

2021 has started off wonderfully! Students are focused and ready to go with Octa 4. Reports from Octa 3 will be published this coming Friday by 4pm. As always, please do not hesitate to reach out to your [student's teachers](#) with questions, concerns or feedback. We love hearing about the successes as well as the challenges!

Please make sure that your student is equipped with a warm, waterproof jacket and possibly umbrella as our winter weather continues. We would also like to remind you to review the Sooke School District information regarding [weather related closures and cancellations](#). Especially important is that families have a plan for transporting their child safely home, or to the home of a friend or relative, if schools close during the day, roads are closed, and/or busses are cancelled for any reason. Please take a moment to check your student's emergency contacts in the [My Ed portal](#).

With the new year, we will also be focusing on helping students plan their educational programs and select their courses for 2021/22. Please see below for lots of resources, important dates and upcoming events!

Course Selection for 2021/22

All 2021/22 EMCS students will be selecting their courses for fall 2021 in February. Current Grade 8 students will complete their selections by February 16th, and current Grades 9-11 students will select their courses by February 22nd. You will receive lots of information to help you with this process! Grade 8 students will receive an update about upcoming videos and events through Journey. For Grade 9-11, watch for the following:

- **A video** from Mr. Phipps by the first week in February that will explain graduation requirements, course opportunities and more!
- **Department 'features'** in our weekly newsletter from January 6 and February 17th.
- Make sure to read the [graduation requirements](#) and [course descriptions](#) on our website.
- **A Live Q&A for students and parents** with Mr. Phipps; and Ms. Jesson during the week of February 17-19. Watch the weekly newsletter for timing and the MS Teams link.
- Also make sure to **talk to your teacher** in class, over email or, on MS Teams. They have a wealth of information to share about course opportunities!
- Use your My Blue Print account to explore university and college course requirements. Your Careers teacher can assist you with this platform.
- [Book an appointment](#) with your **Careers** teacher online to discuss your Post-secondary aspirations.
- [Book an appointment](#) with your **Counsellor** online to discuss your future plans.
- Course selection in the student portal will open February 1. Parents will also be able to see which courses their students have requested in the parent portal.
- Course selections for current Grade 9-11 students will be due **February 22**.

THIS WEEK'S DEPARTMENT FEATURES: Social Studies & Psychology



Students take at least 3 Social Studies courses in high school, but many choose to take more as electives. Ms. Sudlow is the Social studies Department Leader. [Check out these courses:](#)

- In Grade 9, regular program students take **Social Studies 9**; French Immersion students study **Sciences Humaines 9**.
- In Grade 10, regular program students take **Social Studies 10**; French Immersion students study **Sciences Humaines 10**.
- Grade 11 and 12 students can select as many senior social studies courses as they like! They must take at least one. Choices include:
 - ❖ **BC First Peoples 12**
 - ❖ **Comparative Cultures 12**
 - ❖ **20th Century World History**
 - ❖ **Genocide Studies**
 - ❖ **Law Studies**
 - ❖ **Law Studies Dual credit (High School and Post Secondary credit)**
 - ❖ **Social Justice**
- In Grade 11, French Immersion students study **Explorations en Sciences Humaines et Sociaux 11** as their required Socials course.

Students can also choose Psychology as a senior elective. We offer **Psychology 11**, **Psychology 12**, and **Psychology Dual Credit**. Dual credit courses offer both high school and post-secondary credits.

\$11,000 for 10,000 Tonight!

Thank you to everyone for your participation and/or donations!!! The EMCS 10,000 Tonight campaign raised more than \$11,000 for the Sooke Food Bank!!!

YEARBOOKS

All yearbook purchases can be made here: <https://www.schoolcashionline.com/>

Interested in helping create the 2020-21 yearbook? See the “Daily Student Announcements” on our website or app for instructions! Everyone is welcome to submit artwork or photos for the yearbook!

