

Dr. Charles Best Secondary

2525 Como Lake Avenue, Coquitlam, BC V3J 3R8

Website: www.sd43.bc.ca/charlesbest

Principal – Carol Coulson, Vice-Principals – Rob Lederer, Anita Young (seconded to District), Mary O'Neill (Acting VP)



Best Vibrations Newsletter – Discover Your Best

September 30, 2016

Issue No. 2

Our school goal is to develop a culture of connectedness and belonging within the school, among school staff, students, and our parent community, in order to enhance opportunities for collaborative partnerships.

HIGHLIGHTS

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IMPORTANT DATES

October 3

PAC Executive Meeting (7pm)
After-Grad Meeting (7pm)

October 7

Photo Retakes

October 10

Thanksgiving (no school)

October 13

Interim emails sent home

October 17

Post-Secondary Morning (Grades 11 & 12)

October 19

*Dismissal at 2:00 PM
Parent-Teacher Interviews
Grade 12 Parent Meeting 6:00 – 6:45 PM

October 20

Shake-Out Earthquake Drill (new date)

October 21

District Pro-D Day

October 18 – 24

Grad Photo Sessions

October 26

Fall Music Concert (7pm)

October 31

Halloween Assembly

November 2

Take Your Kids to Work Day (All Grade 9's)

November 3

Me-To-We Day

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

What a great start it has been to the school year. I would like to offer a special thank you to our clerical and support staff as well as the counsellors and teachers who have done an excellent job getting us up and running so efficiently.

It is never easy to meet all student requests for timetable adjustments especially given the variety of specialty programs offered at the school and the tightness of classes. Thank you to our counsellors for their tireless efforts to accommodate requests and to our students and families for their patience.

We also have a new accounting program, so for those who have paid school activity fees by using the School Cash Online program, thanks very much.

The school is already a very busy place. Student athletes are joining teams including boys' soccer, girls' field hockey, cross country, boys' and girls' volleyball. The Leadership classes are gearing up with their activities and a Clubs Day is planned for today. We have had a photo day, grade wide assemblies and a fire and earthquake evacuation drill. The first PAC meeting took place on September 12th but they are always looking for parents to join the PAC, assume executive positions, and help with the After-Grad planning and Grade 11 Parent Dance Fundraiser. Thank you to the many parents who came out to the Meet the Teacher Night on September 15th.

Thanks to the efforts of our Leadership classes, we enjoyed a special Terry Fox Assembly and Run yesterday. The staff and students donated \$2,583 towards Cancer research and cheered in support of Mr. Last, Heather (Youth Worker) and Callum Duncan (student) who all volunteered to have their heads shaved for the cause.

Last Thursday, the grade twelves enjoyed a very successful Senior Sail around the scenic Vancouver Harbour. The weather was fabulous and 270 grade twelves enjoyed a fun evening dancing the night away aboard the "Queen of Diamonds".

Please mark on your calendars the dates for report cards, parent-teacher interviews and continue to check our website for any updates. Information, as well as attendance reports, are emailed home on a regular basis, so if you are not receiving regular communication (and are reading this on the website instead of through a link sent via email), please contact the school to update your contact information.

With the close of the month, our school population is once again hovering around the 1400 mark making us one of the largest schools in our district. We are looking forward to a successful and rewarding school year ahead as students are "discovering their BEST". Please don't hesitate to be in touch if we can be of service.

Carol Coulson, Principal

WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING THIS MONTH?

TERRY FOX ASSEMBLY AND RUN

Thank you to Mr. Raabe, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Jones and the Leadership and Athletic Leadership students for organizing the Terry Fox Run and Assembly held on Thursday, September 29. Also, a special shout out to Mr. Lederer for his inspirational message to the student body and to student barber, Arya Golshani, for manning the shears for our courageous 'haircut volunteers'.

The Best community raised \$2,583 in donations with the grade 12's leading the charge. As a result, the 12's had the opportunity to pick the science teacher who would be 'sheared': Mr. Last was chosen. Our new Youth Worker, Ms. Bjornson, volunteered to join the cause and have her beautiful curly locks haved into a Mohawk. The crowd favourite was student Callum Duncan who allowed his beautiful, long golden locks to hit the floor. His mother was there to make the ponytail cut so that Callum's hair could be donated for future use in a wig. Haircuts were done courtesy of grade 12 student Arya.



