

Spectrum

Community School

N E W S L E T T E R

February 2017

This newsletter is being sent to you as your sons and daughters bring home their report cards. To say that our students have achieved well is an understatement - nearly 700 certificates were issued to students scoring 90% or better in their courses. It was a pleasure reading through all those report cards.

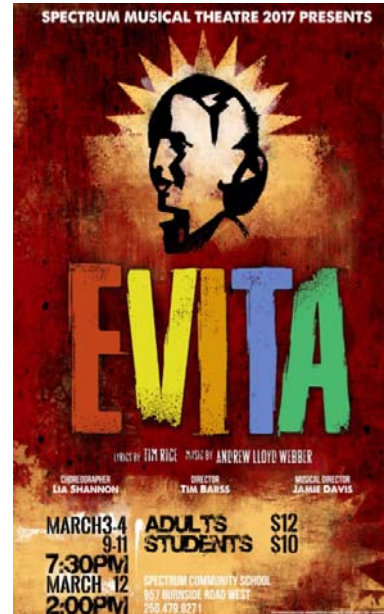
Please check inside for information about the upcoming musical, *Evita*, opening Friday, March 3. There is also lots of information for our grads who recently held their annual Winter Formal at The Inn at Laurel Point. As is usually the case, they were highly complimented for their exemplary behavior and for showing their appreciation. This year the Laurel Point staff told us they were the best group they've ever hosted! True Spectrum Hokies! Of course, this is the last semester of public schooling for our grade 12's; June 27th isn't that far away - 139 days, as we told them yesterday!

Just as we begin the new semester, we are preparing for next year for our current grades 9 to 11, and with our incoming grade 8's, too. In February and March, we will be involved in course selection and planning for the 2017/18 school year. On Tuesday, February 14 we will be holding grade assemblies to explain all of the course offerings followed by a mini-course fair in the cafeteria. In TAG that week students will get a course form to bring home with a due date back to the office of February 23. It is important for students to make informed decisions on their course choices for next year as we build the timetable based on their requests. If you have any questions regarding our programs, learning strategies and teacher offerings, please contact us at spectrum@sd61.bc.ca or touch base with any of our counsellors. We will send a follow up email about this process sometime next week.

As always, please don't hesitate to contact me or any staff member if you have any questions or concerns.

Regards,

Rob House
Principal



Evita Blends Theatre With Politics

This March, Spectrum Community School will present their take on Andrew Lloyd Webber & Tim Rice's iconic rock opera *Evita*. "It's very political, and as relevant as ever in 2017" says Director Tim Barss, "even though it's set in another time, another country, another culture." *Evita* weaves the true life rags-to-riches tale of Argentina's beloved but controversial first lady Eva Peron (Duarte) from her ascension out of obscurity to become a movie star, political force, and cultural icon against the backdrop of a nation in turmoil. "There are military coups, labour movements, riots, class conflict," says Barss. "We'll often stop mid-rehearsal to talk and get context, but I think the fact that it's all true history really helps make it real for them." He also suggests that, like certain politicians today, Peron often relied on spectacle rather than substance to maintain her hold on the people.

Evita has gone through numerous incarnations since its inception in 1976 as a concept album featuring Colm Wilkinson (*Les Miserables* and *Phantom of the Opera*) singing the role of the 'everyman' narrator Che. The album was Rice's idea. Webber was initially hesitant, but agreed to attempt a few songs and see where it went. The first he composed was *Don't Cry For Me Argentina* and

the duo never looked back. *Evita* opened on Broadway in 1979 with a stage adaptation that reimagined Che as revolutionary Che Guevera. While historians point out the timelines don't quite jive, it was nonetheless an appealing artistic choice brilliantly rendered by actor Mandy Patinkin. (Who's Patinkin you ask? Think *Princess Bride*: "My name is Inigo Montoya. You killed my father. Prepare to die."). In 1996 Madonna took a memorable turn as *Evita* on the big screen with Antonio Banderas returning Che to the original everyman conception. Most recently, 2012 saw a popular Broadway revival featuring Ricky Martin (Livin' *Evita* Loca?) and Elena Roger, the first Argentinian born actress to play *Evita*.

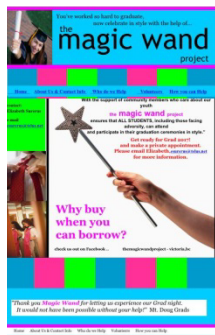
Director Tim Barss hopes Spectrum's production remains true to the spirit of the original while also offering its own twist on the narrating 'man of the people' Che. He is also excited that Spectrum will be the first in Victoria to present the 2012 Broadway Revival version which only recently became available for licensing. Spectrum's production of *Evita* runs March 3-12. Ticket info 250-479-8271.



