



DELTA SECONDARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

January Newsletter

DSS Dance Performance

On January 22nd the DSS held our Dance Recital. The 3rd Annual DSS Dance Recital was a vibrant celebration of movement, creativity, and collaboration. With over 30 students and 30 staff members participating; the evening featured 11 dynamic performances across contemporary, jazz, hip-hop, and lyrical styles. Highlights included a staff dance capstone project by peer tutor, Ava Loffmark, an alumni solo by Ariel Priebe, and a graduating student solo by peer tutor, Elora Oakley.



A brief Performance Club intermission and a stunning 2D art gallery in the lobby showcased DSS's artistic talent beyond the stage, making it a truly immersive and unforgettable event.



Dear DSS Families,

We hope that all our families continue to be well. This is our first newsletter since the Winter Break so I hope that all our families had a great holiday season. Our senior students have just finished up their semester break and we are a couple days into our new semester. I can't believe that we are already half way through the 2024-2025 school year. As we start the second semester this is an opportunity for a fresh start for our senior students. The half way point also offers opportunity for positive adjustments from our Gr. 8 and 9 students well. Whether the first half of the year went well or left some room for growth, this is an opportunity to reset as we move into the second half of the school year.

This week's letter contains important information as we approach our semester transition, as well as highlights a number of opportunities for students both in and out of the classroom.

Semester 1 Report Cards

Gr. 10-12 Semester 1 Learning Summaries (Report Cards) will be viewable in MyED on February 6th. Learning Summaries should be viewable in Parent Connect by the end of the day on Friday. This Learning Summary will provide final marks for semester 1 classes for Gr. 10-12 semester courses. Information on reporting can be found on the back page of all report cards. As always, if you have any concerns over your student's progress in their classes, please reach out to the classroom teacher by email.

There will be no reporting on Gr. 8 & 9 classes at this time. Interims and Parent Teacher Interviews are scheduled for the second week of March with our next Learning Update scheduled for late April.

Gr. 12 Yearbook Write-Ups and Baby Photos

The yearbook class is currently in the processing of collecting Gr. 12 Yearbook write-ups and baby photos from our 2025 Grads. Information has been shared with all students and families. The "grad write-ups / baby photos" are being collected through Google Classroom and is now live for all grads to turn in through the assignments tab.

Google Classroom

Class Code: 4cas7gj

Link: <https://classroom.google.com/c/NzA4OTQzNjk3NTM2?cjc=4cas7gj>

The deadline to complete submission is **Tuesday, February 4th**. Please contact Ms. McMillan if you have any questions.

Grad Bottle Fundraiser

Grads are holding a bottle drive on Saturday, February 15 to raise money towards their Grad Dinner and Dance. Drop your empties at the school anytime between 10am and 2pm on the 15th. If you're unable to come by, email your address to delta.sec@deltaschools.ca and we can pick them up. Requests for pick up need to be received by 3pm on Friday, February 14th. If you miss us, you can always return your empties at the Ladner Bottle Depot using our phone number, 604-946-4194 and it will be credited to the grads. Thanks for all your support!



Course Selection-2025/2026

Starting in February DSS will begin the process of course selection for the 2025-2026 school year. Counsellors will be presenting information to students in flex between February 13th & 20th. Students will complete course selection in MyED which will be opened to students on Thursday, February 20th. All students selecting courses between Feb. 20th and March 8th have equal opportunity to receive the courses they have selected. The system does not work on a 'first come, first serve basis'. All students must complete their course selection before the system closes on March 8th. We are asking families to be informed and involved through the course selection process. We want to ensure students take the time to pick the courses they are interested in, and for our senior students, those needed for graduation and program requirements. If you have any questions regarding course selection, please contact your child's counsellor.

Course Selection Parent Evenings

The school will be hosting Course Selection parent evenings for current Grade 8-11 students on February 20th at 6:00pm. Families of students going into Gr. 9 will be scheduled in the Library and families with students going into Gr. 10-12 will be held in the Genesis Theatre.

DSS will be hosting a Grade 7 Parent Evening on Thursday, February 27th at 6:00pm in the Genesis Theatre. Every year this event is well attended and we always look forward to seeing how excited our new students and families are to join the DSS school community.

Gr. 8-11 Course Selection Parent Evening Feb. 20th @ 6pm

Gr. 7 Course Selection Parent Evening Feb. 27th @6pm

We will send reminder emails to families closer to our scheduled evenings. We look forward to seeing our families and answering any questions they have ahead of the 2025-2026 school year.

Grade 10 Semester 1 Band Finale

On January 21st, the students of Senior 10 Band closed out a wonderful, action-packed semester with a final show in the Genesis Theatre. Their set featured some new pieces, along with some old favourites from the term.

This group should be commended for the incredible amount of growth they have demonstrated since September. You will be missed!



