

The Seaquam Gazette

MAY 18TH, 2021



COMMENTARY

Importance of Active Stewardship



As issues of climate change and pollution bear more and more weight on our generation, young people are eager to help the environment. However, it can be difficult to know what to do, and what actions make a difference.

Social media activism is a good place to start; it raises awareness and communicates large issues to a bigger audience. However, it isn't enough; it doesn't actively do anything. If we want to make a change, we need to take action.

Buying from small businesses and sustainable brands can help. So can gardening, recycling, and reducing single use plastics from your life. Actions like these are small; but they add up over time. Plus, being aware of your sustainable actions will help you value their impact more, and in turn, inspire greater actions of change.

Seaquam students can take direct action right through school, with the Operation Green Environmental Club.

Of course, the weight of climate change does not rest on the consumer's shoulders alone. In fact, 71% of global carbon emissions are from just 100 corporations (CDP, 2017). In the end, the fight against climate change must be won with sustainable cooperation from large companies.

So what can we do about it? Overall, we want companies to know that environmental sustainability is something that consumers care about. Protests, petitions, boycotts and social media campaigns can help stress importance to CEOs and drive companies to action.

We can't be perfect, and that's okay. However, whatever you can do is significant, and making an effort is what counts. Whether this means reducing the amount of meat in your diet, bringing a reusable bag to the grocery store, or reading up on current environmental issues, you are taking action; and that's what counts



COVID-19

As of May 6th, 2021, the number of Covid-19 cases in British Columbia has dropped since the last update on April 26th, 2021. The province's average cases per day have been consistently dropping for nearly three weeks, and it currently stands at about 694 cases per day. Additionally, the number of people in the hospital and intensive care that have been diagnosed with Covid-19 has reduced. A week earlier, there were about 511 people in the hospital. However, there are currently only 457 people in the hospital, 154 of which are in intensive care. The provincial death count currently stands at 1602. As of Friday, May 7th, 722 new cases of the virus have been recorded in BC and another 7 people have passed away. At this time, about 45 percent of the province has received their first dose of the vaccination, and health authorities have stated that about 60-70 percent of the population should receive the vaccination in order to achieve herd immunity. Anyone above the age of 18 is eligible to register for their Covid-19 vaccination at this time. Dr. Bonnie Henry has also confirmed that teenagers will soon be a part of the vaccination plan as the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine was approved for people as young as twelve years old by Health Canada. The Covid-19 travel restrictions that were put in place still stand today and British Columbians are not permitted to travel outside of their health region. This restriction will remain in place until May 24th.

STUDENT PIECE



we
are
in

1724.

Are we alive? Is life real? Is time real? This idea of "phantom time", where time challenges normality and comprehension. It was first proposed in 1991 by a German historian named Heribert Illig and his colleagues. The Phantom Time Hypothesis essentially states that nearly 300 years of human history have been made up, which means that we are living in the 18th century. This idea came about due to the investigation that a small number of historians claimed that the Middle Ages had never occurred, which has caused our calendars to be significantly out of sync. So how exactly did an additional 297 years just appear?

Prior to the introduction of the Gregorian calendar by Pope Gregory XIII in 1582, the Julian calendar, established by Julius Caesar in 48 BC, was used by the majority of the world. Every four years, the Julian calendar added an additional day to the calendar. The Julian Calendar, on the other hand, gains a day every 128 years because the solar year is a little over 365 days. They should have changed the date 13 days when the Gregorian calendar was adopted to account for this. As a result, there are now two options. The Pope had miscalculated, or the 300 years between then and now do not exist.

