). Delta will be offering Literacy 10 Provincial Assessments for Grade 10's on January 14th. **All Grade 10's must complete the Literacy 10 and Numeracy 10 Assessment to be**

DSS Athletics

Our basketball teams are up and running. It has been a great start to the season with our teams competing in various tournaments across the lower mainland. Special shoutout to our grade 8 boys for finishing third at the North Surrey tournament and to our Junior Boys team for making the final at the Enver Creek tournament. League play is just getting started for our grade 8 and junior teams and seniors will start up after the break.



Congrats to Gr. 8 student Gaurav Nijjar who won our first Pacer wrestling medal in recent history. Gaurav competed in the BC Elite Opener Tournament at Queen Elizabeth Secondary last weekend where he won the gold medal in his division.

Our gymnastics team is excited to continue carrying on a strong tradition of representing our school at various competitions. The athletes will compete for the first time as a school team on January 4th! They look forward to their provincial competition coming up in March.

We are also excited to announce that Delta secondary now offers a cheerleading team. Thank you to everyone who has helped get it off the ground. We are excited for their debut at the Stebbings-Murray Cup on January 29th.

eligible to graduate. There will be no regularly scheduled classes for Grade 10's on the 14th to accommodate our exams. Students will be assigned either an am or pm seating. There will also be an opportunity for any Grade 11 and 12's to complete missing Literacy 10 & 12 assessments. Gr. 12's that wrote their Literacy 12 assessment in November can view their results through the Transcript Verification Service. Information on accessing scores was emailed out from Ms. Jew. Mr. Close is overseeing assessments this year and will be communicating via email with families.

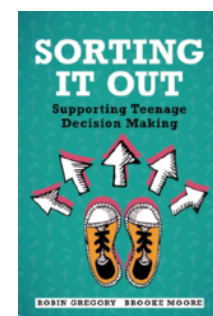
DSS Talent Show-February 13th

We are planning to have a DSS Talent show February 13, 2025. This is a fundraiser for the Grads of 2025 and all students at DSS are welcome to audition. If your child(ren) would like to audition, they must be available **February 11-13 (Tuesday to Thursday)** for the rehearsals and show. Auditions will be the first week of January (**January 8-9 in the guitar room after school**) and they can sign up for an audition slot outside of Ms. Tsui's room **2402**.

If they have any questions, they can email Ms. Tsui (ktsui@deltalearns.ca) or see her in her room at lunch or after school. Hope to see them at the auditions!

Career Life/Capstone Presentation

On December 6 & 7 Delta Secondary School's Paige Hansen hosted a decision scientist and local teacher who led Grade 12s in two sessions about decision making and the importance of making good choices as they move into this next very exciting time in their lives. Brooke Moore (District Principal of Curriculum and Innovation) and Robin Gregory (University of British Columbia) introduced a decision-making framework called the Decision Maker Moves (DMM) and illustrated how each of the six steps can be used to improve the choices they make. Brooke and Robin's hope is that these young adults would begin to apply the DMMs to a wide variety of choices, ranging from minor decisions made every day to the larger choices that can create stress, confusion, and frustration.



Rosie's Network Club Empowering Students in STEM

This year, the Rosie's Network club, of now 35 members, expanded its outreach to Hawthorne Elementary and Neilson Grove Elementary, inspiring 280 students overall, and actively reaching more schools. The club has been able to secure funding to introduce new experiments like "The Magic of Water Density" and "The Power of Electricity" and broaden our lesson plans.



Looking ahead, the club's goal is to expand Rosie's Network into a district-wide organization that empowers girls in STEM across the wider region. The club hopes to establish a Rosie's Network club at each secondary school within the district, with each club led by its own president. Our current club president, Inbal Tzafrir, plans to support these presidents by providing thorough lesson plans that include all necessary material lists, costs, and detailed step-by-step video demonstrations. This initiative can encourage young students, strengthen community connections, and inspire more girls to see themselves as future engineers, scientists, and innovators.

Career Life Connections and Capstone

All Grade 12 students have been enrolled in CLC 12 and must complete a graduating Capstone project as part of their graduation requirements. Information on CLC and Capstone will be provided to Grade 12 students during flex and students and families will receive more information through email from our CLC coordinator, Ms. Paige Hansen. We encourage all Grade 12 students with a study block in first semester to use their study block to get started in their CLC and Capstone now. If you have any questions regarding CLC/ Capstone, please email Ms. Hansen at phansen@deltaschools.ca.

