



**Vision Statement:**

Our school provides learning opportunities enabling students and staff to achieve personal excellence and pursue their passions in an inclusive, supportive, and respectful environment. We educate students by teaching skills and modeling attitudes needed to become successful lifelong learners and responsible, caring school and global citizens. Our school honours dignity, purpose, and options for all.

Notre école offre des opportunités d'apprentissage permettant aux élèves et aux enseignant(e)s de réaliser leur propre excellence et de poursuivre leurs passions dans un milieu inclusif, positif, et respectueux. On instruit les élèves en enseignant les habilités et en modelant les attitudes nécessaires pour devenir des apprenant(e)s à vie ainsi que des citoyen(ne)s scolaires et globales/aux responsables et bienveillant(e)s. Notre école fait honneur à la dignité, aux buts et aux options pour tous et pour toutes.

**PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

Hello everyone and welcome back from Spring Break, NDSS and Learning Alternatives is heading into a busy time of year as we near the stretch drive to the summer.

On the Woodlands Consolidation front we have been making great strides to accommodate the teachers and students that are incoming to NDSS. On behalf of the NDSS, I would like to welcome the following new staff that have been assigned to NDSS for 2016/17: Kelly Barnum, Lorna Riddell, James Cox, Zed Malenica, Gunnar Myhrer, Ryan Orton, BJ Taylor, Clarice Tyce, Lorne Freedman, David Grey, and Jan Durvin. We are looking forward to all of the incoming expertise and welcome them warmly. There is a planned open house for Woodlands families and staff members on April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00pm. We will be having entertainment, tours and information for our incoming Woodlands family.

Satisfaction Surveys are taking place this week with our Grade 10 and 12 students going through the yearly tradition of supplying feedback to the British Columbia government. Parents of Grade 10 and 12 students as well as staff members are also welcome to provide feedback.

Term 1 for Semester two comes to an end this month with report cards being issued on April 27<sup>th</sup>. Parents should ensure that they connect with their child's teacher, counselor or coordinator if they have any concerns. There will be parent teacher interviews on April 28<sup>th</sup> between 2:00pm to 5:00pm. Students will be dismissed at 1:46pm. Teachers will be available in the gymnasium for interviews.

Painting and improvements continued throughout March and April. Over Spring Break, the Grade 12/Blue hallway had the flooring replaced outside of Mrs. Perkins room. There was also restoration on the flooring outside of the cafeteria as well as the replacement of the flooring in the hall of fame hallway between the gyms. Painting continued throughout the school with the cafeteria getting a fresh coat of paint to eventually match the new mural which is currently being created under the leadership of Mrs. Long.

Academy applications were due in February for our 2016/17 academies. These academies include Lacrosse, Hockey, Soccer and Beach Volleyball. Although applications and deposits were due in February, there are still seats remaining in all academies. Please connect with the NDSS main office or our website for these packages.

Grade Twelve students need to stay focused as they near the completion of their epic thirteen-year journey through the education system. Grad transitions is required of all grads and must be completed with their GTS advisor before June. Graduates should also be focused on their academics to ensure that they end strong. The scholarship process is well underway with Mrs. Tomiyama leading the charge for NDSS for the first time.

Geoff Steel  
 Principal, NDSS

**NANAIMO DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR**

April 19 (Tuesday)	Term 1 Last Day
April 20 (Wednesday)	Term 2 Day One
April 27 (Wednesday)	Report cards issued
April 28 (Thursday)	Parent/Teacher Conferences 2-5pm
May 13 (Friday)	Non-Instructional Day
May 16 (Monday)*	Curriculum Implementation Students do not attend
May 20 (Friday)	Interim Reports for Students
May 23 (Monday)	Victoria Day
May 28 (Thursday)	Aboriginal Graduation John Barsby 5 –8 pm
June 21 (Tuesday)	Last Day of classes
June 22 (Wednesday)	Start of Provincial Exams
June 27 (Monday)	Commencement Rehearsal Port Theatre 7pm
June 28 (Tuesday)	Commencement Port Theatre 4:30pm
June 30 (Thursday)	Administrative Day –Schools closed

**SYNREVOICE**

NDSS is now using a program called Synrevoice to phone and email the school community (parents and students) about student attendance, school events, emergencies and other important announcements. Please understand that these calls originate from the school (NDSS will show up on your caller ID) and they are not telemarketing or spam messages. If your contact information (phone number or email address) that you provided to the school in the fall has changed, please contact the school as soon as possible. As well, if you require changes to how you receive the messages, please inform the school as soon as possible.



**CALENDAR CONSULTATION**

The Ministry of Education recently mandated a curriculum redesign and provided two days of curriculum in-service during the 2015-16 school year. The local school calendar was readjusted to include the following days:

- Friday, January 29, 2016 (completed)
- Monday, May 16, 2016

In addition, the Ministry has provided one more curriculum in-service day each for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school year. As a result, the revised local school calendars for 2016-17 and 2017-18 will also need to be amended to reflect the Ministry's adjustment in the number of instructional hours (5 hours less for each school year), and its adjustment to the minimum hours of instruction.

On January 27, 2016, the Board approved that the current local school calendar be amended by adding non-instructional days for the purpose of curriculum in-service for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years.

