



November 2023



Principal's Message

You may notice that this school year there are changes to the K-12 Reporting Policy. While students in Grades 10-12 courses will continue to receive a letter grade and percentage, students in Grade 9 courses will receive marks on the Provincial Proficiency Scale. All students will receive written learning updates which include descriptive feedback to ensure students and families understand where the student is at in their learning, and areas for further growth. Additionally, each term all students will be provided an opportunity for self-reflection and goal setting on the core competencies, and if completed, this can be viewed in SD61 Parent Connect. You can learn more about the changes on SD61's website by going [here](#).

As we wrap up first term our focus shifts to our move back to the Fernwood campus. We are

still on schedule to move at the end of the semester with our first day of classes at our iconic building on February 1st. Please note that the last day of scheduled classes for this semester is January 25th. Access to either campus will likely be limited from January 26th to January 31st. We are working with the project team to determine when student tours and a school celebration will be permitted. We should be able to send out a detailed calendar for January/February in the next few weeks.

It should be an exciting second term. Congratulations to those students who met their academic goals for the first term.

Take care,
Aaron

Important Upcoming Dates

December 6 th	Musical Theatre Music Bingo @ Fernwood inn @7:30 PM!
December 8 th	Grad Winter Formal
December 11 th	PAC Meeting
December 14 th	Grade 9 Immunizations
December 22	Santa's Breakfast – Last Day before Winter Break
January 8 th	First day of classes back
January 15 th	PAC Meeting
January 22-26	Numeracy/Literacy Assessments Français Langue/Exams A&C School Exams B & D/ End Of Term 2
January 29 th	PRO D Day – No Scheduled Classes
January 30 th & 31	Curriculum Completion/Semester Turn Around No Scheduled Classes
February 1 st	First day of Semester 2
February 7 – 9	Grad Photo Retakes

! Welcome back Victoria High Families!

LEADERSHIP

As usual, our student leadership program has been tremendously busy in kicking off the school year. We started with running grade 9 orientations, celebrating the tradition of Cornerstone Breakfast, and followed by Halloween and Remembrance Day. This year's group is strong, with many junior students working alongside our senior students to learn the traditions as well as finding new ways to celebrate.

We had our Annual Cornerstone Breakfast, we made lots of pancakes and sung a lot of songs! 🥞

On the second Friday of every September, we flip thousands of pancakes and feed the school. It is chaotic and loud, and we love it. It is a great way for Leadership students to get to know each other and to kick off our school year.





This year's grade 12 Leadership students with Ms.

Reside and Ms. Lukat.



We are now approaching the season when inclement weather may affect the safety and welfare of students. Snowy weather has the potential to cause school closure or some School District 61 services to be suspended.



During inclement weather, information about schools will be updated continuously on the Greater Victoria School District 61 website at <http://www.sd61.bc.ca>. Within the Greater Victoria School District, the Interim Superintendent of Schools, Deb Whitten, will provide media outlets with information about the status of our facilities and transportation services by 6:30 am.



First Grad Assembly for the Grad Class Of 2024 was on September 14.



Victoria High Cross Country



Congratulations to our Cross-Country athletes Parker Aiken and Brian Pinon for incredible performances at the BC Championships on the weekend. Parker places 21st in the province and Brian placed 86th in the senior boy's triple A division. Excellent work!





Congratulations to our Jr. Boys Volleyball Team who played with heart and togetherness to finish 3rd in the City!





Congratulations to the Senior Boys Volleyball team for winning the Senior Boys Double A City Championships! The boys were able to clean sweep the tournament winning each game 2-0!





Congratulations to our senior girls' volleyball team who beat SMUS to qualify as the second seed for Island Championships!!!! Well done girls!!!

In honor of our wonderful Volleyball Teams with staff vs students' game and recognition of all our graduating players. Good luck to our Sr. Girls, Sr. Boys, and Jr Boys who are all heading off to islands!!! 🏐





We had our beginner dance class perform in nature!