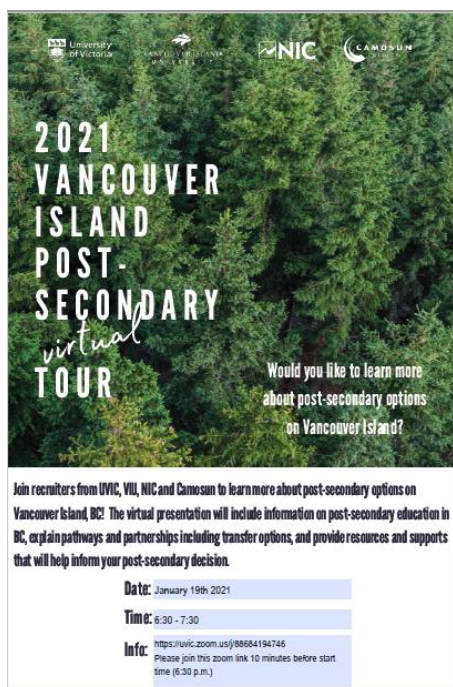
Grade 12 Grad Updates!

Attention Grads: It is time for you to measure and report your height for your Grad ceremony gown. Please fill out this [Google Form](#) by Friday, January 15th. You can contact Ms. Williams with any questions.

Grad 2021 Photos:

Grad 2021 photos are scheduled to take place next week (Jan 11-15). Information was sent out in early December. If you were unable to book a time, please contact LifeTouch directly at 250-744-4100. For those who have a scheduled sitting for next week, the trailer will be parked out front of the school. Please be sure that you follow LifeTouch's & EMCS's COVID protocols.

- While on school property, please ensure that you wear your mask and physically distance for other individuals
- LifeTouch does provide white shirts and ties but they recommend that you bring your own white shirt if you have one.
- There are no "Buddy photos" this year and LifeTouch is limiting only 1 set of casual cloths due to cleaning time in between sittings.
- Grads are welcome to bring in a prop such as musical instrument, sports jersey and stick etc.
- 1 person at a time in photo area, no family members or friends allowed.



The poster features a background of dense green trees. At the top, logos for UVIC, VIU, NIC, and Camosun are displayed. The main text reads "2021 VANCOUVER ISLAND POST-SECONDARY virtual TOUR". Below this, it asks "Would you like to learn more about post-secondary options on Vancouver Island?". A white box at the bottom contains the following information:

Join recruiters from UVIC, VIU, NIC and Camosun to learn more about post-secondary options on Vancouver Island, BC! The virtual presentation will include information on post-secondary education in BC, explain pathways and partnerships including transfer options, and provide resources and supports that will help inform your post-secondary decision.

Date: January 19th 2021
Time: 6:30 - 7:30
Info: <https://uvic.zoom.us/j/86684194746>
Please join this zoom link 10 minutes before start time (6:30 p.m.)

UVIC Gustavson School of Business Virtual Information Sessions - Every Wednesday from January 13 to 27 at 5:00pm. You'll learn about the Bachelor of Commerce program, application requirements, etc. To register, email bssclerk@uvic.ca

Vancouver Island University: Experience VIU online event

VIU is hosting three Experience VIU online events:

- Saturday, January 16 from 9:00am to 2:00pm, or
- Wednesday, January 20 from 1:00pm to 6:30pm, or
- Thursday, January 21 from 1:00pm to 6:30pm

This event is for everyone! Anyone interested in post-secondary studies should attend—from high school students and their parents, to those who have been out of school awhile and are ready to explore their options. Register using this link: [Vancouver Island University: Experience VIU online event](#)

Don't forget you can also book a private meeting with UVic Recruiter Stephanie Parker by clicking here! [Book an appointment](#) / [Register for an upcoming event](#)

Opportunities for Everyone!

Canadian Coast Guard College Virtual Presentations - January 12, January 28, or February 9 at 4:30pm (Sooke time). Learn about the Coast Guard's Officer Training Program! Register online by [clicking here](#).

