SMITHERS SECONDARY SCHOOL
BULKLEY VALLEY EDUCATION CONNECTION
BULKLEY VALLEY LEARNING CENTRE

NOVEMBER 2026



FOLLOW US
“SMITHERS SECONDARY SCHOOL”
FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

SSS Website: https://sss.sd54.bc.ca/

IMPORTANT DATES

November 10
Remembrance Day Assembly
10:20am in SSS Gym
General Public Welcome

November 11
Remembrance Day -No School

November 20
Non Instructional Day-No school

November 24
Photo Retake Day

December 2
Carolfest 5:00pm & 7:00pm

December 16
Year end Band Concert - Della Herman Theatre 7:30pm

December 18
Last day of classes for 2026

Christmas Break
Dec. 19 to Jan. 3

January 4
Return to classes

GRYPHONS OF THE MONTH

NOVEMBER 2026

Our Gryphons of the Month are selected by our SSS staff. They are chosen for exemplifying our Gryphon SPIRIT.

Grade 8 - Kaiya Staplin is a kind, inclusive, and hardworking student who demonstrates a positive attitude toward her learning. She works well with her peers, contributes thoughtfully to group activities, and helps create a welcoming environment for everyone. Kaiya is actively involved in the school community and takes pride in participating in school events and activities. As a dedicated member of the Grade 8 girls volleyball team, she shows commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship both on and off the court. Kaiya's positive work ethic makes her a role model for her peers.

Grade 9 - Gavin Gyger is a kind, responsible, and hardworking student who demonstrates strong character in all aspects of school life. He approaches his learning with a positive attitude, puts forth his best effort, and is receptive to feedback, using it as an opportunity to grow and improve.
Gavin's dedication and leadership make him a valued and respected member of our Gryphon community.

Grade 9 - Donavyn Clarke is a kind, hardworking, and self-assured student who approaches both academics and extracurricular activities with confidence and enthusiasm. He demonstrates strong leadership qualities, takes pride in his work, and is always willing to contribute positively. Donavyn is actively involved in band and leadership, where he collaborates effectively with others and serves as a positive role model for his peers. His dedication, confidence, and willingness to get involved make him a valued member of the school community.

Grade 10 - Owen Lilly is a thoughtful and dedicated student who demonstrates strong work habits and a commitment to excellence in all that he does. Academically strong, he approaches learning with curiosity and depth, often taking the time to think critically and consider different perspectives. Owen is patient, understanding, and supportive of his peers, always willing to offer encouragement and assistance when needed. His positive attitude and meaningful contributions help create a respectful and collaborative learning environment.

Grade 11 - Taylor Leach is a diligent and motivated student who puts forth her best effort in all subject areas. She is deeply committed to her learning and often extends her thinking and exploration beyond what is required, demonstrating both curiosity and a genuine love of learning. Taylor is inclusive, helpful, and considerate of others, always ensuring that her peers feel valued and supported. She embodies all the best qualities of a Gryphon through her kindness, integrity, respect, and commitment to excellence.

Grade 12 - Shyl Adea is a creative and highly motivated student who demonstrates a commitment to excellence in her learning. She approaches challenges with resilience and determination, persevering through obstacles and maintaining a positive attitude as she works toward her goals. Shyl's combination of academic strength, creativity, and compassion makes her a valued member of our school Gryphon community.

Grade 12 - Brooke Richmond is an exceptional leader who demonstrates enthusiasm, positivity, and dedication in everything she does. She is organized and balances her commitments to both academics and extracurricular activities with maturity and purpose. As a coach for the Grade 8 girls volleyball team, Brooke provides valuable mentorship, encouragement, and guidance. Her commitment to sports and academics reflects her strong work ethic and determination to succeed. Brooke's leadership, positive attitude, and willingness to serve as a role model make her an outstanding representative of our school community and the values of Gryphon SPIRIT.



Important GRAD dates

Grad Photos
Jan 11-15, 2027

Watch future newsletters for more information.

