



ANNOUNCEMENTS
Monday, January 15th, 2024
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NEW ANNOUNCEMENTS

- * **Food safe certificates** have now arrived. You can pick them up in the Career’s office.
- * **Flex Block coming dates – Jan 17, Jan 24 (gr 10 exams for some S1). Some great opportunities available!**
These are bonus days for students – earned flexibility for learning – not a good day to go visit friends at other schools. If you are fully caught up, some middle / elementary schools are seeking some student leadership / peer supporters. For example... you may have noticed that Mr. Mckillican is no longer here – he would **LOVE** to see you at his new school, Royston Elementary, during Flex day. If you haven’t already, please come introduce yourself to our new Vice Principal, Mrs. Black, in the office if you wish to be considered for help / volunteering.
- * **For students in the International Students Program**, come say goodbye to students who are leaving and join us for lunch to celebrate the end of Semester 1. Monday, January 22 in the MPR.
- * **Is the ongoing BC Transit strike affecting your ability to make it to and from school?** If you are a student in need of rides before or after school or a student or staff member who can offer rides, please drop by the office so we can help with arrangements.
- * **Attention Grade 12’s** – Study block, Teacher Assistant and IDS application forms for second semester are now available in the counselling office.

MEETINGS/PRACTICES/TRYOUTS TODAY

Group/Activity/Event	Time	Where
Gr 10A Girls Basketball	7:15 am	Gym
Weightlifting	3:10 pm	Weight room
Dungeons and Dragons	3:10 pm	Art Room
Improv	3:20 pm	181
Gr 8 Boys Basketball vs Southgate	3:20 pm	Gym
Sr Boys Basketball	4:00 pm	Tsolum
Jr Boys Basketball	5:15 pm	Gym
Gr 10B Girls Basketball	5:15 pm	Gym
Sr Girls Basketball	7:00 pm	Gym

EXTRA CURRICULAR/CLUBS

- * **Rotary Interact:** Mondays at Lunch in Room 192
- * **Wrestling Club:** practice Tues/Weds/Fri 3:45-5:30 pm in the MPR
- * **Dungeons & Dragons:** Mondays and Thursdays after school in the Art room
- * **Improv:** Mondays and Thursdays after school in Room 181
- * **Ski/Snowboard Team meetings:** Tuesdays at lunch in portable 801
- * **Queer Support Alliance:** Tuesdays at Lunch in Room 111
- * **Neurodiversity Club:** Wednesdays at Lunch in the Counselling centre
- * **Culture Club:** Thursdays at lunch in Room 133
- * **Mental Health Advocacy Club:** Thursdays at Lunch in the Counselling centre
- * **Garden Club:** Thursdays after school in the Options room
- * **Homework Club:** Thursdays 3:15 – 4:15 in the Access Centre
- * **Environment Club:** Fridays at Lunch in Room 146
- * **Weightlifting:** Mon-Thurs after school in the weight room

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION

- * **Culture Club will meet at lunch in room 133 on Thursdays.** Everyone is welcome.

VOLUNTEER/CAREERS

- * **St. John's Ambulance is looking for volunteers** see the careers office for more information.
- * **Chatters Salon is hiring** for Beauty Consultants see the careers office for more information
- * **Island Health's Health Career Access Program** provides a path for applicants to gain health care experience and receive on the job training to get hired. If you have completed Grade 10 – including English 10 or equivalencies, you can apply for this program which offers an easy-entry, financially supported start to long term career growth opportunities across Island Health. Contact the program via islandhealthHCAP@islandhealth.ca
- * **Grade 12's - not sure what you want to do next year? Take a college course to try out different fields of study.**
 - Human Services or Social Services - SSW 121 - we pay the tuition and books (\$1000 value)
 - Early Childhood Education - ECC 104 - we pay tuition for the course (\$750 value) You can get work in daycares and at summer camps with this credential
 - Nursing or Medical Field - Bio 160 - Anatomy and Physiology - required for many medical pathways (\$750 value)

We have still have a few spots in each of these exciting programs - please see the Careers office if you are interested – ASAP

SCHOLARSHIPS

* **New! Prestige Photography scholarship!** Celebrate your milestone with a scholarship. Tell Prestige what your grad photos mean to you for a chance to receive one of three \$1000* scholarships toward your academic or career goals. Submit your application and a one-page essay by January 31, 2024 to qualify. [Apply Now!](#)

* **2024 Horatio Alger Association of Canada Scholarship** www.horatioalger.ca/en/scholarships

