



March 15, 2024.

Principal's Message

Proud Parents, Guardians and Caregivers,

Spring Break has finally arrived and hopefully you and your children are able to find some time to relax and recharge yourselves for the final push to the year's end. It was a busy winter with many great events happening in our school, here are just some highlights.

Most recently, Ms. Conn and Ms. Stanley hosted our second annual Indigenous Knowledge week as part of our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. It was an incredible week of activities, sharing and learning. The opening ceremony included the dance duo and educators Wild Moccasins who also facilitated a session with our students, sharing their experiences and knowledge of their traditions. Also included in our week was an incredible presentation by the Three Crows Production of Qwalena, during which our students were able to learn more about the history of Indigenous people in our communities at a very personal level. We are thankful for the opportunities to experience these events at Sullivan.

After two cancellations due to snow, the crew were finally able to perform their production of *The Alibis* to a jubilant and appreciative audience. It was a great show with an incredible twist to its ending. Our young actors did an amazing job bringing the story to life on stage. A great many thanks to Ms. Young, Mr. Smith and the crew for all their hard work.

We also want to acknowledge and appreciate the first ever Jazz and Juice music concert held this past February. It was a showcase of our talented musicians made up of both singers and jazz artists who performed to a packed audience as there was standing room only for this one! A well organized and dedicated Music Council, along with Ms. Kennedy and Mr. Kim, sponsored this first edition of what will hopefully be a staple in the Sullivan Music Program's repertoire. The music program also held their Winter Concert on March 8th in the Bell Theatre for yet another incredible show of talent under the guidance of Ms. Kennedy. And of course, we cannot forget our Choir and Jazz Band who both performed at the amazing Surrey Jazz Festival on February 23. The adjudicators were most impressed with the groups and had many great things to say about our music program!

It was an incredible run for our sports teams over the course of the winter as well, with the cap off being a first ever provincial placement for the Senior Boys basketball team who placed 11th overall in the province, a step up from their initial entrance as the 12th ranked team. A great tournament and an incredible experience for that team and their dedicated coaches. After a period of time our Senior Hockey team realized an amazing run this season

under Mr. Vaughan. The team competed hard all season and won a nailbiter to get into the championship game where they met Clayton Heights. Despite some adversity with their uniforms, the team worked past it and in overtime beat Clayton to win the Tier 2 Championships! Congrats to the team and those players who will be moving on next year. It was an amazing winter season for all our athletes, and talented artists and we now look toward Spring with great enthusiasm and some reminders.

As we continue with this semester, this is an opportunity to remind our families about a few things. On April 4th, we invite all our families and our learners to attend our second Open House. Please read the following **Newsletter** for more detailed information on this event, and make sure to mark your calendars! The last week of school prior to Spring Break was Communicating Student Learning Week and you should have received information on your child's progress to date. Please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher after the break with any questions you might have on their progress. You will also find information on course verifications regarding course selection for the coming academic year 2024-2025. Please read this information carefully.

The last item we would like to reinforce is the importance of attendance, including being on time for classes. Regular school attendance is an essential part of the learning process and crucial for students to build a strong foundation for further studies and a productive career. Students who have the best chance of succeeding in school are generally those who attend on a consistent basis and take ownership of their learning. Another important notice for families is that we will be implementing a Hall Pass for students who leave class during instructional time.

We want to continue to work in partnership with parents, guardians, and caregivers, to help all students reach their highest potential. If you have concerns regarding your child's attendance, please contact the school as soon as possible.

Thank you again for your continued support and encouragement. We are a proud community of learners and are excited for the months ahead. Enjoy your break, take good care.

Sincerely,



D. Baldasso
Proud Principal
Sullivan Heights Secondary School



Sullivan Heights Secondary

Spring Newsletter

Learning Open House - Parent/Teacher Event

As we approach Semester 2 Open House at Sullivan Heights, which is scheduled for **April 4th**, we would like to provide a meaningful experience in communicating student learning with parents and guardians.



We will be hosting an Open House format in which we will be inviting parents or guardians (and students) between 2:00–4:00 pm with a short break following and starting back up from 4:45–6:00 pm. We look forward to seeing students and parents in the building together to build the necessary relationships with teachers to ensure that we are working together as partners in the education of all our students.