PROM	JUNE	19	2027
GRAD CEREMONY	JUNE	24	2027
DAF GRAD	JUNE	26	2027

NEED TO CONTACT DAF COMMITTEE?

EMAIL: SSSDAFGRAD27@GMAIL.COM

Join the Facebook page

"Parents of SSS Grad 2027!"

Smithers Secondary School
Graduation Honour Cord Requirements

AN "A" FINAL MARK IN ALL REQUIRED 11 AND 12 COURSES

Language Arts 11
Math 11 or 12
Science 11 or 12
Social Studies 11 or 12
Language Arts 12
Career Life Connections (CLC)

AN "A" FINAL MARK IN 3 APPROVED GRADE 12 ACADEMIC COURSES

20th Century History 12
Anatomy & Physiology 12
An Approved Language 12
BC First Peoples 12
Calculus 12
Chemisty 12
Comparative Religions 12
Comtemporary Indigenous Studies 12
Creative Writing 12
Environmental Science 12
Foundations of Math 12
French 12
Genocide Studies 12
Human Geography 12
Law Studies 12
Philosophy 12
Physical Geography 12
Physics 12
Pre Calculus 12
Social Justice 12

*All courses must be taken through an SD54 school.
Exceptions may be made for courses not available through our school district.

For 2026/2027 year, as we transition to these new requirements,
exceptions may be made on an individual basis.

PREVENTURE PROGRAM FOR GRADE 8 STUDENTS

As part of Mental Health Literacy at Smithers Secondary School, and with the support of Foundry BC, we will be offering the PreVenture program to this year's Grade 8 students beginning in December.

PreVenture is a Canadian, evidence-based mental wellness program for youth. This strengths-based program is designed to help young people better understand themselves, set goals, and make decisions that align with those goals.

Scan the QR code below to learn more about the PreVenture program.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact our Grade 8-10 Student Advisor, Shirley White, at **swhite@sd54.bc.ca**.

ARE AIRPODS & EARBUDS HURTING OUR YOUTH?



JUST LIKE PHONES, AIRPODS & EARBUDS ARE NOT PERMITTED DURING SSS CLASSES

WHY IT MATTERS FOR OUR YOUTH AND WHAT CAN WE DO TO HELP?

Researchers are still learning how exposure may affect people over time.

What are the long term affects of wearing AirPods for long lengths of time?

Could it affect brain activity, attention, or communication between different parts of the bran?

What are the affects of radiofrequence signals and electromagnetic fields so close to the brain?

OUTSIDE SCHOOL-HELPFUL TIPS

- Keep volume at 60% or less.
- Encourage listening for less time each day and take breaks.
- Try well-fitting over-ear headphones; you may not need to turn the volume up as much.
- Do your research.

Too loud + too long = RISK





PAC INFO

DO YOU HAVE EMPTIES YOU DON'T WANT TO SORT AND WOULD RATHER JUST DONATE?

HOW ABOUT DONATING TO SSS PAC

PAC has an account at the bottle depot.
If you would like to donate your recyclables please ask them to go to
SSSPAC Account #40
Donations to this account will be used for student bursaries.

PAC meetings are the last Monday of each month in the
SSS library at 7:00pm
EMAIL: ssspac.sd54@gmail.com

GRYPHONS
SMITHERS SECONDARY

THE WHITE HATTER

PARENTING PODCAST



27. When Parents & Caregivers Allow age Inappropriate Access To Technology - Why It's Worth Rethinking

The White Hatter - Parenting In An Online World

From feeling pressure to be the "cool" parent, to being worn down by daily arguments, to believing “my kid is different,” Darren walks listeners through the most common justifications he’s heard from families across North America—and gently challenges each one with insight, research, and real-world examples.

This episode isn’t about judgment. It’s about equipping parents and caregivers with the critical thinking tools needed to make informed decisions in a digital world where child development and online design don’t always align.

