Grade 12 Survival Guide
Dr. Charles Best Secondary 2012 - 2013

Counsellors:  Mrs. Rachel John  rjohn@sd43.bc.ca  (For last names beginning A-G)
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Career Resource Facilitator:  Mrs. Carolyn Baker  carbaker@sd43.bc.ca

September
☐ Sun Sept 16 11-5 pm. Go Global Expo—work, travel, and/or volunteer abroad. Athlete’s Village, South False Creek Village. www.letsgoglobal.ca
☐ Sat Sept 22 1-5 pm. Recruit in Canada Education Fair:  a unique opportunity to meet directly with education providers from Canada, UK, US and many other countries. Vancouver Convention Centre at Canada Place, West Building, 1055 Canada Place. http://www.recruitincanada.com/
☐ You must complete Grad Transitions in order to graduate!  See Ms. Skye kskye@sd43.bc.ca for more information.  Interview dates to be announced.
☐ Several Grad Transition sessions will be scheduled on Monday’s at 2:45pm throughout the semester, listen for the announcements.
☐ Apply for a Social Insurance Number (SIN) if you don’t already have one. www.servicecanada.gc.ca .
☐ Make an appointment for Grad photos (Mobile unit is here Oct 6-13th).

October
☐ Tues Oct 2, Wed Oct 3 or Thurs Oct 4. Grade 12 Survival guide presentation in the library
☐ Wed Oct 10. 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!
☐ Fri Oct 12 9:30 am to 12:30 pm.  Attend Career Fair at Charles Best on Friday - Work, volunteer or travel?  Certificate, diploma or degree?  Apprenticeship, foundation, or …? ; Be sure to attend and get your questions answered.
☐ Wed Oct 17. 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 Career Center. When you pay the $20 registration fee you will receive a practice book. The PSAT is written at Charles Best on Wed Oct 17, time and room TBA.
  ● 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

Thu Oct 25 9:10-11:25 am. Canadian University Event (CUE) at Riverside. Representatives from 30+ universities from across Canada are available to answer your questions.


Arrange an informal meeting with Mrs. Baker 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 career information. www.sd43.bc.ca/charlesbest -- click on “Career Center” under “Programs and Services” on the blue bar at the top.

Watch for UBC information sessions in the tri cities. UBC usually holds two in the fall—one in Port Moody and one in Coquitlam at the Evergreen Cultural Center. Check the informer and the Career Center for dates and times.

Apply to BC Post Secondary schools @ www.applybc.ca starting mid October.

Douglas College begins accepting applications in mid-October
- **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 minimum 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. Paper application forms are available in the Career Centre.
- See complete admission requirements at www.douglascollege.ca/calendar.

BCIT applications are accepted year round for trades programs, for most technical programs applications accepted starting Oct 1, 2012 until the program fills. Check program specifics and get more info at www.bcit.ca. Paper application forms are in the Career Centre. Check carefully for additional requirements—e.g. resume, references, letter of intent, and/or statement of standing.

Ontario Universities accepting applications now. Apply 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 Mrs. Baker 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?

**NOVEMBER**

- **Mon Nov 5, 12:40-2:45 pm.** Attend POST SECONDARY DAY at Best for grade 11 & 12 students! This is a great “one stop shopping” opportunity! About 11 BC post secondary schools will be here to give short presentations and answer questions; you will have the opportunity to visit 2 schools. 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.
  - University of Alberta info session **Wed Nov 14 2:30** room tba
  - McGill University info session **Tues Nov 20 1 pm** room tba.

- 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 Mrs. Baker if you have not yet done so.

  - **NOTE! You do not have to submit marks at the time of application.**

- Check your Transcript Verification Report to confirm the accuracy of your record at the Ministry. See your school counselor for details.

- 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 Mrs. Baker 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.

- If you are planning to attend UBC do you think you are a candidate for their Major Entrance Scholarship? Talk to your counselor. You will need an average of at least 85% plus extensive leadership/community experience.

**DECEMBER**

- **January 31** is the deadline to apply to UBC. Get started now! https://you.ubc.ca

- 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/](http://www.students.sfu.ca/entrancescholarships/). Deadline is Feb. 28.