Here is what you can expect to experience on April 4th:

- Students can arrive with their parent or guardian any time between 2:00-4:00pm.
- Booked appointments should arrive at their scheduled times.
- Maps will be provided to locate where teachers will be during this event.
- Students may then introduce their parent or guardian to their teacher and discuss with their parents what is happening in the learning spaces at Sullivan Heights Secondary.
- **Please Note**—if you wish to discuss specific questions regarding student progress with teachers who do not have scheduled appointments, please reach out to that individual teacher.

For those parents or guardians who wish to have a more detailed discussion about their child's learning progression, they are welcome to contact their child's teacher.

We look forward to seeing students and parents at this event as we continue to strengthen school and community relationships that ensure our students can flourish during their time at Sullivan Heights Secondary.

Course Verifications - Parents/Guardians of All Gr. 8-11 Students

Our course selection process has come to a close and we are in the process of cleaning up the data in preparation for building next year's timetable.

On April 4th, students will log into MyEd during their block C class and verify that their courses are accurately requested for next year. This task will be to ensure they have selected the correct number of courses. This will also be the final time that they are able to make any

changes to their course requests for the 2024-2025 school year.

Please ensure that your student double checks their selections by logging into MyEd over Spring Break in anticipation of the April 4th course verification process.



LEARNING UPDATE

What's different?

You may have already noticed a few changes on our report cards, from their structure to what's shared. The Ministry has moved to a strengths-based approach for reporting which seeks to celebrate students' gifts and support them in their challenges alongside their caregivers.

The primary purpose of student reporting is to effectively communicate with students, parents, and caregivers about where students are in their learning, what their next steps are, and how they can work together with teachers to support the students' ongoing learning journeys.

The next learning update you will receive about your child is to be published on April 25th.

Learning Updates—What is included:

You will see information on attendance, learning progress and written updates.

- Grades 8 – 9: a proficiency level (Emerging, Developing, Proficient, Extending) for each subject taught during the term.
- Grades 10 – 12: a letter grade and percentage for each subject.
- Grades 8—12: descriptive comments for more personalized feedback to students and their families.

Proficiency Scale Explained

The proficiency scale makes learning the focus because each student comes into any learning situation with their own experiences and background knowledge.

Feedback from teachers will help students identify where the gaps in their new learning are and how they can move towards proficient throughout the year. The graphic below helps explain the scale visually.

In every case, we ask that you reference the teachers comments to learn more about where your child is at on their learning journey.



Assessing an “IE” or Insufficient Evidence

An Insufficient Evidence may be assessed if there is insufficient evidence of learning and teachers cannot confidently assign a mark. An IE may also be assigned when a grade 10-12 student is assessed below 50% and not passing the course. In either case, when an IE is assigned, teachers will identify the specific reason for assigning the IE in their comments. Furthermore, teachers will connect with the student, parents, and caregivers to discuss the area of learning in question, the needs of the student, and solutions and supports to help move the student forward in their learning. You may wish to connect with the classroom teacher directly to understand better what is happening for your child.

Written Comments

Along with the information provided by the proficiency scale, you will receive written comments from your child's teacher to give you even more information about what your child can work on.

Descriptive Feedback provides space for more personalized feedback to students and their families.

Teachers will comment on:

- **what the student is able to do (strength)**
- **an area of growth for the student (stretch)**
- **what the student can do to move towards this goal.**
- refer specifically to the student's strengths.
- include feedback on the student's behavior (i.e. work habits, attitudes, effort, social responsibility) and how it might impact their learning.
- if appropriate, provide information on specific supports a student is receiving or could receive to move them forward in their learning.
- if desired by the teacher, include quotes from students

The report cards will be posted on MyED on April 25. If there are any questions about the assessment and comments provided for your child, we ask that you first connect with the course teacher to address those questions. Many times, a short conversation does lead to a better shared understanding of the report contents. The next option is to connect with your student's counsellor to address any concerns.



Lates & Absences

As a school community, we value the support of our parents and caregivers and want to ensure open lines of communication to support all our learners. One of our goals this year has been to reduce the number of lates among students. We continue to have students arrive late in the morning and after lunch. This is disruptive for their learning, but also that of the others in the classroom. Please encourage your child to be on time and if this is an issue, please reach out for support from either counselling or administration.

If your child is going to be away for any period of time, please communicate this with the office via phone call, email or report your child's absence on the Stargazer app. Please make sure that it is a parent or caregiver who is reporting the absence.

Hall Passes

Beginning after Spring Break, a Hall Pass will be required any time a student has to leave the classroom. We are working hard at reducing the hall wandering that happens when students leave their class, and this is an effort to keep students accountable for their learning time.