

# Dr. Charles Best Secondary Newsletter

## Issue 3 – September 29, 2023

2525 Como Lake Avenue, Coquitlam, BC V3J 3R8 604-461-5581

Website: <http://www.sd43.bc.ca/school/charlesbest/Pages/default.aspx>



**Principal – Heather Murphy**

**Vice-Principals – Michelle Ciolfitto, Kelly Fridge, and Joel Nelson**

*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.*

### UPCOMING EVENTS

Truth and Reconciliation Day (School not in session)	Monday, Oct 2
PAC Meeting 7:00pm (Library)	Tuesday, Oct 3
Grade 11 Parent Dance Meeting (Library)	Wednesday, Oct 4 @ 7pm
Scholarship Meeting #1 for students (Library after school)	Thursday, Oct 5
Grade 12 Capstone Proposal due	By Friday, Oct 6
Dress your Best Friday	Friday, Oct 6
Thanksgiving Day (School not in session)	Monday, Oct 9
Grade 12 CLC face to face meetings	Oct 10-Oct 20
Learning Updates out (Progress reports)	Wednesday, Oct 11
University of Victoria Post Secondary visit (Library after school)	Wednesday, Oct 11
Dress your Best Friday	Friday, Oct 13
University of Alberta Post Secondary visit (Library after school)	Tuesday, Oct 17
Parent – Teacher Interviews (In-person and on Teams)	Wednesday, Oct 18
Grade 12 Parent Information Session @ 6:45pm (Library)	Wednesday, Oct 18
Photo Retakes	Thursday, Oct 19
Simon Fraser University Post Secondary visit (Library after school)	Thursday, Oct 19
Provincial Pro D Day (School not in session)	Friday, Oct 20
UVIC Gustavson School of Business Post. Sec. visit (Library 3:15pm)	Tuesday, Oct 24
Final day to sign up for Language Challenge Exam	Wednesday, Oct 25
Autumn Music Concert	Wednesday, Oct 25 @7pm
SFU Beedie School of Business Post Sec. visit (Library 3:15pm)	Thursday, Oct 26
Dress your Best Friday	Friday, Oct 27
School Assembly (Assembly Bell Schedule)	Tuesday, Oct 31
University of Waterloo Post Secondary visit (Library after school)	Wednesday, Nov 1
Provincial Assessments (select students)	Nov 1 - Nov 3 (schedule TBD)
Take Your Kids to Work (Gr 9 only)	Wednesday, Nov 1

### TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION ASSEMBLY SEPTEMBER 29

For there to be reconciliation there must be a recognition of the truth about how Indigenous Peoples have been treated by settlers and the settle government since colonization. Recognizing the truth also reveals the strength and resilience of Aboriginal Peoples. Today, Gertie Pierre, a residential school survivor talked about the sufferings of the children in the residential schools including the one she attended. Nicole Bell-Hurley, a former Dr. Charles Best Grad reminded us that we cannot ignore the missing and murdered Indigenous Women as well as the Indigenous children found in unmarked graves at the residential school sites. The Wild Moccasin Dancers shared their dance and family histories in our assembly this morning. We ended with an uplifting rap performance by Brandon Webster aka Missta Technic who talked about all his family members past and present who attended residential schools. We recognized the recent discovery of 158 confirmed deaths of children on the sites of St. Mary's Residential School in Mission, All Hallows School in Yale, Coqualeetza Industrial Institute and Coqualeetza Indian hospital in Chilliwack. We would like to thank Carrie Clark and all our honoured guests for sharing their stories and their time with us today. We want to thank Mme Bruneau and her students for organizing today's assembly. We would also like to thank all the many staff and students who wore orange shirts in support and recognition of today. Tomorrow is National Orange Shirt Day. Monday is a non-instructional day in lieu of Saturday.





## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION CONTINUED



Photo Credit: E. Lake



Photo Credit: E. Lake



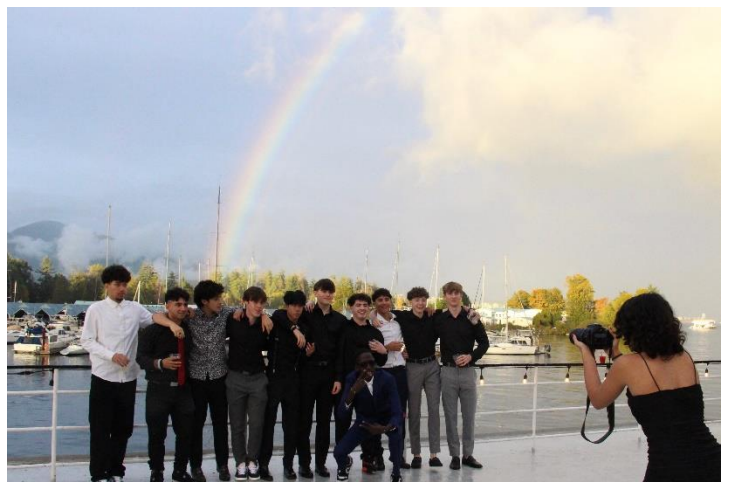
Photo Credit: E. Lake



## GRAD 2024 SENIOR SAIL

A successful Senior Sail on Wednesday! The weather cooperated and the grads had a fantastic time dancing the night away! Upon the conclusion of the evening, the boat crew commented on how polite, appreciative, and cooperative our grads were.

Thank you everyone!



## GRADE 11 PARENT DANCE COMMITTEE

Grade 11 Parent Dinner Dance - a fundraiser for Grad 2025

Hello families - the organizing committee is looking for volunteers!

The grade 11 Parent Dinner Dance is an adult only event that raises money for our children's Graduation Dinner Dance in June 2025.

This fun evening will include dinner, music, a silent auction, 50/50 draw and much more!

Interested volunteers please sign up at <https://bit.ly/Grade11DD>

The committee is also looking for donations such as silent auction items, gift cards and corporate or personal financial sponsorship.

If you have any questions or wish to make a donation, please email [bestgrad2025@gmail.com](mailto:bestgrad2025@gmail.com)

**Next planning meeting will be Oct 4th at 7:00pm in the school library**

## CLUB INFORMATION

September 20<sup>th</sup>'s Club Day was a huge success with over 35 clubs showcasing what their club is all about and how to sign up to be a club member. Clubs are a fantastic way for students to meet new students, learn new skills and make positive impacts on our school and greater community. If your child missed Club Day, it is not too late to sign up!

Please contact the club sponsor teacher for more details.

[Best CLUBS 2023-2024](#)

## LANGUAGE CHALLENGE EXAMS

The Delta School District is offering language challenge exams for the 2023/2024 school year.

Interested students please refer to [Challenge Exams - Delta School District \(deltasd.bc.ca\)](https://deltasd.bc.ca) for further information on the student application package, exam schedules, locations, and exam specific details.

Students are **required to provide a passport quality photograph as part of the application package.**

Deadline for applications this year is **Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>**. If students miss this deadline, they will not be able to apply this year and will have to wait until next year to reapply.

**Please submit your applications to Ms. Birsan in the counselling suite.**

See Ms. Birsan if you have any questions!

## PARENT TEACHER NIGHT WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18, 2023

This year's Parent Teacher Conferences will run in two sessions. Session one will run from 2pm – 4pm and will be entirely on-line using your child's TEAMS account. Session two will run from 5pm – 7pm and will be entirely in person at the school. You are free to attend meetings in either session or a blend of both. We are offering this hybrid model to increase access to meetings for all parents.

A link to sign up for interviews will be available in our Friday, October 13<sup>th</sup> newsletter. Stay tuned.

### Helpful Notes

- Session 1: **2pm – 4pm** entirely on-line using your child's TEAMS account.
- Session 2: **5pm – 7pm** entirely In-Person in the Big gym.
- If you have previously registered for PT interviews, simply log in with your email and password.
- If you have forgotten your password, there is a link to reset it.
- If you are new to the site, the directions are straight forward after clicking on 'register'.
- Cell phones don't typically work well to book interviews. Same with the Safari browser.

