

--SEMIAHMOO SECONDARY SCHOOL--

# 2017-18 GRADLETTER

NUMBER 1

October 2017



Welcome to the **2017-2018 GRADLETTER!** This is the first newsletter designed specifically for you, the Semiahmoo Grade 12 graduating student.

The purpose of **2017-2018 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](http://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 **YOUR COUNSELLOR** 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 Secondary or directly to the Ministry of Education.

For a course to be considered as part of your university application, it is important to have the course completed by the university deadline. Deadlines are different for each university



## **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 1<sup>st</sup>**.

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. you can search, plan and apply using [EducationPlannerBC.ca](http://EducationPlannerBC.ca) and for Ontario schools you use [ouac.on.ca/](http://ouac.on.ca/) Applications to universities in other parts of Canada are done on-line at the university website.**

# Mark Your Calendars

**Winterfest**

Thursday, December 7, 2017

**Commencement**

Wednesday, June 6th, 2018  
Chandos Pattison Auditorium

**Grad Dinner Dance**

TBA

**Grad Transitions**

**Interviews**

Monday, December 4, 2017

**Grad Fashion Show**

Thursday, March 1, 2018

## The following Post- Secondary Visits will be at Semiahmoo

U of California (Riverside)	Oct. 13, 2017	10:55	Rm 101
UBC	Oct. 24, 2017	3:00	Library
Vancouver Institute of Media Arts	Oct. 30, 2017	11:45	Rm 101
U of Calgary	Nov. 22, 2017	3:00	Library
U of Waterloo	Nov. 23, 2017	11:45	Drama Room
Queens University	Nov. 24, 2017	9:00	Library
SFU	Nov. 29, 2017	3:00	Library
U of Alberta	Nov. 30, 2017	8:30	Library

Interested grade 12 students are invited to attend.

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

SEMIAHMOO SECONDARY will host Post-Secondary Institutions of BC  
November 7, 2016 @ 6:00

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

## **Student Transcript Service**

Student Transcript Service is an online application for students to view their school marks, provincial scholarships and transcript and to send transcripts electronically to post-secondary institutions. To create your account, go to

[www.StudentTranscripts.gov.bc.ca](http://www.StudentTranscripts.gov.bc.ca)

You will need your PEN number (found on your report card), full legal name, date of birth and email address.



## **Provincial Exams**

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

To view the 2017-2018 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 25, 2018 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 prior to December 4, 2017.

1. Community Connections – 30 Hours
2. Personal Health –Daily Personal Health (Grade 12 – red sheet)
3. Grade 12 Transitions Presentation in the library on December 4.

*Any questions or concerns please see Ms Ross in Room106*

## **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 a counsellor)

## U.S.A. Web Sites To Bookmark

U.S. Colleges By State: [www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state](http://www.utexas.edu/world/univ/state)

College Search By Profile: [www.collegenet.com](http://www.collegenet.com)

NCAA Clearinghouse: [www.ncaa.org/cbsa](http://www.ncaa.org/cbsa)

SAT: [www.collegeboard.org](http://www.collegeboard.org)



## Scholarship Opportunities

Please check the Scholarship noticeboard outside the Career Centre regularly for all current scholarship postings. This is also the time to explore the awards/scholarships available at the post-secondary institution you are planning to attend. This information can be found on the universities individual websites. Please pay attention to deadlines. **Ms. Britt is available in Period 1 in the Career Center to answer your questions.**

Ms. Ellis in the Career Centre needs your email address and Grad Gown size!!!!

Be sure to check the television outside the Career Center and follow Grad 2018 on Semitime for up-to-date information.

## Grad Photos

Appointments are being made now. Please book yours ASAP.

Artona will take grad photos October 31 – November 8 here at Semiahmoo. If you miss these dates you will have to go to their studio downtown.

Group photos will be taken on October 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>.

Grad photos are mandatory because they are used for the Yearbook and Commencement, however, you do not have to buy them.

<https://www.artona.com/>

## Key Websites:

Exams, Transcripts and Scholarships: Data Management and Student Certification



[www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/)

Information about post-secondary options in BC:

[www.educationplannerbc.ca](http://www.educationplannerbc.ca)

Apply to several post-secondary options in BC:

[www.applybc.ca](http://www.applybc.ca)

Career Planning: [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/) [www.studentawards.com/](http://www.studentawards.com/)

Website From The Ministry Of Education

[www.achievebc.ca](http://www.achievebc.ca)

