



**January 2017**

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## Important Dates

### January

16—PAC Meeting @ 7pm

20—Professional Development Day

23-27 Examination & Assessment Week

27—Student Success Day

30—Semester 2 Begins & Block Rotation Switch

### February

9—Report Cards Distributed

13—Family Day (No School)

28—Yearbook Payments Due



# Principal's Message

It is sometimes difficult to step back into routine after a holiday especially with the mornings being dark, cold and a little dreary. I do once again request that parents who are dropping off students be extra cautious as the darker mornings make students more difficult to see. I am especially concerned about students darting across Thomas Road as we have had some “close calls” with the recent icy conditions. Our collective goal is student safety and your assistance in this matter is appreciated.

We do have a multitude of events and activities to prepare and look forward to including our 10 year Anniversary Open House, many basketball teams to cheer for, intermural activities, auditions for the Spring play, band presentations, electives fair, subject specific field trips, and a pep rally. We are nearing the end of their second term and a report card will be on the way home in the next few weeks. This signals that we are almost half way through our school year! I wish all of our GW Graham families a belated Happy New Year and all the best in 2017!

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## Information About Important Dates

**Semester 2** begins on January 30<sup>th</sup> and report cards arrive home on February 9<sup>th</sup>.

**Professional Development Day** January 20<sup>th</sup> students are not in session

**Examination and Assessment week January 23-January 27.** Students in grades 9-12 are following the exam/assessment schedule for the week and are expected to attend all of their study, assessment, interview and exam times. All students in grade 7 and 8 are in regular classes from Monday –Thursday. Only students who have “I” work, missing assessments, or require additional instruction are in attendance on Student Success Day, January 27<sup>th</sup>.

**Student Success Day is January 27<sup>th</sup>** applies to all students in grades 7-12. Only students who have outstanding “I” work or who are contacted for additional support are in attendance on this day.

**Yearbook** order by February 28<sup>th</sup>.



## Leaders of Tomorrow

Congratulations to our December recipient Jordyn K. who was honored at the Rotary Luncheon.



### CSOPA Performance

CSOPA presents “The Little Mermaid”. If you get an opportunity to attend this fabulous production and support some of our G.W. Graham students, you will be very impressed with the quality of the show. The show opens Friday, January 13 and runs through Sunday, January 22 at the Chilliwack Cultural Centre.

Tickets can be purchased by calling the box office at 604-391-SHOW(7469)

## Cabaret Night!

Yes it’s back! Cabaret night will return Thursday February 9 at 7pm. Auditions for this event are open to all grades and alumni of GWG! They will be held January 30-Feb 2 at lunch in the theatre. So if you can sing, dance, have a cool film or you are really funny come out and be a part of the cabaret Night experience!



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## News from the Career Advisor

### Grade 12 Students and College/University

Deadlines for applications to post-secondary institutions are fast approaching. Check the school's website for the deadline dates as they vary. Students can apply through [www.applybc.ca](http://www.applybc.ca). It is definitely not too late to apply for the University of the Fraser Valley! Many, many programs are still accepting applications. If you want to be considered for Early Admission by UFV, you must apply before Jan 31<sup>st</sup>. Need help making those decisions? Make an appointment today to see Mrs. Jones! Parents are welcome to attend too!

A final note about applications; students who are planning to attend a school away from home are encouraged to apply for student housing at the same time. An early application insures that a student has a spot in residence!

### LPI?

If you are a Grade 12 student who has applied to UBC, SFU, UVic, TRU, UNBC, Kwantlen or Emily Carr, you may be required to write the LPI or Language Proficiency Index test to take 1<sup>st</sup> year university English. The next available sitting can be found at [www.lpitest.ca](http://www.lpitest.ca).

