



SUTHERLAND SECONDARY SCHOOL

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October 1, 2010



Principal's Message

We have just finished a very busy month; it is hard to imagine the pace of September after two months of summer vacation. I have been very impressed by the tone and climate of the school so far this year and I know that the staff feels the same way. Our New Grade 8 students are by all accounts an excellent group and our senior students are quickly establishing themselves as real leaders around the school.

Student enrollment has increased over enrollment projections from last year; we currently have just over a thousand students in attendance. We have also been dealing with budget reductions in all areas including staffing. I think it is a testament to the staff and students of Sutherland that we are moving forward through these challenges. We continue to provide a learning environment that we can all be proud of. I hope that each of you as parents will continue to keep yourselves informed about public education in our province.

One area of concern for us during school start-up was the unreliable access to our student information system, BCeSiS. This program is used by the majority of school districts throughout the province and has been an ongoing issue since initially being implemented five years ago. This year was especially problematic because the software developer did not fully anticipate the extent to which the program would be utilized provincially. Disruptions in service resulted in our inability to efficiently program new registrations and make course changes for students. I would like to thank all of you for your patience and support as well as commend all staff for their dedication in dealing with an issue that was truly beyond our control.

Our fall season is off to a great start with both athletics and extra-curricular clubs getting many of our students involved in activities outside of the classroom. We had a very successful Club and Team Fair a couple of weeks ago. Over one hundred students signed up for the Glee Club alone!

Our Fall Athletic season is underway and we have a variety of sports offered. These teams would not be able to happen without the dedication of the following staff, student and community coaches as well as staff sponsors.

Soccer

Junior Boys: Mr. Coupland

Senior Boys: Mr. Mahon

Volleyball

Bantam Girls: Ms Watson and Connor MacCuspie (student)

Junior Girls: Mr. Huzar and Kate Steele (student)

Senior Girls: Mr. Shahrokh (community coach) and Ms Hayter (sponsor)

Bantam Boys Rugby: Mr. Thornhill

Cross Country: Ms Watt

Swimming: Ms Permanand (sponsor)

Field Hockey: Mr. Phillips (community coach) and Ms Lieblich (sponsor)

I know there are some parents concerned by the fact that we were unable to offer a Grade Nine girls volleyball team this year. At the start of the season, we only had one coach for volleyball. We had tried since the Spring to find coaches for the volleyball program. By the start of the try-outs, we had found two staff members willing to coach volleyball and decided to run a Senior team, a Grade Eight team, and a Junior team made up of Grade Nine and Ten players.

After the start of try-outs, we did have a parent come forward willing to coach a Grade Nine team. After a fair amount of discussion with the Athletic Department and volleyball coaches it was determined that we would not be able to run the team for the following reasons:

- A coach must have a criminal records check on file prior to being in contact with students. The policy around this provision is quite strict and it is important that we adhere to it.
- We had no Staff Sponsor. This is also a requirement in the case of a community coach.
- Try-outs and initial cuts for the team had already started.
- The league organizational meeting had already been held and the schedule finalized.

I believe it is important to have all aspects of a program in place in order to ensure that we continue to offer a quality athletic program. Our Athletic Council will continue to discuss ways to recruit and retain coaches to ensure we provide the opportunity for as many students as possible to participate in Sutherland athletics.

Our Grade Eight Parent Night was very well attended and I hope worthwhile for parents. I would like to thank Mr. Jones and Mr. Nielsen for coordinating the night and all of the staff members who came out to present. If you were able to attend and have any feedback that will help us improve the evening, please send an email to cnielsen@nvsd44.bc.ca with your comments.

I was able to attend our Student Leadership Council Retreat two weekends ago. It was great to see the enthusiasm and energy our group of almost forty student leaders brought to the activities. Presenter Karen Harrison put on an informative workshop titled Understanding Communication Styles that gave the students an insight into working with groups of people. Thank you to Ms Bunbury, Ms Martin, and Ms Matsubuchi for working with this group of students.

Our entire school participated in the Terry Fox run this week. This is the thirtieth year of this event and we are proud of our involvement. Toonies for Terry were collected to a total for \$600. On the same day we welcomed the Grade Eights with a Fall Fair sponsored by the Sutherland Leadership Council. Thank you to all of the staff and students that assisted in the success of this wonderful event.

Sutherland welcomed the Cops For Cancer Tour on Monday, September 27th. They presented a plaque to Sutherland in appreciation of our fundraising efforts. Jeannine Johnson accepted the plaque on behalf of the Cancer Awareness Club.

Upcoming events in October include our annual Halloween Costume Contest, the International Walk to School Week (October 4th - 8th), Grade Eight Progress Reports (October 7th), and Terry Small Study Skills Presentation (October 13th).



Principal
John McGowan



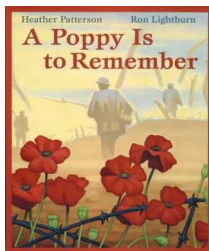
Student Leadership Council

Sutherland's Student Leadership Council is off to a strong start this year, with 45 student reps from all five grades. The SLC hosted the Club & Team Fair on Thursday, September 16, in the multipurpose area. It features the clubs and teams that operate in the school, each with an information/sign-up table, to encourage new and returning students to get involved in activities beyond the classroom. With music, prizes and lots of action, this year's event attracted more than half the students in the school, and resulted in many clubs and new teams recruiting dozens of new members.