Ms. Bjornson



Callum (before)



Callum (after)

SENIOR SAIL

The grade 12's enjoyed a gorgeous evening for the Senior Sail last Thursday. The students looked absolutely fabulous as they boarded the "Queen of Diamonds" moored at the Plaza of Nations. The three hour tour out of False Creek and around English Bay was enjoyed by everyone. The students enjoyed homemade pizza and an evening of dancing prior to boarding the waiting buses and returning back to the school just before 10:30 pm.



EAL AND INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL FIELD TRIP

Mrs. Sinclair and Mrs. Joba joined several students, many who are new to Canada, on a walking tour highlighting the history of downtown Vancouver. On Wednesday, September 28th the group walked for two-hours and enjoyed wood carving and Native Canadian artwork in Gastown galleries.



STUDENT CELEBRATIONS (DEBATING)

During the summer Zakir Kassam attended the Heart of Europe Global debate championship in Prague, Czech Republic. Zakir placed second in the individual speaker category!!!

Another amazing Debate feat has been met by our own Anna Yang; she has made Team Canada! This is a very prestigious group of twelve of the best debaters from Canada, not only that – she is one of seven selected from the team to attend the World Championship in Bali in the summer of 2017!

ATHLETICS

The anticipation of a new school year is over and students have started the 2016 fall sports season. With a large compliment of teams, students will be representing the school in **Field Hockey, Cross Country, Grade 9 Girls Volleyball, Jr. Girls Volleyball, Sr. Girls Volleyball, Sr Boys Volleyball, Jr Boys Soccer, and Sr. Boys Soccer**. All teams are off to a wonderful start with wins in the first week of play. Thank you in advance to all our wonderful coaches who are volunteering their time. If you are around watching your son or daughter play please make sure you take the time to thank these teachers, students, community volunteers and Principal. Good luck to all our athletes! Badminton is being offered on a drop-in basis Mondays after school in the big gym. Please see Mr. Chang for more information. Information for winter sports will be advertised in October and November, however, any girls interested in playing basketball this winter are invited to participate in morning sessions with basketball head Coach Sue Sands on Tuesday and Thursday mornings. Please feel free to contact Sue at ssands@sd43.bc.ca for more information. Boys interested in playing Sr. Boys basketball should see Mr. Sokol immediately.

Below is a list of coaches and sponsors for the upcoming school season.

Field Hockey – Mrs. Coulson, Mrs. Sinclair

Sr Boys Soccer – Mr. Jones, Mr. Papillo

Jr Boys Soccer – Mrs. Viswanathan

Sr Boys Volleyball – Mr. Raabe

Sr Girls Volleyball – Mr. Chang

Jr Girls Volleyball – Mrs. O’Neill

Gr 9 Girls Volleyball – Mrs. Fewer, Mrs. Lundgren

Cross Country – Mrs. Silzer, Mrs. Joba, Mr. Gant

Badminton – Mr. Chang, Mrs. Cowie

Wrestling – Mr. Coops, Mr. Jaeggle

Field Lacrosse – Mr. House

Sr Boys Basketball – Mr. Sokol, Mr. Parkins

Sr Girls Basketball - Ms. Sands

Jr Boys Basketball (gr 9 + 10) – not filled yet

Jr Girls Basketball (gr 9 + 10) – Ms. Viswanathan

Rugby (Boys & Girls) – Mr. Startin, Mr. Ishii

Hockey – Mr. Last, Mr. Lederer

Golf – Mr. Humphries

Sr. Girls Soccer – Mr. Napolitano

Jr. Girls Soccer – Ms. Fournier

Track & Field – Mrs. Harding, Mr. Gant

Tennis – not filled yet

WHAT'S COMING UP?

INTERIM "EMAIL" REPORTING - FOR STUDENTS WHO ARE "NOT OR BARELY MEETING EXPECTATIONS"

An Interim Email will be sent home by the subject teacher to the parents of any student who is not meeting course expectations at this early stage of the semester. This email will come home on October 12th or 13th and parents will be invited to book appointments with their child's teachers for the parent/teacher/student interviews. Students who are meeting expectations will not receive an email stating such but all parents are invited to participate in the October 19th interviews. We encourage students to come with their parents to meet with the teachers.

