Good Afternoon Colleagues,

Welcome back from summer break! It is my sincerest hope that these past few months have brought you rest and relaxation before we shift back to campus life. For many of you this may be your first experience with council so I wish you welcome and for those returning, welcome back! Thank you all so very much for your dedication and commitment during these times, the SGPS is so much stronger with you on the team!

Before I share some updates I just wanted to reintroduce our Executive team for this year! We are all settling into our roles and would be more then happy to assist you in any way at any time!

President Justine Aman
VP Graduate Rohit Shukla
VP Professional Jennifer Li
VP Community Anthony Lomax
VP Finance & Services Courtney Bannerman

I find myself providing a number of updates in the bi-weekly newsletters that are sent out to all students so please forgive me if there are overlaps here!

BUS SUBSIDY
The bus-it subsidy will be unavailable for the 2021-22 year however talks will be beginning soon with the AMS to plan for a bus-it contract for the 2022-23 year. Until then the subsidy program will remain! Applications for the fall semester will be opening towards the end of the summer/early September to allow students time to assess whether they will need to purchase a full pass or just use the bus casually. Application openings will be communicated in this newsletter as well as on social media.

EXECUTIVE YEAR PLAN
In an attempt to highlight some of our goals to SGPS members and councilors such as yourselves, the Executive team will be creating a small year plan which outlines our individual and aggregate goals for the fall and winter semesters. This will be available in September.

STUDENT ENGAGEMENT
Student engagement remains of the upmost importance to me and I will be continuing to offer these initiatives throughout 2021 and 2022:

- Bi-weekly President newsletter
  - Every other Tuesday
  - If you ever have a Graduate or Professional program advertisement or PSA you would like to include in my bi-weekly newsletter, please, please reach out! Our Executive Director, Andria does an amazing job bringing together important dates and notes but we are always looking to support you!
• Weekly President office hours
  o Tuesdays noon-1pm EST
  o Feel free to send any of your constituents my way if they have an issue that may be SGPS related and I can *virtually* sit down with them to discuss. The meeting rooms are private so they will have the ability to engage 1-on-1 with no outside pressure

**COMMITTEES**

As President I sit on a number of committees, working groups, sub-groups, etc. Here is a bit of information from the most active groups I am a part of:

• COIVD19 Focused groups
  o Academic Operations Group (AOG)
    ▪ Deals with big picture COVID-academic related issues and return to in-person academic conversations
    ▪ Concerns about remote, hybrid, or in-person learning, accommodations, library openings, study space, office space, etc can be bought up here
  o Campus Operations Group (COG)
    ▪ Similar to the AOG but includes broad picture campus issues like building use and how public health guidelines will be implemented on campus
  o Student Services Sub-Committee
    ▪ This is the place where student concerns can be brought and the correct parties can then be identified!
  o Campus Restart Activity Group
    ▪ This group is managing all requests by student groups to hold in-person orientation events! *(see more information below)*
    ▪ Events are submitted by Professional and Graduate student orientation planners to the SGPS event sanctioning form and we submit to this group for the Queen’s sign off.

• Non-Covid
  o JDUC Steering Committee/Sub Committee
    ▪ After a year of delay the new plan is to have the JDUC demolition start around May 2022. This means the SGPS needs to move to our new *temporary* home! These meetings allow us to plan storage for items, moving of our offices, rent shifts, get contracts in order, and to make sure there will be no interruptions to student support!
  o Queen’s Survey of Students’ Experience of Teaching (QSSET)
    ▪ This group meets to discuss the QSSET; implementation, question, student involvement are all topics covered here!

In addition to these above committees some of the more common committees I sit on include:

• Senate: Senate Committee on Academic Development and Procedures, Senate Agenda and Summer Advisory Committee, Senate Advisory Research Committee, Senate Governance and Nominating Committee, Senate Educational Equity Committee, Honorary Degrees Committee
• Health and Wellness: Sexual Violence Prevention and Response Working Group and Task Force, Provost’s Advisory Committee on Mental Health
• Board of Directors: Sexual Health Resource Centre, Grad Club

I didn’t provide a description for most of the above groups so if you would like more information please reach out and I would be more then happy to share more information! Also if you see any groups that you think would be a good platform to bring up any issue or where you would like questions raised, please let me know!
Thank you for bearing with the length of this report! I just wanted to touch base on a bit of everything as we settle back into the fall semester! Please if you have any questions or need anything at all, feel free to contact me any time.

