Hello Spencer Families,

Hope you are all doing well.

**Belmont Transitions for Grade 8 Students**

Our Grade 8 students had their first virtual visit on MS Teams yesterday with some of the Belmont Counsellors and Administrators.  The Belmont Staff introduced themselves to our students and explained the procedures for selecting courses for next year.  On Feb. 17 and 18, our students will be set up on chromebooks at school and will be guided through the course selection process as each class meets with the Belmont counsellors on MS Teams. They will be submitting their course selection request to Belmont during this meeting.  Please see schedule below:

* **Feb. 17-18:** Belmont Visit #2 via MS Teams
  + Belmont VPs will briefly pop into classrooms to say ‘Hi’ throughout the morning.
  + Gr. 8 cohorts will each have a scheduled MS Team meeting with Belmont Counsellors where students will be guided in completing their course selection.
  + Gr. 8 students will each have a chromebook and their MYEd username and password (will be given to students in class) during their scheduled meeting.
  + **Schedule:** MS Teams invite will be sent to teachers.
    - Feb. 17, 9:30-10:20: Griffiths/Dolan
    - Feb. 17, 10:30-11:19: Capretta/McCarthy
    - Feb. 17, 11:30-12:20: Salvati/Moes
    - Feb. 18, 10:30-11:19: Bilous/Birtwistle
    - Feb. 18, 11:30-12:20: Ambrose/Banister

Parents, please spend some time with your child looking through the course selection booklet so your child will be well informed by the time they have to make their choices.  All grade 9 students will take English, Socials, Math, Science and PE, plus 3 electives of their choice.

This link is all the information from Belmont and includes the Gr. 9 course selection page (this also includes the presentation Grade 8’s received on Monday Feb 8th) : <http://belmont.web.sd62.bc.ca/students/gr-9-course-selection-booklet/>

This is the link to the full Pdf of Gr. 9 course selection booklet: <http://belmont.web.sd62.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/02/Grade-9-Course-Selection-Booklet-2021-2022.pdf>

Also, for those parents who missed the Belmont Transition evening here is a direct link to view the recording of that evening presentation.

<http://belmont.web.sd62.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/2021/02/2021-Grade-8-Family-Night-Final.pdf>

Parents can also google Belmont Secondary, click on the student tab and go to grade 9 course selection and find the page with various bits of info for incoming grade 9s.

**Message from Island Health**

Due to the ongoing pandemic and initial rollout of COVID vaccine, public health has postponed some Grade 6 and 9 immunizations originally planned for January and February.  This delay is temporary and follows the B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) guidelines for the school age immunization program.  Immunizations will resume in the coming weeks and continue until the end of the school year, resulting in immunizations being offered to all Grade 6 and 9 students before the end of June. If you have any questions, please contact your local public health unit at 250-519-3490 and ask to speak to a school nurse.

**Masks at School**

Just a reminder that we will no longer be handing out disposable masks at school.  Students must wear a mask on the school bus and now all students must wear a mask at school when they leave their desk or work space area. Students may have to call home if they forget a mask.  We are hoping that students will be able to keep an extra mask in their bags.

Thank you for your help and support with this.

**Vaping at School**

Unfortunately, we have seen an increase in the number of students vaping or bringing vapes and/or supplies to school.  We continue to educate our students on the dangers of vaping, but for some reason, some of our students continue to believe it is not harmful.   We take this situation seriously and will be sending students home if they are caught vaping at school, or even if they bring vapes and/or supplies to school.  Please speak to your child about vaping and caution them about the dangers of this habit.

**For the 2021-22 School Year**

If you are looking to make a move to another school now or for September 2021, the online School Change Request (SCR) can now be completed through the district website.

If your child is in grade 8 this year, they will be automatically registered for Belmont for their grade 9 year.  There is no need to register for Belmont.  If for some reason a grade 8 student will be attending another high school in our district, you must complete the online SCR through the district website.

Remember, if you have a grade 5 student in your household, or know a grade 5 student in your neighbourhood who attend Lakewood, Millstream, Savory, David Cameron, Willway or Ruth King, they will be automatically registered for Spencer.  If they wish to attend another middle school in our district, they must also complete the online SCR through the District website.  If they attend any other elementary school in our district, they would have to fill out a SCR to attend Spencer.

Please let us know if you have any further questions regarding next year.

**PAC Meeting Dates**

* February 24, 2021 @ 6:30pm.  These meetings will be through MS Teams
* March -Spring Break
* April 28, 2021 @ 6:30 (MS Teams)
* May 26, 2021 @ 6:30 (MS Teams)
* June 23, 2021 @ 6:30 (MS Teams)

Our PAC has a Spencer PAC number at Co-op for fundraising for our school.  This number is **47416** if you wish to use it.

Darren Russell, Principal

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