



Killarney Secondary School

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January 15, 2021

Dear Killarney Families:

Happy New Year! I hope you and your family are doing well and that you had a restful holiday break. We are fast approaching the mid-point of the 2020-21 school year at the end of Quarter 2. As this letter goes out there will only be two and a half weeks left until the start of Quarter 3.

Student Forum

The Leadership 12 class has just finished organizing this year's student forum. The student forum provides an opportunity for a cross-section of Killarney students to express their opinions about current issues. The focus of this year's forum was to hear from students about the learning experience this year. As you know, the pandemic forced this year to look quite different from years past. Important changes include splitting of classes into AM and PM sections with a maximum size of 15, longer face-to-face classes (105 minutes), classes alternating weekly between face-to-face and remote online instruction, a quarter system with most students completing 2 courses at a time in 10-week quarters, some courses like Tutorial operating linearly during one-hour Flex time, students only at the school for half a day, limited athletics, and a shift to virtual meetings for most clubs.

Numeracy Assessment for Grade 10's

The Grade 10 Provincial Numeracy Assessment assesses student proficiency in numeracy. It is a graduation requirement and students take the assessment in their Grade 10 year. It focuses on the application of mathematical concepts learned across multiple subjects from kindergarten to Grade 10. It requires students to solve problems by using five numeracy processes (different ways of thinking and working): interpret, apply, solve, analyze and communicate. Grade 10's, along with any grade 11's or 12's who have not yet completed this assessment, will do the assessment online in a school computer lab the week of January 25-29. To avoid using face-to-face class time, students will write the exam during the morning or afternoon that is free for remote instruction. Grade 10 teachers have shared details of the time and location of the assessment for students in their classes. Grade 11 and 12 students who still need to complete this graduation requirement have been contacted directly by their counsellors about their scheduled date and time.

Course Planning for 2021-22

While we are still in the middle of the current year, the planning for next year starts to intensify in the coming months. To this end, counsellors will begin the work of leading current students in grades 8-11 through the course selection process for 2021-22. Course planning will begin February 1st and will be handled remotely on Microsoft Teams. Since directions, resources, deadlines, and support will be communicated through Teams, it will be important for students to carefully monitor activity in their grade-wide Team up until Spring break. More information will be forthcoming for students and parents.

Articulation

Our planning for next year also includes preparation for a new group of Grade 8's starting in September. As a result, we met with the administration and grade 7 teachers from our catchment feeder schools to provide them with program and registration information. Also, a grade 7 parent information video will be posted on our school website, January 20th, in place of our traditional information night at the school. In addition, our school-based team, consisting of next year's grade 8 counsellor, our school-based resource teacher, and our transition teacher, will discuss the educational needs of the incoming students in greater depth with the school-based teams of our catchment schools. These meetings will take place in February.

Mini School Applications

As part of the incoming grade 8 group, applications have been received for the 28 grade 8 spaces in our District Mini School program. The selection criteria this year is different from the past as there was no District testing and for safety reasons we will not be conducting interviews. Besides the application form, the January grade 7 report card will also be used to get a sense of the student. Successful applicants will be chosen by lottery from all applicants meeting the minimum requirements.

Upcoming Professional Development Days

Please be advised that school will not be in session for students on Monday, January 18th and Friday, February 12th as these are professional development days for staff. On January 18th, many staff will be learning about trauma-informed practice from Andrew Neufeld. On February 12th, many staff will learn more about the use of technology for remote instruction.

Upcoming Parent Meetings

January 25th – Chinese Parent Workshop 6:30-8:30 pm on Teams for a webinar on the film Screenagers.
Link: <https://tinyurl.com/y55xq4c4> A film could be watched at your own convenience until January 31st.
Click on the link to register and watch. <https://www.screenagersevent.com/screenagers-bcrpgp-phyllis-chan>

January 27th – Killarney Parents Advisory Committee Meeting 7:00 pm on Zoom
Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZakdeiprj4jHtETZpT-2DXP3A-85JshPTIx>

Scholarship Application Deadline for Grade 12's

In-school scholarship applications for Grade 12's are due on January 29th.

Contact the School

Please contact the teacher, the counsellor, or the grade administrator if you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress with learning. This letter and my previous bi-weekly letters are posted under the Important Updates section of the Killarney website.

Sincerely,



Kal Gill, Principal