PARENT/TEACHER/STUDENT INTERVIEWS AND GRADE 12 PARENT MEETING

At Charles Best, we offer parents the opportunity to book online short interviews with each of their child's teachers. The online appointment booking system will be live at 4pm on October 13th. On Wednesday, October 19th from 3 to 5 pm and from 5:45 to 7:45 pm teachers are situated in desks in the main gymnasium. If you are a parent of a grade 12 student, please try to book all of your appointments around the Grade 12 Parent Meeting which will take place in the Library from 6:00 to 6:45 pm. At this meeting, the counselors will present information pertaining to graduation and post-secondary requirements, scholarship opportunities and graduation events. You won't want to miss this!

***Please note that students will be dismissed at 2:00 pm on October 19th to accommodate our parent-teacher interview schedule.**

STUDENT REPORTING (Communicating Student Learning)

The Ministry of Education is redesigning curriculum and assessment to fit with the modern education system needed for today's world. Redesigned curriculum for Grades K-9 is being implemented in the 2016/2017 school year. More information will follow but please access the link below to access the Ministry of Education document on Student Reporting

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/administration/legislation-policy/public-schools/student-reporting>

CORE COMPETENCIES

The core competencies along with literacy and numeracy foundations and essential content and concepts are at the centre of the redesign of curriculum and assessment. Core competencies are sets of intellectual, personal and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deep learning and life-long learning. Through provincial consultaion, three core competencies were identified. They are: Communication, Thinking and Personal & Social. Please access the link below for more details.

<https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/competencies>

2017 AFTER GRAD INFORMATION – PARENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS NEEDED

Calling all Grade 12 Parents! Please join us on Monday October 3rd at 7:00 – 8:15 PM in the Charles Best Library. We will be discussing plans for the 2017 After Grad Event. If you are unable to attend but are still interested please email us at bestgrad2017@gmail.com to ensure that you are added to the distribution list for all important Graduation info.

Thanks! Lisa Cave & Lesia Verones

SCHOOL PHOTO DAY

School photo retake day will take place on October 7th. All students are required to have their pictures taken for their Go Cards and the Yearbook, so if they missed having their photo taken on September 9th, we invite them to have it taken on October 7th. The students should have already received their ID last week and those who have purchased photo packages will be receiving them Wednesday, October 5th. Orders can also be made and paid on line at

www.artonagroup.com.

MUSIC NOTES

The music department is off to a great start this year. All six ensembles are up and running and preparing for our first concert of the year. The Fall Concert is on Wednesday, October 26th at 7:00pm in the West side of the big gym. Our concerts are open to parents, students and friends so we hope to see you there! Admission is by donation at the door.

THEATRE – THE BEST PLAYERS

This year marks Mr. Case's 16th year directing plays with the Best Players and yet another crop of dynamic young actors and enthusiastic crew members are readying to take the stage. This fall our one act festival, *Acts of Life*, will feature *Fitch and Cabbage*, *The Gentlemen of the Road* by Baz Barrett, David Beecroft and Justin Sage-Passant. Also Acting 12 will present, *Present Tense* and *Personal Effects*, by John McNamara; as well as *All in Disguise*, by Gene Taylor, and James Michael Elrod, *The Actor's Nightmare* by Christopher Durang, and *The 15 Minute Hamlet* by Tom Stoppard. Our festival opens Tuesday, November 22nd and runs until to Saturday, Nov. 26th. Save these dates because every night will be filled with a different play.

Looking forward to 2017, Best's spring musical presentation in May will be the classic *Bye Bye Birdie*, with book by Michael Stewart, lyrics by Lee Adams and music by Charles Strouse. Directed by Brad Case, with musical direction by Brent Hughes and choreography by Alexa Graf, *Birdie* opens May 3rd and runs May 4th, 5th, 6th, 10th, 11th, 12th, and 13th.

It is always a privilege to collaborate with the teachers and students here at Charles Best. The best of all educational perspectives is realized when art, carpentry, music and drama teachers and students work together. Year after year, I witness the students here own these learned life experiences and the quality of our presentations just seems to improve every year. What we do here seems to capture the hearts and minds of those students who are truly passionate about what they elect to do. We hope that we can capture you, the audience, in much the same way. See you in the theatre.