The prime suspect is Holy Roman Emperor Otto III, who is commonly thought to have lived around the year 1000. However, Illig opposed the year in which Otto III was considered to be alive as he stated that he had lived around the year 700 but wished he had lived at the time of the first millennium. So, with the help of Pope Sylvester II, he added 300 years to the date. To help cover his tracks, Illig believes he invented a convincing story about an eighth-century Frankish emperor named Charlemagne. Some believe that this theory could not have been a reality as some time discrepancies make major historical events non-existent. With the theory of Illig, it would mean that Julius Caesar would have introduced the calendar more than 300 years after his death. If this theory were accurate, that would mean that influential historical figures such as Charlemagne, King of the Franks, never really existed. As absurd as it is to think about, many scholars do believe there are enough claims and information to support such a theory. Taking all of this into consideration... Are we really in the year 1724?

EXTRACURRICULARS

STEMastery

Do you enjoy STEM? If so, STEMastery is for you! STEMastery is a student-led, non-profit organization/club based out of Seaquam Secondary. We aim to provide science-centric mentorship to elementary students in Delta schools and increase accessibility in science disciplines.

We believe that elementary students are not well equipped with the knowledge needed to take the leap into high school and that some students do not have access to private tutoring due to economic confines. Therefore, by creating a team of Seaquam students, we hope to bridge the gap for elementary students.

Because of the considerable interest, we have decided to open our application up a second time. Seaquam students who are currently in grades 9 to 11 can apply to become a mentor or panelist - this is a great volunteer opportunity.

For more information about STEMastery, visit our website at <https://sites.google.com/view/stemastery> or check out our Instagram @stemastery.

Volunteering Opportunities!

If interested in any of these opportunities or want more info, visit www.ivolunteer.ca. It is an online portal created by the United Way. It connects volunteers with several local non-profits and has a range of opportunities.

Interested in helping clean up our community and school? **Operation Green** will have many cleanups for the next few weeks. Stay tuned for more information about specific dates. They will most likely be on Fridays from 1:20 to 3:00 pm.

Imagine you could help set the direction of the Delta School District for the next ten years. What hopes, dreams and possibilities can you conceive of for our future? What values and qualities will students of the future need in order to be successful citizens who are able to address and solve real-world issues? Delta will be engaging with staff, students, families, and community members as they work through this Visioning process. Invitations and notices of opportunities to participate will be coming out in the next while. If you are interested in participating, please look out for these messages.

Interested in outdoor eco-volunteering over the summer? Visit www.cougarcreekstreamkeepers.ca to look for opportunities and more details.

Grab a litter picker and a garbage bag, and clean up the neighborhood! (equipment will be supplied) This is a perfect opportunity for a team of two, and it won't take more than 2 hours. You can volunteer at the street clean-up shift of the **Clayton Community Farmer's Market** on 70 Ave between 188 Street and 194A Street in Clayton. This opportunity is available every other Sunday between May 2 and October 24.

If you are age 16 and above and interested in a virtual opportunity, you can volunteer for senior phone support. All you need to do is call and inform local seniors of services available to them. For more information, go to ivolunteer.ca

If you are 14 or older, you can help sort food and pre-packaged bags at the **Greater Vancouver Food Bank** warehouse. Due to the unprecedented circumstances, they allow volunteers to sign up for one-off shifts and have some flexible times.



“Motherhood is not a competition to see who has the cleverest kids, the cleanest house, the healthiest dinner, nicest clothes, nicest car, or nicest holidays. Motherhood is a journey with your children” (Unknown).

Motherhood is a beautiful construct that revolves around the love, hurt, euphoria, and blues you share. Motherhood is not about getting your child those societal accomplishments. Rather, it is about loving your children for who they are and guiding them in this confusing and pressuring world. It is about trying to take the time to tell them they are loved and reassure them that they do not take up space.

It should be said that motherhood is not something one can get wrong. The path to being a mother is not a smooth journey because not all mothers take the same path. Instead, it is a journey filled with bumps and challenges. Motherhood can be a feeling of both pride and joy, and also as if you and your efforts will not be enough. Additionally, mothers are never exclusively or always biological, as the same path to being a mother includes mother figures, which are equally as important and a blessing.