PISE has some wonderful new scholarship and bursary opportunities available for youth developmental athletes. The deadline to apply is January 17, 2021. Click on this link for more information: <https://www.pise.ca/scholarship-opportunities/>

CFEE CANADIAN FINANCIAL EDUCATION CHALLENGE

MY MONEY MY FUTURE

The Canadian Foundation for Economic Education (CFEE) is partnering with CIBC to give high school-aged youth (14-18) the opportunity to win \$10,000! We are challenging Canada's youth to apply their creativity and skills to create new tools and resources to help other young Canadians improve their financial knowledge. The My Money, My Future Challenge aims to apply a sense of fun and creativity to an important life skill – financial literacy.

- The Winner will receive \$10,000 towards future education or training – either to the winning individual or shared equally among team members
- 2nd place will receive \$5,000
- 3rd place will receive \$2,500

Winning submissions will be showcased on a new VIRTUAL FINANCIAL LEARNING YOUTH CENTRE website for use by teachers, parents, and youth to learn about money, develop financial skills, and be better able to build a happy, healthy, financial future.

For details on registering, please visit: nymymoneyfuturechallenge.ca

JOIN THE YOUTH POLLINATOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

AGES 16-24

Early applicants will be prioritized for selection
Deadline 19 Jan 2021
Runs Feb-Sept 2021

The Pollinator Leadership Team is a select group of youth from the Victoria region that will connect with the community and inspire change. Get free training and mentorship from local scientists, work with local organizations, create a pollinator garden in downtown Victoria, gain outreach and leadership skills. Training time ~10 hours + ~30 hours volunteer time required over the duration of the program.

APPLY TODAY! 1 pg max outlining: 1. who you are, 2. why you are interested in pollinators and conservation, 3. how you have demonstrated leadership in your school, community, or family, and 4. what you would like to do with this training and leadership opportunity

Send application or questions to Lora: LM@pollinator.org

Program administered by Pollinator Partnership Canada www.pollinatorpartnership.ca
with funding from TD Friends of the Environment
All activities will comply with COVID regulations

Virtual Parenting Groups - *Parents Together* and *Parenting Without Power Struggles* are online parenting groups offered by the Boys & Girls Club of Victoria. Please click on the posters for more information!

VANCOUVER ISLAND PARENTS!

PARENTING WITHOUT POWER STRUGGLES

This 10-week program helps parents of preteens gain confidence, discover practical tips and resources, and find support from other parents

THURSDAYS, 6:30PM - 8:30PM - STARTING JAN. 14TH - MARCH 25TH

LOCATION: ONLINE PARENTING GROUP

COST: BY DONATION

TO PRE-REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT:
Lisa Hoffman 250-217-4929
E: parentingprograms@bgcvic.org

Boys & Girls Clubs

Vancouver Island Parents!

DO YOU FEEL UNSURE OF HOW TO SUPPORT YOUR TEEN?

This program helps parents of teens gain confidence, discover practical tips and resources, and find support from other parents

TUESDAYS, 12:00PM - 1:30PM - JANUARY 12TH - MARCH 30TH

LOCATION: ONLINE PARENTING GROUP

COST: BY DONATION

TO PRE-REGISTER PLEASE CONTACT:
Lisa Hoffman 250-217-4929
E: parentingprograms@bgcvic.org

Boys & Girls Clubs



School District No.62 (Sooke) requires Noon Hour Supervision Assistants to work on-call immediately. [Click here](#) for more information!

Stay in the loop

You can find updates on our website <http://emcs.web.sd62.bc.ca/>, the Wolverines App, and the District website <https://www.sd62.bc.ca/>.

We continue to encourage parents and guardians to reach out to the school via phone (250-642-5211) and email (emcs@sd62.bc.ca) with any questions you may have!

Important dates:

Jan 8th – Report cards published to [MyEd portals](#) by 4pm

Jan 11th – 15th – Grad photos (book online at schedule.prestigeportraits.ca)

Jan 12th – EMCS PAC Meeting at 6:30pm via MS Teams

Jan 25th – Jan 29th – Literacy and Numeracy assessments Window

*The EMCS Wellness Center is open each Wednesday, 12pm-3:30pm

Looking for information from a previous Weekly Message? Check our [Archive by clicking here!](#)