### Scholarships for Grade 12 Students

It is scholarship season! The deadline for the **Internal Scholarships** is on **February 14<sup>th</sup> by the end of lunch**. Remember that there is a scholarship/bursary to fit every student and that scholarships are not just for straight "A" students. Be sure to review the scholarship section under *Student Info* on G.W.G.'s website <http://gwg.sd33.org> to see which scholarships/bursaries are right! Mrs. Jones is available to help students prepare their work, provide feedback on content and answer any questions. **Externals Scholarships** are due on **February 28<sup>th</sup> by the end of lunch**.

### Scholarship Labs

Mrs. Jones will be running a Scholarship lab in C171 every morning, Monday to Friday, from 8:30 to 11:30 during Assessment week, January 23 to January 27. Students will have a chance to ask questions and use Mrs. Jones as a resource while putting together their best scholarship package.

### UFV Scholarships!

Grade 12 students hoping to attend UFV can now access the application for the Entrance Scholarships. Students can visit UFV's webpage at [www.ufv.ca/entrance-scholarships](http://www.ufv.ca/entrance-scholarships). Check out the UFV Student Union Society Premiere Entrance Scholarship (renewable up to \$40,000), UFV's President's Entrance Scholarship (renewable up to \$16,000) and many, many more! The deadline for application is March 1<sup>st</sup>. Best of all? Students need only to fill out 1 application to be considered for the many awards listed on that webpage!

### myBlueprint

This is a reminder to all students and parents to check myBlueprint often, weekly, for updated information on scholarship offerings, deadlines, post-secondary information and volunteer opportunities.





# G. W. Graham Middle-Secondary School Newsletter



January 2017

Helen Plummer, Principal | Tel 604.847.0772 | helen\_plummer@sd33.bc.ca | <http://gwg.sd33.bc.ca/>



Chilliwack  
School District

December 2, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians of Students in Grades 4 and 7:

Students in B.C. and Chilliwack are achieving well. Many international tests in science, math and reading have shown this to be true. For more information, please go to the following website:

[http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/nat\\_int\\_pubs.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/nat_int_pubs.htm).

To ensure that we continue to support successful learning, we routinely check our students' growth and achievement. An important part of this is the BC Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) that is given to students in grades 4 and 7 every year. It assesses basic knowledge and skills in reading, writing and numeracy. The assessment is based on prescribed learning outcomes developed by BC educators for our students. The FSA is not an optional assessment. All students are expected to participate unless they are among the few who are excused by principals because they lack sufficient English, have special learning needs, are ill, or are experiencing other special circumstances.

We need information in order to teach your children well. Our district is committed to developing and using many effective instruments and practices that create a profile of each student's performance. The FSA provides a small but important snapshot of how well our students are doing in relation to Ministry standards. When studied together with classroom-based assessments, the FSA helps us make decisions about district and school programs, staffing, resources and professional learning.

#### Facts about FSA

1. FSA is a set of 3 assessments. It covers reading, writing and numeracy skills from the provincial curriculum. Part of it is electronic; part is hand-written.
2. The FSA is written in sections that are spread over 6 weeks (January 9 to February 17). Most students require a total of 4 ½ hours of writing time. Students who need more time are allowed more time.
3. FSA scores are not letter grades or percentages; they do not count toward students' report card marks or promotion. This is not "high-stakes" testing.
4. The handwritten sections of your child's FSA are scored in Chilliwack, by Chilliwack educators.

#### Preparing your child to do his or her best on the FSA

1. Please talk to your child about the FSA. Explain why we complete it and cheer him or her on. This is a chance for Chilliwack's students to show what they know!
2. Make sure your child has lots of rest and good nutrition.
3. Read through the information and help your child try the sample questions at:

<http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/info/welcome.htm>

We appreciate your support because the FSA provides us with important evidence of student learning. Encourage your child to participate with pride! You can find out more information on our students' achievement in Chilliwack at these websites:

<http://www.sd33.bc.ca/district/profile/plan> [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/district\\_data\\_summary.php](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/reporting/district_data_summary.php).

Sincerely,

Evelyn Novak  
Superintendent of Schools