

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 habiletés 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

Salutations to our NDSS and Learning Alternatives community and welcome to May! Our May weather has arrived and we are into the final two months of the 2015/16 school year.

Last week's parent/teacher interview session went well and all parents should have received the Term 1 report card for Semester 2. Overall our students appear to be working hard and taking care of their learning. Any students that received an "I" for In Progress should connect with the teacher that issued that grade and ensure that they understand what is required to convert the "I" into a passing letter grade. Each student also has an academic coordinator that can assist in this area.

Although we have entered the final two months of the school year, these days are exceptionally busy for our school, students and staff. We have our second school dance scheduled for next Thursday, May 12th. This is being organized by our student council and Mrs. Cunnian and we are hoping for a solid turnout. We also have a professional development day coming up on Friday, May 13th as well as a Curricular Implementation Day on Monday, May 16th. This translates into a four-day weekend for students, ideal for catching up on their studies! Rounding out May we have a Gym Riot planned for May 26th, which is an action packed event held in our school gymnasium as well as our NDSS dodge ball team travelling to Dover Bay to defend their championship from last year.

The NDSS facility continues to undergo preparations for the Woodlands amalgamation and the Learn @ Home exodus. NDSS will be receiving two portables on the back field located near the south end of the campus near the introduction to trades compound. The school has also been home to the district painters for two months, many classrooms receiving new paint jobs as well as hallways and other areas of the school. We thank the district painters for giving NDSS a fresh look. Planning is also underway to install the massive mural project that Mrs. Long has coordinated and spearheaded through her industriousness. Mrs. Long secured a grant for this project, which is a multi-media aboriginal themed "button blanket" which has had hundreds of staff and students, from NDSS, Learning Alternatives and Woodlands, creating individual tiles to create a large mosaic. There have also been additional pieces created by a local aboriginal artist to supplement this piece. This will be the most impressive art piece added to NDSS in our 64-year history and we are hoping to get it installed before the end of the school year. Another ongoing project is the renovation of our counselling area, which will displace Mrs. Tomiyama, Mrs. Smith and Mrs. Webster for approximately three weeks. When this project concludes, we will have a new meeting room and an additional office in this area.

For all Grade 12 students, important information was provided at the grad meeting last week. This included a newsletter that detailed a variety of topics including: grad fees, grad tickets, GTS, and valedictorian information. It is essential that all Grade 12 students are aware of their credit situation to ensure that they are in a position to graduate. This includes students checking to make sure that they are on the grad list which will be posted near the office area this month. Grade 12's should also be aware that their focus over the remaining weeks should be on their course completion and academics and keeping up their attendance. Students participating in any pranks targeting our school, staff or students are putting their participation in our commencement ceremony at risk. Our staff is preparing a terrific commencement ceremony for June 28th at the Port Theatre, which will include a grad tea afterward at the Nanaimo Conference Centre.

Have a terrific May everyone!

Geoff Steel, Principal
 NDSS

NANAIMO DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2015-2016 SCHOOL YEAR

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

SYNREVOICE

NDSS was hoping to implement a program called Synrevoice but it has been delayed until June. This program will 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.

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 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>

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

SD68 SCHOOL VISUAL ART EXHIBITION

The Port Theatre is hosting the SD68 Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools Visual Art Exhibition which will be running until November 2016. Many NDSS Visual Arts students grades 8 to 12 along with other Secondary schools in the district have outstanding art work on display. If you are at the Port Theatre check it out on the 3rd floor mezzanine. We are very proud of our young ND artists!

CANADIAN PARENTS FOR FRENCH

This summer – Your child can speak the language, play in another culture and have a blast!

Choosing the right camp for your child or teen, can be a big decision. If you can't show your young learner the world this summer, why not bring the world to them by enrolling them in a camp where they will be immersed in French? At Canadian Parents for French, we hope our Summer Camp Listing can help.

Choose a camp that stretches your child's understanding to help them gain independence, share experiences, build new skills, discover new interests, and speak in French!