COUNSELLING ASSIGNMENTS

Timetable changes for first semester are now complete and course loads for the first semester are now set. The counseling load is as follows:

| | |
|---|--------|
| Ms. Rachel John -- rjohn@sd43.bc.ca | A to G |
| Mr. Warren Chang -- wchang@sd43.bc.ca | H to O |
| Mrs. Robyn Sinclair -- rsinclair@sd43.bc.ca | P to Z |

*The Counselling Department visited all Grade 9 classes September 27th and 28th to provide some general strategies for managing the transition to high school. Counsellors discussed coping strategies and tips for dealing with the added pressures and challenges of high school and emphasize the importance of balance and healthy choices.

TRANSITIONS – POST-SECONDARY AND CAREERS

Please note the following dates and information for senior students:

OCTOBER

- ❑ **October 5th**. Attend the Scholarship Meeting after school (3:15 pm) in the Best library. Topics covered include: how to pay for your post-secondary education, types of scholarships, looking for scholarships. Bring your questions!
- ❑ **October 17**, 9:30-noon. Attend POST SECONDARY DAY @ Best for grade 11 & 12 students! This is a great "one stop shopping" opportunity! 13 BC post-secondary schools will be here to give short presentations and answer questions; you will have the opportunity to visit 2 schools' presentations. This year, schools attending are: BCIT, Capilano U, Canadian

Forces/RMC, Douglas College, Kwantlen Polytechnic University, SFU, Thompson Rivers University, Trinity Western University, UFV, UNBC, UVic.

- **October 14th**. Thinking of going to a university/college in the US? An SAT score is needed for admission to most American post-secondary schools.
 - Register for the PSAT (Practice or Preliminary SAT) in the school office. When you pay the \$25 registration fee, you will receive a practice book. The PSAT is written at Charles Best on Wed Oct 19th.
 - Register for the SAT EXAM at www.collegeboard.com. Our school code is 821 063. Generally, January is the last chance you have to write the SAT if you want to attend a US school the following September. Locally, you can write the test in Vancouver, Richmond or Chilliwack. Practice tests and information available online as well. Check out ACT college entrance exam as an alternative to the SAT: www.actstudent.org
- **October 21nd**. Students wanting to obtain Grade 11/12 credit for a language must register for the challenge exams written in January in Delta. Applications filled out online <http://web.deltasd.bc.ca/content/schools/secondary/challengeexams>; a \$50 refundable deposit must accompany application. Hand completed application to Ms. Sinclair in the counselling center by Thursday, October 22.
- **October 19th** - Grade 12 Parent Information meeting 6 PM in the Charles Best Library

NOVEMBER

- **November 9th**. UBC info session here! @ Best after school, 3:15 pm. Room: Library
- Start your UBC application NOW!! Apply by early to mid-Dec to be considered for Entrance Scholarships. You will need to write, edit, and re-write your personal profile. You can (and should) save and come back until it is your best effort. Don't push "submit" until it is ready.
- Check your Transcript Verification Report to confirm the accuracy of your record at the Ministry. See your school counselor for details.
- Apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN) if you don't already have one. www.servicecanada.gc.ca.
- Continue to check your daily Best Informer and the Career Centre for scholarship and post-secondary information.
- If you are a First Nations student, talk with your counselor or Mr. McBride about financial aid scholarship opportunities for Aboriginal students. Other resources are the District Aboriginal Education Program (604.945.7386) and Best's Aboriginal Youth Worker. Also, check with your band Office or Friendship Center.
- Apply to BC Post-Secondary schools @ www.applybc.ca.

DECEMBER

- **December 1st** Major Entrance Scholarship Deadline for UBC. <https://you.ubc.ca>.
- **December 6th – 8th** Psi-Choices form will be filled out with grade 12 student in Block 4. This form is needed for Post-Secondary Institutions to access your marks from the Ministry of Education.
- CHECK post-secondary schools application deadlines. Deadlines vary between institutions and programs.
- Apply for SFU entrance scholarships if you have a min. 90% avg. Applications are in the Career Centre or on-line at www.students.sfu.ca/entrancescholarships/. Deadline is Feb. 28.
- Apply to Eastern Canadian universities now!

