



December 16, 2016

### A MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Christmas break is often thought of as a time to relax and rejuvenate – something that our staff and students will need following a very fast paced December. Sardis Secondary has continued to experience a flurry of activity right up until today, Friday, December 16<sup>th</sup>. During the month of December our staff and students have been involved in canned food drives, a Christmas Door Decorating Contest, Candy Grams, a UBC Trip, a Vancouver Christmas Market Trip, an Ugly Christmas Sweater Day, a Be The Change Bake Sale, Christmas hampers, “A Christmas Carol” musical production, Internal and External Student Scholarship Meetings, a Sardis Music concert, a Christmas Assembly, and much more!

During the month of January it is vital to continue to keep the lines of communication open. **When students return to school on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, there are only 14 days of classes left before the start of the new Assessment and Reporting week.** If you have a concern about your student’s progress, please contact the teacher(s) right away. The more communication that occurs, the more support for your child - especially, if your student is experiencing difficulty. With the school and the home working together the rate of success for our students increases greatly.

A reminder to parents and students there will be a significant change in attendance requirements for students from January 23 to 27, 2017 (previously scheduled Exam Week). In keeping with the new Ministry of Education school calendar regulations and the Assessment and Reporting Week Initiative in the Chilliwack School District **most students will be required to attend and participate in Assessment and Reporting activities throughout this entire week.** In previous years, students who had no or few Provincial Exams may have used this week to

schedule additional work during the daytime, or families may have scheduled vacation time\_during this week; however, the attendance requirements will significantly increase for all students with the new format of the Assessment and Reporting Week. **\*For more details regarding the upcoming Assessment and Reporting Week, please see the Sardis Website at <http://www.sardissecondary.ca>**

On behalf of the Sardis Secondary Staff, I would like to wish all students and their families the peace and blessings of the Christmas season and best wishes for the New Year to be filled with happiness.

Sincerely,

Dan Heisler



### Calendar Items

#### January

3	School re-opens after Christmas break
11/12	Grad Photo Retakes
20	Term 2 ends
23-27	Assessment & Reporting Period
30	Term 3 begins

#### February

6	Report Cards Issued
13	Family Day Holiday—school closed
17	Grad Cruise
24	Non-Instructional Day—no classes
27—3	Strongman Competition in the gym

#### March

2	Grade 9 Parent Night at 6:30pm
3	Alumni Strongman Competition 7pm
10	Last day of classes before Spring Break
27	Schools re-open after Spring Break

## STRONGMAN COMPETITION

The PE staff will be gearing up in the new year for the 19<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SARDIS STRONGMAN COMPETITION (Feb.27 – March 3). Once again, students will be challenged with a variety of tasks to test their strength, endurance and mental toughness.



Competitors will be put in their appropriate weight classes (mens fly, light, middle, heavy, womens light and middle) to compete in the sled pull, sandbag shuttle, sled push, tire flip and farmers carry.

Sardis Strongman 2017 also hosts the 3<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL ALUMNI COMPETITION. All past competitors are invited to participate in this very spirited and exciting event. We're hoping for a full house this year on Friday, March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6:30pm start.

Donations from competitors and spectators to the Bob Fitzsimmons Memorial Fund will be gratefully accepted at the door. Two scholarships are given out each year to deserving students who value good academic standing, hard physical work and challenges of personal fitness and strength.

## BE THE CHANGE COMMITTEE

"The Be the Change Committee would like to thank all of our generous donors who have helped to make our projects a success this semester. These projects include the Breakfast Club, Operation Fairy Godmother (grad wear program), Mini-Food Bank, Clothing Exchange, School Supply Exchange, and the Hygiene Product Bank."



## GALAPAGOS ISLAND ADVENTURE (MARCH 12, 2018 TO MARCH 22, 2018)

There are only 12 spaces left for this exciting trip to the Galapagos Islands. Spaces are going fast. There is a \$255 discount for early enrollers until December 31, 2016. Interested individuals can email Mr. Bernard at [paul\\_bernard@sd33.bc.ca](mailto:paul_bernard@sd33.bc.ca) or see him in Room C218 if you have any additional questions.



## BUSINESS STUDENTS

Our Business students attended the Entrepreneur Leader Organization Conference in Vancouver at the Vancouver Convention Centre on November 30.

Students attending the dinner/conference were:

Elijah Mortimor  
Lauren Grimaldi  
Abdul Jutt  
Steven Shuhany



## GREEN SCHOOLS CULTIVATE BCS NEXT GENERATION FARMERS

By Robert Morris, Concrete magazine

Nestled in the Fraser Valley beneath the snowy Cascades, **Sardis Secondary School** serves the agricultural community of Chilliwack. Sardis has run an agricultural program for its teenagers for 30 years.

**Joe Massie**, who currently co-runs the program with



**Tania Toth**, never thought he would teach farming. Although he grew up on his family's farms in Greendale and Ryder Lake and spent eight years working at a local greenhouse, Massie was trained to

instruct physics. Faced with the challenge, he saw a chance to reinvigorate the course and forge new community partnerships.

First, Massie and Toth revitalized the overgrown greenhouse and introduced a host of new technologies, including hydroponics—a method of growing plants in nutrient-rich water instead of soil. But the most exciting change came in 2014 when the school opened the Sardis Secondary School Farm, a five-acre plot near the school.

At the western edge of the city, split-level homes look over the wide variety of vegetables growing in the field. Further west, the larger industrial farms loom before the land gives way to wooded hills and the mountains.

With help from Massie and Toth, the students manage a community supported agriculture (CSA) program. It fed 20 families over a 14-week period in the summer of 2015. This year, the program will feed 35. "If it's grown in the valley, we're probably trying to grow it," says Massie. "Your basics like corn and potatoes, to more interesting vegetables like kohlrabi." The planning for the farm begins in the fall when the students decide what to grow, how many seeds they need, and other logistics. Planting begins in May and the summer school students take over when the school year ends. For summer 2016, 40 students enrolled to weed, harvest, and tell CSA customers what they'd find in their boxes. Students from Sardis Sec-

ondary have many opportunities to receive school credits for their agricultural work from Grade 10 onwards. In Grade 12, students can take the University of the Fraser Valley's (UFV) first-year agriculture course. Massie and Toth teach it, and for lessons they cannot cover, such as grafting and tissue cultures, the class takes a field trip to the UFV campus.

"We've worked with UFV professor Tom Bauman for a long while," Massie says. "We now have some of their crops in the field, and our goal is for students to ladder into the UFV agriculture program." He also hopes to have UFV students in the Sardis field to help and mentor for the 2016/17 school year.

The program has been popular with students as well.

"My favourite part about working on the farm," says

Grade 10 student Brittany Jackson,

"is how, after a hard job, we all take a break and learn from each other about what went wrong and how we could do

better." The programs continue to grow; this fall Sardis offered four courses for upwards of 120 students.

"I love learning and doing things hands-on," says Jackson. "It's just so much easier and fun. When I get a chance to use skills I've learned in the class outside, it really helps the learning process."

Massie's firm tone softens as he discusses the many community partners that have supported the farm.

"One of the most powerful parts of the program is the opportunity students have to work alongside industry professionals," he says. "When we need tractor work done or expertise on a certain crop, we have many farmers we can call on for help. Students get to see that people want to give back to their community, and that inspires them."

What Massie doesn't mention is how he inspires the students too. "Mr. Massie is an amazing teacher. He knows what he's doing and he really connects with us. You can tell he really loves what he does," says Jackson.

