
Smithers Secondary School

“The purpose of Smithers Secondary School is to foster a safe, secure, supportive community which encourages individual excellence, prizes diversity and mutual respect, and prepares its students for life’s challenges.”

September/October 2020 Newsletter

Principal’s Message

After many years as an educator in schools throughout School District #54, I am pleased to return as the new principal of SSS. I would like to thank everyone for your patience and support during an unusual start to the school year. I have been impressed by how well the students and families have adapted to the new school routines. We have needed to change how our break times worked, as well, we have asked all students and staff to wear masks in high-traffic areas such as hallways. Although change takes time, we are well on our way and the students are off to a great start.

Although we have needed to rethink many aspects of our school and systems, we are striving to ensure that the students will still have many opportunities to engage in school events and extra-curricular activities. This newsletter will let you know about many of the current clubs and teams that we hope students will take advantage of.

I’m looking forward to getting to know the students and the school community.

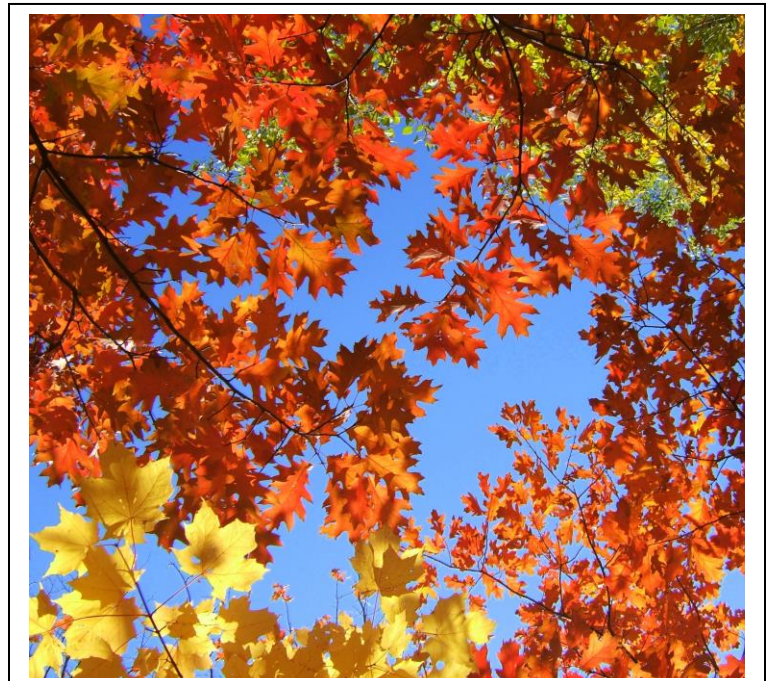
Please watch for more information about parent/teacher communication, interim student reports, school sports, Grad Planning Committee and more on our Facebook page and via emails from the school or on our school website <http://sssweb.sd54.bc.ca/>.

I hope you have a wonderful Fall season,

Julie Krall

Dates to Remember

Sept 29/30.....Terry Fox Run at SSS
Oct 7.....Interims given to all Gr 8 & 9
Oct 7-8.....Early dismissal, 1 hour
Oct 5-9 Teacher contact with parents/guardians
Oct 12.....Thanksgiving Day – no school
Oct 19/20 Photo retakes
Oct 21/22 Interims given to all Gr 10-12
Oct 23.....Pro D – No School



Terry Fox Run at SSS

Terry Fox Run – This year is the 40th Anniversary of Terry Fox's Marathon of Hope and *Smithers Secondary* is proud to be continuing the legacy of one of our greatest heroes. Students will have an opportunity to participate in walking or running a few laps of the SSS track either on September 29 or September 30.



If interested, please join us in supporting cancer research by donating to:

<http://www.terryfox.ca/SmithersSecondary>.

Together, we can all make a difference!

#terryfoxschoolruns @terryfoxfoundation

Early Dismissal - Oct 7th and 8th

Students will be dismissed one hour early each day on Oct 7th and 8th.

Parent/Teacher Communication

During the week of Oct 5th – Oct 9th, teachers will be emailing all parents to introduce themselves, to check-in on student learning, and to possibly set up a phone interview.

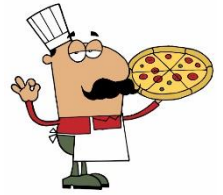
If your email or phone contact information has changed, please notify the SSS office as soon as possible. If you have not heard from your child's teacher by the end of that week, please contact the office at 250-847-2231

Healthy Living Break

In order to minimize traffic in our hallways, we have moved Healthy Living Break into the block schedule. Teachers are working together with their students to determine when to take their snack and exercise breaks.

Pizza Days at SSS

There will be pizza for sale every Wednesday and Thursday at lunch - \$2 a slice for pepperoni, cheese or ham and pineapple.



Student Attendance

What to do if your child will be absent for a whole day or a number of days:

Please call the SSS office at 250-847-2231 or email SSSoffice@sd54.bc.ca and let us know that your child will be away and we can excuse their absence. If they are absent due to illness, please include that reason.

If your child will be absent for part of the day, such as for an appointment:

Please call or email the SSS office prior to the student leaving so we can excuse their absence. Students are required to sign out when they leave and sign back in when they return.