This association seeks to assist students who have demonstrated integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity, strength of character, financial need, a good academic record, commitment to pursue a post-secondary education, and a desire to contribute to society. **Applications must be completed by March 15, 2024**

To be eligible, applicants must:

- **Be a current GRADE 11 student**, with plans to enter university in the fall of 2025
- Exhibit a strong commitment to pursue and complete a bachelor's degree at an accredited university
- Demonstrate critical financial need (\$65,000 or less net income per family is required)
- Be involved in extracurricular and community activities
- Display integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity
- Maintain a minimum grade percentage of 70%
- Attend high school and reside in Canada
- Be a Canadian citizen

* **Schulich Leader Scholarships** are the largest and most prestigious undergraduate Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) scholarships in Canada, with a value of up to \$120,000 per award. This scholarship was established to encourage our best and brightest students to be the next generation of entrepreneurial-minded, technology innovators. A top student could win from our school!

Schulich Leader Scholarships is open to all Canadian high schools and cégeps with graduating students planning to pursue an undergraduate degree in an eligible STEM program at one of our 20 partner universities. Every high school in Canada may nominate one student per academic year; cégeps may nominate up to four students.

Student eligibility criteria:

Graduating high school or cégep in Canada in the 2023/2024 academic year

Canadian citizen or permanent resident

Plan to enroll in an eligible STEM program at one of our 20 partner universities.

Meet the following criteria:

Academic excellence, AND Leadership, charisma and creativity.

Strong consideration will be given to students with financial need

Be entrepreneurial-minded and intend to pursue a career in one or more of the following focus areas:

Technology

Engineering

Entrepreneurship and business enterprise

Applied scientific research

We are NOT considering students who:

- Focus on activism (environmental/political/societal)

- Intend to become a practicing physician and/or medical researcher (e.g. Doctor, Dentist, Nurse, Psychologist, Pharmacist, Optometrist, etc.)

- Intend to become a Professor and conduct theoretical research

Important dates for Schulich Leader Scholarships:

January 30, 2024 – Deadline for school to submit a Nominee

February 20, 2024– Deadline for Nominee to submit Schulich Leader scholarship application

June 15, 2024 – Scholarship winners finalized. For more information about the program:
Visit our website at schulichleaders.com

- * **BC TRANSPLANT “LIVE LIFE, PASS IT ON” Scholarship:** BC Transplant is excited to share that they will award four \$1500 scholarships to Grade 10-12 Students who lead an organ donation awareness project in their school or community during the 2023/2024 school year.
Green Shirt Day will be held on April 5, 2024 and this day is a great opportunity for students to organize an awareness initiative as part of their scholarship project.
More information about the scholarship and partnership opportunities with BC Transplant is on our website:
www.transplant.bc.ca
- * [Scholarshipscanada.com](https://scholarshipscanada.com) is a free website with an extensive scholarship and bursary database. You will be matched to scholarships and bursaries that you are eligible to apply for once you create an account.
- * [ScholarTree.ca](https://scholartree.ca) is a website that helps students find all the scholarships they qualify for in minutes. It's super easy to get started: 1. Create an account at <https://ScholarTree.ca> 2. Fill out your information and get matched to a list of scholarships you're eligible for 3. Start applying.
- * **Beedie Luminaries** is one of the most comprehensive and fastest growing scholarship programs in British Columbia designed to help remove barriers to education and provide wrap-around support for promising and resilient students who are facing financial adversity. Students who are smart but constrained by circumstance. Students who are ready to rise above their circumstances and achieve their dreams.

We are looking for Grade 12 students in B.C. to apply for one of 100+ scholarships available in 2024. Recipients will each receive up to \$44,000 towards their post-secondary studies at any public university, college or trade school in B.C.

- * **TD Scholarship information** (Community Leadership Scholarships and Indigenous Student Scholarships)
<https://www.td.com/ca/en/personal-banking/solutions/student-banking/community-leadership-scholarship-for-canadians>
<https://www.td.com/ca/en/personal-banking/solutions/student-advice/indigenous-student-scholarships-grants-and-bursaries>
- * **The Vanier Scholarship, Bursary & Student Loan Newsletter** is available on our school website for grade 12 students who are starting to research ways to pay for their post-secondary education.
<https://www.comoxvalleyschools.ca/gp-vanier-secondary/wp-content/uploads/sites/29/2023/09/Scholarship-and-Bursary-Newsletter-2023-2024.pdf>
- * **RE/MAX Quest for Excellence®**
The Quest for Excellence program is a bursary program for grade 12 students in Western Canada. RE/MAX of Western Canada will award 16 bursaries of \$1,000 each to qualifying Grade 12 students. Winners will be notified in April 2024. This scholarship is open to all Grade 12 students attending high school from September 2023 – June 2024. Grade 12 students may not have participated in graduation commencement ceremonies in the past.

