

ALEXANDER ACADEMY MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2020



WHAT WE'VE DONE THIS MONTH

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and more!

COVID-19 AND ONLINE COURSES

Dear Parents, Custodians and Students,

As of March 17th, the Ministry of Education has closed all schools for an indefinite period of time in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. For Alexander Academy students, this means that we will not be physically returning to classes after Spring Break on March 30th as planned. However, as we have shared with you previously, we are fully ready to support our students online with various technologies, including: BlueJeans, Skype, Canvas, MyEdBC, Managebac and Microsoft Office. This support will begin on Monday, March 30th immediately following the end of Spring Break. We will release more information to parents and students later next week about scheduling and different ways to contact staff and administration during this period.

During this unprecedented situation, the Ministry of Education has provided the following message for students concerned about moving on to the next grade or graduating:

Every student will receive a final mark, and all students on track to move to the next grade will do so in the fall. For grades 10 and 11 students, graduation assessments will be postponed.

COVID-19 AND ONLINE COURSES (CONTINUED)

Every student eligible to graduate from Grade 12 this year will graduate. The only graduation assessment required for current Grade 12 students is the Grade 10 numeracy assessment. The Ministry of Education will ensure Grade 12 students who have not yet completed this assessment and who are otherwise on track to graduate are able to meet this graduation requirement.

Parents who wish to have their children return home during this time should know that we will still fully support our students online. Although we are uncertain about the length of the shutdown of all school campuses in the province, we feel confident in our contingency plan to ensure that our students will continue to learn and meet their course outcomes during this period.

Please do not hesitate to contact us should you have any questions. Our next series of messages will occur late next week with more specific instructions about online learning. Best wishes everyone!

Alexander Academy Administration

ALEXANDER COLLEGE'S RESPONSE TO COVID-19



In response to the COVID-19 outbreak, Alexander College (our sister college) made news headlines after having donated hospital supplies, including a new ventilator to Burnaby General Hospital.

Please see the link below:

<https://globalnews.ca/video/6716567/community-rallies-to-support-burnaby-hospital-staff/>

Our thoughts are with everyone who has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

FINANCIAL LITERACY WORKSHOPS BY CHARTERED PROFESSIONAL ACCOUNTANTS

Throughout the months of February and March, all Career Life Education students participated in a series of workshops run by the Chartered Professional Accountants of British Columbia. The chartered accountants who ran the workshops came from a variety of different companies, organisations and teaching faculties such as KPMG- one of the Big Four accounting organisations- Langara College and privately-owned wealth management companies. Students participated in four different workshops: Budgeting and Saving, Credit Cards and Debt, Making Money and Goal Setting. The CPAs brought a wealth of information with them, and students were enthusiastic in analysing case studies and real-life situations, often asking questions as they thought about their future and financial independence. Students finished the series of workshops feeling a lot more confident about saving, budgeting and eventually working in Canada!



ENGLISH 10 AT THE MUSEUM OF ANTHROPOLOGY



This month, the English 10 students visited the Museum of Anthropology, located on the ground of the University of British Columbia. Throughout their creative writing unit, students have been studying a variety of stories and creating their own. As part of this unit, students have been exposed to a variety of texts and have learnt how language shapes ideas and influences others. In a quest to further their knowledge, they took part in a tour of the Museum of Anthropology and learnt, from their tour guide, how the artwork and stories displayed by the people of First Nations heritage are influenced by their land, social events and their history of colonisation. Through exploration of text and story, they understood more about the identity of the First Nations and the stories that they tell. As well as this, we were lucky enough to visit the museum on a beautiful, sunny day!



PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB

Mr. Ramsay has been running the photography club this year. Those who are interested can join him on walks afterschool around the downtown area. Students quickly learn that our city is very photogenic - there are pockets of greenery, the harbour is just a few blocks away, and there are plenty of brick buildings to capture.

The club is just one of the many afterschool activities our school offers, which vary year by year based on student interest during Clubs Fair Day in the fall. Students are also encouraged to suggest their own ideas for new clubs.





Physical Education Class Potluck

Ms. Gastin, our Physical Education teacher knows that what you eat is just as important as getting physical exercise. Her class threw a potluck earlier this month to explore the nutritional components of various cuisines. It might have all tasted delicious, but some foods were certainly healthier than others!

Pink Day Success!

The results are in! A grand total of \$2,667.06 was collected by the CKNW's Kids Fund on the morning of Pink Shirt Day. A big thank you to our students, whose efforts certainly contributed to such a successful donation!



POST GRADUATE PREPARATION

GRADE 11 STUDENTS

It is time for you to do some thorough research on prospective post-secondary institutions in order to be prepared for your post secondary applications for the next school year. Consider the following factors: location, climate, tuition, program choices, and program lengths.

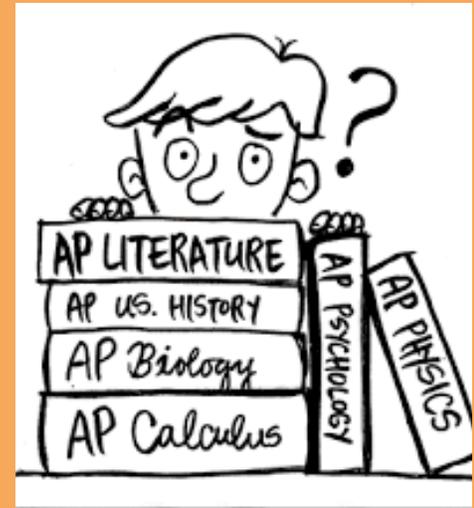
Pay special attention to program requirements. All universities have slightly different entrance requirements varying from the number of grade 12 courses, English language proficiency requirements, and specific course requirements.

Spring break is a popular time for students to visit prospective post-secondary institutions. Though some institutions are closed for visitors amid the coronavirus outbreak, many offer alternative ways such as virtual tours to meet your needs.

International students who have been in Canada for four year or less will need to provide proof of their English language proficiency as individual university requirements vary. Students who need to take a standardized exam such as IELTS, TOEFL or SAT are encouraged to start preparing by the end of this summer.

GRADE 12 STUDENTS

Grade 12 students are reminded to review your offer of admission letter. The letter contains important information such as conditions to the offer and a deadline to inform universities about your decision.



COURSE SELECTION

Students returning for the 2020-2021 school year are asked to return completed course selection forms to Ms Guan via email (j.guan@alexanderacademy.ca). Grade 11 students are encouraged to do their post-secondary research prior to choosing grade 12 courses.

UPDATE ON THE GRADUATION NUMERACY AND LITERACY ASSESSMENTS

Though we haven't received from the Ministry scores on the Numeracy and Literacy assessments written in January 2020, we are in the process of preparing for the next sessions. This will be the last attempt for all grade 12 students before they graduate. Any grade 10 students who have written both assessments have the option of rewriting. Remaining grade 10 students who will be writing these assessments will be notified by their teachers. Anyone who wishes to rewrite the exams should contact Ms Guan if you haven't already done so. The Minister of Education announced that the April sessions will be postponed until further notice.