VISIT THIS SITE FOR THE WHITE HATTER WEBSITE FOR INFORMATIVE PARENTING PODCASTS

HTTPS://WWW.THEWHITEHATTER.CA

2026-2027
Assessments

GRADE 12

LITERACY 12
ASSESSMENT

APRIL 13, 2027

2026-2027 Assessments

GRADE 10

LITERACY 10-APRIL 12
NUMERACY 10-APRIL 14



MAKE UP DAY WILL BE
APRIL 15

Smithers Secondary School supports our students in this process by:
Providing opportunities to complete practice tasks during class
Whole-class completion of practice assessments
Creating a supportive environment for students to complete their assessments
Providing parents with the resources to assist in preparations for the assessments

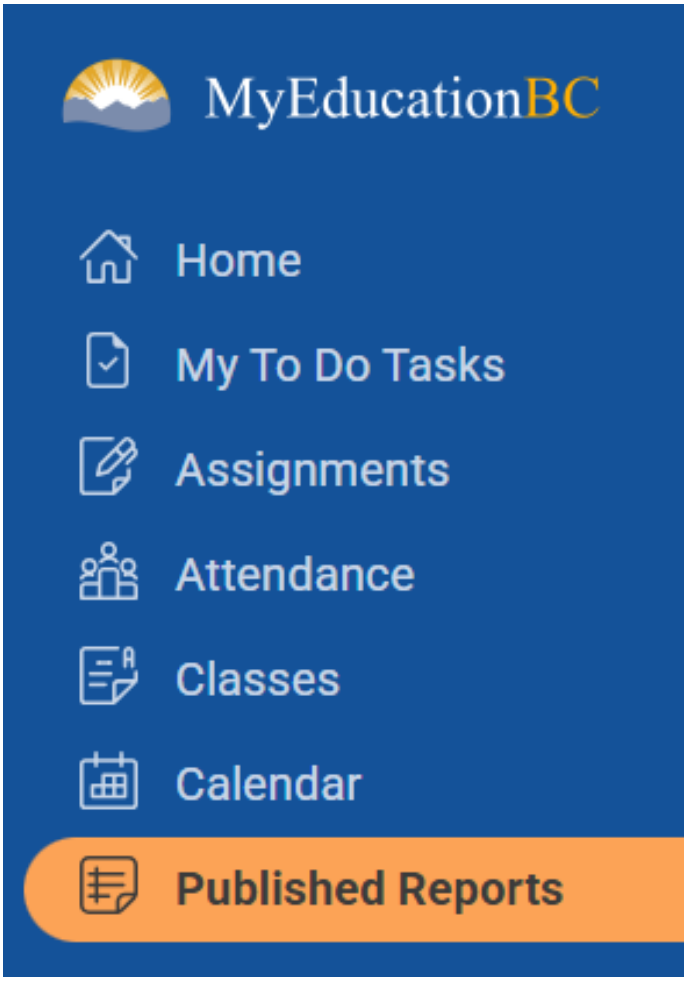
Commonly asked questions:
What if my child is hoping to graduate at the end of January 2027? Students wishing to graduate early may do their Literacy 12 assessment between January 11-22, 2027. As students must be registered, they must let the office know ASAP.
What if my child is late on the day of their assessment? They should still attend and complete the assessment or choose to attend and be on time for the Friday session.

Attention parents/guardians:

Have you checked out the Family Portal lately?

If you need assistance accessing, please email ***myed54@sd54.bc.ca***

If we publish anything there to the Portal, we will always send an email first to notify you.