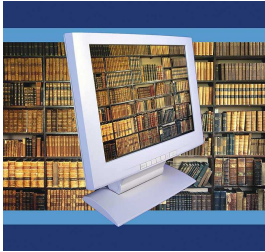
SLC went on to its very successful and fulfilling Fall Retreat this year, held over September 24 & 25 at Zajac Ranch in Mission. Thirty-nine SLC members participated, with Ms. Bunbury facilitating and Ms. Matsubuchi, Ms. Martin and Mr. McGowan attending. Professional speaker Karen Harrison delivered a workshop on effective communication. Zajac staff provided cooperative team-building activities, good meals and a camp fire. The second day was chock full of planning and organizing for the entire year. The group came away exhilarated, better equipped and well trained to handle the many projects the SLC will undertake this year.

With hardly a breath, the next of these took place on Thursday, September 30th, when the SLC hosted a great "Fall Fair" Grade 8 Welcome Event. A bouncy castle, dunk tank, carnival games (donated by Donna Johnson), sac and three-legged races, a Mr. Bean extravaganza and good old hotdogs and popcorn, the event was attended by 125 students. Hosted jointly by SLC and Peer Counsellors, the grade 8s were made to feel very much a part of Sutherland school culture, and had a super time dancing, eating and dunking many school celebrities.

Coming up next? We prepare for the 24-Hour Fast with information sessions on our charities, further group training sessions for SLC members, and we send a couple of representatives to the Sea To Sky Leadership Camp on Keats Island, all before SLC hosts "Halloween at Sutherland" on October 29th. The SLC is definitely headed for great things this year.



Sutherland will be recognizing our veterans and peace keepers with a Peace Ceremony on November 10th. This year the theme for the event is "How will you Remember?" We would like to include thoughts and remembrances from our Sutherland Community in a digital presentation. Would you please send your answers to the question "How will you Remember?" thoughts from personal experiences, remembrances from relatives etc. to the Sutherland Student Leadership Council's e-mail - sutherlandSLC@gmail.com



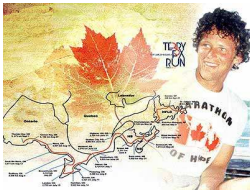
Sutherland's Library Online
literacy44.ca/sutherlandlibrary

A new library website has been launched to assist students with their research studies, reference questions and reading interests. Check out the Research Zone for assignment links, online reference material and current event sources. Check out the Literature Links for reading suggestions. There are also online forms for students to submit book requests and reviews.

FYI - the Library subscribes to two research databases: World Book Online and EBSCO. Login codes are available in the library.

Come back often to check out the new book shelf, research tips and reading suggestions.

The web address above is a direct link; however, the online library also links from the school website. This site is maintained by Ms Clark, Sutherland's Teacher Librarian.



Thank you to students and staff who walked, ran, marshalled and photographed, to make this year's Terry Fox Run a success. Beautiful weather on Thursday morning included blue skies, warm sunshine and super smiles. Special thanks to Ms Watt and her students for organizing and marshalling, and to the Cancer Awareness Club for organizing the donations envelopes for each classroom. The Terry Fox Foundation will be pleased to receive Sutherland's cheque, and if anyone has yet to hand in donations, please feel free to do so this week!



Fall Festival

Tuesday, November 9th
7:00 PM
Large Gym

*The Sutherland Secondary School Parent Advisory
Council Presents*

Terry Small

Study Skills for Secondary Students

Wednesday, October 13th
at 7:00 pm in the Theatre



Sutherland Sports



We are presently looking for basketball coaches in the following areas:

Juvenile boys, Junior boys
Juvenile girls and Senior girls.

Please contact Mr. Mahon.

This past July, 2462 athletes took part in the 2010 BC Summer Games in the Township of Langley. These athletes are amongst the best in the province in their respective age categories and sports.

Congratulations to the Sutherland Participants!!

Connor Baugh
Cole Keffer
Jakob Knapton
Adrian Vicente
Lachlan Fontaine
Sophie Knight
Megan Loewen
Riley MacDonald

Silver Medal
Bronze Medal
Bronze Medal
Bronze Medal

Inline Hockey
Rugby
Rugby
Rugby
Baseball
Field Hockey
Softball
Baseball



Sutherland Senior Boys Basketball Fundraiser

Saturday, October 2

At the school

10:00 – 4:00



Important Dates for October

- Oct 4 PAC Meeting – 7pm
- Oct 4 – 8 International Walk To School Week – Buses are free for students
with valid Go-Cards
- Oct 7 Grade 8 Progress Reports
- Oct 11 Thanksgiving
- Oct 13 Terry Small Study Skills Presentation – 7 pm in the Theatre
- Oct 21 Photo Retakes – Bring original photo package
- Oct 22 District Wide Professional Day
- Oct 29 SLC Halloween Event

For Daily information go to our Facebook Page:

<http://www.facebook.com/SutherlandSecondary>