**Salmo Secondary School**

PAC Meeting Jan. 20, 2020

Principal’s Report

*Mission: “We focus on excellence for all learners in a nurturing environment”*

*Vision: Focus. Learn. Excel*

**Highlights**

It was great to get back to school after the holidays and see all the students refreshed and ready to learn! Given the winter break, and only a few weeks back to school, several of our highlights are from before the break. The Try Rugby event was very well received. It was a time for students of all skill levels to come out and try the sport in a fun environment. Our winter activity day was also a fun time to celebrate the upcoming holidays as a school community. Some students went swimming, bowling or skating, and all went to a movie. Finally, our winter concert made for a fun afternoon. Hot chocolate was served while the school community enjoyed contributions from our music department. Students were excited to share their learning and original songs.

**Projects in Process**

Now we are in January, the end of the semester is coming up very quickly! Students and teachers are working hard towards course completions and final assessments. One project, in particular, has been on climate change. Students have been shoveling driveways to raise money for the fires in Australia, while also raising awareness of the issue in our community. The senior English class is also working hard on completing their Doukhobor history projects.

**Moving forward**

As part of wrapping up the semester, we have some presentations to look forward to! The café exploratory will be hosting the Spoken Word café to share their accomplishments in spoken word. Additionally, the art department will be hosting a Personal Voice Art gallery to showcase their personal art inquiries. Finally, the Grade 12 students will be presenting their capstone projects, which highlight their learning in high school. We will be completing the semester with a school wide ski day, which is always a fun day!

Semester 2 course selections are under way. Questions have been raised about the process of timetabling. A value at Salmo Secondary is that students are able to have a personalized program, as best as we can provide in our rural school setting. Therefore, in the spring students are surveyed as to what courses they would like (or need) to take the following year. The staff are also surveyed as to what they would like to teach. From there, a schedule is crafted that is based not only on Ministry of Education requirements for graduation, but also on the needs of students in our school. There are many creative configurations that can occur.

For this upcoming semester, we are making some changes. First of all, to accommodate our senior students who need specialized upper level math and science courses, although we cannot provide an entire class, we are opening up several support blocks that will allow them to take the course online while having access to a teacher with specialized background who can keep them on track and support them in their learning.

Additionally, we are making some changes to Wednesday seminar configurations. We will be moving students into grade level cohorts. This is to enable some direct, age appropriate instruction in various areas. Social emotional topics as well as study skills will be covered. Students in upper grades will also be able to receive direct support in their graduation courses and prepare for the literacy and numeracy exams.

In February we will be starting our anti-bullying campaign. All classes will engage in similar activities to raise awareness of the effects of bullying and encouraging positive personal interactions. We will wrap up our learning at the end of the month by recognizing anti-bullying day and standing up against violence against women and children through the Moosehide campaign.

Here are some upcoming dates:

Jan. 28 – Spoken Word Café

Jan. 30 – Personal Voice Art Gallery

Jan. 31 – Last day of Semester 1

Feb. 3 – Ski Day

Feb. 4 – First day of Semester 2

Feb. 7 – Report Cards sent home

Thank you for your continued support!

**Dawn Snell** **|** Principal