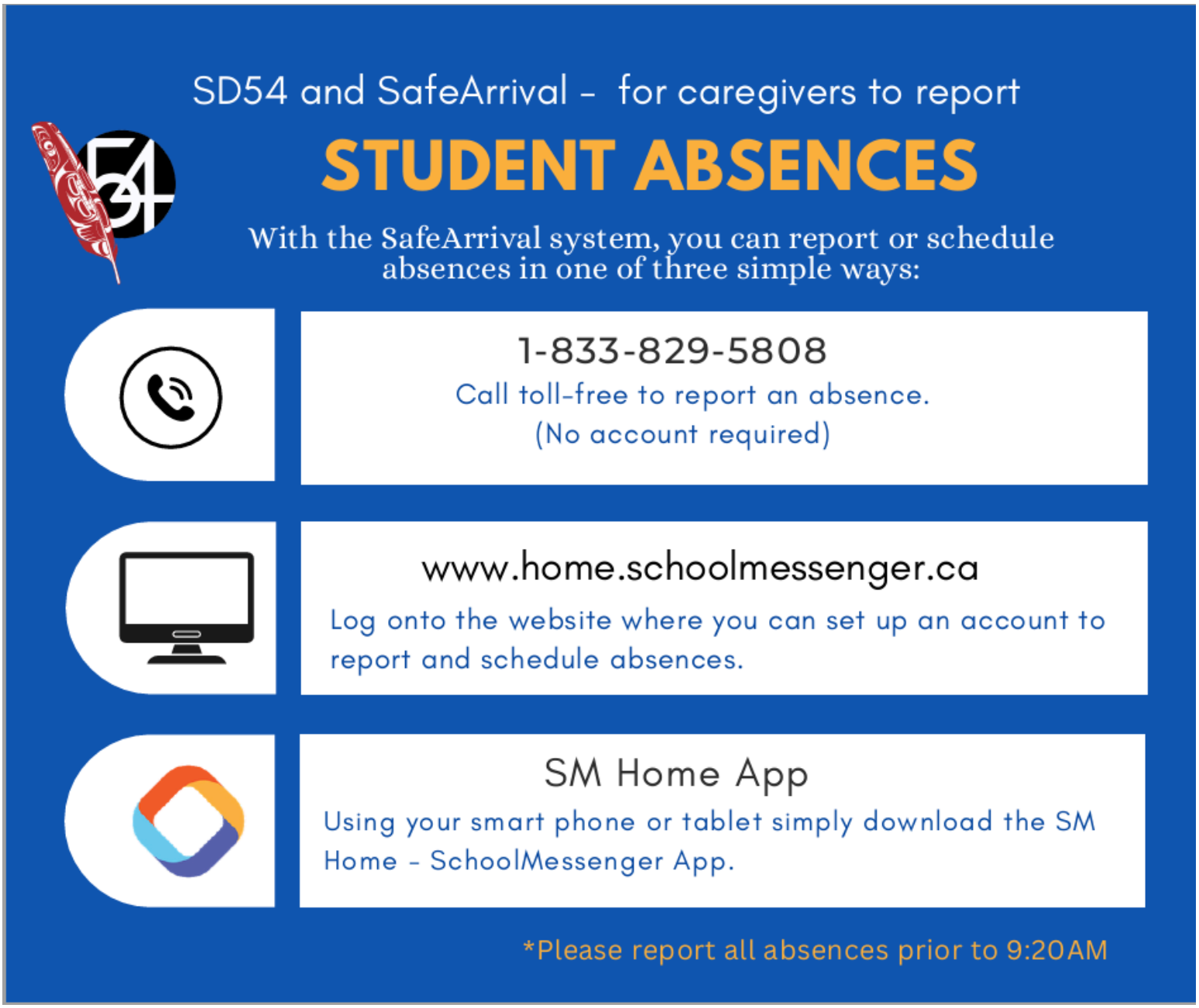


Verification forms:

Important information we currently have on file related to your student.

**Please read over, if any information has changed: print, note updates, sign and return to SSS Office so we can update our files.*

sssoffice@sd54.bc.ca



For more information, check out this link

https://www.sd54.bc.ca/safearrival/

We continue to see non staff vehicles daily in the staff parking lots.

For safety reasons, please don't park in staff parking lots during school hours.



VOLUNTEER DRIVER INFO.

Smithers Secondary School

VOLUNTEER DRIVING INFO.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN BECOMING A VOLUNTEER DRIVER FOR SMITHERS SECONDARY SCHOOL?

