

# September 4 – September 8, 2023

Monday September 4	Tuesday September 5	Wednesday September 6	Thursday September 7	Friday September 8
<b>Labour Day School Closed</b> (Please check the posted lists to confirm your homeroom teacher and location)	<b>Welcome Assembly in the Shark Tank followed by Homerooms – Please come at the assigned time for your grade (see schedule below)</b>	<b>ABCD (Day 1) (No PLT) (8:30am – 3:00pm)</b>	<b>DCBA (Day 2) (No PLT) (8:30am – 3:00pm)</b>	<b>ABCD (Day 1) (8:30am – 3:00pm)</b>

## **WELCOME BACK!**

We hope you are enjoying the last few days of summer with family and friends and feeling rested and relaxed! It won't be long before the 2023-2024 school year begins!

The beginning of September is an exciting time of anticipation for a new school year filled with hope and optimism for a great year of learning ahead! While our Grade 8's are looking forward to starting high school, our Grads of 2024 are thinking ahead to the special events and activities they will have the opportunity to participate in during their last year of high school. A new school year is an exciting time to reconnect with friends, peers, teachers, and the whole SLSS community!

Strong relationships and making connections are essential for developing a strong learning community. Our traditions, culture, and core values of Care and Respect make SLSS an outstanding place to learn and work. Student success is a collaborative effort between the student, parent, and school. We encourage families to take time to talk to their child about academic and personal goals for the year and have a plan of action to achieving these goals. Students, we are here to support your learning and see you succeed! We encourage parents and guardians to be involved and partner with us to provide the best supportive learning experiences for students. Parents, as you continue to support your child in high school with their many endeavours, we welcome you to stay connected with the school.

We would also like to take this opportunity to welcome several new staff members including Maria Bovey, Serena Chan, Athena Chen, Rebekah Gingrich, Victorine Hom, Joseph Lazaro, Mimi Matsuo, Nik Nashlund, Kiran Sidhu, Vanessa Tam, and Helen Yuen. Please join us in welcoming these staff members to our SLSS community.

On behalf of the entire Steveston-London Secondary School staff, we would like to extend a warm welcome to those students and families who are new to SLSS and to all returning students and parents. We are looking forward to seeing all our students on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>!

We wish all of our students every success this school year! See you soon Sharks!!

Mr. Nashlund, Mrs. Fackler, Ms. Varghese

## **First Day of School**

We are excited to welcome students back to school on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup>. Students in grades 8 through 11 will meet for a welcome assembly in the Shark Tank (gym) at the following times:

Grade 8	11:30 am
Grade 9	10:30 am
Grade 10	10:30 am
Grade 11	1:00 pm
Grade 12	1:00 pm - Go directly to homeroom (Grade 12 assembly will happen in conjunction with the Grad BBQ on Sept 8 <sup>th</sup> )

Homeroom lists will be posted at the Williams Entrance, Gilbert Entrance, and 200 Wing Exit Doors on Friday, Sept. 1<sup>st</sup> at noon. Please make sure you check your homeroom teacher's name and classroom number in preparation for your homeroom class on Tuesday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>.

## **Bell Schedule – Regular schedule**

Our bell schedule will be the same as last year including PLT on Wednesdays and Thursdays. Please see the bell schedule attached for further details. Please note that there is no PLT during the first week of classes.

## **Personalized Learning Time**

Students have the opportunity again this year to engage in weekly Personal Learning Time (PLT) on Wednesdays and Thursdays. This is dedicated time set aside in the timetable for students, where they are given choice and ownership over their learning. The goal of PLT is to teach students the skills necessary to use instructional time in a way that benefits their individual learning. For example, students can visit teachers to get additional help, work on projects individually or in a group, or engage in personal activities such as goal setting. PLT is centered around three Guiding Principles:

- (a) PLT will be self-directed, self-managed and self-regulated by students
- (b) PLT will support learners to be independent learners
- (c) PLT will focus on the development of Core Competencies: Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social Responsibility

Please note that PLT will begin on September 13<sup>th</sup>.

## **Student Information Verification Form**

Personalized Student Information Verification forms will be distributed to students on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Please complete these forms and return them to the drop box located outside the main office in the Williams Lounge by Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>. The medical information is invaluable in the event of an emergency at the school. Accurate email addresses and phone numbers for the school's records are very important as email is used for report cards, WAAGs and attendance reporting in the Richmond School District.

## **Student Information Forms:**

Use of Personal Information Form: Permission is needed for the school to send parents/guardians important information via email and for the school to include a student's name or image in the yearbook, newsletters, on the school's website and/or social media.

These forms will be distributed during homeroom. Please complete and return all forms to the drop box located outside the main office in the Williams Lounge by Friday, September 8<sup>th</sup>.

## **Student Agendas**

All grades 8, 9, and 10 students will receive an agenda in their homerooms on the first day of school. Our school calendar is available on our website. As well, the Year-at-a-Glance calendar is attached to the email.

## **Lockers**

Students will have the option to choose a locker to use for the year through our online booking system. More information about the booking process will be provided to students during the first week of school.

