

The Titan Tribune

Abbotsford Traditional Secondary School

atss.ca

October 3, 2008

Volume 5, Issue 3

Principal's Message

2272 Windsor St.
Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 6M1
604-850-7029, fax: 604-850-7028

Mr. Hildebrand, our
Principal



Mr. Parker, our
Vice-Principal



atss.podcastpeople.com

Secretaries:

Mrs. Suderman local: 1000
Mrs. Swadden local: 1001
Mrs. Mangat local: 1002

Counselor:

Mr. Abernethy local: 1107

One-to-One program:

Andrew MacPhail local: 1120

We are well settled into our routines for another year. We have a great staff and a great student body. We are anticipating the best year yet for our ATSS. Each year we are not only growing in size but also in the strength of our traditional values as evidenced by the positive attitude and behaviour of our students. Our sports teams are already off to a good start with our Jr. girls volleyball already defeating Mouat and Hansen in their competitive leagues games. Our mixed boys are also enjoying some wins as well. As we grow it is exciting to see the development of our program as we begin to retain more and more of our ATMS athletes.

We are embarking in a weight room development project this year as we have a high interest in Personal Fitness courses and are further developing our athletic programs. Our old weight room has been equipped with new "Sport Flooring" designed specifically for such a venue. We now need to raise money for top quality fitness equipment to fill that room. We are putting out an open request to our parent community to appeal for donations from businesses or individuals to fully equip this room. As this equipment is expensive and our school funds are limited it would be great if we could get this support to equip it for this year. It is possible to donate through the PAC for a charitable donation receipt.

We enjoyed a great Homecoming Banquet last week with almost all of our grads and several alumni attending for a great meal, a lot of friendship and some "oos and awws" as a magician entertained us. Thanks to our teachers Mrs. Faber, Mrs. Mihalech and Ms. Dewar and the grad class for organizing this event. A fun time for all.

We spent a Pro-D day on Friday Sept. 19 with both parents and staff further developing what a "positive traditional culture" would look like at ATSS. We had great discussion and significant input from our staff and our parents. We will be focusing this year on several of the strategies identified. We will be keeping you up to date on this process. Our thanks to those parents who could join us, Mrs. Strukoff, Mrs. Uppal, Mrs. Matties, Mrs. Toews, Mrs. Hughes, and Trustee Wilson.

Mr. Parker is working with Mr. Abernethy our counselor and other teachers to develop an intervention program to prevent any of our students from failing. We will keep you posted as this progresses. The first line of defense for struggling students is always to communicate between the teacher and parents. If you have any concerns please don't hesitate to contact your son or daughter's teacher.

I would just like to remind parents to please help us get your students into class on time in the morning. This establishes good life habits and prevents significant disruption. There are two busses that arrive a little late and we are working with the district to try and remedy this.

Anxiety, Depression and Risky Drinking - Screening Day

On Thursday Oct 9, two Clinicians from Child and Youth Mental Health will be at ATSS during lunch to offer a voluntary screening for the above. This is open to all students on a completely drop in/voluntary basis.

It will take place around the counseling center.

Last year many of our students participated in the screening and survey and found it both educational and helpful.

Any questions please contact Mr. Abernethy





Faculty:	
Dept Heads:	Local
Mrs. VanKleeck Math/Science	#3237
Mrs. Neufeldt Humanities	#3137
Mr. MacPhail	#1120
Mr. Laity PE	#5107
Mr. Abernethy/Student/Ldrshp	#1107
Teaching Staff	
Mr. Barden	#1103
Mr. Currie	#3252
Mr. Cuthbertson	#3236
Ms. Dewar	#3234
Mr. Domke	#3240
Mrs. Faber	#3256
Mr. Fedyna	#3251
Mr. Friesen	#3138
Ms. Hunt	#5107
Mrs. Kehoe	#3134
Mr. Lane	#3248
Ms. McColl	#1116
Mrs. Mihalech	#3238
Mrs. Myers	#3235
Ms. Royer	#5173
Mrs. Schneider	#3141
Ms. Vandalfsen	#3136
Mrs. VanKleeck	#3237
Learning Assistance	
Mrs. Collins	#3135
Mrs. Hiebert	
Mrs. Silzer	
Mrs. Botkin	
Library	
Ms. Malmas	#3152
Cafeteria	
Mrs. Isaak	#5169
International Rep	
Mr. Kim	#1110
Youth Worker	
Liz Hamill	#3255

GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATIONS
 Our Health Nurses will be in the building for the Tetanus and Diphtheria/Pertussis shots on October 16th.
Also you should be aware that they will be introducing for the first time the HPV vaccine to the grade nine girls in three separate sessions. Info forms will be coming home this week, it is very important that you indicate whether you want your daughter to have this vaccine or not on the form. Please read the attached letter from the school board office in regards to this new vaccination series.