REQUIREMENTS ARE:

~VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE

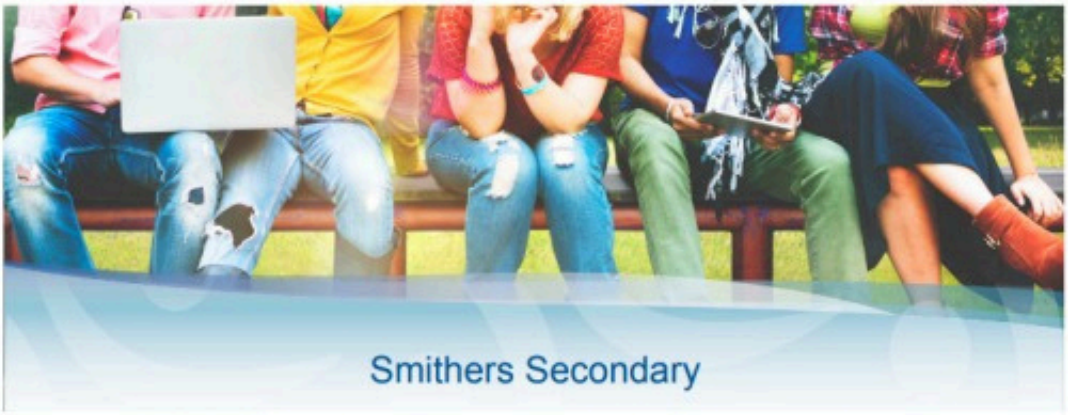
~COPY OF VEHICLE INSURANCE PAPERS

~DRIVING RECORD CHECK THROUGH ICBC

~CRIMINAL RECORD CHECK

The Volunteer Driving Packages can be emailed (sssoffice@sd54.bc.ca) or picked up at the SSS office.

****PLEASE UPDATE YOUR VEHICLE INSURANCE PAPERS AND PERSONAL DRIVING RECORD EACH SCHOOL YEAR.**



YOUTH WELLNESS CLINIC

All students welcome!

Drop-in Monday's 12:00 – 2:00pm

Located in the Student Pathways Services area

Offering free and confidential health services:

General Health Education and Information

Sexual Health Services

- Emergency Contraception
- Pregnancy Testing
- STI Testing/Treatment
- Free Birth Control

Referrals to other service providers

Health Questions

Questions about Vaping and Tobacco Cessation

How to Access Services

Services also available at:
Smithers Options Clinic

Located at 3793 Alfred Avenue (2nd floor courthouse building)
Drop-in on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Call: 250-847-6400 for more information.

OPTIONS FOR SEXUAL HEALTH

northern health
the northern way of caring

22-405-6143 (IND 07/19)

SMITHERS SECONDARY SCHOOL
GRYPHONS

INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

WATER SAFETY AND CANOEING UNIT

STUDENTS RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN AN ACTIVE LIVING UNIT FOCUSED ON WATER SAFETY AND CANOEING SKILLS. THROUGHOUT THE UNIT, THEY DEVELOPED PADDLING TECHNIQUES, PRACTICED LOADING AND UNLOADING CANOES, AND WORKED TOGETHER TO COMPLETE A VARIETY OF ON-THE-WATER CHALLENGES. THESE ACTIVITIES HELPED STUDENTS BUILD TEAMWORK, COMMUNICATION, AND PROBLEM-SOLVING SKILLS.

STUDENTS ALSO LEARNED THE IMPORTANCE OF SAFE BOATING PRACTICES BY ENSURING THEY HAD THE PROPER EQUIPMENT, INCLUDING LIFE JACKETS, BAILERS, AND THROW BAGS. THEY PRACTICED EMERGENCY WHISTLE SIGNALS AND LEARNED ABOUT WATER RESCUE PROCEDURES THROUGH INSTRUCTIONAL VIDEOS, INCLUDING HOW TO SAFELY FLIP A CANOE AND ASSIST SOMEONE IN THE WATER. IT WAS A VALUABLE HANDS-ON LEARNING EXPERIENCE THAT COMBINED SAFETY, SKILL DEVELOPMENT, AND COOPERATION.







BARRETT HAT HIKE AND LOCAL HISTORY EXPLORATION

OUR CLASS ENJOYED A HIKE TO THE BARRETT HAT LOOKOUT, WHERE STUDENTS LEARNED ABOUT THE AREA'S UNIQUE GEOGRAPHICAL FEATURES AND LOCAL HISTORY.

