



Panther News



Abbotsford Senior Secondary School

www.abbysenior.com

October 2002

Principal's Message

Our first month as a 9 to 12 secondary school has flown by. Although the building was almost ready, it has been a challenge trying to communicate over a PA system that works 90% of the time and bells that ring randomly - sometimes outside, sometimes inside but rarely coordinated. Our phone system has been up and down like a yoyo and, although we shouldn't admit it, it is blissfully peaceful when the phones aren't working. (We are beginning to suspect one of the secretaries...) Ms Lipsett's new Home Economics room is the envy of Foods teachers around the district but she is distinctly unimpressed when she runs out of hot water half way through first period.

We are not complaining, though. We are delighted with our new addition and we are slowly ironing out the kinks.

The staff is focused on student achievement and we are setting improvement targets for our FSA scores for next year. We are concerned with the number of students who are not reading at provincial standards (30%) and a number of staff are trying to develop activities that will result in improvement. We are also looking at ways to ensure that students take the exams seriously so that they accurately reflect student performance.

We are looking forward to meeting with parents at Parent Teacher Interviews this Thursday evening from 6:00 to 8:30. Please plan to attend and if you have suggestions or concerns we look forward to hearing from you then. Just a reminder that our PAC meets on the 3rd Wednesday of each month in our school library at 7:00 PM.

To be surprised, to wonder, is to begin to understand

- Jose Ortega Y Gasset

Parent / Teacher Interviews

Thursday, October 10
6:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

In School Gymnasiums

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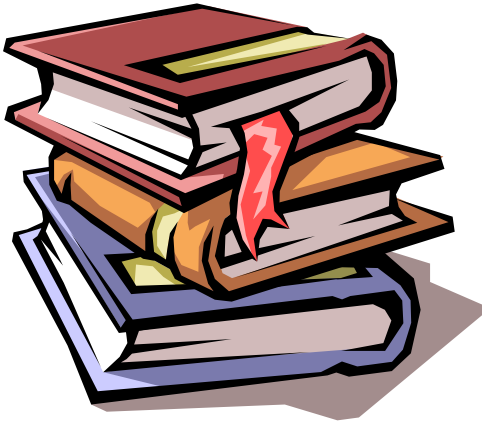
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Important Dates

Oct. 11	Pro-d Day school closed
Oct. 14	Thanksgiving
Oct. 28	Photo Retake Day
Nov. 6	Term 1 Ends
Nov. 7	English 12 Prov. Exams
Nov. 7 & 8	School Closure
Nov. 11	Remembrance Day
Nov. 22	Report Cards sent home with students.

IB Update

IB grade 11 and 12 and Honours 10 students had the privilege of attending the retreat at Camp Kawkawa near Hope September 16 and 17. Despite rain, students swam, canoed, played beach volleyball and generally had an exhilarating time away from their studies. Monday evening's group session was topped off by the teacher's version of the Brady Bunch: The IB Bunch. Thank you Ms. MJ for your creativity!



Mr. Roger gave a short overview of a project several North American IB schools have undertaken to help victims of landmines and assist in landmines clearance. Many students thought this was a worthwhile project and have begun meeting Mondays at Lunch in W123 to plan fundraising activities. The first will be a Bottle Drive on Saturday, October 19. See Ms. Saenger if you wish to be involved.

Moms Who Care Ministry

Moms Who Care is a group of mothers who meet once a week to pray for the students and staff of our school. If this interests you or you have any questions please call Lori Nickel at 604-852-1790

Career Prep. News

The Abbotsford Senior Career Preparation Program has had a great kickoff to the season. By taking the Career Prep. Program, students are able to connect their studies with business and industry. They select a career choice area of interest and are contracted as a volunteer worker for 120 hours with the employer. By being on the job site and working with the people employed in that field, the students are better able to plan their own career and educational paths. Students are often offered employment after completing their Career Prep. placement and they gain a good addition to their resumes as well as earning 4 credits towards their graduation.

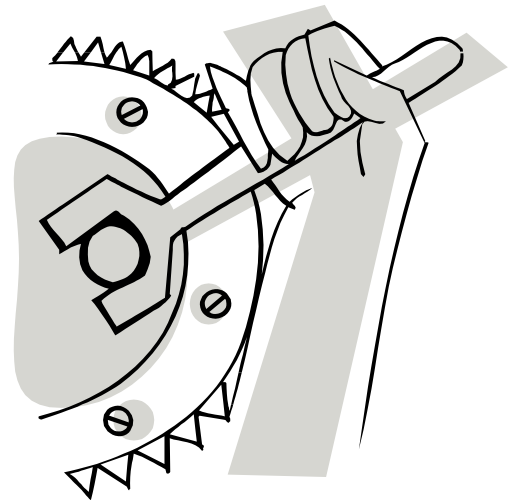
This term the students have been placed at a large variety of businesses such as retail clothing sales, auto body shops, daycares, banking and investment institutions, auto parts, care homes, auto mechanics, elementary schools, MSA Museum and various restaurants.

If you think you could host a senior student for work experience at your workplace please call John Burns at Abby Senior. (604) 853-3367

The Abbotsford Chapter of CHADD (Children and Adults with Attention Deficit Disorder) hold monthly meetings at:

Fraser Valley Child Development Center
34081 Cyril Street,
Abbotsford
7 p.m.—9 p.m.

For more information about the meeting, please call Laurie at 604-854-1997 or Diane at 604-852-2686 ext. 246.



Grad Info.

Grad may seem like a longtime away, but keep your eyes and ears open. Information about fees, important dates and much more will be coming out soon.



Music Dept. News

The music department is looking forward to an exciting year. With plans to travel in the spring and a full concert schedule, the department will be a hive of activity once again this year.



Already students participated in an evening retreat on Fri. Oct. 4 where they took part in a "Stomp" workshop presented by Marion Waters and listened to a motivational presentation by former student Shane Wiebe. Students also rehearsed under the direction of Mr. Larry Nichol (choir) and Mr. Mark Ward (Band). Everyone went away invigorated and excited about the year.

Fundraising is also under way. See your local music student for all your chicken, chocolate and flower needs.

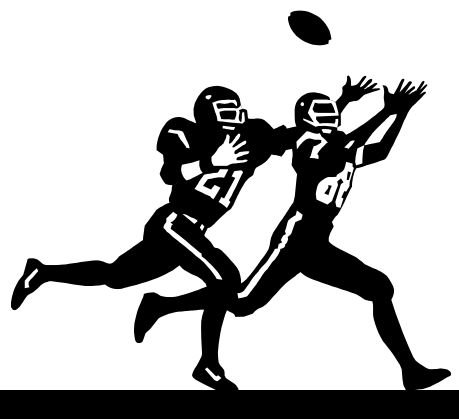
Panther Athletics

Football, Soccer, and Volleyball are well underway and as usual, the Panthers are representing our school well.



The Panther football team has grown in numbers and size over last year. Coach Maxwell and Hallum are excited about this season's prospects and the team continues to play well and with much enthusiasm.

Senior and junior girls volleyball continue to do well in their leagues. The juniors recently defeating Hatzic and the Seniors beat a strong Yale team. Both teams are looking forward to great results in league and tournament play this year!



Perhaps the best chance in many years for another provincial championship team, the senior boys soccer team continues to dominate their league with their most recent 9 to 0 victory over a very strong Sardis team.



Way to go Panthers—Keep it up!

Community News

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