Career Programs

A number of career-related opportunities are available to students within the Delta School District. For more information, please view the October edition of the **Career Programs Newsletter** available on [Delta School District's Career Programs website](#).

Highlights:

- Parents & Guardians as a Career Coach: Online Seminar: January 22, 2025 (registration required)
- High School Career Program Opportunities: Apply before Feb 28, 2025

•**New Dual Credit Program:** KPU- Biomedical and Health Science! Starting Feb 2026. Apply now.

See your school Career Program Facilitator for more info!



Post-Secondary and Career Advisor

All information and deadlines for post-secondary applications and scholarships can be found on the [DSS Career Centre Website](#).

If you have any questions regarding post-secondary applications or scholarships, please see Ms. Jew in the career centre during her office hours (Monday-Thursday 8:15-3:15) or email her at kjew@deltaschools.ca

Administration

Mr. Kevin. Vasconcelos, Principal
(Gr. 12)

Mr. Ian Close, Vice-Principal
(Gr. 8 & 10)

Ms. Joanna Macintosh, Vice-Principal
(Gr. 9 & 11)

Counsellor Assignments

Ms. Rohwer is currently off on a leave until the New Year. We have two counsellors, Ms. W Diomis (wdiomis@deltaschools.ca) and Ms. H Colls (hcolls@deltaschools.ca) who have started at DSS and will be looking after Ms. Rohwer’s alpha during her leave.

Ms. Kinnis	Last Name	A-De
Ms. Greene	Last Name	Dh-Lo
Ms. Diomis & Ms. Colls.	Last Name	Lu-Pa & International
Ms. Gillis	Last Name	Pe-Z

Let’s Connect!

Find us on the web:

[Delta Secondary Website](#)

Have You Downloaded the School App?

The Delta School App is available to download on the apple and google play store.



School Fees

Every year a general school fee is assessed as well as enhancement fees in a number of courses. This year there will also be a \$10 Emergency Fee assessed by the District. Notification of the fees owed by your child according to the courses in which they are enrolled are now viewable on Parent Connect and fee statements will be emailed to families with outstanding fees. Fees are payable online using Parent Connect or by cheque, cash, or card at the DSS office. If paying by cash or cheque at the office, please include your child’s name and grade. Delta Secondary is committed to ensuring that no student is denied the opportunity to participate in a course, class or program because of financial hardship. Any family requiring assistance with school fees are asked to contact Mr. Vasconcelos.

Student Attendance

Developing effective attendance habits, as well as being to class on time, requires the cooperation of students, parents, the school, and the community. We must work together to promote, carefully monitor, and encourage regular attendance and good work habits. A review of our data from previous years clearly indicates that poor attendance is linked to poor achievement.



To report a student absence please:

1. Contact the school office by phone (604-946-4194) or
2. Notify the school by email delta.sec@deltaschools.ca

Absences should be reported as early as possible on the day of the absence to allow a Parent Advised code to be entered into the system. Any unreported absences will result in an automated email from the student system, which will email a message by default.

Permission Forms

There are several forms on Parent Connect for you to review and authorize. Please login to Parent Connect, (<https://cimsweb.deltasd.bc.ca/schoolconnect/parentsignon.aspx>) review the notices, and select the appropriate response to each form. It is mandatory that all forms be reviewed and responded to by each student's parent/guardian are:

Personal Information Consent Form, Permission for Google Classroom, Outside Media in Schools, Electronic Communications, Walking Field Trips Permission, BC Fruits and Vegetables Program Permission, Demographic Information, and Student Emergency Release as well as course enhancements

Information on logging in or creating a new account for Parent Connect is available on the [DSS Website](#). If you require assistance logging into Parent Connect please contact the office.