If you don't see a camp in your area please contact your local CPF Branch or BC Chapter for more information: bc-yk.cpf.ca



NDSS EARTH WEEK

NDSS and Learning Alternatives students and staff observed Earth Day Canada by various activities that took place over the week of April 18 to April 22. There was Meatless Monday, Blue and Green Day, Lemonade and Iced Tea for those who brought reusable bottles, Staff vs. Students Soccer Game (students beat the staff 1-0) and Lights Out Friday. Congratulations to all those who participated!

FINE ARTS AND CULINARY ARTS GALA

Parents, friends, and family are welcome to come to the 3rd annual celebration of **NDSS Fine Arts and Culinary Arts** at the upcoming Gala scheduled for **June 2nd from 6:30 to 8:20 pm** here at NDSS.

Visual Arts, Photography, Performing Arts, band and musical theatre, as well as many accomplished student musicians and dancers will be showing their talents at this evening event. We will also have our culinary arts and Home Economics department exhibit highlights from the year. Come and celebrate the vast talent we have at NDSS.



MOTHER & DAUGHTER WORKSHOP

Join us to celebrate an early Mother's Day on **Saturday, May 7th**. Bring along a tech obsessed girl (ages 11-14 year olds) in your life and learn something new together in this workshop for absolute beginners!

Bonus: Professional Mother & Daughter portraits included, provided by Vivid Photography!!!

Saturday, May 7 (10 am – 4 pm) at NDSS Library.

Bring a bag lunch. Laptop optional – lab computers available
Cost: By Donation!!

Register at: <http://bit.ly/glcmothersday>

CONTAINER FRUIT & VEGETABLE PRODUCTION WORKSHOP

Do you want to grow luscious fruits and vegetables in your own backyard or containers? Learn how easy it is, what soil to use and what varieties will do best in our conditions. This hands-on workshop will give you a container garden of your own to take home with you.

Thursday, May 26 (3:30-5:30 pm) at NDSS Courtyard. Cost is \$20.00

To register: Call 250-756-5200 and use barcode 149116

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.

Please visit the Nanaimo Dry Grad website for more information at www.nanaimodrygrad.com.



SPRING FLING DANCE

DANCE TICKETS! NDSS will be hosting its first ever Spring Fling May 12th! Tickets are being sold from April 25th to May 6th for the very low cost of \$2! Please purchase your ticket at lunch outside of the office. Doors will be open from 6:30-7:00pm. Students who need to arrive later **MUST** check in with Mr. Marusic in advance.

GYM RIOT

NDSS will be hosting its annual Gym Riot May 26th at lunch. Even if you were not selected to play, everyone is invited to show their support to one of the teams by wearing their team colour (red, blue, purple or green) that day and watching the festivities from the bleachers.

ABORIGINAL FAMILY NIGHT

Come and share culture, visit with friends and enjoy a healthy meal. If possible bring your own plate and cutlery and a salad or dessert to share. Cultural host: Joe Thorne, Nuuchulnu/Coichan.

Everyone is welcome!

Date: **Tuesday, May 10**

Place: **NDSS Cafeteria**

Time: **5:30 to 7:30 pm**

SCHOOL MURAL PROJECT

The Fine Arts Department at NDSS is involved in an exciting mural project this year titled "My Bowl is Half Full." This is a large scale art project supported jointly by a grant from Artist's in the Classroom, Parent Advisory Council and the Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools. The title and theme of this art installation celebrates student success and diversity. The art work itself takes form in an aboriginal 'Button Blanket' made of clay and wood spanning 20' long and 10' high. The mural is comprised of tiles crafted by NDSS students, wooden relief carvings, and clay features done by our resident guest artists; potters and aboriginal carvers. The 'Button Blanket' celebrates the spirit of NDSS; its beliefs and vision for 'student success as a learning journey of self-discovery'.

Follow our progress on Facebook at "My Bowl is Half Full." A dedication Ceremony will be held this fall. You are invited to join us in an unveiling Ceremony when we dedicate the mural and recognize our community artistic collaborative art work that celebrates student success.