Yours in Health and Wellness,

[Signature]

Justine Aman BAH, MSc(c)
President, Society of Graduate & Professional Students
Dear Council and Members!

I hope everyone has had a lovely summer so far and is and managed to squeeze in some good time in the Sun. I am looking forward to the upcoming term and hopefully meeting you all in person.

Safe Return to campus

The university is planning for the return of in-person academic activities and a safe and vibrant on-campus experience this fall, supported by a continuing partnership with public health authorities. If you are not sure whom to reach out, regarding queries related to campus opening or other relevant clarification/information please email to supportservices@queensu.ca.

GPSC

The past year has been rough. If you have concerns about your mental health, interpersonal relationships, stress, or burnout, the Graduate Peer Support Centre staff is available by appointment throughout the summer. To book a confidential appointment, head to https://sgps.click/gpsc21.

Hiring!

We are in the process of hiring our next GPSC coordinator! This is a paid position at $500/month. This person is in charge of running our graduate peer support center. Applications would go out soon, please pass the message and encourage to someone who you think fits for the role.

Peer Academic Advisors (PAAAs)

The SGPS Peer Academic Advisor program is here to help graduate and professional students navigate the complexities of academia during their time at Queen’s. Many questions can arise throughout seeking a graduate or a professional degree related to funding, academic resources at the University, communication strategies, and more. As graduate and professional students ourselves, we understand that school can be unpredictable. Sometimes the student-supervisor relationship isn’t what you expected it to be. You may have failed a course, or perhaps you want to appeal a grade or some other academic decision. Maybe you just want some extra support through a difficult time. Our goal is to empower students by confidentially working with them to develop a plan to solve their issues. Seeking a graduate or a professional degree can be very complicated, and the Peer Academic Advisors are here to help. Contact the SGPS Peer Academic Advisors at advisors@sgps.ca for free, confidential help today.

Alcohol policy/working group

The alcohol policy which was approved last year states "Orientation Week events for all students are required to be dry and substance-free, meaning that events and activities associated with Orientation Week on campus and those off-campus Sanctioned Events are not permitted to provide, serve, or encourage the consumption of alcohol or substances such as cannabis. In limited circumstances, a Dean may, in consultation with the Executive Director, Risk & Safety Services, approve an exception to this section for graduate and second entry program events." I am serving in the Alcohol working group and we are meeting later this month. So, If you are part of a program that is planning an orientation event and have any concerns which they want me to bring to the notice of working group, please reach out to me.
General Bursary

The General Bursary is now available to graduate students’ year-round. Grad students can apply to general bursary at any point during the academic year, as long as they apply before their final day of study. In order to access the application year-round, students have to request a special link to access the General Bursary. They have to contact bursaries@queensu.ca to get the link. Student Awards will only grant students access if they are considered "eligible" after Student Awards reviews the student’s SOLUS account.

 Supervisor/Supervisee Resource Kit

I am also working with Chris Deluca (Associate Dean) at the School of Graduate Studies to create a pathway for academic challenges which would be a subset of bigger resource kit for supervisors/supervisee being created by Anthony (VP Community). Hopefully, this resource guide would serve the purpose of helping grad students with pertaining issues.

Support & Advocacy

I am having monthly meetings with the Associate Dean (SGS), Division of student Affairs and serving in Graduate Studies Executive Council and several other committees on campus. So, if you have any issue/concern/suggestions which you want me to bring to these people, please reach out to me.

I am always open to any comments, questions, or suggestions. Please feel free to contact me at vp.graduate@sgps.ca

Best
Rohit Shukla
Dear Council,

I hope everyone has had a safe and happy summer! I entered my role during quite an interesting time for the SGPS and for Queen’s University in general, and I wanted to thank all SGPS staff and council members for helping me transition during these strange times. I have summarized the events of the past few months below.