**DOGWOOD DISTRICT/AUTHORITY AWARD
 (FORMERLY KNOWN AS DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP)**
APPLICATIONS ARE NOW AVAILABLE VIA YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR.
 DEADLINE FOR APPLICATIONS IS OCTOBER 31ST, 2008. FOR MOE INFORMATION ON THE CATEGORIES FOR THESE SCHOLARSHIPS, PLEASE CONTACT YOUR SCHOOL COUNSELOR.

**INTERESTED IN HELPING OTHERS
 AND GOING TO MEXICO?**
 Ms. Dewar and Ms. Silzer are organizing a spring break trip to Mexico to build a home for a needy family. No carpentry skills needed – just a great attitude and work ethic. Meeting held at lunch on Fridays in Room c135 to organize fundraising. Please see us as soon as possible if you are interested in making a difference this spring.



The 2008-2009 Yearbook is now On Sale and will be distributed before the end of this school year !!! The book's cost is \$55 but order yours before October 31st and receive a \$15 early bird discount! The \$40 price is below cost!!



Remember: We are on the web!



Please remember to phone the office if your student is going to be late or absent. Thankyou!

SWIS - (Settlement Workers in Schools)

If your family (or someone you know) is new to Abbotsford and has immigrated to Canada in the last year, you (or they) may be eligible for the services of a SWIS worker. SWIS workers can help your family connect with school and can also help your family with other settlement needs in your home language. Services are currently available in twenty-one languages and can be arranged for in other languages, if necessary. Please contact your local school for a pamphlet of SWIS Information for Families or call Kanta Naik at 604-853-7640

Immigrant PALS (Punjabi)

A family literacy program is available to new immigrant Punjabi speaking families who have children that are three and four years old. Eligible families must be new to Canada having arrived here within the last 2- 3 years. Space is allocated on a first come first serve basis. However, preference will be given to those who have limited English. This program supports twenty-five families and runs for 10 sessions. Sessions run one Thursday per month from approximately 4: 45pm - 7:00 pm. The program is located at Harry Sayers Elementary. For further information please call Kanta Naik at 604- 853-7640 or Cindy Romanoski at 604-851-4580





ATSS School Year Calendar

Dear Parents:

I am writing to tell you about an exciting opportunity for your Grade 9 son/daughter. On Wednesday, November 5, 2008, all grade 9 students from ATSS will be participating in the annual "Take Our Kids to Work" program. This is the 14th year that grade 9 students across Canada have been involved in this program.

Your son/daughter will benefit from this program by:

- Gaining a knowledge of the skills required in today's workplaces;
- Gaining an appreciation for their parent's role in supporting their family;
- Helping students make a connection between education and their future;
- Understanding the importance of staying in school and getting a high school education;
- Encouraging students to explore career options;
- Encouraging career related discussions with parents.

During the week of October 27, students will be receiving Parent Guides with consent forms for this day at work.

Mr. Abernethy
ATSS Counseling

**THE AHD PARENT SUPPORT GROUP WILL BE MEETING ON:
THURSDAY OCTOBER 16, 2008, FROM 7:00 - 9:00 P.M.
AT: FRASER VALLEY CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE,
102-32885 VENTURA AVE ABBOTSFORD.**

This month Ian Gladman, an Elementary School Principal from Langley will be here to talk about helping your child to be successful in school and also available to answer any questions you may have.

All parents/caregivers are welcome to attend these free sessions. For more information contact Wendy Bruzzese at 604-852-2686 ext 230.