## STUDENT FEES

Student activity fees are essential for all students to pay. The fees are used to support a variety of events and guest speakers at the school. Please pay fees as soon as possible if you have not already done so!

Student Activity fees \$15

Yearbook (Annual): \$50

Grad Fee (includes activity fee & annual) \$115

Lock \$5

## UNIVERSITY INFO SESSION

For any Grade 12 students interested in attending medical school please attend the following session.

Patty Schmidt, from UBC's Island Medical Program at UVic will be coming up to speak to high school and current university students interested in Medical School.

WHAT: Information Session: Students Interested in Medical School

WHEN: Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2016

TIME: 6:30 – 7:30 PM

LOCATION: Vancouver Island University, Nanaimo Campus

BUILDING: 180 ROOM: 134



## BC HIGH SCHOOL GYMNASTICS PROVINCIALS MARCH 10-12

NDSS had two students compete in the BC High School Gymnastics Provincials which were held on March 10th to 12th. The competition is broken in to 5 skill levels, Level-5 being the highest level of difficulty.

Brooke Wright -- level 4

Rankings: 8th overall; 10th on vault; 6th on bars; 9th on beam; 4th on floor.

Julina Benjamin - level 5

Rankings: **1st overall**; 5th on vault; 2th on bars; 1st on beam; 1st on floor.

They both did NDSS proud!

## CAREER TALK SERIES

NDSS will be hosting short talks at lunch hours delivered by a variety of professionals.

Wednesday April 6<sup>th</sup> at lunch in our library we will be hosting our first talk from a 3-D printing professional.

Students can learn about the industry and this exciting career path!

## CTC NEWS – DISTRICT CAREER PROGRAMS

[www.ctc-careerpaths.ca](http://www.ctc-careerpaths.ca)

See the CTC website for more information about our programs, deadlines and online application forms.

### **Highlights:**

**Dual Credit Enrichment - Registration is open March 11 - April 22.** Grade 11 student with at least 3A's + 1B can start attending VIU classes in grade 12. See the CTC website for more details!

**Trades and Applied Skills (formerly CTC and/or ACE it)** - interviews for 2016/17 seats begin in April.

**Work Experience and Secondary School Apprenticeship** - apply now to earn credit this summer!

## NDSS ON-LINE



All parents and students are encouraged to follow NDSS on Twitter at [@NDSSIslanders](https://twitter.com/NDSSIslanders), on Instagram [@ndssislanders](https://www.instagram.com/ndssislanders) and on Facebook (Nanaimo District Secondary School) for the latest information and updates.

Our new school website has info to keep you up to date with school news, notices, events, holidays and breaks, the Friday block rotation and much more. Check it out at <http://myndss.ca>

## NANAIMO DRY GRAD

Attention all Grade 12 Grads! Nanaimo Dry Grad ~ 24 June 2016 ~ \$55 per student. Volunteers are needed on the night of the event.

Parents please mark your calendars. April 08/09 Nanaimo Dry Grad will be selling Krispy Kreme donuts in front of Woodgrove Save on Foods! All profits will go to the Nanaimo Dry Grad Society.

On Saturday, April 9<sup>th</sup> at 9 AM Steve Marshall Ford and Nanaimo Dry Grad are hosting a "Drive 4UR School" event. Take a **free** test drive and Ford Canada will make a donation to Nanaimo Dry Grad. This event will take place in the parking lot of Woodlands School but is open to all licenced drivers in the community. We are having a bar-b-que as well. We encourage you to pre-register at [www.drive4ur.com/en/drygrad/Register](http://www.drive4ur.com/en/drygrad/Register).

Please visit the Nanaimo Dry Grad website for more information at [www.nanaimodrygrad.com](http://www.nanaimodrygrad.com).

## NDSS MOUNTAIN BIKE CLUB

This spring, students at NDSS will have the opportunity to take part in a mountain bike club. The Mountain Bike Club will go on a series of rides, experiencing some of Vancouver Island's best trails, as well as receive formal instruction and practice a specific set of skills for riding.

Rides will be on Friday after school (extreme weather permitting). The start points are predetermined, and more detailed maps can be provided on request. Students will require mountain bikes in SAFE WORKING CONDITION (bikes will be checked before participation is allowed). A helmet, weather appropriate clothing, good shoes, water, and a snacks are also required. Rides, led by a certified Level 1 OFA supervisor, will last approximately 2 hours long, and will include elements of decent and climbing. This is a club of cross country nature, not downhill stunt riding. Parents are asked to transport and pick up their children when necessary, and a driver consent form is required if they are driving other students. Parents are welcome to participate. This will be a fantastic experience for students to learn specific skills for riding, build fitness, and discover some of the most beautiful trails Nanaimo has to offer.



## TEST DRIVE 4UR SCHOOL

Take a free test-drive and Ford of Canada will donate up to \$6000 to Nanaimo Dry Grad. The event is at Woodlands Secondary on Saturday April 9 at 9 am to 5 pm. There will be a free BBQ, Krispy Kreme sales and volleyball. There is a prize giveaway of \$100 visa card. Bring your friends and family! You must be 18 years old with valid N licence to test drive on your own. To pre-register please go the following URL: [www.drive4ur.com/en/drygrad/Register](http://www.drive4ur.com/en/drygrad/Register).