### Adjusted Bell Schedule on October 18<sup>th</sup>

Period 1	8:16am – 9:05am
Period 2	9:10am – 10:00am
Period 3	10:05am – 10:55am
Period 4	11:00am – 11:50pm
Period 5	11:55pm – 12:45pm

### GRADE 12 PARENT PRESENTATION – WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 18<sup>th</sup>

**Discussion meeting about Post-Secondary Applications, information about Graduation (ie: Dinner Dance and Commencement), Scholarship Applications and CLC Capstone).**  
**Time 6:45pm – 7:45pm in the library**

## WINTER BALL – SAVE THE DATE!

Grade 11's/12's only, sorry no guests

Dec. 6, 2023

Time TBD

## OCTOBER SPCA DRIVE

The SPCA is looking for donations for their shelter. Blankets, sheets, canned or sealed dry pet food.

They desperately need these supplies now and in preparation for the Winter months.

Please bring any donations to our Youth Worker Heather Bjornson's room on the lower floor during the month of October and into December. Thank you!

## TERRY FOX RUN DONATIONS

We will be continuing our support of the Terry Fox Foundation until December. Donations can be sent to school with your child and dropped off at the office. Thank you in advance for your kind and generous support.



## FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FUNDRAISER AT OUR SCHOOL

**About the program?** – offered through B.C. Agriculture, open to anyone in our community, order a bundle of farm fresh B.C. fruits and vegetables for you, family or friends.

**When? Sales will be open from Wed. Sept. 20 – Thurs. Oct. 5th.**

Pick-up will be from in front of the school mid-November (pick-up will be available for 3 days outside of the cafeteria from 3:20 pm to 3:45 pm. You will receive an email advising of exact pick-up times closer to the date.

**What? Bundle 1 = \$25** (3 lbs onions, 3 lbs carrots, 5 lbs red beets, 5 lbs pacific potatoes - small)

**Bundle 2 = \$30** (0.5 lbs shallots, 1 lb parsnips, 5 lbs pacific potatoes- small, 5 lbs red beets)

**How? Payment through school cash online, you should see the option in your account.**

**Why? It's a win- win-win!** Help our school Environmental club fundraise money, help our foods classes with fresh produce, get healthy, fresh produce for you and your family, and support local farmers.

B.C. Agriculture donates a very generous 40% of each sale directly to our school!

The Force of Nature Environmental club helps sponsor the school garden, landscaping the new outdoor classroom, providing materials for environmental lessons to elementary students and many more initiatives, we always welcome new members 😊

**More Questions?** If you would like any more information, please contact Sophie Viswanathan at [sviswanathan@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:sviswanathan@sd43.bc.ca) or students can visit me in person in room 102.

## CAREER CENTRE NEWS:

**UBC APPLICATION WORKSHOPS:** [More info here.](#)

**SFU APPLICATION & ADMISSION WORKSHOPS:** Tue, October 3, 5-6.30 pm, [register here.](#)

SFU will also be visiting us at the school on Thu, Oct 19, starting at 3.15 pm.

**SCHOLARSHIP MEETING #1: Thur., October 5<sup>th</sup>** in the library after school.

Hear about general information for students looking for financial aid to pay for post-secondary.

## XDHACKS MINI VANCOUVER EXECUTIVE TEAM MEMBERS WANTED

Executives for the 2023-24 year will work collaboratively with like-minded individuals to run an in-person hackathon event in Summer of 2024 with the goal to inspire students interested in the field of Computer Science. Open to all BC high school students in grades 9-12. Commitment: 2-4 hours per week for Director positions. **Apply by September 30<sup>th</sup>.** [More here.](#)

## SD43 STUDENT LEADERSHIP COUNCIL AMBASSADORS WANTED

Calling all high school students who are wanting to be involved in SD43 and are looking to take initiative in the district. Up to 2 students per grade level will be selected and will have the chance to contribute ideas and concerns at the monthly student-led meetings at the district education centre. This is an excellent opportunity to demonstrate leadership. [Sign up](#) by October 1<sup>st</sup> to represent our school.

