Welcome to the December COPACS report.

Carly Hunter, SD63’s Director of Instruction was in attendance as a guest speaker. She spoke about the new changes to elementary school report cards. The new report cards are completed on the My Education program. The My Education Report allows for more continuity of student learning with the information more specific towards each individual child. For any questions about the new style of report cards or about the My Education program, please contact Carly at chunter@saanichschools.ca.

Carly also gave an update on the remote learning program. The remote program is not ending! Parents were asked this week to inform the district via a survey if their child would be (a) returning to school, (b) moving to the SIDES program, or (c) continuing with remote learning. The next option for change is February 16, 2021. Carly did clarify that the option to return to the remote learning program is also available. If this is something that interests you, please be in touch with your school’s principal who can help you navigate with the district.

There was a second group of guest speakers; Marie Fish (Kelset PAC President) with her guests Eileen Pepler and Eve Taylor. The group gave a presentation on a Food Program Proposal, *Changing our Community, One Child at a Time*. They discussed the need for food security for the students and families in SD63, and how we as a district and beyond can help to provide a sustainable food program which will help work towards moving through food insecurities. More information to come in the new year.

SD63’s Superintendent, Dave Eberwein, gave a presentation on the new Policies and Administrative Manual that was board approved in November 2020: <https://www.sd63.bc.ca/leadership-governance/board-policies-administrative-procedures>. To review the differences between the old policies and the new, click on the “Disposition Document” link: <https://www.sd63.bc.ca/sites/default/files/Disposition%20Document.pdf>. As the Policies and Administrative Manual is still a work in progress, all parent feedback is welcome. If you have any suggestions, please bring them forth to your school PAC Representative who will bring it to the COPACS meeting and from there to the Superintendent.

The COPACS Executive’s Report highlighted topics from the virtual 2-day BCCPAC summit:

Shelaina Postings and Cynthia Drumond presented on behalf of the Ministry on the framework for enhancing student learning and success. The ministry has promised to dedicate more resources to a system wide focus to continuously improve educational outcomes for all students in BC’s public education system and improve equity for Indigenous students, children and youth in care and students with disabilities or diverse abilities. This new mandate promises to engage all partners, including parents, to generate collaborative results. Primary focus is on intellectual development, human and social development and career development. A continuous improvement plan will be launched next fall.

COPACS (alternatively DPAC’s) are recognized in the School Act section 8.4, 8.5. We are the official representative body of parents/guardians of the children in our district. The school Act provides us the power to advise the board of education on any matter relating to education within the district, including education policy. In addition to the power granted to us by the School Act, COPACS has “stakeholder” status. Being a stakeholder entitles us to have representation on all standing committees, including any ad hoc committee. Parents/guardians are an integral part of the school system, and our voices matter. We are the frontline eyes and ears for our children, and it is our right and our duty to advocate on behalf of our children.

**Important Upcoming Dates:**

Kindergarten Information Evening (for students entering the 2021-2022 school year)

 Date: January 7, 2021

Time: 7:00-8:00pm

Where: Via Zoom – link available on Jan 7th at 9:00am on [www.saanichschools.ca](http://www.saanichschools.ca)

Digital Literacy and Online Safety Parent Information Evening

 Date: January 19, 2021

 Time: TBD

Location: Virtual, TBD

 Cost: Free

 Registration: Required as space is limited.

Topic Information: Digital Literacy and Online Safety is an area of focus for the district,

particularly during this time of increased digital access and at times, increased isolation. The Ministry of Education is supporting districts in their work through Safer Schools, an affiliation that provides educators with critical resources and training to better understand this growing trend. This information evening will be put on in collaboration with our neighbouring school districts, Victoria and Sooke.

Parent Involvement Evening

 Date: March 11, 2021

 Time: 7:00pm

 Location: TBD

Upcoming COPACS Meeting: January 14th, 2021 @ 7pm via MS Teams

Log-In Information can be found on the COPACS website: <https://copacs.sd63.bc.ca/>

COPACS Contact Information

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