If an absence goes unexcused, you will get an automated phone call and email indicating what blocks your child was absent for that day. If it was an absence that your child should have been excused for, please call or email the SSS office to have that rectified.

If there is a discrepancy, where your child feels they were marked absent in error, please contact the teacher to have this resolved. All teacher email addresses can be found on the Smithers Secondary School website.

Lifetouch[®]
SCHOOL
PORTRAITS

Picture Day Retakes

Lifetouch Photography will be back at SSS on Oct 19th and 20th for retake opportunities. If your child was unable to have their picture taken this week, please attend these retake days.

Drama Dept Courses Explained

Musical Theatre

Musical theatre examines the combination of theatre, singing and dance / movement. Students in musical theatre traditionally participate in a number of performances throughout the year, including fall choir concerts and Carolfest, and culminates in a full scale musical theatre style production in the spring. There is no audition necessary to participate in the ensemble of the musical and all students in grades 8-12 are welcome to participate. Often extra rehearsals are scheduled at lunch hours, after school and leading up to the opening of a show.

Theatre Production

This course is often referred to as 'tech theatre'. The course covers all aspects of a theatre production outside of acting (lights, sound, hair & makeup / special effects, set design and & construction, prop design & construction, marketing and costuming. Students from grade 8 through 12 are welcome to join this course which runs as a practical/hands on program. Students meet regularly on Thursday afternoons at 2:15 as well as for work experience during either school or professional theatre events. This is an excellent option for students who would like to be involved in the excitement and reward of the big productions at SSS but are not keen to be acting on stage.

Theatre Company

This is a performance / acting class for which drama is a prerequisite and students traditionally audition into the class. This group puts together several performance pieces throughout the school year some of which include Friday Night Live, Zone Festival plays and principle roles in the musical

theatre production. Theatre Company meets on Sunday afternoons at noon in the theatre. Often extra rehearsals are scheduled at lunch hours, after school and leading up to the opening of a show.



All of the performance classes are happening this year and students will work through the processes of preparing a production. We will begin this process mindful of physical distancing and other health protocols. We will determine later in the year whether performances need to happen via video streaming or whether they can happen in person with limited or full audience participation.

Gryphon Athletics –

Fall 2020



FALL SPORTS

As in most aspects of school life right now, things are taking a little time to iron out, and athletics is no exception. We are however inching closer to a startup of our fall team sports. We are hoping to once again offer a full slate of volleyball programs this fall. We have coaches in place for all of our teams above grade 8. **We are still in need of coaches for both grade 8 girls and boys.** Any parents out there wishing to step forward to help coach the grade 8's please contact us at sssathletics@sd54.bc.ca. In addition to volleyball, soccer and cross-country running will be training this fall.

For all sports, the season will look different than in years past. At this point, while we are allowed to begin offering practices, games against other schools and other grade groups within our school are not permitted. This could change, but as of now the focus will be on practice and skill development. Please see the schedule below for practice times.

Fall Gym Schedule

Cross-Country Running: Monday, Wednesday & Friday
3:30 –

ATHLETICS FEE

In years past, Smithers Secondary School athletes were required to pay a general athletic fee to participate on an extra-curricular athletics team. The cost of operating a diverse athletics program at our school necessitates the re-instatement of this fee to be paid by all student athletes.

As of September 2020, all student athletes will be required to pay a one-time fee of \$40 in order to participate on an extra-curricular athletics team. The fee will be collected at the school office and will be payable any time prior to, or upon registration for your season of play.

The aim of the Smithers Secondary School athletics department is to institute this fee in an attempt to recover some of the costs associated with school athletics. It is not our intent to create an exclusive athletics environment. To that end, if circumstances make it difficult to pay the general athletic fee please contact the school athletic director to discuss options for assistance.

WHERE DO OUR GENERAL ATHLETICS FEES GO?

General athletic fees help fund a wide variety of things. Some of these include; B.C. High School Sports registration fees, perpetual sport plaque engravings, year-end awards including certificates and trophies, miscellaneous athletic banquet costs, coach's appreciation items, first aid and training supplies, uniform replacement and equipment costs.

FALL 2020 ATHLETICS SCHEDULE

	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
2:15				Gr. 8 Boys Volleyball 2:15 - 3:15	
2:30					
2:45					
3:00					
3:15	Gr. 8 Girls Volleyball 3:15 - 4:15	Gr. 8 Boys Volleyball 3:15 - 4:15	Gr. 8 Girls Volleyball 3:15 - 4:15		
3:30					
3:45					
4:00					
4:15	Jr. Girls Volleyball 4:15 - 5:45		Jr. Girls Volleyball 4:15 - 5:45		
4:30					
4:45					
5:00					
5:15					
5:30					
5:45	Sr. Boys Volleyball 5:45 - 7:15	Sr. Girls Volleyball 5:45 - 7:15	Sr. Boys Volleyball 5:45 - 7:15	Sr. Girls Volleyball 5:45 - 7:15	
6:00					
6:15					
6:30					
6:45					
7:00					
7:15		Jr. Boys Volleyball 7:15 - 8:45		Jr. Boys Volleyball 7:15 - 8:45	
7:30					
7:45					
8:00					
8:15					
8:30					

X-Country Running
Mon 3:30 - 5:00
Wed 3:30 - 5:00
Fri 3:30 - 5:00

