

# SCIDES

September/07

## focus

ADDRESSING THE NEEDS OF INDIVIDUAL STUDENTS.  
YOUR CHOICE, YOUR PACE~ ANY TIME, ANY PLACE.



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*Welcome to South Central Interior Distance Education School!  
September is such a busy month for educators and students alike. We  
are very pleased that you have chosen us to be an integral part of your  
learning experience for 2007 – 2008.*

# Helping you achieve your educational goals



## From the Principal

Welcome to SCIDES for the 07/08 school year! We have many exciting projects underway and I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some key areas:

**Revamping provincially examinable courses:** As reflected in our school goals, we are working to make our provincially examinable grade 10 courses as relevant and interesting as possible while preparing students for ministry of education's course requirements and exams.

**Examining our elementary program practices:** Again reflecting our school goals, we will be looking for ways to improve student writing performance and how we might change our present practices to reflect new trends in distance learning.

**Special education:** Our special education service for students in the interior of BC continues to grow. Our expanded department is working to support students who can encounter obstacles due to learning differences, medical issues, or emotional difficulties. If interested, please contact our

special education staff for details on our unique and innovative programs.

**Trades related elective courses:** We presently offer courses such as Carpentry and Drafting. We would like to expand our course selection in the trades area and partner with local business to allow practical experience as well as apprenticeship credits.

**Supporting First Nations programs:** SCIDES has a history of successfully working with First Nations Communities to provide educational programs for students' kindergarten through to adult. We continue to expand our relationship with these communities where important cultural components can be offered locally and we can provide the necessary academic content from a distance.

As always I welcome your thoughts and concerns! Please feel free to contact me!  
[amackay@scides.ca](mailto:amackay@scides.ca) 1 800 663 3536

# New for 2007 - 2008

## Brand new courses for this fall:

- Calculus 12 (online)
- Principles of Math 10
- Journalism 12
- BC First Nations 12 (online)
- Revised PE 10
- Graduation Transitions (SCIDES students only)

## New Online Courses for grade 8 & 9 students:

- English
- Math
- Science
- Social Studies
- Health and Career Education

All courses are offered in partnership with Northern BC and North Coast Distance Education Schools. Courses are on-line with the added advantage of synchronous sharing sessions through Elluminate Live.



## Getting started has never been so easy

### Do you know which course you want?

Just go to our website and click on First Assignments. You can try as many as you want.

Send in the first assignment with your registration form and you will soon be off to the races!

Contact a program advisor to ensure that your student learning plan is correct and the courses that you have selected are the best suited for you. You will

also need to contact your homeroom teacher before we actually enroll you in the course. Yes, talking your teacher is a requirement in getting started©

Choose from course offerings that range from online, online supported, or paper-based instruction. Each has their advantage. Be sure to ask our program advisors which style would best suit you.

You will have access to our

1-800 help line as well as subject specialists and your homeroom teacher, all just a call or click away.

All courses are tuition free for grade 10 – 12 students.

Adults and Graduated Adults may also enroll in these tuition free courses.

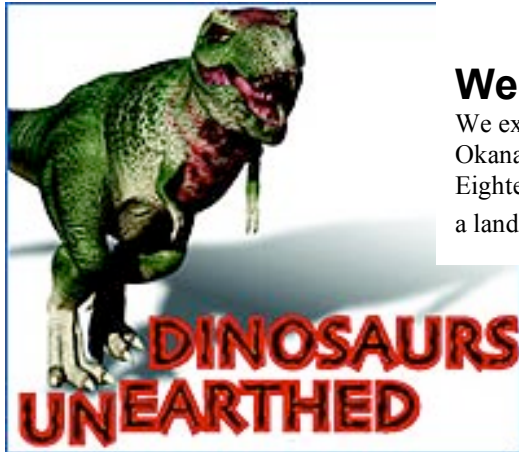
Get started. Set your pace.

You have a year to complete your course of choice.

**Provincial exam information:** If you are a student who goes to another school as well as ours, you must register through your local school for provincial exams. Last day for registration of November exams is October 9<sup>th</sup>.