DSS School Goals- Student Voice

DSS is continuing to look at our school goals to provide focus that will have a positive impact on student learning. As part of our process Ms. Macintosh is working with a diverse group of DSS students to ensure that we have student voice in shaping our school goals.



A '[School Goals](#)' tab has been added to our school website where we will post updates and eventually our finalized goals.

Student Attendance and Absences

At Delta Secondary, we are committed to educating and supporting our students to help them realize their full potential and live purposeful lives. We recognize that in order to achieve this, we must establish a partnership with our students and their parents or guardians.

We believe that the essence of our educational programs occurs in classrooms with skilled teachers. Explanations, clarifications, discussions, opportunities for feedback, and group tasks are invaluable components of an effective educational program. This is why our policy regarding attendance is that **students are expected to attend all classes that they are registered in every day.**

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.

School Fees- Outstanding Fees and Semester 2 Enhancement Fees

Every year a general school fee is assessed as well as enhancement fees in a number of courses. As we begin second semester enhancement fees for semester 2 courses will be assessed by the second week of February. Once fees have been assessed an email will be sent to all families. Fees owed by your child according to the courses in which they are enrolled will be viewable on Parent Connect. Any unpaid fees from semester 1/linear courses are currently available online. 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.

DSS Athletics

January was another busy month for athletics as basketball teams were in full swing. The Delta league play for grade 8 and junior teams has now concluded and we can proudly say that all five of our teams finished top 3 in their respective divisions.

Our grade 8 girls basketball team has been the standout as of late. The girls finished their regular season going undefeated in league play, 6-0, capturing first place heading into playoffs.

The Junior boys' and girls' teams have also had a jam-packed tournament schedule, competing at various schools across the lower mainland. Our girls strongest finish came at the Khalsa tournament where they captured first place, and the boys at Enver Creek where they were also tournament champions.

The Senior Boys and Girls will now make the push for playoffs, and they are over halfway through league play. Both teams recently competed at the Delta Firefighters tournament. This year our girls finished third, and our boys first. Congratulations to both teams!

Spring Season is just around the corner, and we will start to schedule tryouts soon. We will offer ultimate, rugby, badminton, tennis, mountain biking, track and field, and girls soccer. We are always looking for more coaches and volunteers, if you are interested in getting involved, please let us know.

Gr. 9 Immunizations

On Wednesday March 5th, the Fraser Health Nurses will be coming to Delta Secondary to provide immunizations to Grade 9 students.

In addition to immunizing grade 9 students, this year we will be offering immunizations to grade 8, 10, 11, and 12 students who had a letter mailed to their home. If you received a letter in the mail and would like your child to be immunized at school, please ensure they bring this letter with them to school on Wednesday, March 5th, 2025. If you did not receive a letter, your child does not need any additional immunizations at this time.

Grade 10 students with completed consent forms from 2024 that still have outstanding immunizations will be offered immunizations on Delta Secondary Immunization Day 2, April 30th, 2025.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the Delta School Public Health Nurses at: 604-507-5459.

Fraser Health Info.- BC's HPV Immunization Catch-Up Campaign

Important changes to Fraser Health's in-school immunizations program for the remainder of the 2024/25 school year.

- Starting in January 2025, Fraser Health is expanding HPV vaccinations to all eligible students in Gr. 6-12, in all public and independent schools, as part of the provincial campaign to increase HPV immunizations
- Human Papillomavirus (HPV) immunizations protect against several cancers later in life and works best when given during adolescence
- Fraser Health is aiming for 90 percent HPV immunization coverage for 17 year olds by 2026.
- Eligible students will receive a letter advising them of the opportunity to get immunized at their school's scheduled immunization clinic.

2025 Stebbings/Murray Cup

This past Wednesday Delta Secondary hosted the annual Stebbings/Murray Cup with the DSS senior boys taking on their cross town rivals, South Delta Secondary.



DSS came out with high energy and took a big lead into halftime. SDSS fought hard and made it a game in the second half but the DSS Pacers held strong and took the trophy, winning the game 92-87.



Thank you to all the fans that packed the gym to make this a memorable event for our student athletes and to our athletics department for organizing the game and halftime activities.



•Mature minor consent will be offered to students in grades 9 and above as per The Infants Act, mature minor consent and immunization

Parent Teacher Interviews-March 11th

On Tuesday, March 11th DSS will be welcoming families into the school for our second in-person Parent Teacher Interviews. This is one avenue for staff to communicate Informal Reports prior to the release of our Written Update on April 17th. Parents will be able to sign-up to see their child's teachers using Parent Connect. The sign-up system will be open from **February 24th-March 3rd**. Further information and instructions will be emailed directly to families in a couple of weeks. If you require any assistance with Parent Connect or completing registration, please contact the Delta office.