**In-Person Attendance**
With the successful implementation of vaccinations and the Ontario government’s three-step plan of reopening, in-person classes will be proceeding as planned for the fall semester. The SGPS understands that this can potentially cause hardship for students. We are always available to answer questions, refer to resources, and contact any relevant administrative bodies on behalf of students.

**Human Resource Hire**
The SGPS is currently in the process of hiring an external HR consultant. Under the current SGPS Bylaws and Policies, HR is the joint responsibility of the Vice President Professional and the Executive Director. However, our current internal HR system could be greatly strengthened by the knowledge and presence of a professional. This is something that has been on our agenda for a long time, and I am happy to report that we are well into the process of bringing someone on board. This individual will be able to provide valuable information to strengthen our current HR policies, and coaching for the VP Professional and Executive Director. They will be a valuable resource that will help bring faster conflict resolution and a more effective workplace.

**Networking Events**
Considering the past academic year was almost completely online, many professional students lost valuable in-person networking opportunities. I am aiming to plan numerous events throughout the academic year for law, education, and medical students to ensure that students get valuable face-to-face time. To this end, I hope to work closely with the Presidents of the LSS, AS, and EGSS. If you have any ideas, please do not hesitate to reach out at my email below.

I look forward to working with you all in the coming semester!

Sincerely,

Jennifer Li

vp.professional@sgps.ca
Hello council!

I hope everyone had a wonderful summer and is excited for the upcoming year. Please excuse my absence from this council meeting, I’m looking forward to seeing everyone at September’s meeting. The budget has been set for the upcoming year and I will be doing a full budget presentation at September council meeting.

I am happy to say that the bursaries have been up and running since late May with 2 to 3 applications being submitted per week. During September to April the number of bursaries usually rise to 8 to 10 per week. We have allotted the following amounts for each bursary:

- International student bursary: $12,000
- Dental bursary: $9,500
- Emergency assistance bursary: $11,500
- Activity bursary: $1,500

These amounts were set based on previous years bursary usage. Again, this year we will not be offering grants. This was due to unpredictability of COVID restrictions and the money that would have been used for grants have been moved into the bursary program. Due to the historically low usage of the grant program, I am hoping to revamp it to make it more useful to the student societies.

The bus subsidy will be running again this year as the student bus pass was again canceled this year. Unfortunately, the AMS negotiates the bus pass with the city for all Queen’s students and it was their decision to cancel it this year again.

Due to the ARC being closed this summer all graduate/professional students have been issued a $27 refund which will have been posted to student accounts by the time you are all reading this message.

Please feel free to email any questions or concerns you may have at vp.finance@sgps.ca

Cheers!

Courtney Bannerman
Hello Council,

I hope everyone has been able to cope with another uncertain summer. A lot has been going on and I will try to update you as much as I can:

**Committees**

I sit on the following committees and can provide you with brief updates:

**Student Experiences Survey Student Advisory Group**

Data has been shared in summary form regarding significant findings from this survey that happened during the last school year. The survey asked students about experiences with sexual violence and about how welcoming campus is for people who identify in a variety of ways. There was a good response rate to this survey, about 20% of the student body, including quite a few graduate and professional students. In the Student Advisory Group, we are pushing for actions to come out of what was an intense survey that demanded a lot of students. There are plans for student consultations this school year. I made it clear in the meeting that for people who identify as trans or non-binary in particular (and many other students more generally), the way these consultations take place will be important in order to ensure spaces are as safe as possible. **If you have specific thoughts about how these consultations should take place, or actions you think the university should take to ensure campus is safe and welcoming to everyone, please feel free to contact me.**

**Provost’s Advisory Committee on Wellness**

This committee focused on ways in which the university is planning to transition folks who were first year undergrads last year, as well as incoming first year students, to on campus life. In this meeting I stressed that for graduate and professional students, TA and RA responsibilities are part of our learning experience – we straddle the line between (precarious) employees and students. I stressed the need for the SGS to reach out to PSAC Local 901 to hear about our concerns as employees, especially regarding our safety in classrooms with people who are unvaccinated, our rights in terms of whether we have the option to work remotely, etc. If you have concerns, please reach out to me or union representatives.