WE WERE FORTUNATE TO BE JOINED BY FRANK MACDONALD, PRESIDENT OF THE MORICE OUTDOOR RECREATION SOCIETY, WHO SHARED HIS KNOWLEDGE AND ENCOURAGED STUDENTS TO ASK QUESTIONS. STUDENTS WERE FASCINATED TO DISCOVER THAT BARRETT HAT IS ACTUALLY A VOLCANIC PLUG AND THAT IT ONCE SERVED AS A FIRE LOOKOUT STATION. IT WAS A MEMORABLE DAY OF OUTDOOR LEARNING, EXPLORATION, AND DISCOVERY.



WWII ARTIFACT DISPLAY

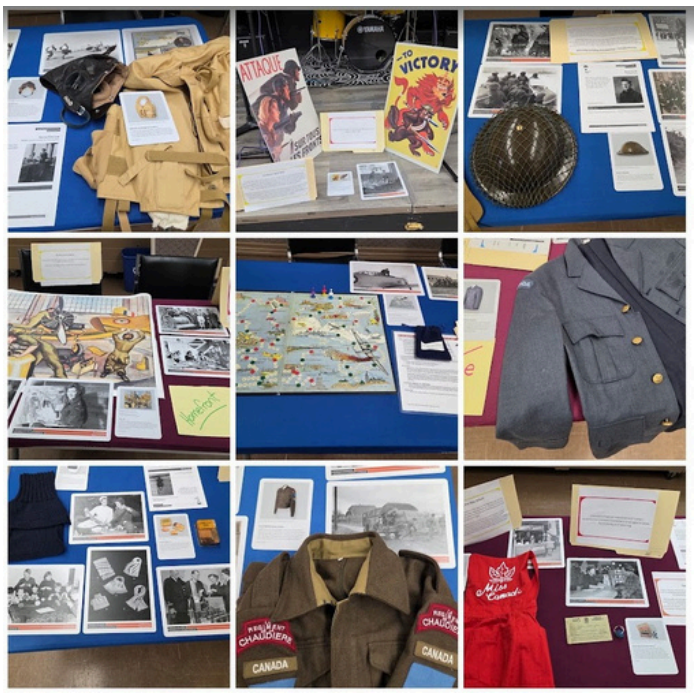


HOW DID WORLD WAR II IMPACT THE LIVES OF CANADIANS?

WORLD WAR II ARTIFACT DISPLAY AND VETERANS TABLE TALKS AS PART OF THEIR SOCIAL STUDIES LEARNING, STUDENTS HOSTED A WORLD WAR II ARTIFACT DISPLAY AND VETERANS TABLE TALKS EVENT. WORKING IN TEAMS, STUDENTS RESEARCHED THE PERSONAL STORIES OF CANADIANS WHO SERVED ON THE HOME FRONT, IN THE ARMY, NAVY, OR AIR FORCE. THEY THEN CREATED MUSEUM-STYLE EXHIBITS USING ARTIFACTS FROM THE CANADIAN WAR MUSEUM COLLECTION AND CAREFULLY SELECTED PHOTOGRAPHS TO HELP VISITORS UNDERSTAND THE IMPACT OF WORLD WAR II ON CANADIANS.

