

Spectrum

Community School

N E W S L E T T E R

October 2017

The October newsletter accompanies our first formal report card for the school year. In reviewing the student's marks and comments, I am amazed at how well our students have achieved. We have had another great start to the school year welcoming about 1175 students in September. Immediately we launched into another fundraising campaign for the Tour de Rock - see the article to the right. This is an excellent way for the school community to come together for a common cause. As you know we had the additional challenge of adding a number of new teachers to our school to meet the mandated class size limits. Between some turnover from last year, new teachers, four new office staff, new student support workers, a new youth and family counselor, and a new vice-principal, we had 38 new staff in total join us this year, with two more to come next week. While that in itself presented some challenges, we are very pleased with the new energy they have brought to our school. As you know the McKenzie Interchange Project continues, and to put it bluntly, traffic is a bit of a gong show out there. This is a friendly reminder to everyone to be careful and be mindful of the volumes of traffic. The beginning and end of the day are particularly busy, and we need your help to try and reduce the volume coming through our parking lot. If your daughter or son needs to be dropped off, doing so a few blocks away would be very helpful. And while we do remind our students to be careful when leaving the school, they can be a little inattentive at times. Patience is the order of the day, especially with our Supervisors! As always, if you would like to discuss any topic with us please go to the website <https://spectrum.sd61.bc.ca> where you will find staff e-mail addresses should you have a question about your child's progress. I also look forward to meeting many of you at Parent-Teacher Interviews on November 2nd from 5:00 to 8:00 pm.

Regards,
Rob House, Principal

Bands' Back in Action Concert

Wednesday, November 1,
7 PM, Old Gym

Come and hear Jazz Bands Concert Bands, Jazz Combos
and Spectrum Drumline!



As you know our school was one of the stops this year for the **Cops for Cancer Tour de Rock**. The gymnasium on October 5th was vibrating with excitement as our drum line marched in the riders. We were proud to present Cole Brewer and the team the big cheque of \$18,194.20! This is money raised through the efforts of so many of our students and staff—through head shaves, the Spin-a-Thon, car washes, bottle drives, and just getting out asking family and friends for donations to this worthy cause. It was a proud Spectrum moment!

A huge thank you to the entire Spectrum Hokie family—students, staff, parents, community—for making our Cops For Cancer/Tour de Rock "re-boot" a huge success. Through your support and participation, the actual amount climbed to almost \$19,000 to help kids with cancer.

We would also like to give a special shout-out to the following community members, who generously gave up their time for this cause.



- ✓ **Richard Mar Advanced School of Hairstyling & Esthetics** <http://www.richardmarschool.com>
students who shaved the heads of our staff and students, including our star head shavee! Finally, a HUGE shout-out to our top student fundraisers: Boh F. who raised over \$1,200.00 for the 2nd year in row, and to Jordyn T., who raised over \$1,200.00 and shaved her head in front of the entire school at our Riders Assembly. Way to go!

How to book Parent-Teacher Interviews

Parent/Teacher/Student Interviews for Semester One - Term One classes will take place on Thursday, November 2, 2017, in both the Old Gym and the New Gym, from 5 to 8 PM. The booking system is now open. Information and links to the online booking system can be found on our website:

<https://spectrum.sd61.bc.ca/parent-info/parent-interviews/>

Please make sure to have your student's teachers' names in order to book appointments. Once you have booked your appointment times, please write them down as once the system closes on November 2nd at noon, you will not be able to check your appointment times.

To accommodate the Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews, school will dismiss at 2:00 PM on November 2nd. School buses will run on a Friday schedule.

If you have any questions, please email Shauna Johnson shjohnson@sd61.bc.ca or call 250 479 8271, ext. 222

News for Grads

Grad 2018 is June 18, 2018 at 5:00 PM



Grad photos run November 1 through 10th. Retakes are scheduled for January 10th through 12th, 2018. Please book your appointment online through Lifetouch. All information can be found on our Grad Resources pages:

<https://spectrumcommunityschoolgrad.weebly.com/grad-photos.html>

Grad Wear clothing order forms will be available soon! These items make great Christmas gifts! Watch our website in the coming weeks for information on what will be offered and how to order!

Congratulations to Gwen S. for submitting the winning 2018 grad logo. Thank you to all the grads who entered.



Grad Winter Formal

This year is January 18th, 2018 from 6 to 10 pm at the Inn at Bear Mountain. Tickets and guest applications will be available starting December 6. All grade 12 students in good standing and in a position to graduate are invited to participate.



Grad Transition Plan

Students taking English or Communications in Semester 1, will need to have their GTP completed and have an interview with Ms. Crisp *before* they can purchase tickets to the Winter Formal. For additional information please visit Spectrum's Grad webpage at

<https://spectrumcommunityschoolgrad.weebly.com/>

Spectrum Dry Grad

The next parent meeting is November 9th at 7:00 pm in the Library. We are looking for community support with donations for either prizes for the graduates or services. Volunteers will be needed to help with the dry grad event. If you are a Grade 11 parent we encourage you to attend a meeting or the Dry Grad event, it will help make your event in 2019 a success!