## **Health & Safety Protocols**

Although pandemic guidelines are no longer in effect, health and safety is a priority for our school community. To maintain a healthy environment and take care of ourselves and each other, we appreciate everyone's help and be mindful of the following healthy and safety basics:

- Students and staff, if you are not feeling well, please remain at home and get the rest you need to recover. Parents you can call the school to let us know your child will be remaining at home.
- At school, students and staff may choose to wear a mask as it is their personal decision.
- Everyone is reminded to wash their hands regularly.
- Visitors to the school, please report to the main office and it is strongly recommended that visitors phone ahead and make an appointment.
- Our custodial staff continue to work diligently to maintain a clean school!

## **Dates to Remember**

September 13-15	Grade 8 Camp
September 18	Photo Day
September 20	PAC Meeting at 7:00PM
September 21	Grade 8 Parent Info Night and Meet the Teacher
September 22	Non-Instructional Day (no classes)
September 27	Connections Class 9:20-10:10am, during PLT
September 28	Post-Secondary Evening
September 30	National Day for Truth & Reconciliation
October 2	School Closed in lieu of National Day for Truth and Reconciliation

## **Counsellors**

Students are primarily assigned to a counsellor based on their last name; however, students may see whichever counsellor they feel most comfortable working with. Due to an increase in student enrollment this year, the alpha distribution for students has shifted slightly:

### **Counsellor Assignments:**

Ms. M. Ratcliffe - (A, Z, International)  
 Ms. K. Lau - (B – Hu)  
 Ms. S. Zee - (Huang – P)  
 Ms. B. Sihota - (Q – Y)

## **Student Schedules**

Please note that grade 9-12 students may log-in to MyEdBC on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> and view their schedule. Grade 8 and all new students will only receive their MyEdBC access later in September. Please note that timetables may change, as counsellors work to ensure that students have a complete timetable and all the required courses. Students' timetables will be distributed to them on Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> during their homeroom classes. Current students will need to submit a completed course correction form if they wish to request changes. These forms will be distributed to students on September 5<sup>th</sup>. Counsellors will not be able to consider requests for course changes made via email. **Please note that timetable changes will only be made for incomplete schedules or to meet grad requirements. The deadline to submit completed course correction form is September 11<sup>th</sup> at 3:30 pm.** New students will meet their counsellor to finalize their timetables.

## **School Fees – SchoolCashOnline**

The District Standardized School Fee, and Yearbook fee will be applied to your child's account the first week of September. Please note that purchasing a yearbook is optional for students. Grade 8 camp fees are already available for payment. Grade 12 students will see additional fees on their account based on Grad events offered this school year.

Our preferred method of payment is School Cash Online. Please contact the Business Assistant, Karen Campbell at kacampbell@sd38.bc.ca, if you need assistance with setting up a [SchoolCashOnline](https://www.schoolcashonline.com) Account. Instructions for SchoolCashOnline are attached. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's fees, please contact the Business Assistant or your child's counsellor for assistance. If your family is experiencing any financial hardship, please email an administrator so we are able to support you.

## **School Photographs**

Artona will be onsite at SLSS to take student photos on Monday, September 18<sup>th</sup>. Retake day for those who missed the first photo day will be Wednesday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. Student photos are used for school ID's and in the yearbook. Parents/guardians will have an opportunity to purchase photo packages, if desired. Families can also access everything they need to know about SLSS' Photo Day, including the when and why, by clicking on this link:

[https://artona.com/schools/SLON/programs/school\\_photo](https://artona.com/schools/SLON/programs/school_photo)

Formal grad portraits will be taking place in the mobile studio from January 22<sup>nd</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. Portraits will be taken by appointment only. Grads and their families will be provided a link to book their appointments and find out information about the grad portrait process in the Fall.

## **Pick-up and Drop-off of Students**

We encourage all students to walk, cycle or take public transportation to school as often as possible. Not only is this the healthy and environmentally friendly alternative, but it also reduces traffic congestion around the school each morning and afternoon. If you are driving to drop-off or pick-up students, please drive slowly and carefully on all areas of the school property. Please observe all traffic signs along our driveways. The signs are there for the safety of our students, staff, and families. There is no parking along the laneways at the Williams and Gilbert Road entrances. These are drop-off areas only. If you ride your bicycle to school, please lock it up securely at one of the designated bike racks located around the school.

## **Construction in the Area**

There are significant long-term construction projects in our area, including sewage line replacements and road repairs on Gilbert Road. If you are dropping off students, we advise parents to use the Williams entrance/parking lot and allow sufficient time for drop-offs so students can arrive to their classes on time.

## **Stay Connected – PAC, DAG, Website, Twitter, Instagram**

Stay connected with what is happening at the school. A great way to do this is to be part of our PAC/DAG groups. The first PAC meeting will be Wednesday, September 20<sup>th</sup>. We hope you can join us! Follow us on our website at <https://www.slss.sd38.bc.ca>, on Instagram at [stevestonlondon](https://www.instagram.com/stevestonlondon), and Twitter at [@stevestonlondon](https://twitter.com/stevestonlondon).

## **SLSS Secondary School**

6600 Williams Road, Richmond B.C., V7E 1K5 Phone: 604-668-6668 Fax: 604-668-6672  
 Email: [slss@sd38.bc.ca](mailto:slss@sd38.bc.ca) Website: <http://slss.sd38.bc.ca> Twitter: @StevestonLondon

