

ALEXANDER ACADEMY NEWSLETTER

2019-2020 WINTER ISSUE



A Message from the Head of School

Mr. Spencer Todd

Hello everyone!

On behalf of our school, I would like to extend our warmest greetings to our Alexander Academy family. As of this year, our school stands with a diverse student body of over 100 students, from close to 20 different nations.

In the recent years we have placed particular emphasis on our extracurricular programs and activities, and this year has been filled with exciting events such as the Terry Fox Run, WE Day conference, Halloween pumpkin carving, and much more. We believe our combination of programs creates a truly unique blend of services for our students, and encourages them to explore new interests.

Each member of our teaching staff is responsible for at least one afterschool club, and these selections vary from year to year depending on student demand. Yearbook, IELTS preparation, drama and film, fitness, and photography are just some of the many clubs offered this year.

In addition, Alexander Academy offers various Learning Centres for students who wish to receive extra academic help. We are extremely lucky to have these centres supported by teachers and student volunteers who donate their time to assist others with their learning.



"We believe our combination of programs creates a truly unique blend of services for our students."

Our intention with this newsletter is to update you on the exciting activities and extracurriculars that our students are involved in beyond the classroom. We look forward to 2020, especially with our January-intake students joining us!

Wishing you all a wonderful new year,
Spencer Todd
Head Teacher

SEPTEMBER



STUDENT ORIENTATION

Both returning and new students participated in the year's first school-wide assembly and activity, where they explored the downtown Vancouver while completing challenges that fostered teamwork and friendship. For many of our new students, this was their first exposure to the city and its rich culture.

COPS FOR CANCER

Alexander Academy supports Cops for Cancer through multiple donations throughout the year. The organization, which helps raise funds to support cancer research, stopped by our pink alley to visit our students and receive our school's annual donation.



TERRY FOX RUN

Our annual Terry Fox Run takes place along the downtown harbour after a week of lesson plans and assemblies related to one of Canada's greatest icons. By participating in the run every year, we aim to inspire resilience in our students while continuing a beloved school tradition!

COPS FOR CANCER STOP AT ALEXANDER ACADEMY



On Sept. 26th, a team of Vancouver police officials and first responders made a stop at Alexander Academy where they were not greeted by an emergency, but rather the cheers and applause of students. These 59 members of Cops for Cancer partner with the Canadian Cancer Society to raise funds for families who are affected by pediatric cancer. Since its inception in 1997, the organization has raised over \$42 million through fundraisers such as Tour de Coast, in which the team bikes 800km to meet with various schools, companies and organizations within British Columbia. This year, they raised \$776,201.52, surpassing their \$625,000 goal,

For their annual donation ceremony, Alexander Academy positioned themselves in the popular pink alley next door. Constable Steve Addison spoke on the organization's history, and introduced two children who have benefited from the fund. It is through follow-up events like this that students are able to witness the full development and results of their charitable efforts.

OCTOBER



HALLOWEEN

What a spooktacular Halloween! Students in each House competed to carve the best pumpkin of all. For our students, getting to dress up in costume for a day is all treat and no trick. Students with the most creative costumes also earned additional merit points.

SOUP KITCHEN

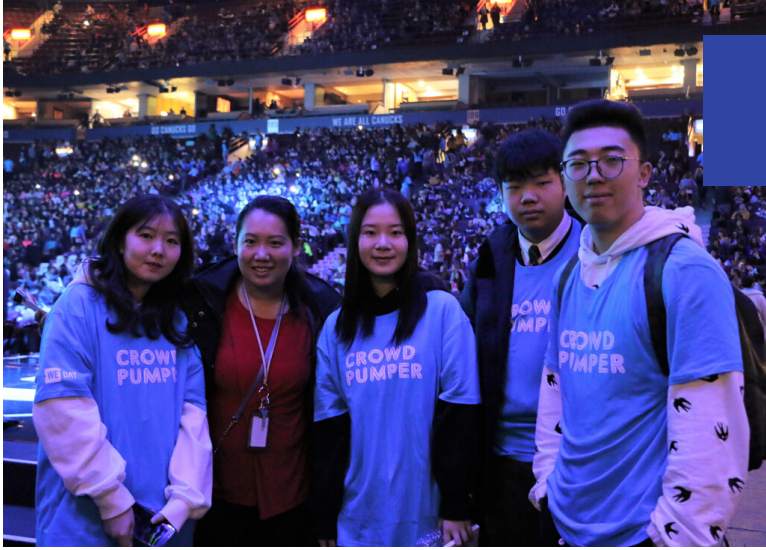
The Soup Kitchen is a popular volunteer effort among students, who visit the St. Michael's Multicultural Anglican Church twice a month to assist in food preparation and serving. We enjoy living out our school values of Engagement, Empathy, Respect and Integrity in a way that directly impacts our local communities.