Apply to Eastern Canadian universities now!

**JANUARY**

- **January 31**—UBC application deadline.
- To give the Ministry of Education permission to send your grades to post secondary schools you must complete a [Post Secondary Institutions Choices Form](https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/welcome.jsp) online. You will need your PEN#. By completing this online form you authorize the Ministry to send your interim grades in May to the post secondary schools of your choice; final transcripts will be sent in July. Please note, your information will be sent to the institutions in an electronic format.
- Plan for a spring visit of your post secondary institution.
- You **must** complete Grad Transitions to graduate! You will not be able to purchase your Dinner/Dance tickets or pick up your commencement tickets if you have not completed your Grad Transitions. Interviews in early February See Ms. Skye, (kskye@sd43.bc.ca)

**FEBRUARY**

- **Feb** Grad Transitions interviews.
- **Tues Feb 26** attend scholarship meeting re: Local Scholarships **after school (3:10 pm) in the library**.
- **Feb 28** is early admission deadline for SFU. Final deadline April 30.
- **Feb 28** SFU, UBC Major Entrance Scholarship applications are due.
- Make sure you are familiar with the financial aid page of the post secondary school you plan to attend.
- If you are leaving your home community to continue your training or education, apply for housing now!

**MARCH**

- If you have applied to a BC University check the status of your application and emails regularly! You may be asked to self-report first semester final grades and second semester interim grades electronically.
- Do you need to write the LPI? Check literacy requirements of the post secondary schools you have applied to. Check online at [www.lpitest.ca](http://www.lpitest.ca) for dates, times and locations of public sittings.
- Some offers of admission are based on self-reported grades. All other offers of admission are made in May based on grades sent by the Ministry of Education. Your April marks are important – work hard and stay focused!
- Finished Grad Transitions? You **must** complete Grad Transitions to graduate! You **must** complete Grad Transitions before purchasing Dinner/Dance tickets or picking up your commencement tickets! See Ms. Skye, (kskye@sd43.bc.ca)
APRIL
☐ Mon April 22. Local scholarship application packages are due to Mrs. Baker or Mr. Chang by 3:30 pm. Late applications are not accepted.
☐ April 30 deadline to make sure post secondary schools get your official transcript in May!
   Have you filled out the Post Secondary Choices online form to give the Ministry of Education permission to send you grades to the post secondary schools of your choice? https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/welcome.jsp.

MAY
☐ Canadian Universities make the bulk of their admission offers from mid May thru to the end of the month.
☐ If you have completed Grad Transitions you can purchase Grad Dinner & Dance tickets and pick up guest tickets for Commencement. Check dates and times tickets are available.
☐ Check out www.canlearn.ca and www.studentaidbc.ca for info on Canada and BC student loans and grants.
☐ Please let Mr. Chang or Mrs. Baker know about any scholarships you have won so they can be acknowledged in the Commencement program.
☐ Remember, you must be in a position to graduate in order to cross the stage at Commencements – continue to work hard!

JUNE
☐ Sat June 15. Grad Dinner/Dance at the Waterfront Hotel! More details to follow.
☐ Commencement Ceremonies! More details to follow.
☐ Remember to send thank you notes for any scholarships you have won.
☐ Post Secondary Course registration is usually done mid June to early July.

JULY
☐ Transcripts and Dogwood diploma mailed to your home.

Congratulations to the Class of 2013!!
Before applying do your research:
Career Cruising (career quiz, info)    www.careercruising.com
username: best  password: careers
Post Secondary Options in BC       www.educationplanner.bc.ca
The Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada (AUCC) www.aucc.ca
Info on Ontario universities with out-of-province admission requirements www.electronicinfo.ca
What can you do with a university degree?  SFU www.sfu.ca/careerservices/students/degree.html
       UBC www.careersonline.ubc.ca/student/major.cfm
       University of North Carolina Wilmington www.uncw.edu/career/WhatCanIDoWithaMajorIn.html
US Colleges and Universities www.utexas.edu/world/univ
                               www.bestschoolsusa.com
                               www.acuinfo.com
US College Board, SAT info and Registration www.collegeboard.com
MacLean’s Magazine university rankings www.macleans.ca/universities
Globe & Mail University Report Card www.globecampus.ca
Industry Training Authority (ITABC) information on the trades www.itabc.ca
Aboriginal Youth Network http://orgs.tigweb.org/aboriginal-youth-network
Resource for High School students by High School students www.youthcanada.ca