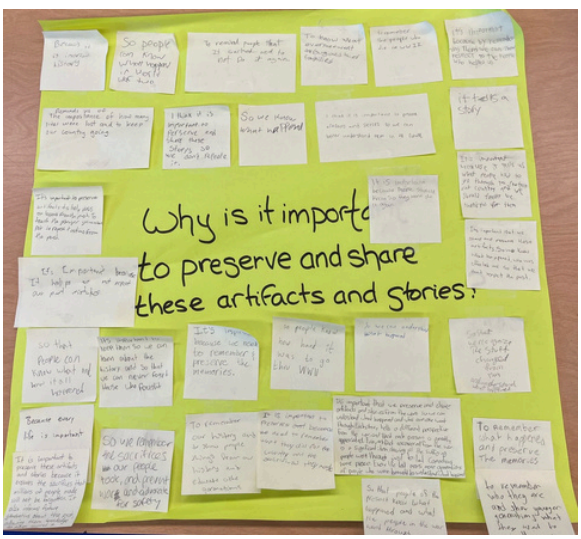
STUDENTS WELCOMED LOCAL VETERANS, VOLUNTEERS FROM THE SMITHERS LEGION, AND VISITING STUDENTS FROM MUHEIM AND SMITHERS SECONDARY SCHOOL. WITH MORE THAN 100 VISITORS ATTENDING, OUR STUDENTS DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB SHARING THEIR LEARNING, ANSWERING QUESTIONS, AND ENGAGING IN MEANINGFUL CONVERSATIONS WITH GUESTS. IT WAS INSPIRING TO SEE STUDENTS DEMONSTRATE STRONG COMMUNICATION SKILLS, HISTORICAL UNDERSTANDING, AND TEAMWORK WHILE HELPING BRING CANADA'S WARTIME STORIES TO LIFE.





THANK YOU TO VOLUNTEERS FROM THE SMITHERS LEGION FOR MAKING THIS LEARNING EVENT POSSIBLE.

THE PARTICIPATION OF LOCAL VETERANS AND THE STORIES THEY SHARED HELPED STUDENTS MAKE VALUABLE CONNECTIONS BETWEEN LOCAL AND NATIONAL HISTORY.



THANKS TO CHATTERS PIZZA FOR PROVIDING PIZZA FOR OUR LUNCH AT THE LEGION.

THANK YOU TO THE STUDENTS AND TEACHERS FROM MUHEIM MEMORIAL SCHOOL AND SSS FOR ATTENDING OUR EVENT

WE GREATLY APPRECIATED THE OPPORTUNITY TO SHARE OUR LEARNING WITH OTHER CLASSES.

THE *Holiday* COLLECTION

Support SSS Leadership & Yearbook!



Thank You for supporting our fundraising efforts!

Together, we can do great things!

We are partnering with Dieleman Fundraising Sales to raise much needed funds for our SSS Leadership & Yearbook. Every purchase directly supports our students and programs!

Shop online from anywhere

Share with friends & family

A portion of every sale supports our SSS Leadership & Yearbook!

Submit paper orders by: **2026-11-12**

We accept cash: **YES**

Cheque payable to: **SSS yearbook committee**

E-Transfer to: **N/A**

4-digit Organization ID: **7787**

Last day for online sales: **2026-11-17**

Shop and register online at:

WWW.SHOPDFSCANADA.COM

You will need your 4-digit organization code (7787) to register for online sales.

It's easy to get started!

Scan the QR codes for instructions and online registration.

Registration Instructions

Register / Shop Now!

Dieleman FUNDRAISING SALES | NOB CARD | candy | DFS

Dieleman Fundraising Sales
hello@dfscanada.com | www.dfscanada.com

Support SSS Prom 2027

happy hippo
fundraisers

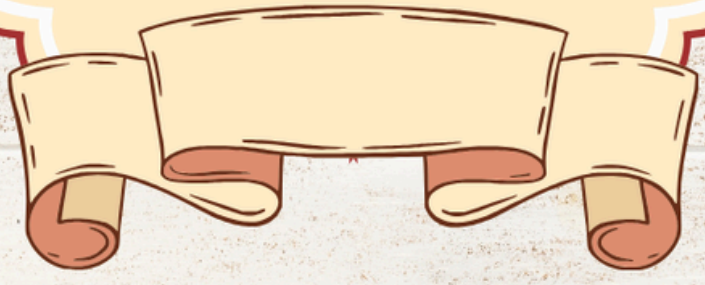


Smithers Secondary School

CRAFT FAIR

FRIDAY 6:00-9:00PM
SATURDAY 10:00AM-3:00PM

NOVEMBER
27 & 28



Spots are filling up fast! Register soon.

Admission is $2

Everyone is welcome!

We have many returning and new vendors confirmed.

Contact sssoffice@sd54.bc.ca to register