Grad Recognition Ceremony

Tuesday, June 18, 2018
5:00 PM
University of Victoria Farquhar Auditorium



Need help with a formal outfit? Connect with
The Magic Wand Project at
<http://www.themagicwandproject.ca>
Formal wear for both men and women
Is available to borrow

Volunteer Drivers

We greatly appreciate our volunteer drivers. Volunteers driving any child other than their own must submit copies of their driver's license, 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 license), this is free of charge. For detailed info, please visit our website at:

<https://spectrum.sd61.bc.ca/parent-info/volunteer-drivers/>

Spectrum Philanthropy Club

Our budding philanthropists have been working with the Stigma Free Society to become Victoria's first stigma-free school. This is a new and exciting initiative that is dedicated to the AWARENESS of stigmata in society to help develop an UNDERSTANDING of the challenges that numerous people face and encourage ACCEPTANCE of ourselves and others. School presentations are scheduled for mid-November, which will be followed by monthly awareness and fund-raising activities throughout the school year.

From the Visual Arts Department

Video Arts students have been planning their short films some of which will be entered into the Victoria International Film Festival's FilmCAN competition. Three more class-produced videos are in the works for school-wide presentation for the Remembrance Day ceremony and for the Fine Arts Showcase which will include pieces on our program, and the Fine Arts Department as a whole.

Photography students have been learning the technical and artistic ins and outs of classic Black & White film and printmaking under the leadership of their student-teacher Leanne Gummersbach. Finally, the Junior Musical students have begun to prepare and rehearse their roles for upcoming show in mid-December.

Kudos to all of our Fine Arts Department students and staff in promoting Spectrum as the unspoken school to be at for the creative student.

Toast Program



Spectrum's Toast Program is up and running again for 2017-18! Every Tuesday & Thursday morning, we serve toast, baked goods, and juice starting with our Band students at

7:10 AM and finishing at 8:30 AM when the bell rings. COBS Bread continues to generously donate bread, and Spectrum's PAC provides us with a grant, but we are also requesting donations of jam, juice, and grocery gift cards that can be used for perishables including butter and milk. If you would like to make a donation, please bring it to the office. Thanks to all our slicers, "butterers" and servers from Leadership to our Life Skills students who do an amazing job helping to clean up, and to the students and staff who show their appreciation each week! Finally, great big thank you to Connie Warrender and Celeste Bradshaw for making this happen for staff and students!

How to Report an Absence . . .

Parents/Guardians can report an absence by:
E-mail spectrum_attendance@sd61.bc.ca **OR**

Phone (250) 479-8271, choose option 1, 24 hours a day **OR**

Student can bring a note signed by a parent/guardian. Notes should be handed in to the office.



For more information, see Spectrum's website, www.spectrum.sd61.bc.ca and choose "Attendance" in the top right corner.

How do I...

Find a student's counselor? Counselors at Spectrum 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 Ms. Amanda Chan, Vice-Principal
M to Z Mrs. Donna Thompson, Vice-Principal

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

School Announcements

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

Spectrum's 2018-2019 Canada and the World Wars Tour

The Social Studies & Modern Languages departments are continuing Spectrum's strong tradition of learning through travel with the 2018-2019 Canada and the World Wars Tour. The tour will take place during Spring Break, 2019 & will take students from Berlin to Amsterdam to Paris & London, while seeing/visiting important Canadian WWI and WWII battlefields, museums, & monuments. Some of the places we will visit would include: the Berlin Wall, Anne Frank House, Vimy Ridge, the Eiffel Tower, Juno Beach, & the Churchill War Rooms.

Please contact Mr. Thatcher for information or to answer any questions.



Library News

It's been a busy start to the school year in the library, with orientations for English 9 and Social Studies 9 students, novel studies, and research projects.

Students are welcome to participate in two extracurricular activities at lunch in the library. The Spectrum AV Club gives students the opportunity to learn how to make professional-quality recordings. This group meets on Mondays and Fridays. Spectrum Student Book Club participants select books of interest to read, discuss (and view movie adaptations). This group meets on Wednesdays. New members are welcome!



Some great new fall titles, available from the library, include: *Ready, Player One* (by Ernest Cline) – Soon to be released as a movie, Ready Player One is a non-stop adventure in the world

of an immersive video game.

Genuine Fraud (by Emily Lockhart) – This thriller, told in reverse chronological order, weaves together the themes of identity and reinvention.

Turtles All the Way Down (by John Green) – This much anticipated novel has just arrived.

The library is open before school, at lunch, and after school for students wishing to sign out materials, access computers, and work on projects.

DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR



Saturday, October 28

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

Wednesday, November 1

Bands' Back in Action Concert, Old Gym, 7

Thursday, November 2

Parent-Teacher-Student Interviews, 5:00 to 8:00 PM,
Both Gyms (students dismissed at 2:00 PM)

Monday, November 6 & Tuesday, November 7

Provincial Exam Re-writes (English 12 &
Communications 12 only)

Friday, November 10

Remembrance Day Assemblies

Monday, November 13

Statutory Holiday - in lieu of
Remembrance Day

Tuesday, November 14

PAC Meeting, Library, 7:00 PM; Band Parent
Association Meeting, Band room, 7:00 PM

Thursday, November 23

GTP Deadline – Semester One

Friday, November 24

Professional Development Day, students not in session

Friday, December 1

Yearbook Early Payment Deadline

Saturday, December 3

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

Thursday, December 7

Winter Band Concert, Old Gym, 7:00 PM

Monday, December 11

Band Parents Association Meeting, 7:00 PM, Library

Tuesday, December 12

PAC Meeting, 7:00 PM, Library

Friday, December 16

Last Day of School before Winter Break, Breakfast with Santa

Monday, December 25 to Friday, January 5

Winter Break

Saturday, January 6

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

Monday, January 8

School re-opens

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