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. Gr. 12 students should be close to completing all CLC assignments and focusing their second semester on the Capstone passion project. The final capstone project is due on April 17th and will be presented to individual community members on Thursday, May 15th. More information on student presentations will be shared closer to the date. Please note that on the February report card all students were provided an 'IE' as this course is a linear course and still in progress. Students not meeting learning outcomes at the time of reporting were addressed in the narrative comments. Ms. Hansen is available everyday but Wednesday, including flex, to provide student support. If you have any questions regarding CLC/Capstone, please email Ms. Hansen at phansen@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 after Spring Break. Ms. W Diomis (wdiomis@deltaschools.ca) will be at DSS part time until Ms. Rowher return. If any students need immediate support please see one of our other school counsellors.

Ms. Kinnis Last Name A-De

Ms. Greene Last Name Dh-Lo

Ms. Diomis . 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.



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:

- High School Career Opportunities: Apply before Feb 28, 2025
- New Dual Credit Programs: 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](#).

Families that chose to be on the mailing list have received information directly from Ms. Jew. If any families are interested in being added to the mailing list please contact Ms. Jew by email. 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

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:

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.

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 PROGRAM

- 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

Parent Presentation- Re-Thinking Social Media

Please see the attached poster with details regarding an upcoming parent presentation on February 25. Madison Cameron from the Center for Trauma Informed Practices will be speaking on the topic of social media use among children and youth.

A link to the attached poster is also available on the DSS Website

[DSS Parent Resources](#)



PARENT PRESENTATION

Rethinking Social Media for a Better Understanding of our Children and Youth

- ✓ Learn about popular apps and platforms youth are using
- ✓ Understand how social media impacts self-image and relationships
- ✓ Discover strategies to foster stronger connections with your child.

SPEAKER: MADISON CAMERON
CENTER FOR TRAUMA INFORMED PRACTICES

TUES, FEB. 25, 2025
6:30PM - 8:00 PST

ONLINE (ZOOM)

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED:
[HTTPS://BIT.LY/DELTAPARENTPRESENTATION](https://bit.ly/deltaparentpresentation)

Parent Resources- Family Smart Virtual Offering

Please check out the following offerings from Family Smart. Please click on the Family Smarts-Events link below for more information

Virtual Event: Understanding, Supporting and Connecting with Teens with Depression

Description: When our teens are struggling with depression, we can feel lost about how to support them. How do we know when they are experiencing a mental health challenge and when we should intervene? This video introduces parents and caregivers to some ways that can help us move from reacting to our fears about substance use and towards a more thoughtful response that supports connection with our kids.

Registration: [FamilySmart - Events](#)

Dates: January 9th 6:30pm-8pm January 22nd 6:30pm-8pm

 January 14th 6:30pm-8pm January 28th 6:30pm-8pm

 January 15th 12:00pm-1:30pm

Virtual Event: For Families: A Conversation About Eating Disorders

Description: Knowing how to help our kids who are experiencing an eating disorder can be a terrifying, isolating and overwhelming experience. Learn about disordered eating, what to be aware of, the importance of connection, and strategies that help support recovery. Victoria Keddis hosts a conversation with Eating Disorders Therapist & Educator Carmen Kauffman, along with a mom and daughter with lived experience.

Registration: [FamilySmart - Events](#)

Dates: February 5th 6:30pm-8pm February 20th 6:30pm-8pm

Virtual Event: ADHD - The Real Deal

Description: ADHD doesn't just affect the person with ADHD, it also affects those around them. As parents of kids living with ADHD, we can benefit from learning what ADHD is and how to support our kids. Dr. Duncan, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, dispels some myths and explains how and why the ADHD brain works the way it does.

Registration: [FamilySmart - Events](#)

Dates: February 6th 6:30pm-8pm February 25th 6:30pm-8pm

 February 19th 12pm-1:30pm

Important Dates to Note

Semester 1 Learning Summary (Report Cards)- Thursday, February 6th

Safeteen Presentation (Gr. 9)- Tuesday, February 11th

Grad Bottle Drive Fundraiser- Saturday, February 15th

Family Day Statutory Holiday- Monday, February 17th

PAC Meeting- Wednesday, February 19th

Grade 9-12 Course Info. Evening (6:00pm)-Thursday, February 20th

MYED Opens for Course Selection- Thursday, February 20th

Pro-D Day (No Classes)- Friday, February 21st

Parent Connect Open for PTI Bookings- Monday, February 24th

Pascal, Cayley, & Fermat Math Contest- Wednesday, February 26th

Grade 7 Course Info. Evening (6:00pm)- Thursday, February 27th

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



Kevin Vasconcelos

Principal, Delta Secondary

kvasconcelos@deltaschools.ca

Ian Close

Vice-Principal, Delta Secondary

iclose@deltaschools.ca

Joanna Macintosh

Vice-Principal, Delta Secondary

jmacintosh@deltaschools.ca