

--SEMIAHMOO SECONDARY SCHOOL--

2016-17 GRADLETTER

NUMBER 1

October 2016



Welcome to the **2016-2017 GRADLETTER!** This is the first newsletter designed specifically for you, the Semiahmoo Grade 12 graduating student.

The purpose of **2016-2017 GRADLETTER** is to keep you informed about a variety of dates, events and issues affecting your final year in high school and beyond. This newsletter will give you frequent updates about graduation banquet activities, the commencement ceremony, post-secondary registration dates, scholarship opportunities, transcripts, and much more.

It includes all the information you need to make some very important decisions. Don't miss a single issue, and keep them on file for future reference. While we print a number of hard copies, we encourage you to download your copy from our school website www.surreyschools.ca/schools/semi

Are You Sure That You Are Graduating from High School ?

Make sure you have 80 credits and the right credits!

Ensuring that you have fulfilled your graduation requirements is your responsibility. You have an obligation to be fully aware of what the requirements are, and to make sure that your three-year plan (Grades 10, 11 and 12) meets the requirements upon completion.

You will be contacted towards the end of November to review and verify the transcript information that the Ministry of Education has in their data base. Included will be all grade 10, 11 and 12 credits that you have completed already (including marks) and credits that you are completing this year.

Also, if you completed a full credit summer school course, a night school course or online course, make sure it is documented in your Diploma Verification Report. If any of those courses are missing you need to contact the ONLINE SCHOOL to get them to send the proper documentation to Semiahmoo.

Please see **Ms. Campbell** if you have any doubts about your graduation status.

Reporting Grades For Online Courses

You will no longer be able to self-report Grades for distance education courses from institutions like SAIL. The Grades must come from the Ministry of Education. Students must get their On-line institution to submit grades to Semiahmoo.

For a course to be considered as part of your university application, it should be completed by the end of March. It is more important than ever to keep track of your graduation credits and to complete these courses if you are enrolled.



Post Secondary Plans - Do you have a Plan A and a Plan B?

Suppose you have your heart set on getting into UBC or SFU and don't qualify. It is good to have a backup plan. It is recommended that you apply at more than one institution. Kwantlen Polytechnic University is an excellent Plan A or Plan B as it is our local Post Secondary institution, costs less than university, and the academic entrance requirements are generally less stringent.

As you can see below, the application process begins very soon.



**KWANTLEN
POLYTECHNIC
UNIVERSITY**

Kwantlen Polytechnic University begins accepting applications on
November 1st.

They are accepted on a first come, first served basis, subject to students having the appropriate prerequisites and grades to enter specific programs. The earlier you register, the better chance you have of getting the courses you want. And, of course, if you apply on line, it involves the use of Master-card or Visa to confirm. Once again, the longer you delay it, the less chance you will have to choose the courses you want. They suggest if you don't have a credit card you could buy a visa gift card as an alternative.

You should apply to Kwantlen, even if it isn't your first choice. There is no guarantee that you will get your first post-secondary choice and there may be additional financial and personal reasons why you may have to go to university close to home.

Universities do not accept applications on a first come first serve basis. As long as you have your application submitted by the deadline, you will be considered for entry into the Faculty of your choice if you meet the required GPA.

Familiarize yourself with the deadlines for the universities you wish to apply to because the deadlines vary.

High School students apply on-line to most of the universities in B.C. using applybc.ca and ouac.on.ca/ for universities in Ontario. Applications to universities in other parts of Canada are done on-line at the university website.

Mark Your Calendars

Winterfest

Wednesday, December 7, 2016

Commencement

Wednesday, June 7th, 2017
Chandos Pattison Auditorium

Grad Dinner Dance

Saturday, June 10th, 2017 (Tentative date)
Vancouver Fairmont Hotel

The following Post- Secondary Visits will be held in the library at Semiahmoo

SFU	October 4, 2016	11:45
Western	October 24, 2016	3:00
UBC	October, 27, 2016	3:00
UVic (Business)	November 16, 2016	3:00
Queens	November 18, 2016	9:00
MCGill	November 22, 2016	11:45
U of A	November 22, 2016	3:00

Interested grade 12 students are invited to attend.

Do you want to learn about all the BC Post-Secondary institutions?

Elgin Park Secondary will host Post-Secondary Institutions of BC
November 14, 2016 @ 6:30

Grade 11 and 12 students and their parents are all welcome.

Transcripts: P.S.I. – Post-Secondary Institution selection

In order to have your marks electronically transferred to universities and colleges across Canada you will need to go to the Post-Secondary Institution website.

Starting in November, the website will be open for you to choose where you want your transcripts to be sent. You will need your PEN number (not your student #). It is found on your report card. You will also need to remember the password you created in Grade10 when you signed on the Ministry website.

<https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/> and select the link “Post-Secondary Institutions Selections”



Provincial Exams

The only provincial exam students must take in Grade 12 is English or Communications 12.

To view the 2016-2017 Provincial Examination Schedule go to the following website: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/>

English 12 will be written at Semiahmoo on Monday January 24, 8:30 to 11:30



Graduation Transitions Requirements

It is very important for all Grade 12 students to make sure they complete all **3 Graduation Transitions** Aspects by the following deadline: November 21, 2016

1. Community Connections – 30 Hours
2. Personal Health –Daily Personal Health (Grade 12 – red sheet)
3. Grade 12 Transitions Presentation in the library on November 21.

Any questions or concerns please see Ms. Ellis in the Career Center

Thinking About Attending College In The U.S.A.?

Students considering post-secondary education in the United States are encouraged to register for the SATs (Scholastic Assessment Tests)

S.A.T. application forms, practice tests and registration deadlines are available in the Counselling Center (See Ms. Campbell)

U.S.A. Web Sites To Bookmark

U.S. Colleges By State: www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state

College Search By Profile: www.collegenet.com

NCAA Clearinghouse: www.ncaa.org/cbsa

SAT: www.collegeboard.org





Scholarship Opportunities

Please keep looking regularly at the Scholarship noticeboard outside the Career Centre for current postings re scholarships. Notice that this is also the time to explore the awards that are available at the post-secondary institution you are planning to attend. These will be listed on their websites. Please watch for deadlines.

Graduation Portraits

Appointments are being made now. Please book yours

Artona will take grad photos November 1 – 9, 2016
you miss these dates you will have to go to their studio
<https://www.artona.com/>



ASAP.

here at Semiahmoo. If
downtown.

Lunch-In Meeting

Attend the Grade 12 LunchIn Meetings held in the Drama Room at 11:55 to get ongoing up-to-date information on all things important to know.

Tuesday, October 11, 2016
Tuesday, October 25, 2016
Tuesday, November 8, 2016
Tuesday, November 29, 2016
Tuesday, December 6, 2016

Scholarship Information
Latitude (GAP year information)

Key Websites:

Exams, Transcripts and Scholarships: Data Management and Student Certification
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/

Information about post-secondary options in BC:
www.educationplannerbc.ca

Apply to several post-secondary options in BC:
www.applybc.ca

P.S.I. website: <https://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/tsw/tsw/student/>

Career Planning: www.bced.gov.bc.ca/ www.studentawards.com/

Website From The Ministry Of Education
www.achievebc.ca