News for Grads

Grad 2017 is June 27, 2017 at 5:00 PM

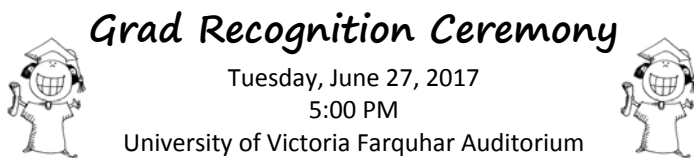
All grads participating in the UVic Grad Recognition Ceremony must pay their \$60 Grad Ceremony Fee by Friday March 17th. This covers the university facility, grad certificates, and more. Details for ticket availability will be emailed and posted on the grad webpage in April.



Need help with a formal outfit? Connect with The Magic Wand Project. Formal wear is available to borrow for both men and women.

Have questions about Grad?

Please see Ms. D. Thompson, Vice-Principal, or visit Spectrum's webpage at www.spectrum.sd61.bc.ca and follow the links "Student Info" and "Grad Resources" for details.



Dry Grad 2017

Short on time but want to help out with this years' Dry Grad event? The Dry Grad Parent Committee is committed to making this a fun, safe and memorable alcohol and substance-free event for your graduating son/daughter! But we can't do it without everyone's help! How about making a cash or prize donation, or sponsor a specific activity for your Grad?

- Tax receipts will be issued for monetary donations
- Cash donations can be sent directly through the on-line donation site: <https://www.canadahelps.org/dn/29576>
- Cheques made payable to "Spectrum Community School" Re: Dry Grad can be dropped off or mailed directly to the school at 957 Burnside Road West, Victoria, BC, V8Z 6E9
- PRIZE Donations are also gratefully accepted for draws on the night on the event

And no matter how you help out, you'll be acknowledged for your generosity on the Spectrum Community School's website for the Dry Grad, Grad Facebook page, the Spectrum Newsletter, and at the Dry Grad event itself. Your generous donations will be put to good use making this a night to remember!! No amount is too small.

Current Donors Include:

- Pomponio & Company
- Matrix Marble & Stone
- Shoppers Drug Mart, Royal Oak
- M&M Food Market, Royal Oak
- Hansbraun Investment Ltd.
- Alpine Group
- Cobs Bread Royal Oak
- Cedar Hill Golf Shop
- Victoria Harbour Cats
- Sea Glass Waterfront Grill



For more info, please email: Tracey Campbell tlc2014@shaw.ca or Donna Kent bdrq@shaw.ca

~ Thank you in advance, Dry Grad Parent Committee 2017

Student Portal: Information For Parents

Student accounts in MyEducation BC have now been created for all students in grades 6-12 in the Greater Victoria School District.

Available Features of the MyEducation BC Student and Family Portal:

- Family Contact and Emergency information: This can only be viewed, not edited. Notify your child's school to correct errors.
- Student Schedule: View current class schedule.
- Academic Information: Get real-time access to your child's assignments and grades. You can even see progress reports, report cards, transcript history, and graduation progress.
- Attendance information: View real-time information on your child's historical and current attendance records.
- Calendar Events: Colour code events in a calendar view to see at a glance information on each family member.

Students have had a brief tutorial on the navigation and functionality of the application and have created a secure individual password for their account. Please talk to your student about this process and have them share their account information with you in order for you to access the information listed above.

Teachers using the MyEducation BC Gradebook will enable you to view assignment results and current progress for your student from within the student account. Teachers will no longer be able to email progress reports as the application does not allow this to occur due to Freedom of Information restrictions. Some teachers may choose to continue with an alternative assessment program outside of MyEducation BC which means their course marks will not be viewable from within the portal. These teachers will use alternate methods to communicate student progress with you.

Until a process for creating separate Family Portal accounts for designated contacts can be established for our district, we are encouraging parents to have their student(s) share their account information with them. Their Login ID will be their student number and the password will be set by the student when they log in the first time.

