

# Year-End Message from the Administration

Oak Bay High Learning Community,

As we head into the summer break, the OBH administrative team would like to take the opportunity to both reflect on the past year, as well as to provide information regarding September start-up and next school year.

We know it has been said many times, but this past year was unprecedented in so many ways. We would like to acknowledge the amazing job that our school community did navigating the many challenges we faced. Working in a completely new system and under ever evolving H&S measures and restrictions, our school has had a very successful year! The OBH staff found creative ways to support students both inside and outside of the classroom. So many of our processes and traditional activities had to be reimagined this year. In a year where the easy answer would have been to say "not this year", the OBH staff continually looked for creative ways to offer students the best possible experience. Whether it be innovative classroom practices or extra-curricular opportunities, OBH students were well served by our passionate and dedicated staff. To our amazing students and their families, thank you for the incredible flexibility, resilience and patience you demonstrated throughout the year. The strength of our school is a reflection of the exceptional people who learn, work and play within our walls, as well as the amazing community around us.

As is always the case, June was an extremely busy month at the school. Aside from wrapping up Quarter 4 classes, many wonderful year-end activities took place. Student successes were celebrated in a variety of ways, from virtual concerts and performances to school awards and graduation.

**School Awards**- Awards were presented on Monday, June 21st and we congratulate all those that received these individual acknowledgments. The linked webpage contains photos from the ceremony and a slideshow with each award and winner. At the end of the slideshow, you'll find a video of our Athletics Awards.

<u>Link to Awards Webpage</u>

**Grad 2021**- The linked webpage contains pre-recorded speeches from the Grad ceremony and photos of each grad crossing the stage. An SD61 Learn account will be required to view the photos. Grad's accounts will remain active throughout the summer. We wish all of our grads the very best as they leave us and head into whatever new adventures await them. We hope that they remember where they come from, and stop by often to visit. Link to Grad webpage











### **NEW Timetable:**

As a continuing COVID response, OBH will have a semestered timetable for the 21/22 school year. A semester system will see the return of 4 classes a day within the regular bell schedule. Unlike our traditional linear timetable, students will focus on the same 4 classes September-January, and a second 4 classes February to June. A semester system allows greater responsiveness than a linear system to evolving COVID measures, should they be necessary during the year.

**Focus**: Next year's bell schedule will see a return to regular Focus blocks, as they existed prior to the pandemic. There will be 4x45min Focus blocks per week. Students will be able to self-select which class they attend during this block. This mandatory instructional time is highly valued, as it empowers students to develop ownership over their own learning.

Advisory: Also returning next year, students will attend 1x20min Advisory block per week. Here they will connect with their Staff Advisor and the other students in their multigrade Advisory class (grades 9/11 or grades 10/12). Advisory serves both a logistical purpose, as well as a critical opportunity for connection. The multigrade nature of the class allows for mentoring, relationship building and learning in the area of personal/social wellness.

**Team Planning:** This 1 hour period, Wednesday mornings (see TP schedule on the bottom of the Bell Schedule), is flexible instructional time for students. Students are welcome to attend and receive support from staff. This is also an important opportunity for staff collaboration.



21/22 Bell Schedule

#### 21/22 School Calendar:

There have been some changes to our school calendar since its initial release at the end of May. Given the evolving nature of H&S measures and restrictions, it's possible there may continue to be changes over the summer. The link below contains the most current calendar dates and will be updated frequently.

**School Calendar**:

## **BC Restart Plan & School Startup Planning:**

As you have likely heard, the BC government is "planning for a full return to the classroom" for the 21/22 school year. We are anticipating specific directions from the Ministries of Health and Education in August, detailing all applicable measures/restrictions, including masks, extra-curriculars, etc. You can read more about the government's plan <a href="here">here</a>.

The first day of school will be Tuesday, Sept. 7th. Once we receive direction from the Ministries in August, we will finalize our plans for that day. Typically, students attend for part of the day, with classes beginning full-time on Sept. 8th.

# **Administration Update:**



Current Vice-Principal, Melanie Paas, will be leaving our school at the end of July to begin her new assignment at Lambrick Park Secondary. Ms Paas joined OBH in September, 2017. During her 4 years, she has demonstrated exceptional leadership and she will be greatly missed. We wish her all the best in her new assignment.

Ms Melanie Paas

Incoming Vice-Principal, Jennifer Wignall, joins the OBH administrative team in August. Ms. Wignall comes to Oak Bay via Spectrum Community School, where she has served as VP for the past 2 years. We are thrilled to welcome Ms Wignal into our school community!

Ms Jen Wignall

Our sincerest best wishes to everyone on a safe and fun summer, and we look forward to connecting with you again in September!

Tom Aerts, Principal

Mel Paas, Vice-Principal

Phil Ohl, Vice-Principal

Note, the school office will be open until July, 9th (9am-3pm), reopening again Aug. 23rd.