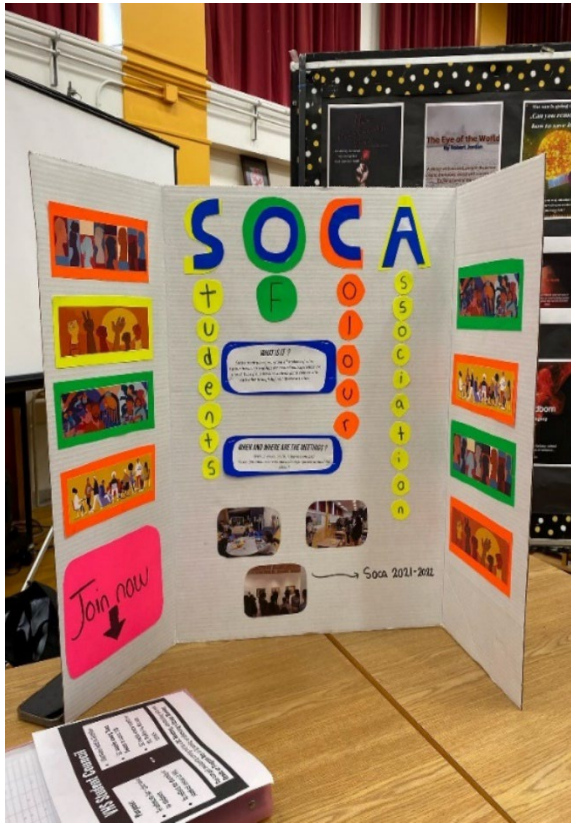






Leadership organized a Club Fair to showcase the variety of options for joining a club at Vic High. It was well attended and really showcased the diversity of clubs in our school.









Leadership held an afterschool retreat to get to know each other and plan for the year. It included brainstorming sessions, getting to know you games, and dinner. Lots of great ideas were generated.



Every Child Matters at Victoria High. We recognize the National Day of Truth and Reconciliation.



Leadership also takes on the role of honoring and celebrating cultural and historically significant days. This included Truth & Reconciliation Day, Hispanic and Latino heritage month, Diwali, Invisible Disability awareness week, and more.

Student leadership also helps to support school events such as picture days, our breakfast/toast program, announcements, homework club for English language learners,

Leadership also works out in our community supporting our local schools, charitable organizations, and fundraising for important events. We have a group working with the Victoria Foundation's Vital Youth program, researching and meeting with local organizations to determine where to direct funds. Students also supported the Victoria Marathon, George Jay school's Halloween

events, and Vic West community association events, just to name a few.

We are looking forward to the winter season including our annual talent show and another pancake breakfast. With the upcoming move, leadership students will be busy giving school tours and working with alumni to highlight some of the history of the building.

Intercultural studies and English language development classes were out and about on a field trip to Mile Zero.





Thank you to the crew for the HMCS Yellowknife for an amazing day of exploration at sea!





Remembrance Day was recognized with a virtual assembly. Students worked hard to script, film, and edit a video that showcased the talent in our school while honoring those who serve our country. The video format gives us the opportunity to use photos from the archives, however we are looking forward to being able to return to in person assemblies after the move.



SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES!

As we approach the end of the calendar year, we are excited to remind students and parents of scholarship opportunities available to our students. These opportunities can pave the way for their future endeavors, providing invaluable support for their academic journey. We encourage all eligible students to explore and apply for these scholarships to help further their education and ambitions.

Students and parents are first invited to explore the [Vic High Scholarship Website](#) for a comprehensive list of scholarships, resources, and guidance to aid your child's scholarship search and application process.

Below are a handful of specific scholarship opportunities to be aware of in the coming months. Please note that several scholarship opportunities require students to apply for school sponsorship ahead of the final deadline.

Mr. Wallace is the scholarship coordinator. Students are invited to contact him at sewallace@sd61learn.ca or see him in room 120 if they have any questions.

[Nathan Alexander Bursary](#) (1 x \$1500, 1 x \$1000) - Dec

- Played instrument for at least 1 year.
- Have goals to write and perform music

[Beedie Luminaries Scholarship](#) (105 x \$15,000 - \$40,000) - Jan

- financial adversity and need
- academic readiness (min average of 75%)
- grit, resilience, perseverance (overcome challenges)
- creativity
- empathy (contribute to a healthier society)

[BC TEAL English Language Learner Scholarship](#) (1 x \$3000) - Jan

- Taken courses in English as an additional language.
- Demonstrated consistent improvement in academic courses at the secondary level.
- Documented school or community service.