FOOD STUDIES

Mr. Vicedom's Food Studies course teaches students about nutrition, food safety, and learning how to cook for themselves. By visiting supermarkets and preparing cuisines from all over the world, students are taught the value of this important life skill.

NOVEMBER



WE DAY

WE Day is an annual youth empowerment event that takes place at Rogers Stadium in Vancouver and worldwide. 15,000 participants, including our student volunteers, listened to the stories of motivational speakers, humanitarians and artists who have changed the world in their unique way.

BLANKET BC

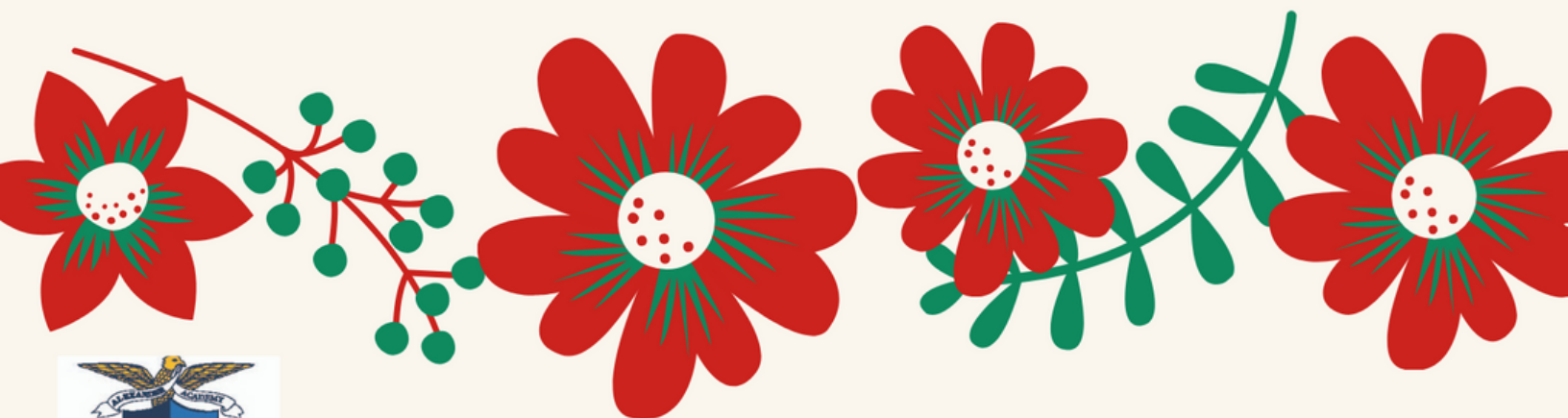
Blanket BC is a local organization that gathers donations and blankets to give to homeless shelters. Our students volunteered at various downtown Vancouver train stations to interact with commuters and spread the word about the initiative, while collecting small donations from the public.



SCHOOL FILM

Students in film class are busy creating an Alexander Academy masterpiece - the film depiction of the play "Subtext".

Every aspect of the production is being handled by our students, and their hard work will be premiered at an assembly in the next year; we cannot wait!



ALEXANDER ACADEMY INVITES YOU TO OUR

Annual International Food Fair

December 18, 2019, Wednesday | 12:30 PM
2nd Floor, 688 West Hastings Street, Vancouver
RSVP: email to info@alexanderacademy.ca

