A PRIMER ON THE WORLD OF GR. 12 SCHOLARSHIPS

1. There are 4 categories of scholarships available to Gr. 12 Seycove students:

* **Private / Corporate Scholarships**: sponsored my thousands of national organizations and people. *Due dates ongoing.*

[www.scholarshipscanada.com](http://www.scholarshipscanada.com) [www.schoolfinder.com](http://www.schoolfinder.com) [www.studentawards.com](http://www.studentawards.com)

* **Provincial Scholarships:** sponsored by the BC government. [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards) *Due dates early in 2018.*
* **Post-Secondary Scholarships**: sponsored by colleges and universities. See individual school websites. *Due dates typically in Dec. / Jan.*
* **Local Scholarships**: sponsored by local community groups, companies, and schools. These offer the best chance of scholarship money for many of our students. ***Local Scholarship application forms will be available Dec. 11 and are due by 3:00 pm., January 16, 2018. Please submit to Ms. Henderson.***

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

The following is a summary of ***Free Money for School*** as printed in Moneysense Magazine, November 2016. It supports much of what we’ve come to believe ‘works’ here at Seycove when it comes to applying for scholarships.

**Leave No Stone Unturned**

* Post secondary education can be a fabulous investment but tuition bills can be frightening. In 2016, the average student debt load was $26, 819.
* There are 85,000 scholarships on scholarshipscanada.com totalling $193 million. However, the website is not always easy to navigate. It takes persistence.
* Be heartened. Not all scholarships are grade-dependent. In fact, 80% of scholarships don’t require a specific academic average at all.
* Only 10% of scholarships make extensive community service a necessity though many do look for extra-curricular involvement.
* Here’s what we tell the kids: 10 hours spent earning $1,000 means being paid $100 an hour.
* Know that TIME is the biggest stumbling block. We can’t say this enough: ***BUILD A REPEATABLE TEMPLATE THAT CAN BE TAILORED TOWARDS INDIVIDUAL APPLICATIONS.*** Applications tend to ask similar essay questions about leadership / initiative/etc.
* It’s rough going at first. It’s hard to finish a 10-hour application knowing there’s a good chance you might not win the scholarship. Buuuuuuut… once you have the essentials down in a repeatable template, the second goes more smoothly. By the time you’re applying for your fifth scholarship, applications become habit and straightforward. *Volume is key.*
* **Finally, organization is essential.**
* Get a folder to collect your reference letters, certificates, awards, etc.
* Put together a ‘brag list’ of all of your achievements, accomplishments, and activities that show your skills, your passions, your commitments
* Don’t forget to record all of your volunteer efforts, however small
* Consider buying a small paper calendar in which you can record upcoming application deadlines. Your phone is fine, but sometimes a hard copy beside your laptop at home is easier to navigate. DON’T FORGET TO RECORD KEY DATES on your home calendar so another pair of eyes is there to remind you of upcoming deadlines.
* Write the rough outlines of some scholarship mini-essay questions early. Any post-secondary application will have these essay topics listed and they tend to revolve around similar themes. Write your practice essays early (Sept – Oct) so you’re ready for the genuine applications without stressing!
* Be thorough, be honest, be creative, be original. Let others read your work so they can critique, encourage, and polish.