**Scholarships:** It's never too soon to start looking for scholarship opportunities. Many have very early deadlines. Scholarship information is posted in First Class. Contact your Homeroom teacher if you do not have access. SCIDES offers four scholarships to their full time students. Information about these is posted on our website as well as in First Class.

# Elementary Program



## We've already been!

We experienced Dinosaurs UnEarthed at the Okanagan Science Centre in Vernon, September 18th. Eighteen students joined us in a walk back in time to a land where the mighty dinosaurs roamed.

Check out our 'Dinosaur UnEarthed slide show'   
@ [www.scides.ca](http://www.scides.ca)

**New Online resource for each of our Elementary families!**

  
**Reading a-z.com**

Reading A – Z provides you with Leveled Readers, Lessons, Worksheets, Phonics and Phonemic Awareness Materials. Enjoy the High-Frequency Word Books, Vocabulary Activities and Reader's Theater Scripts.

Please contact your teacher for your online access.

## Welcome to our Elementary Program!

September has gone so quickly. We have already begun our home visits and had a wonderful initial meeting with our students at the Vernon Science Center. What a way to start the new school year!

We look forward to planning other field trips with you.

# Improving Student Writing

One of our school goals addresses a commitment to improve student writing. In keeping with this goal, all elementary students are required to participate in a 'Cold Write' at the beginning of their school year. This will give us a very important benchmark to measure improvement from.

Please remember to submit your Read Aloud recordings to your classroom teacher. This is easily accomplished in First Class. Please give your teacher a call if you need assistance.

We are proud to continue with a Provincial Wireless Writing Project that is offered throughout our 9 sister Distributed Learning Schools. Students from grades 5 – 7 who participate in this program are supported with a laptop computer, courtesy of our Parent Advisory Council. Students and teachers from each of the participating schools meet virtually every Tuesday morning.

## PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL



We invite all parents to become members of our Parent Advisory Council. We have had a very successful PAC during the last two years. Our PAC has helped us with the purchase of lap top computers for our elementary writing program, sponsored a retreat and helped to significantly reduce the cost of field trips to such places as the Penticton Children's Festival in Penticton, theatre presentations in Kamloops and Science World in Vernon. Our PAC also sponsors four scholarships for our graduating students.

You can participate in our monthly PAC teleconference meetings from the comfort of your home. Our first meeting was held in the first week of October. Please call Al Mackay-Smith or Susan McRae if you would like to join us. Watch our website for next months details.

## Tech Tips



**Google Calendar:** It's a virtual calendar that lets you keep track of your schedule. Forgetting homework deadlines is a thing of the past. Not only can you set up automatic reminders, you can also see your friends and family's schedules right next to your own. You decide who sees your calendar. Best of all, it's free!

**Google Docs:** Do you have group work to do and no time to meet with your study pals? Here is a great working space that solves the problem. You can import your document or presentation and then invite your study pals to join you online. Everyone can participate in real time editing and sharing of your group presentation. Pair this program with **Skype** (voip) and you'll be totally in tune! It's free.

## Our School Staff *Working with you*

**Principal:** Al Mackay-Smith  
**Vice Principal:** Susan McRae

**Secondary Program Advisors:**  
Colleen Reynoldson  
Joan Wheeler

**Special Education:**  
Daphne Randall  
Mike Brennan

**Home Room Teachers:**  
Grade 8 & 9: Steve Hayes  
Grade 10: Jackie Stibbards  
Grade 11: Ian Gordon  
Grade 12: Al Rasmussen  
Adults: Susan McRae

**Elementary Teachers:**  
Lynn Newhouse  
Steve Soames

**Support Staff:**  
Technician: Lisa Babcock  
First Class: Joyce Bain

**Elementary Secretary:**  
Jocelyne Brunet

**Front Desk:** Julie Musgrave  
Tina Swetlishoff  
**Head Secretary:** Jean Hill  
**Refunds:** Corinne Pitt  
**Mail:** Rita Barten