Applying to post secondary schools:
BC Post Secondary Application System www.applybc.ca
Ontario University Application Site www.ouac.on.ca
Alberta application system www.applyalberta.ca

After applying:
Min. of Education Post Secondary Choices form www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/welcome.jsp?
BC Transfer Guide www.bctransferguide.ca
Canadian Government Financial Info Site www.canlearn.ca
BC Student Aid (loans) www.studentaidbc.ca
Surfing the web for $$ http://www.ucfv.ca/fineaid/surf.htm

Some common BC Post Secondary School web sites:
BC Institute of Technology www.bcit.ca
Capilano University www.capilanou.ca
Douglas College www.douglas.bc.ca
Emily Carr University of Art of Design www.eciad.bc.ca
Justice Institute of BC www.jibc.bc.org
Kwantlen Polytechnic www.kwantlenu.ca
Simon Fraser University www.sfu.ca
SFU Surrey www.sfu.ca/surrey
Thompson Rivers University www.tru.ca
TRU Open Learning www.openlearning.tru.ca
University of the Fraser Valley www.ufv.bc.ca
University of British Columbia www.ubc.ca
Thinking of Study, Work, Volunteer and/or Travel Abroad:

Canada World Youth/Jeunesse Canada Monde (CWY) [http://www.cwy-jcm.org/]
Links Canadian workers and students between the ages of 17-25 with exchange country participants in a program which involves spending seven months living and volunteering in a community in Canada and a Third World country. Participants must raise some money from their home community towards their admission into CWY. Costs incurred during the program (food, lodging, transportation) are covered.

More websites for International study and gap year programs:
- [www.international.gc.ca/](http://www.international.gc.ca/) Foreign Affairs and International Trade
- [www.cbie.ca/](http://www.cbie.ca/) Canadian Bureau for International Education
- [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca) Federal student loan site
- [www.studentaidbca.ca](http://www.studentaidbca.ca) Provincial student loan site
- [www.rotary.org](http://www.rotary.org) Rotary International
- [www.yourworldtodiscover.ca](http://www.yourworldtodiscover.ca) GAP programs, non-credit summer programs for all students ages 16 to 19
- [www.gapyearabroad.ca](http://www.gapyearabroad.ca) a program from Travel Cuts, a Canadian travel company
- [www.swap.ca](http://www.swap.ca) not for profit program of the Canadian Federation of Students
- [www.volunteerabroad.ca](http://www.volunteerabroad.ca) another program thru Travel Cuts
- [www.lattitudecanada.org](http://www.lattitudecanada.org) a charity specializing in global volunteering for 17-25 year olds.
- [www.vergemagazine.ca](http://www.vergemagazine.ca) Verge Magazine: Travel with Purpose
- [www.cdsintl.org](http://www.cdsintl.org) nonprofit organization that supports internships
- [www.campusfrance.org](http://www.campusfrance.org) Study in France
- [www.ucas.ac.uk](http://www.ucas.ac.uk) Study in the United Kingdom
- [www.learnoverseas.com](http://www.learnoverseas.com) American site but some good info

Financial Aid for International study
- Check eligibility rules for scholarships; some have restrictions on the location of schools the scholarship can be applied to; others have no restrictions.
- Some useful websites:
  - [http://www.international.gc.ca/](http://www.international.gc.ca/) Foreign Affairs and International Trade
  - [http://www.cbie.ca/](http://www.cbie.ca/) Canadian Bureau for International Education
  - [www.canlearn.ca](http://www.canlearn.ca) Federal student loan site
http://www.studentaidbc.ca Provincial student loan site
www.rotary.org Rotary International
www.learnoverseas.com Aimed at American students wanting to study abroad but some useful information. Links for International students wanting to study in the States.