**Co-curricular Activity Restart Advisory Group**

This one is **important for all who may be hoping to organize in person orientation events this fall** – you need to fill out our [event sanctioning form](#) so that it can be sent to this group for approval. There are quite strict restrictions about how in person events can be run this year. These guidelines are in place for any events planned until the end of October. The university is planning to meet in November to evaluate whether these restrictions will change past October. The SGPS has two in person events planned which I’m sure will be discussed as part of Emilia’s report (Social Commissioner).

**Orientation**

We have made a few decisions this year based on the very unclear climate we face during the ongoing pandemic:

- We will be spreading orientation events throughout the month of September instead of our usual practice of having one event every day for a week. This will allow people more time for what promises to be a complicated return to campus and will also give people a bit of time to settle in and hopefully participate in some of our great offerings. For more information, see the Commissioner reports.
- We will be having two in person orientation events as long as there isn’t another lockdown. They will take place on September 23 (Trivia and Speed Friending) and September 25 (Movie Night). Both events will take place on
Nixon Field. We are still waiting to hear about a noise exemption for our movie night, but fingers crossed approval will happen soon!

**Year Plans**

This year we have an alternative timeline for Commissioner Year Plans, again due to the uncertain nature of the pandemic. The current timeline:

- Commissioners will present their year plans to Council as part of their September reports. Council will be able to offer ideas and suggestions for events or initiatives by emailing the Commissioners.
- Year Plans will be finalized by the end of November when we hopefully have more clarity around what we will be able to offer in terms of in-person or virtual events.

**SGPS Awards**

The 2021 SGPS Awards process was pushed back to this summer. All applications are in and a committee to review them has been assembled (there is a motion for Council to approve this committee on today’s agenda). The committee is meeting on **Thursday, August 12** to being (and hopefully also conclude) decisions.

**Supervisor/Supervisee Resource Kit**

I am currently working with Heather Merla at the School of Graduate Studies to create a resource kit for supervisors and Grad Program Assistants to distribute to grad/professional students. This will be a comprehensive resource kit and will also hopefully include pathways for how to use various resources in different situations. If you have any ideas for resources that should be included, please do reach out to me through email.

**Pivot the Grad Clock Campaign**

Still happy to receive testimonials for the Pivot the Grad Clock campaign! See our post on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

Best,

Anthony Lomax

[vp.community@sgps.ca](mailto:vp.community@sgps.ca)
Hello everyone,

I hope that you all had a wonderful summer and am looking forward to the upcoming term.

Throughout the summer I have been maintaining the SGPS Running and Active Clubs on STRAVA. We have been completing monthly challenges, where members are setting out to accomplish a specific goal each month for the chance to win a $25 Running Room gift card. So far, the challenges that I have held are Personal Best in June and Go the Distance for July. The August Challenge, 100 & 1, is up and running and I look forward to tracking everyone’s progress over this month. Additionally, I am excited to announce that in collaboration with the social commissioner, Emilia, we have officially launched our recipe blog. Our goal for this blog is to promote healthy, budget friendly recipes to all our students. We currently have 5 recipes posted to our website and are aiming to launch a new recipe every 2 weeks. Going forward we are hoping to add our own pictures and videos to accompany these recipes.

I have also been working alongside the entire commissioner team to plan several Orientation events over the month of September. I am actively involved in the POW-WOW fitness bootcamp on September 8th and 10th, the Cooking with Grandma’s event on September 14th and the Skill Share event scheduled for September 18th. Please find more details about these events below:

POW-WOW Fitness Bootcamp:
- We will be collaborating with the ARC to run a brief information session highlighting services offered for the upcoming year. This will be followed by a 90-minute POW-WOW bootcamp. This event is going to be run virtually, with the option of opening up a studio in the ARC for participants in need of spatial accommodations.