Cyber-Bullying Awareness Week **November 16-22, 2008**

In 2008, nearly 1 in 5 Canadian students surveyed reported having been bullied online (University of Toronto). Since most incidents of bullying occur off adult's radar screens, it's important that young people learn to protect themselves online and respond to cyber bullying among peers when they encounter it. Students need to guard against bullying by:

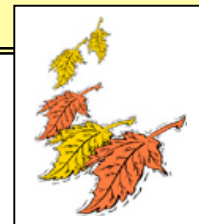
• **Safeguarding contact information. Unless you know the individual, do not give out your cell or landline phone numbers, instant messaging ,name or email address.**

• **NEVER share your passwords!**

For more information please to:
<http://www.bullyingawarenessweek.org/>



October 8	Leadership: Team Lunch
October 9	Anxiety/Depression Screening
October 13	Thanksgiving Day
October 16	Immunizations HPV & Tetanus
October 17	Pep Rally in "X" Block
October 22	Photo Retakes
October 24	Pro D Day
October 31	Famous Person Day
November 5	Take Our Kids to Work Day
November 7	Term End
November 7	Hot Dog Eating Challenge
November 10	Remembrance Day Ceremony
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 14	Non Dress Code Day
November 19-21	Fear Factor at Lunch
November 21	Report Cards Issued
Nov 26-27	1 Hr. Early Dismissal
November 27	Parent/Teacher Interviews
November 28	Pro D Day
December 5	Clash of the Titans BB Game
December 5	Recognition Assembly
December 11	Christmas Dinner and Dance
December 12	Leadership: Carol Sing
December 17	Immunizations HPV 2 nd Round
December 19	Last Day Before Winter Break
Dec. 22-Jan 2	Winter Break
January 5	School Reopens
January 6-10	Musical Theatre at Abby Arts
January 15	Cultural Day
January 16	Pro D Day
January 23	Term End
January 26-30	In school/district exams
February 6	Report Cards Issued
February 13	Pro D Day
February 20	Recognition Assembly
February 20	Pro D Day
March 6	Last Day before Spring Break
March 9-20	Spring Break
March 23	School Reopens
April 9	Term End
April 10	Good Friday
April 13	Easter Monday
April 23	Report Cards Issued
April 23	Parent/Teacher Interviews
April 24	Pro D Day
May 1	Recognition Assembly
May 14	Immunizations HPV 3 rd Round
May 18	Victoria Day
May 22	Prom and Dry Grad
June 5	Convocation
June 16	Term End
June 17-25	In school/district exams
June 17-18	1 Hr. Early Dismissal
June 26	Report Card & Yearbook Pickup





MENTAL HEALTH INFORMATION FOR THE FAMILY

Mood Disorders ♦ Stress & Anxiety

An evening with researchers in the field of
child and adult depression

Wednesday, October 8, 2008

6:45pm

Dunbar Community Centre
4747 Dunbar Street, Vancouver

- ♦ **How To Talk To Your Child About Anxiety and Mood Disorders**
DR. JANE GARLAND
Clinical Professor, Mood and Anxiety Disorders Clinic,
Children's Hospital and UBC
- ♦ **Strategies To Deal With Mood Disorders In The Family**
DR. KARINE MACRITCHIE
Postdoctoral Clinical Fellow, UBC
- ♦ **Discussion of Topics**

No Cost to Attend. Pre-registration required.

Register: info@mdabc.net or 604-873-0103

Bimonthly meetings at Dunbar CC are scheduled to follow-up this event

This information meeting for the community is presented by:





**THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
OF
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 34 (ABBOTSFORD)**
2790 Tims Street, Abbotsford, BC V2T 4M7

Des McKay, Superintendent
604-859-4891 (Fax) 604-556-3435

September 16, 2008

Dear parent or guardian:

Re: New Immunization Program for Grade 6 and Grade 9 girls

As you are aware, the Ministries of Health and Education are offering a new Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine for all grade 6 and grade 9 girls beginning September, 2008. According to the information provided by the Ministry of Health, HPV is one of the most common sexually transmitted infections (STI's) and as the information explains "Girls and women are best protected when they receive the HPV vaccine before they become sexually active." It is a three-dose vaccine series that will be provided at 2 and 6 month intervals after the initial dose.

This is a new immunization program and the Board of Education is encouraging parents to become well informed about the HPV Vaccine, Gardasil™. To assist you with making the best decision for your child, information from the Ministry of Health and links to other sources of information will be posted on our District Web page at www.sd34.bc.ca.

Parental consent will be required for all HPV immunizations of any student in the Abbotsford School District. In the event a student does not return their permission form, a verbal consent may be given by the parent/guardian.

Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to call my office.

Sincerely,

Des McKay
Superintendent

DM:lh

A partner with



Our Students, Our Community, Our Future