[Cmolik Scholarships](#) (25 x \$40,000) - Jan-Feb

- Lived in Canada for at least 7 years.
- Demonstrated tenacity, focus, and ability to succeed in post-secondary.
- Have experienced and overcome adversity or hardship.
- Demonstrate financial need.
- Receive school sponsorship ([sponsorship application](#))

[Schulich](#) (25 x \$80,000, 25 x \$100,000) - Jan-Feb

- Students entering STEM programs (science, technology, engineering, math)
 - Meet 2 of 3 following criteria (academic excellence, leadership, financial need)
 - Receive school sponsorship ([sponsorship application](#))

[BC Excellence](#) (55 x \$5000) - Jan-Feb

- "B" average
- Demonstrated service and leadership, both at school and in the community, and show aptitude for and commitment to their chosen career or area of post-secondary study.
- Demonstrate that you meet BC Curriculum Core Competencies.
- Receive a school sponsorship ([sponsorship application](#))

[Horatio Alger Undergraduate Scholarships](#) (160 x \$5000) - Feb
(Grade 11 Students)

- Be enrolled full-time as a high school **grade 11** student in Canada
- Exhibit a strong commitment to pursue and complete a bachelor's degree program at an accredited university
- Prove critical financial need (\$65,000 or less annual net income per family is required)

- Demonstrate desire and ability to be entrepreneurial in a chosen field
- Be involved in co-curricular and community service activities
- Display integrity and perseverance in overcoming adversity
- Maintain a minimum grade percentage of 70Be a Canadian

Vic High 1st Annual Draping Challenge

The process of positioning and pinning the fabric on a dress form is called draping. Draping can be used to create the basic pattern or to design organically by playing with the fabric on the form

The Block B- Textiles 11/12 and Fashion Industry 12 class created these draped creations. The staff and students at the school were able to vote and the winning team was Team #4- Congratulations to all those who participated.





Mz. Hope's Language Arts 9 class is taking a deep dive into issues surrounding banned and challenged books. Building upon discussions prompted by the reading of Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, the class is working on real world learning by exploring the who, what, why, and when of book banning with our amazing teacher librarian, Ms. Burlison.



Emily Carr Sculpture

As part of a two-year collaboration among the Fernwood Community Association, local artist Tanya Bub, and teacher-librarian Wendy Burlison

working with numerous classes in Humanities, Vic High Library is the proud steward of the Emily Carr Sculpture – co-created by Tanya and students of Vic High.

Classes in Art, First Peoples 12, and Language Arts 9-12 engaged in inquiry-based research projects with Emily Carr as the central theme – since Emily Carr is perhaps our most well-known alumnus, having attended Vic High in 1888-89.

Facsimiles of student projects cover the surfaces of the three figures: original student-created abstract art pieces, letters to Emily Carr, statements about Truth and Reconciliation written by French Immersion students (some classes explored her work from the perspective of cultural appropriation), descriptive sketches inspired by her painting, and original student poems and stories inspired by her art and writing.

Emily is flanked by two students, an easel, and a mirror. The intent is to show how Carr shaped our vision of British Columbia, art, and Indigenous peoples – and how our understandings of her are reflected by researching her from different and layered perspectives. The result: we have a piece of beauty in our school library that students and visitors enjoy – as well as a conversation piece to spark ongoing thinking and dialogue.



Our school is thankful to the Fernwood Community Association, Tanya Bub, and former vice-principal Chris Koutougos for initiating a project that is now a legacy piece for Vic High.

Please see the attached Inter-Cultural Association Days. TTOC and ICA

THAT THING ON THURSDAYS ICA'S YOUTH SOCIAL TIME



That Thing On Thursdays is an in-person program for newcomer teen and young adults age 13+.

Join us to learn new skills, make friends and grow your community.

Time & Dates (in-person):

Every other Thursday
from 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm

Location:

Crystal Pool and Fitness Centre's
Brereton Room
2275 Quadra St, Victoria

**To register or for more information,
contact:**

Prakhar Bhardwaj,
Youth Settlement Worker
pbhardwaj@icavictoria.org | 250-883-6947

 Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada / Immigration, Réfugiés et Citoyenneté Canada

 **Inter-Cultural Association**
of Greater Victoria

Homework Helper Program



Need help with homework?

Our staff and volunteers provide support with homework and assignments for high school students. Healthy snacks provided.

If you are not a Vic High student, we provide 1-on-1 support, in-person or on zoom

Time & Dates (in-person):

Every Wednesday
from 3:30 pm to 4:30 pm

Location:

Victoria High School
923 Topaz Ave, Victoria

**To register or for more information,
contact:**

Kaylin Arason,
Youth Settlement Worker
karason@icavictoria.org | 778-677-7146

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of Greater Victoria