Communication with Families

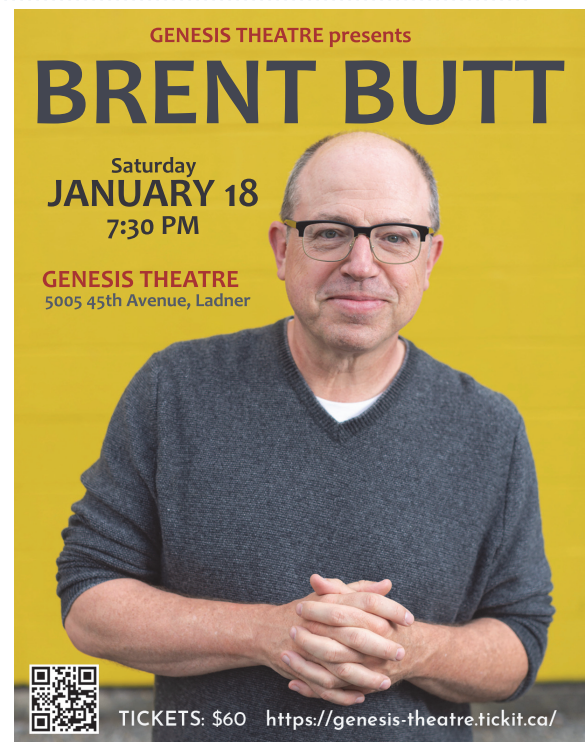
Most of our communication with families is done electronically through our website, email, school app and Parent Connect. Please ensure you have provided us a current email address, updated contact information and you are able to log into Parent Connect and MYED. Please visit the [DSS website-Parent Community](#) for more information or contact the DSS office if you require assistance.

Comedian Brent Butt Returns to Ladner

Canadian comedy icon Brent Butt will be performing at Genesis Theatre in Ladner on Saturday, January 18 at 7:30 pm. Brent Butt's sitcom, *Corner Gas*, became an instant hit, earning numerous accolades, including an International Emmy Award nomination, and was named "Funniest Show on TV" by TV Guide readers.

In 2013, Brent Butt was honoured with a Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Medal for his contributions to community and country. Most recently, his first novel, *Huge*, debuted to great fanfare, immediately becoming the #1 Fiction Bestseller in Canada. For the January 18 performance in Delta, Brent Butt brings his stand-up comedy back to the Genesis Theatre stage.

Reserved TICKETS are \$60 and may be purchased at <https://genesis-theatre.tickit.ca/>



International Program- Looking For Homestay Families

Hello Delta School District families,

Delta School District International Programs is currently recruiting homestay families for international students coming to Delta School District for February 2025, summer 2025, and September 2025. They will arrive from all over the world and have a strong desire to be in Delta.

The reimbursement for hosting is \$1,150 per month. Multiple students from different nationalities can be hosted in one home. The majority of students in the homestay program are from Germany, Japan, Spain, Italy, and Brazil. At the moment, more than 20 different countries are represented in the homestay program.

Many are looking for a family connection and being a part of a family during their stay in Delta. Their study periods range from 3 months to half a school year, to a full school year, to multiple years. There are also short-term summer programs where host parents welcome younger English learners into their home. It is a great way for students to see what school (and life) in Delta is like and for new homestay families to get a small sample of what hosting is like.

If you are interested in hosting, please reach out to homestay@godelta.ca. If you are not able to host but know of a family who can, please send them our way. There are referral bonuses available for referring families.

do something great 

Welcome an international student into your home.



DELTA
SCHOOL DISTRICT
INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

- Be a Canadian ambassador and global citizen
- Have a lifelong impact on a child from across the world
- Homestay remuneration is \$1,150 per month
- Choose from hosting for 3 weeks to 5 months or longer
- Short Term Summer Programs are also available
- Benefit from our team's support

Contact us to find out more!

 **+1 604 952 5366**

 **homestay@GoDelta.ca**

homestay.deltasd.bc.ca

Important Dates to Note

Last Day of Classes Before Winter Break- Friday, December 20th

Winter Break- December 23rd- January 3rd

First Day of Classes After the Break- Monday, January 6th

Provincial Assessments-Gr. 10 Literacy, Tuesday, January 14th

Provincial Assessment- Gr. 11 & 12 Make-Up- Thursday January 16th

Music Showcase- Tuesday, January 21st

Last Day of Semester 1 (Gr. 10-12)– Thursday, January 23rd

Pro D Day- Friday, January 24th

Pacer Alumni Basketball Tournament- January 24th- January 25th

Semester 1 Transition Days (Gr. 10-12) – January 27th & January 28th

Stebbings Murry Cup- Wednesday, January 29th

First Day of Semester 2 Classes- Wednesday, January 29th

For a complete calendar of events, check out the DSS website: <https://de.deltasd.bc.ca/news-events/>



Kevin Vasconcelos

Ian Close

Joanna Macintosh

Principal, Delta Secondary

Vice-Principal, Delta Secondary

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