Please have a look at the user guide and video tutorial found at our MyEducation BC website: <https://myed.sd61.bc.ca/resources-links/family-student-portal/>

Tips:

- Google Chrome is the recommended browser
- Google MyEd BC to find the login page
- Bookmark the login page
- Try logging in on a mobile device
- Use the I forgot my password link on the login page to reset a password (remember to share the new password with your student)
- Accounts are disabled after 5 invalid login attempts

Disabled accounts must be reset at the district level - contact the school office. ~ submitted by Mr. T. Thompson

Volunteer Drivers

We greatly appreciate our volunteer drivers. Volunteers driving any child other than their own must submit copies of their driver's licence, vehicle insurance and a completed Adult Volunteer Driver form to Spectrum's office before driving. Volunteers are also asked to complete a Criminal Record Check (valid five years) and a Driver's Abstract (valid same as driver's licence), this is free of charge. For detailed info, please visit our website at <https://spectrum.sd61.bc.ca/parent-info/volunteer-drivers/>

How to Report an Absence . . .

Parents/Guardians can report an absence by:

1. e-mail spectrum_attendance@sd61.bc.ca **OR**
2. Phone (250) 479-8271, choose option 1, 24-hours a day **OR**
3. Student can bring a note signed by a parent/guardian. Notes should be handed in to the office.
4. For more information, see Spectrum's website, www.spectrum.sd61.bc.ca and choose "Attendance" in the top right corner.



School Supplies Now Available at the Mall Store

Every day during Morning Break, Spectrum is selling basic school supplies: paper, pencils, binders, dividers, calculators, etc. If we don't have it, we will by the next day! ~ submitted by Ms. C. Warrender

Attention Community Members

Spectrum Students Need You!

If you have a local business and are able to offer 30 hours of work experience to a Spectrum Community School student, we would love to hear from you! Students are looking to gain valuable workplace skills, develop their resume, and accrue work experience for their graduation requirement. If you are interested, please contact Lindsay Johnson or Connie Warrender for more details at ljohnson@sd61.bc.ca or cwarrender@sd61.bc.ca Thank you! ~ submitted by Ms. C. Warrender

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR



Friday, February 10

Professional Development Day, Students not in session

Monday, February 13

Family Day Holiday

Tuesday, February 14

PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library

Thursday, February 16

Course Form Distribution in TAG

Thursday, February 16 to Friday, February 24

Student Transfer Process

Saturday, February 18

Band Bottle Drive, 9 AM to 1 PM, Parking Lot

Friday, February 24

Professional Development Day, students not in session

Friday, March 3

Opening Night for EVITA, Senior Musical Theatre.

Curtain goes up at 7:30 PM, in the Theatre

Saturday, March 4

EVITA, Senior Musical Theatre, 7:30 PM, Theatre

Wednesday, March 8

Breakfast of Champions

Thursday, March 9 to Saturday, March 11

EVITA, Senior Musical Theatre, 7:30 PM, Theatre

Sunday, March 12

EVITA, Senior Musical Theatre, Closing Performance,

Matinee Performance, 2:00 PM, Theatre

Tuesday, March 14

PAC Meeting, 7:00 PM, Library

Thursday, March 16

Band Tour departs to Oregon Coast, March 16 to March 22

Friday, March 17

Last day of school before Spring Break

Monday, March 19 to Monday, April 3

Spring Break

Wednesday, March 22

Band Tour returns from Oregon Coast

Monday, April 3

School re-opens

Thursday, April 6 and Friday, April 7

Provincial Exams

Tuesday, April 11

Spring Junior Band Concert, 7 PM, Old Gym

PAC Meeting, 7 PM, Library

Wednesday, April 12

Vancouver Island Concert Band Festival, Port Alberni

Friday, April 14

Good Friday

Monday, April 17

Easter Monday

Thursday, April 20

District Career Fair

Friday, April 21

Report Cards Issued

"A Touch of New Orleans" Jazz and Dessert Night, 7:00

PM, Old and New Gym

Dear Parent/Guardian,

If you would like to use this newsletter as a vehicle for two-way communication, please send your compliment, idea or concern, to spectrum@sd61.bc.ca and include:

- Parent Name & Student Name
- Telephone (home/work/cell)
- e-mail

With thanks, Rob House, Principal

How do I . . .

If you're wondering who your student's Counsellor is, Spectrum Counsellors divide their case load by student last name – as follows:

A to J	Lise Tetrault
K to R	Jude Woodland
S to Z	Celeste Bradshaw



Spectrum's Administrators also divide their case load by last name:

A to L	Mr. Thomas Thompson, Vice-Principal
M to Z	Mrs. Donna Thompson, Vice-Principal

If you have any concerns, please contact your student's teachers or the Principal, Rob House.

School Announcements

For up-to-date information about school activities, visit our website at www.spectrum.sd61.bc.ca. "Daily Announcements" are updated daily at 10:10 each day.