Students are to convey the contributions they have made to their communities in a short online essay, maximum 1,250 words. Key qualities students should demonstrate are leadership, motivation and communication skills. Other

attributes may include volunteering, participation in charitable events or fundraising, and contributions that enrich the lives of others and their communities. **For more information:** <https://blog.remax.ca/quest-for-excellence/>

OLDER NEWS

- * **UBC Health and Rural eMentoring BC – Free event for high school, college or university students from a rural community or who are interested in rural healthcare!** January 23, 5-8pm online. Learn more and register for free at www.ementoringbc.com/events

- * **The Grad Class Attire program** welcomes all grade 12 students in Comox Valley Schools to have the opportunity to wear a gown or suit on graduation day without the financial burden of purchasing a brand-new outfit for their milestone event.
The Grad Class Attire project will operate out of **Comox Valley Dodge** at 278 North Island Highway (Old Canadian Tire building) on the following dates from **10:00am-3:00pm**:
 - **Saturday, January 20th**
 - **Saturday, February 24th**
 - **Saturday, April 20th**
 - **Saturday, May 4th**
 - **Saturday, May 25th**
 - **You can book a fitting appointment using the following [link](#).**

- * **The Comox Valley Schools Careers Department will be hosting an evening session** on District Programs and Opportunities for both **Trades AND Academic students** going into Grade 11 and 12 next year.
Where: G.P. Vanier Secondary (Multi-purpose room)
Date: Wednesday, January 17th, 2024
Times: 6:30pm – 7:30pm - Academic Course Opportunities and Certificate Program Options
7:30pm – 8:30pm - Trades programs and opportunities

Academic Courses and Programs Session (6:30pm - 7:30pm)
 - Students going into grade 12 may sign up to take one or more 100 level college courses, or a certificate program.
 - Programs such as Digital Marketing micro credentials, Health & Medical Program Options, Health Care Assistant, Business Administration, Early Child Care Education will all be discussed.
 - Various other district programs (District Camps, Work Experience, STEP program, Skills Explore, etc).
Trades Session (7:30pm - 8:30pm)
 - Current Trends/employment for the North Island
 - Semester long Trades Samplers (Construction, Transportation, and Metal) - primarily for Grade 11s and includes Math 11
 - Train In Trades Programs (Carpentry, Cook, Electrical, Heavy Mechanical, Plumbing, Welding, etc) for Grade 12 students – the school district and the ITA sponsor the tuition at a college for a student completing a Foundation Program (ie Carpentry @ North Island College). Programs are 5-10 months long.
 - Work In Trades – for students already working with a trades employer (cook, carpenter, butcher, electrician, etc) and receiving a \$1000 award.
 - Various other district programs (District Camps, Work Experience, STEP program, Skills Explore, etc)

Please join us if you are interested in learning more about these opportunities for your child OR have your child schedule an appointment with their school's career office or counsellor to learn more about career paths and scheduling courses in the schools for Grade 11 and 12 to include these opportunities. Information on these programs and how courses can be planned can be found on the [Comox Valley Careers Website](#)

- * **Grade 11 Students:** The University of Alberta is now accepting applications for 20 lucky students to spend a weekend away at the university from May 24-26, 2024. If selected, this adventure will include transportation reimbursement*, accommodations, meals and a jam-packed schedule of events. You will stay in residence, visit state-of-the-art facilities, uncover hidden gems on campus and experience U of A student life first-hand. Students can learn more and apply at uab.ca/getaway. The application deadline is January 31, 2024.

- * **Donations WANTED. Help the Environment club help baby wildlife at MARS this winter** by donating clean newspaper, gently used towels and bed sheets. Drop your donations off in room 146 @ lunch. Cash donations always accepted for the wildlife hospital.

- * **Food bag Friday's for students!** If extra groceries would help your family out over the weekend, please come to the counselling centre every Friday during last block or right after school to get a bag to take with you.
- * **The Youth Clinic (student nurse)** will run twice a month on Tuesdays 11:30 – 1:30 pm in the counselling centre. You can drop in or book an appointment in advance.
- * **Please note that we are not supplying students with disposable cups or utensils this year.** Please plan accordingly.