

École Secondaire Régionale Alberni District Secondary School



*At ADSS we set personal, high-quality standards to become
responsible, independent, life-long learners*

Dear Parents and Guardians,

February 26, 2026

I am writing to follow up on ongoing concerns regarding student washrooms at our school and to provide additional context about why temporary closures have been necessary.

In recent weeks, we have continued to experience significant vandalism in several student bathrooms. In addition to graffiti and damage to fixtures, vape use in washrooms remains a serious concern. Increasingly, we are finding that vape devices are being flushed down toilets in an attempt to avoid detection. This is causing substantial plumbing damage, including clogged and inoperable toilets, water overflow, and, in some cases, the need for urgent repairs.

When toilets are clogged or plumbing is damaged, washrooms must be closed immediately to prevent flooding, maintain hygiene standards, and ensure student safety. These closures are disruptive for students and staff and place additional strain on the remaining facilities in the building.

The financial impact is also significant. Plumbing repairs, replacement fixtures, and cleanup costs divert funds away from student learning, extracurricular programs, and supports. More importantly, the repeated misuse of washrooms affects the comfort, dignity, and access of all students who rely on these shared spaces throughout the day.

We continue to respond with increased supervision, adjusted access during certain times, and clear consequences for students involved in vandalism or vaping on school property. We are also working proactively with students to reinforce expectations around respectful behavior, health considerations related to vaping, and shared responsibility for maintaining a safe school environment.

We are asking for your partnership in addressing this issue. Please speak with your child about the seriousness of vaping at school, the risks associated with flushing devices, and the broader impact these actions have on the entire school community. Most of our students make positive choices, and with consistent messaging from both school and home, we are confident we can improve this situation.

Thank you for your continued support as we work to maintain a safe, healthy, and respectful learning environment for all students. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig McAulay'.

ADSS Administrative Team: Craig McAulay, Stephanie Prizeman, Carl Poole, Heidi Homan

4000 Roger Street, Port Alberni, British Columbia, Canada V9Y 0B1
Phone: 250-723-6251 Fax: 250-723-2126 <http://adss.sd70.bc.ca>