Cooking with Grandma’s:
- I am excited to continue the partnership with the Faith and Spiritual Life group here at Queen’s through our Cooking with Grandma’s event. The first event for this year will be held virtually on Tuesday September 14th from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM, with the following events occurring on the 2nd or 3rd Tuesday of every month. We are currently planning to go ahead with these events virtually with the hope that we will get to return to an in person format later in the semester. Registration for this event is required, following an ingredient list and recipe being sent out to the participants 1-2 weeks prior.

Skill Share:
- We will be hosting a 2-hour beading session and a 30-minute guided meditation session for this skill share event. For this virtual event, beading supplies will be provided and delivered to a set number of participants in the Kingston area. The supply list will also be released for all participants outside of the Kingston area. We hope that this event can continue throughout the year with a different “skill” being shared to our community each month. Our ideas for future events include, guided writing sessions, paint nights, arts and crafts events and some non-traditional sports sessions.

I am excited for all the upcoming events and as always, please feel free to contact me (athletics@sgps.ca) with any suggestions, questions, or comments about these or other events.

Sincerely,

Kassandra Coyle
Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, SGPS
Good Evening Council Members,

Thank you to everyone for providing me with such a warm and supportive welcome to the organization at the last meeting this spring! I look forward to working with the council, my fellow commissioners, the SGPS membership, and the various organizations I will come into contact with during my time in this position. In addition to becoming familiar with the SGPS and my position this summer, I have been working on the following:

1. Soft Infrastructure Network

Building on the concept and work of my predecessor Fifi and her colleagues Claudia and Paige, I have been working on an easy to maintain master-list of departments and graduate student bodies which contain the bulk of our membership. This master-list will form the basis of the network where SGPS members from various departments can connect. The vision for this project includes the formation of **EDII representatives for each department** (including an Indigenization representative and International representative as is appropriate), a newly formed Council to group all the EDII representatives together to discuss EDII issues across the various departments and schools, and possibly a **symposium or workshop** to support and address the most pressing needs of the EDII representatives and our equity-seeking members. My efforts in this large project are being supported by the efforts from my colleagues Brittany McBeath (Indigenous Liaison) and Sabrina Masud (International Commissioner).

2. Committees and Meetings

Continuing with the committee work of my predecessor, I’ve attended committee meetings for the Built Environment Advisory Group (BEAG) to discuss various projects and legislation in terms of accessibility, including the upcoming Duncan McArthur Hall renovations/build. In my work with UCARE I have joined the Governance and Nominating Sub-Council and fulfilling duties in this role. I have also been attending meetings related to anti-oppression training and workshop development with AMS and HREO as well as with PSAC.

3. Advocacy

I contributed to the statement **“The SGPS Offers Sincere Condolences and a Message of Support for Indigenous Members”** crafted by Anthony (VPC) and Brittany (IL) (found here [https://sgps.ca/2021/05/31/the-sgps-offers-sincere-condolences-and-a-message-of-support-for-indigenous-members/](https://sgps.ca/2021/05/31/the-sgps-offers-sincere-condolences-and-a-message-of-support-for-indigenous-members/)) in the wake of the residential school atrocity widely broadcasted across various media platforms. I also drafted the SGPS public statement **“A Message of Support for our Muslim Members”** (found here [https://sgps.ca/2021/06/11/a-message-of-support-for-our-muslim-members/](https://sgps.ca/2021/06/11/a-message-of-support-for-our-muslim-members/)) in response to the Islamophobic act of terror in London Ontario. Additionally, I have been organizing a **Muslim member sharing circle** with the help of Sabrina (IC) and hosted by Dr. Adnan Husain to create a safe space for our Muslim identifying members to share their experience. I have also been addressing general member concerns and requests as they occur over e-mail.

I wish you all a wonderful and invigorating final month of 2021 summer!

Monica Garvie HBSc, MSc
**Equity and Diversity Commissioner**
**Society of Graduate and Professional Students**
Dear Council,

While I write my report, the sun is shining, it is 25 degrees outside, and it is hard to believe that the summer is almost over. I hope you have been able to enjoy the summer months (rain or shine) so far. While there are so many things to be grateful for, there have also been many challenges to overcome and hardships to grieve since I started this position in May 2021. The month of May was filled with many transitional activities as I learned more about my role as the Indigenous Student Liaison. I would like to acknowledge my predecessor Paige Van Tassel, and to thank her for all the great work she did during her time in this role. She planted many seeds, and I intend to honour her work by caring for those seeds as they transform into their next stage of growth.