POST-SECONDARY APPLICATION INFORMATION

- Arrange an informal meeting with Mr. McBride in the Career Centre or with your counselor to begin post-secondary/career planning.
- *Read the Best Informer daily!*
- Check out the Career Centre website throughout the year for post-secondary and other opportunity information. www.sd43.bc.ca/charlesbest -- click on "Career Center" under "Programs and Services" on the blue bar at the top.
- Apply to BC universities and colleges on-line: www.applybc.ca. You will need your PEN # and your SIN #. Make an appointment to discuss your post-secondary plans with your counsellor or Mr. McBride if you have not yet done so.
 - NOTE! You do not have to submit marks at the time of application.
- Douglas College began accepting applications on September 1st. Early application is highly advised! Many programs are first-come, first-served.

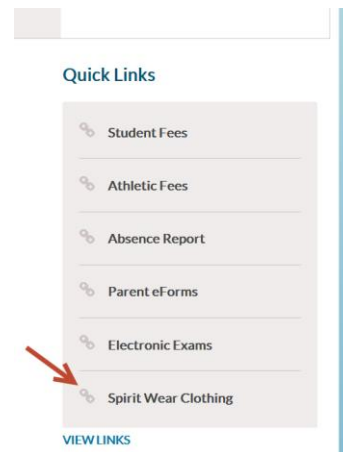
- General Admission requirements: completed BC secondary school graduation OR lack one course for BC secondary school graduation OR are 19 years of age or older on the first day of the semester.
 - English Language proficiency requirement of English 12 with a min. grade of “C” or equivalent substitution. Check out: www.douglas.bc.ca/calendar/general-information/admissions.html#generaladmissionrequirements
 - Individual programs have additional requirements.
 - Developmental Studies (DVST) courses are available for students needing to upgrade their English and/or Math. <http://www.douglas.bc.ca/programs/developmental-studies.html> .
 - Apply on-line @ www.applybc.ca .
 - See complete admission requirements at www.douglascollege.ca/calendar.
- BCIT applications are accepted year round for trades programs; for most technical programs applications are accepted until the program fills but details and deadlines vary. Check program specifics and get more info at www.bcit.ca. Check carefully for additional requirements– e.g. résumé, references, letter of intent, and/or statement of standing.
 - Apply for Ontario universities at www.ouac.on.ca. Application deadlines vary; however, out of province applicants are encouraged to apply by mid-January.
- ESL students: check with the post-secondary institutions for their English language and second language requirements.
 - Learn about alternatives to the TOEFL in the Career Centre
 - Request any letters of reference you may need. Supply the referee with detailed information about yourself by giving them a completed brag sheet. Brag sheets are located in the Career Centre or online: www.sd43.bc.ca/charlesbest -- click on *Career Center* at the top. Please give the referee at least two weeks’ notice.
 - Research language proficiency requirements at your schools of choice. Do you need to write the LPI? See your counselor or Mr. McBride if you have questions. www.lpitest.ca
 - Do you have a “Plan B”? If you are not accepted to “My First Choice” University/school do you have a backup plan?

SPIRIT WEAR

Charles Best spirit wear is available for order online only on our school website link available Sept 30 to Oct 31/16 only. Sample sizes are located in the office, so please be sure to try on the sizes as there are no exchanges/returns or refunds. All orders must be in by **October 31th** in order for the clothing to be delivered before the Christmas break.



<http://charlesbestspiritwear.com/>



INFORMATION AND REMINDERS

STUDENT ATTENDANCE

Now that school is up and running and class rosters are set, teachers are able to submit attendance for each class. Any student who misses one or more classes without a parent excuse will have their absences reported to their parents’ email through the attendance Auto dialer or Synervoice program. If you receive an email regarding your child’s absence please address the concern with them. If you need clarifiaciton on the class(es) that were missed please call

or email the secretaries in the office charlesbestattendance@sd43.bc.ca or email the teachers directly. Good attendance is imperative for academic success. Please be a committed partner in your child's education and do not ignore these notifications.

STUDENT VERIFICATION FORMS

Contact information verification forms were sent home with every student at the beginning of the school year. If you have not seen, updated and signed the **two-sided blue form** please follow up with your child. This is the only way we have to ensure that the contact information we have for your child is correct. If you have not already done so, please verify, update and ensure that this form is returned ASAP to the box on the office counter.

