

Sunday January 12th, 2025



Dear Parents, Guardians and Students:

Happy New Year to All! With one school week already officially under our belt since the beginning of January, it feels as if the holidays were a distant memory ... hopefully everyone enjoyed some quality time and found a chance to relax! We have quite a bit of important information to draw your attention to you as we approach the end of the first semester and a changeover to Semester II at the end of the month:

Literacy/Numeracy Assessments: A reminder that these mandatory provincial-based assessments will take place this week on Tues Jan 21st & Wed Jan 22nd and will involve the following: all Socials 10 classes writing Literacy 10, along with three Foundations & Pre Calculus 10 classes and one Apprenticeship & Workplace 10 class writing Numeracy 10. Please note the altered long block schedule format for both days as follows:

REVISED BELL SCHEDULE	
Tuesday January 21st	Wednesday January 22nd
Block 1: 9:00 - 11:45am (Lit/Num: 9:00am - 12:00noon)	Block 2: 9:00 - 11:45am (Lit/Num: 9:00am - 12:00noon)
LUNCH	
Block 3: 12:30pm - 3:12pm (Lit/Num: 12:30pm - 3:30pm)	Block 4: 12:30pm - 3:12pm (Lit/Num: 12:30pm - 3:30pm)

Any students who are not scheduled to write (especially Gr 11 and 12) but would like to sign-up need to do so through Mrs. Watson in room 222. More info on these assessments can be found using the following links: [Literacy 10](#), [Numeracy 10](#), and [Literacy 12](#).

Assessment Week: the final week of Semester I is known as an "Assessment Week" and will look like the following:

	Mon Jan 27th	Tues Jan 28th	Wed Jan 29th	Thurs Jan 30th	Fri Jan 31st (Last Day of S1)
AM (9:00 - 11:30AM)	Block 1 Copernican	Block 2 Copernican	Blk 3 Curric Completion	Blk 4 Curric Completion	General Curriculum Completion
PM (12:30 - 3:00PM)	Blk 1 Curric Completion	Blk 2 Curric Completion	Block 3 Copernican	Block 4 Copernican	General Curriculum Completion

Important Notes for January Assessment Week:

- All students will be required to attend school Monday to Thursday, which will include one final long block for each of Blocks 1-4 (as shown above); the allotted time frame listed is 2.5 hours long, but some classes may not require students to stay for the full time frame depending on the particular assessment or culminating activity.
- Any students who are either in a non-passing position or have missing a significant number of assignments will be asked by their teacher to stay for the afternoon portion of the day as well (ie: if a student is either not passing or has many missing assignments in Block 1, they will be expected to attend for the morning and afternoon portions of the day on the Monday); students who still require more time to complete missing work may be asked to attend either the morning or the afternoon curricular completion sessions on Fri Jan 31st.
- The school bus schedule must remain the same for the week due to the fact that buses also drop off and pick up elementary & middle school students on most/all of their routes. Therefore, students who ride the school bus will be able to be dropped off as per normal in the morning, but there will be no pickup at lunchtime (pickup will occur as per normal after school).

- There will be a limited lunch service for students in our cafeteria (given that most of our student body will be leaving the school each day before lunchtime); students interested in staying at the school for curriculum completion times MUST be participating in focused study, otherwise they will be asked to leave the building.

Next PAC Meeting - Tues Jan 21st: Our first official Claremont PAC meeting of 2025 is set for **Tues Jan 21st @ 7:00pm**, and it will occur both in person in our Learning Commons as well as virtually through Microsoft TEAMS using the following [LINK](#).

[*NOTE: there is a chance that we **may have to move this meeting an hour ahead to 6:00pm**, if this is the case we will send out a new TEAMS link to all parents later on in the week!]

Semester II Timetables: All Semester II timetables (including any changes/updates since the start of the school year) will be available for students to view today, **Friday Jan 24th anytime after 5pm**, by using the Saanich Brightspace login page provided [HERE](#). Students sign in using the same login credentials as they would when using a school computer. A reminder that students should immediately take a picture of their timetable with their cell phone, and if they require any changes they can come to the main/counselling office to receive a course change form that can be filled out and returned to the main office anytime next week (for more complex situations, students are encouraged to make an appt with a counsellor by seeing Ms. Watson in Room 217).

Thank You for Two Successful Fundraisers! A BIG thank you goes to our entire Claremont Community for your support in donating to our two most recent school-based events last weekend (Jan 4th/5th): our amazing Key Club members who hosted their annual tree chipping event (a special thank you again goes to Cullen Tree Services for donating their time/services), and our wonderful Grad Parents who hosted a large Grad Bottle Drive! Way to go Spartans, and a **HUGE** shout out to all parents/students/staff directly involved in helping with these two wonderful fundraisers!!

Indigenous Bulletin for January: on behalf of our District Indigenous Education Team, we are pleased to share the January edition of the SD63 Indigenous Education Bulletin with you. Please find a link to the publication [HERE](#) that includes plant and marine guides with SENĆOŦEN terms for each organism, as well as book recommendations, information about the Saanich year, pro-d opportunities, and photos showcasing events, activities, and student learning throughout the district!

Clothing Donations Requested: we currently have multiple Social Justice and IGS projects running in the month of January that are all looking for used clothing donations of any kind - feel free to bring them to our main office and our students will take care of the rest! All donations will either be redirected for use by those less fortunate or used to benefit local charities and encourage sustainable disposal of clothing.

Family Smart Opportunity: As a school district we are fortunate to be able to work with wonderful community support partners/organizations, and one of these is Family Smart (www.familysmart.ca). One of their main January offerings overviews the following topic:

Understanding, Supporting and Connecting with Teens With Depression:

Mood roller coasters are a part of normal development for our teens, but sometimes something more is going on with their mental health. How can we tell the difference? At what point should we intervene, and how can we go about it? If you as a caregiver and feel overwhelmed about how to best support your teen struggling with Depression, you are not alone. Join us for a discussion about understanding how depression shows up in teens and ways of journeying with them through it.

Speakers: Victoria Keddiss, a parent with lived experience & Karen Peters, a mental health therapist

RSVP: <https://familysmart.ca/monthly-events/> **Watch Now:** <https://youtu.be/fYAMwBncAm8?si=RbTrWEu5ITG3Z2dF>

Thank you for taking the time to read all the way through at yet another busy time of year; we hope that everyone is enjoying a wonderful weekend, and as always if you have any questions or concerns please just let us know!

Sincerely,

Aaron Buckham
abuckham@saanichschools.ca

Meaghan O'Brien
mobrien@saanichschools.ca

Wendy Laws
wlaws@saanichschools.ca