Wanting the best for your child can take a toll on mothers. In addition to this, being buried under the weight of motherhood and losing yourself can affect one’s ability to be the mother that they wished to be. Therefore, your ideal motherhood plan takes a shift, and you struggle to meet your ideals.

I say this because there are mothers in this world that care about their children to the point where they forget to consider themselves. Although knowing your mother’s selflessness and devotion to her children is vital, it is important to acknowledge the very being of the mother, and of her person, not just celebrating her selflessness. We need to focus on the person after they bring the child home, and letting them know they are not alone in carrying the burden and that we value their strength and love.

As this is released after Mother’s Day 2021, consider what you have learned and treat everyday like Mother’s Day: be sure to tell your mother figures that you appreciate all that they do for you, as one day a year is not enough.

DEBATE CLUB

Do you want to learn the art of Debate, win arguments with ease, and potentially compete in intense debate tournaments such as Model UN Conferences? If so, the Seaquam Debate Club is starting back up this year, with virtual meetings every week. For more information, check out their Instagram @SeaquamDebateClub, or enter the Google Classroom code: 6pzywk to join using your Deltalearns email address.

Theatre

This year, our theatre students worked tirelessly for the show called “Journey Through the Decades,” and it was a compilation of famous musical numbers from Broadway musicals tied together with short scenes written by cast members. We interviewed one of the cast members in grade 11, who was glad to be a part of the show and the process leading up to the actual performance. According to the student, it was an amazing experience from which they gained an opportunity to meet new friends and further develop their singing, acting, and dancing skills. “All in all it was very swag and cool,” the student stated, but not many know of the loads of practice and hard work behind the curtains. The cast members had a huge time commitment for the show, which meant that some ended up developing a routine of “cramming-homework” wherever they could find time. As the student stated, they believe that “seeing the finished product come together was worth it.” Although the pandemic made many aspects of pulling off a show incredibly hard, these students put an “emphasis on staying safe during rehearsals and performances.” As a result of the pandemic, they could not perform for an audience in the auditorium. However, they found the perfect solution: to “live-stream the show, instead of having a live audience,” and as expected, it “worked out really well.” Not only were they able to perform a show on live-stream, but they also had a viewer count of 700 people! What’s surprising is that the amount of viewers exceeds the number of seats in the theatre.



ROBOTICS

The Seaquam Robotics teams have been busy in the last month both taking part in and preparing for tournaments. The Seaquam Robotics website won second place in the world for student-made robotics websites! They won \$500.00 for parts and 10 high-end laptops from Dell as well. Additionally, they have qualified three teams for the world championship on May 21-24 and are busy in preparation for those tournaments. Just recently on Thursday, May 6th, three teams from Seaquam competed in tournaments and placed in top positions in the world. As of May 6th, the 9181W team won first place in the VRC Live Remote Tournament, with their skills score placing 25th in the world. Team 9181X won first place in the high school category and their skills score placed 50th in the world, and 9181N won third place in the middle school category and their skills score placed 16th in the world. Both these teams competed under the VRC Live Remote Skills tournament. Congratulations to our school’s Robotics teams, and good luck with the world championship!

PM’S MESSAGE

With Covid cases rising each day, all Student Council events have unfortunately been put on hold. It has been a challenging year for everyone, but we are grateful our community is safe. Next month’s focus will solely be on the upcoming Prime Minister elections! All information and campaigns will be posted on Instagram so make sure you are following @seaquam. As always, if you have any questions or would like to be more involved, DM us on Instagram or email us at seaquamstudentcouncil@gmail.com.

Stay safe Seaquam!

Cheers,
PM Bhuvi Juneja and Vice PM Pahul Khanna.

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BEFORE:

NOW:

Acknowledging the traditional territory of the Tsawwassen and Musqueam First Nations and all of the Coast Salish peoples who have been stewards of this land since time immemorial. We offer gratitude to the Musqueam people who honour our school with the name, Seaquam, which in their language means sunshine. We would also like to offer our respect to all the Elders who have gone before us and to the elders and First Nation people who are with us today