PARENT E-MAILS

Charles Best maintains an e-mail directory to communicate school information. The lists of each grade are updated at the beginning of the school year. Please ensure you are a part of this system to receive newsletters and other information from the school, and at the same time, help to reduce the amount of paper used throughout the school. You can update your e-mail address by contacting the office at 080-secretary@sd43.bc.ca. If at any time you would like to be removed from the distribution list, please email our head secretary, Mrs. Doris Portelance dportelance@sd43.bc.ca to have an email address unsubscribed.

SCHOOL FEES AND ON-LINE FORMS

If you have not paid school fees and/or completed the on-line forms, please go to our school website <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/charlesbest/Pages/default.aspx> and click on the appropriate link on the right hand side of the page. See our August newsletter for specific details and instructions.

BLUE DEVILS IN THE NEWS

We have a bulletin board in the school foyer that is updated with Blue Devils in the news information. Last year was the second year and again the large bulletin board was packed with accomplishments of our Blue Devils. We are proud of the accomplishments of all of our students and encourage you to bring in any future news clippings that we may miss that highlight your son or daughter's achievements. Please give them to Mrs. Coulson.



Blue Devils in the News Bulletin Board from 2015/16

OUTSTANDING TEXTBOOKS

Could all students please check their home to see if they have a textbook from last year? We do our best to assess all non-returned items, but sometimes we miss a few. If you do have any textbooks or library books at home from previous years, please return them to the office ASAP.

CELL PHONE USE

Please help us preserve the positive learning environment of the classroom. Increasingly, the interruption of the cell phone, iPhone or Blackberry has been finding its way into the classroom. Whether it be the ring tone, the vibration or the text message, all of these have the potential of disrupting the learning environment for each student. We are

asking for your support because we are finding that some parents are phoning or texting their children during class time. This is something that we would really like to discourage. If there is an emergency, please call the office and we can send a runner to the class.

VISITOR PARKING

When visiting the school, we ask that you use the visitors' parking spots in front of the school or the east parking lot by the field.

STUDENT PARKING

All students who wish to drive to school need to register their vehicles at the Main Office and display a parking tag in their front window. Student parking is in the large east parking lot only. To obtain a parking pass, students must bring a completed student vehicle registration form to the office.

PLEASE RESPECT FIRE ZONE LANE

The Fire Department and the City have asked us to ensure that our community not use the designated fire lane for drop-off or pick-up. This lane is for fire and emergency use only and must be kept clear at all times. Thank you for your cooperation.

OFFICE 365

SD 43 is very excited to be offering the Office 365 package to all schools again this year. The Office 365 package give students not only webmail, but also OneDrive online storage, personal SharePoint sites and the office online tools (Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Onenote). All of these tools can be accessed by the student from anywhere on any device. The package also allows students to install full versions of Office and Office Apps on their home devices. Students can access OFFICE365 from the link on the school website using their school user name and password.

SOCIAL MEDIA

If you haven't already done so, please load the free Dr. Charles Best App on your cell phone to access and receive daily information. Dr. Charles Best School is on Twitter, Instagram and Facebook. Social Media users can receive announcements about our school. Our Twitter and Instagram account is CharlesBestScho. You can also add us on Facebook under the group name 'Dr. Charles Best Secondary 2016-2017'.

BOYS AND GIRLS CHANGE ROOMS

Students will need to bring a lock from home in order to secure their belongings in a locked space during PE class. We ask that students use the PE lockers provided in the hallway by the gym and not leave any items in the change room during their PE class or team practice. The PE lockers are for period use only; students need to remove their lock at the end of class. If students do not have a lock from home, they are encouraged to lock any valuable items in their regular school locker.

GRAD TRANSITIONS

Same website for DPA is used. Work on website must be complete depending on your English or Communications classes for those in **January 27th 2017 for Semester 1 and May 5nd 2017(subject to change depending on ticket sale date) for Semester 2** in order to be eligible to purchase Grad Dinner and Dance Tickets. You may however hand in your GT in anytime into your GT folders in Office 365 Onenote. Check your emails or one drive in the first week of October to accept your invite. Any questions - contact Mr. Last at mlast@sd43.bc.ca

