

A PRIMER ON THE WORLD OF GR. 12 SCHOLARSHIPS

1. There are 4 categories of scholarships available to Gr. 12 Seycove students:
 - o **Private / Corporate Scholarships:** sponsored by thousands of national organizations and people. *Due dates ongoing.*
www.scholarshipscanada.com www.schoolfinder.com www.studentawards.com
 - o **Provincial Scholarships:** sponsored by the BC government.
www.bced.gov.bc.ca/awards *Due dates early in 2018.*
 - o **Post-Secondary Scholarships:** sponsored by colleges and universities. See individual school websites. *Due dates typically in Dec. / Jan.*
 - o **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.***
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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

- o Post secondary education can be a fabulous investment but tuition bills can be frightening. In 2016, the average student debt load was \$26, 819.
- o There are 85,000 scholarships on scholarshipscanada.com totalling \$193 million. However, the website is not always easy to navigate. It takes persistence.
- o Be heartened. Not all scholarships are grade-dependent. In fact, 80% of scholarships don't require a specific academic average at all.
- o 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. Buuuuuut... 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.