LUCKY DRAW! UP TO \$1,000 SCHOLARSHIP



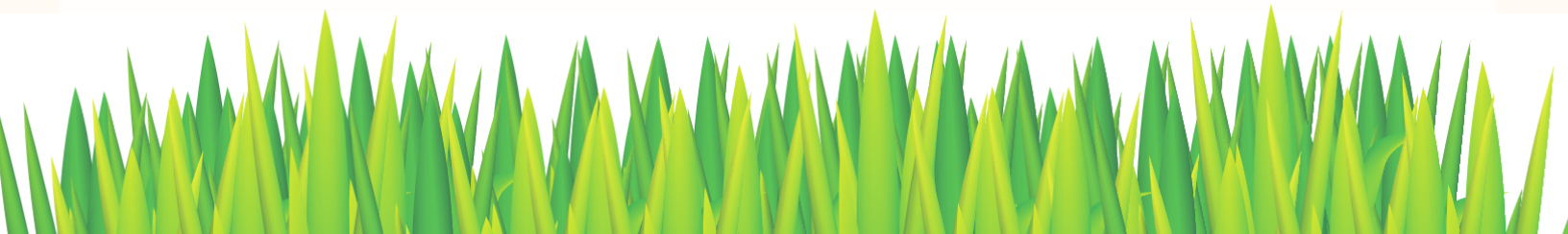
A Message From Our Student Council

We, as leaders of the Alexander Academy's student council, are extremely happy about our position. We have gotten the chance to develop our school into an environment where everyone can feel included in the community beyond the classrooms. Student Council wants to continue working on the things that bring us together. We truly believe in the power of communication to put inspiring ideas from our Amazing Alexandrians into effect. It is our prime responsibility to develop and understand the diversity of cultures in everything we do. It has been a wonderful first few months, and we are looking forward to many more moments of conversation, learning, and enjoyment!



UPCOMING EVENTS

JAN New student orientation	MARCH Graduation photoshoot	MAY Green Month
FEB Pink Month	APRIL Parent Teacher Conference	JUNE Provincial Exams



IMPORTANT UPDATES

Update on Post-secondary application preparation

In the first quarter of this school year, grade 12 students focused on researching, finalizing and preparing for their post-secondary applications. While application submissions should have been done for most early considerations, regular application deadlines are coming up in January. Your student should spend most of their time focusing on the essay questions and supplemental application if required. It is wise to have trusted adults look over these answers before submitting.

Student Transcript Services

Grade 12 students were given guidance in November on how to sign up for their Student Transcript Services account to allow their grades to be sent to post-secondary institutions. Parents are encouraged to discuss and verify post-secondary selections with their child to ensure all grades are sent in a timely manner. A soft deadline to have this done is the institution's application submission date. For more information, visit www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/education-training/k-12/support/transcripts-and-certificates

Education Career Fair

On December 6, students will have an opportunity to attend the Education Career Fair (ECF) in downtown Vancouver. At the event, students will be encouraged to bring their questions and interact face-to-face with representatives from various post-secondary institutions and local organizations. This is a good opportunity for students to receive personalized advice from recruiters and managers about everything from resume writing to interview tips.

Insurance Policy Change

As of 2020, international students will be asked to have both MSP insurance and temporary insurance coverage for the duration of the school year (from September until the end of June). This is to ensure that every student will be covered under some form of insurance even if their MSP has expired, or they cannot provide proof of MSP active enrollment to the school. Students who have an active MSP coverage until the end of the 2019-2020 school year will not be asked to purchase temporary insurance. However, starting from the fall semester of 2020, both new and returning international students will be asked to be enrolled in both. For more information, please visit our website at alexanderacademy.ca

PROVINCIAL EXAM INFORMATION

Grade 10 Literacy Assessment

The assessment is a graduation requirement and students take the assessment in their Grade 10 year. The Literacy Assessment assesses student ability to use critical thinking and analysis to make meaning from a diverse array of texts. It also assesses the ability of students to communicate their ideas. It is delivered online in three parts:

1. Part A

Students choose one of two options. After choosing one option, students read a new set of texts. Students demonstrate that they can analyze and make meaning of the texts by answering selected-response questions. They then provide written responses to communicate personal connections.

2. Part B

Students read several different types of texts, e.g. blogs, infographics, newspaper or magazine articles, social media feeds, and stories. Students must demonstrate that they can analyze and make meaning from the texts by answering a series of selected-response questions.

3. Self-reflection

Students must reflect on their experience with the assessment. This component is not marked.

Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment

The assessment is a graduation requirement and students take the assessment in Grade 10. The Grade 10 Numeracy Assessment focuses on the application of mathematical concepts learned across multiple subjects from kindergarten to Grade 10. It is delivered online in three parts:

1. Part A

Students answer 24 questions centred on four different tasks (situations) completed online/

2. Part B

Students choose two of four available questions and complete two written-response questions on paper. These questions are based on tasks the student will have completed earlier in the common section. Students present detailed solutions to a problem using all the numeracy processes and support their thinking with explanations and assumptions.

3. Self-reflection

Students must reflect on their experience with the assessment. This component is not marked.