The month of June began with the devastating discovery of a mass grave of 215 Indigenous children killed while at Kamloops Indian Residential School. In response to this, we put together a statement offering condolences and support from the SGPS to our Indigenous Members (See Statement). The discovery at Kamloops triggered an awakening and mobilization across Turtle Island which has led to demands for further investigation into all former residential school sites for unmarked graves and burial grounds. To date, we mourn the loss of 2088 children who have been recovered and finally brought home from the 11 residential schools that have been searched so far.

The month of July has been filled with continued committee work and planning Orientation Week and Fall Semester events, for which I will provide further details below.

Committee Work

Indigenous Student Caucus
The Indigenous Student Caucus has been meeting monthly since April 2021. Caucus members include both Indigenous graduate and undergraduate student representatives from various departments. This caucus provides a space for discussion where students can voice their concerns and help contribute their suggestions for improving the Indigenous student experience at Queen’s University.

PSAC901 Anti-Racist Working Group
The PSAC901 reached out during the month of June to offer their assistance in putting together an event to benefit and meet the needs of Indigenous students. Through our discussions, we reached consensus on hosting a Sharing Circle event for Indigenous students to share their experiences from the perspective of a student and an employee at Queen’s. This event is projected to take place in the Fall Semester. The information shared by students at this event will be brought forward to respective bargaining tables by the PSAC901 and to inform further advocacy by the SGPS. Currently, this working group is putting together a ‘disorientation guide’ and bystander intervention training modules for BIPOC students focusing on how to survive a racist workplace.

BIPOC Supports Working Group
The Human Rights and Equity Office BIPOC Supports Working Group has been meeting bi-weekly since July 2021 to discuss additional supports for BIPOC students focusing especially on the safety of BIPOC students as we begin to return to campus.

Student Experiences Survey Student Advisory Group
The Student Experiences Survey Student Advisory Group has met bi-weekly throughout the summer months and will continue to meet in the fall. We discussed and provided insights on the Snapshot Report of survey data collected between March 4th – 26th, 2021. The Student Advisory Group discussions have focused on ensuring the Queen’s University Administration Declaration of Commitment of Address Systemic Racism goes beyond a critical examination of practices and policies toward concrete action that involves making changes to practices and policies that support inequity.
UCARE Academic and Curricular Diversity Sub-Council
This Sub-Council has been discussing recommendation on curriculum that come from the PICRDI and the Yakwanastahentéha Aankenijigemi Extending the Rafters: TRC Task Force final reports. We have also discussed the many EDII training modules that are available across the university and are currently exploring the possibility of grouping modules into a micro-credential or certificate. Meetings will continue in the fall.

Indigenous Caucus & Council
Both the Indigenous Caucus and Council have been discussing the results of the Office of Indigenous Initiatives Strategic Plan. Most recently, we have held additional meetings to discuss the controversy over an anonymous report circulated on social media June 2021 maliciously alleging false claims of Indigenous identity by various people connected to the Queen’s community. After statements from the University and from Principal Patrick Deane and Chancellor-Designate Hon. Murray Sinclair, it has been announced that a campus-wide dialogue will be launched around Indigenous identity to both support the Indigenous community and critically examine current practices, policies and procedures. External facilitators Guy Freedman and Lynne Toupin from First Peoples Group will be mediating this dialogue. Further details about the discussion process will be announced in the fall. The Indigenous Student Caucus will ensure an open space for discussion and consultation with Indigenous student groups be created as part of this process.

Upcoming Events
Orientation Week Event - Pow Wow Dance Fitness Bootcamp
In partnership with the Athletics and Recreation Commissioner Kassandra Coyle, we have organized a culturally-based fitness event for orientation week. The Pow Wow Dance Fitness Bootcamp will include two 90-minute fitness classes facilitated by N8V Dance Fitness instructor Michelle Reed. Michelle is a member of the Lac du Flambeau Band of Ojibwe. The classes will take place virtually using Zoom during the afternoon of Wednesday September 8th and Friday September 10th times TBD. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to athletics@sgps.ca or indigenous@sgps.ca.