## CANADIAN UNIVERSITIES EVENT (CUE)

SD43 High School students and their parents/ guardians are invited to this fair-style event.

Meet representatives from (almost) all Canadian Universities, get your questions answered and pick up some viewbooks. Riverside Secondary School, **Wed, October 4**, 6-8 pm.

\*This is an excellent opportunity esp. for grade 11 students to start exploring their post-secondary options.

## JOB SHADOW DAY IN FINANCE

Grade 11 & 12 young women and gender-diverse high school students are invited to spend Monday, October 23, downtown in the financial district and learn more about careers in finance. Job Shadow Day is a free, day-long event, featuring interactive workshops, networking and mentoring sessions, presentations profiling women with diverse careers in finance, and an afternoon of job shadowing with a mentor who works in the industry. Job Shadow Day gives students a first-hand view of what a career in finance can look like.

Learn more [here](#). **Deadline is October 6<sup>th</sup> or when all spots are filled.**

\*You need a teacher/ counsellor supporting your registration.

## PLACE DES ARTS 2023-24 YOUTH COUNCIL VOLUNTEERS

This dedicated group of teen volunteers meets regularly from Sep-Jun to organize and host two youth-oriented events each year and advise Place des Arts on teen engagement.

Applications are accepted **until October 6<sup>th</sup>**. Grades 9-12 are welcome to apply. [More info here.](#)

## BC DEMOGRAPHICS SURVEY

We all deserve to live in a province where we have equitable opportunities to thrive. But many of the systems and structures our society is built on turn a blind eye to the unique needs of Indigenous Peoples and racialized people. That's why the B.C. government is running two important initiatives. They're asking everyone in B.C. to fill out the BC Demographic Survey to help identify and eliminate systemic racism from government programs and services. The survey is available online in 15 languages until Oct. 15 and will take about 15 minutes of your time. It is available at <https://antiracism.gov.bc.ca/bcdemographicsurvey>

The B.C. government is also asking for public input in developing anti-racism legislation that will hold government accountable for addressing systemic racism within its programs and services, and to provide supports to those who have been negatively impacted. No matter what your experiences or background is – your input matters! **The public questionnaire is available until Oct. 15 in 15 languages and takes about 10 minutes to complete.** It is available at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/antiracism>

So, don't wait! Your feedback is anonymous and will help us make our province work better for everyone. Every person's perspective counts.

## REPORTING AN ABSENCE

Parents, if your child is not able to attend school, please contact the office by phone or email the school office at [charlesbestattendance@sd43.bc.ca](mailto:charlesbestattendance@sd43.bc.ca).

## VERIFICATION FORM/EMERGENCY RELEASE FORM UPDATES FOR 2023-2024

As our district continues to move towards digitization of student forms to ensure the confidentiality of personal information, Student Verification forms will no longer be printed and distributed to students during their first day of school advisories. Rather, starting this school year student verification forms will be published to the Family Portal for parents to access. An email will be sent to all parents during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of September that will provide details of this new process.

## 2024 AFTER GRAD FUNDRAISING

2024 After Grad has partnered with 'Return-It' recycling centres to make fundraising for next year extra easy!

- 1) Use Recycle Account – Charles Best AfterGrad 2024
- 2) Use the school's phone # (604-461-5581) when you print labels for your recycling bags.

## PAC CORNER

**Upcoming PAC meeting: Tuesday, October 3 at 7:00 pm** in the school library. The 2023-24 PAC budget will be presented for approval at this meeting. All parents are welcome!

**Did you know?** You can **DONATE TO THE PAC ONLINE!**

Parent donations to the Charles Best PAC help to support various aspects of your student's educational experience. Each year, the PAC provides much-needed funds to support activities such as extracurricular clubs, AfterGrad, teacher appreciation, and student scholarships. Login to your student's portal on the [SchoolCash Online system](#) to make your PAC donation today!

Autumn  
is here