Orientation Week Event – Skill Share: Beading & Meditation
On September 18th from 2pm – 5pm I will be facilitating a beading workshop in partnership with Socials Commissioner Emilia Ganslandt. We will be making a leather keychain with a large, beaded flower. The goal is to have participants start and finish their project at this event. Half-way through the session we will take a break to relax with some folk-music and guided meditation. If you have any questions or concerns, please reach out to social@sgps.ca.

Indigenous Reads Talking Circle
The Indigenous Reads Talking Circle will be returning in the fall for bi-weekly virtual circles where participants will read and engage in guided discussions about Braiding Sweetgrass by Robin Wall Kimmerer. Meeting dates to be finalized and registration to be announced soon.

Indigenous Writing Group
In partnership with the SAGE/Indigenous Student Advisor at Four Directions, the Indigenous Writing Group will be returning in the fall for bi-weekly virtual meetings where students can gather to work on their writing. Meeting dates to be finalized and registration to be announced soon.

If you have any questions or are looking for more information on any of the committee work or upcoming events please feel free to contact me via email at indigenous@sgps.ca.

Nyawen’kó:wa (Big thanks)!

Sincerely,

Brittany McBeath
SGPS Indigenous Student Liaison
Indigenous@sgps.ca
Hello everyone,

I hope you all had a great summer and I look forward to seeing everyone this coming week.

Throughout the summer I have had the privilege to work with Kassandra, the Athletics and Wellness Commissioner, on a SGPS recipe blog which features healthy and budget-friendly recipes for students. The blog was officially launched in mid-July and will continue to feature bi-weekly recipes throughout the fall. We currently have 5 recipes posted to our blog (which is under the SGPS website) and now are working on taking our own pictures and videos to accompany the recipes.

During the summer, I have also worked with the entire commissioner team to plan the Orientation which will span over the entire month of September. I am currently most involved with the Skill-share event scheduled for September 18th, the in-person speed-friending event on September 23rd, and the in-person outdoor movie night scheduled for September 25th. I have included some additional information about these events below:

Skill share:
- The goal of this event is to create an opportunity for students to be creative and learn a skill they might not have learned otherwise. For this event, we will host a virtual session which will include 2 hours of beading and 30 minutes of guided folk-music meditation. We will compile approximately 25-30 sets of materials (including all necessary materials for the beading) which we will distribute to participants located in the Kingston area. We will also provide the material list to participants interested in participating outside of the region. This event will be used to promote the Show and Tell series (started by Kel last year) which I will be continuing throughout this year. Ideas for future events include paint nights, arts and crafts, creative writing sessions, and sewing/hemming techniques.

Speed-Friending and Trivia event:
- The goal of this event is to create a sense of community among incoming SGPS members and to allow people to start building relations with other members. The event will be held at Nixon Field and will be approximately 2 hours long. It will first include 1 hour of “speed-dating” type discussion where participants are paired up and then asked to discuss a topic for a short period of time. The participants then move to a new partner where another topic will be introduced. After the “speed-friending”, the participants will have the opportunity to stick around and participate in about 1 hour of trivia (most likely 2 different topics/2 rounds of trivia). The event will follow public health guidelines and has been approved to be held in person. Some prizes will be given to the trivia winners.

Outdoor movie night:
- As a relaxing last event of orientation, we will be hosting an outdoor movie night. The event will be held at Nixon Field on the evening of September 25th. It will feature a movie played on a big projector screen. Participants will be asked to bring their own blankets and snacks due to COVID-19 restrictions. The participants will also be spaced out to follow public health guidelines.

I am excited for this upcoming orientation and this year to come. If you have any comments, questions, or suggestions about these or any other future events, please feel free to contact me (social@sgps.ca).

Sincerely,

Emilia Ganslandt
Social Commissioner, SGPS