

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.

**WELCOME TO THE NEW
ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY
NDSS NEWSLETTER !**

A few paper copies will be available in the office if required.

PRINCIPAL’S MESSAGE

NDSS has had a smooth start to our second semester. We will be distributing report cards through homerooms on Thursday, February 9th. This will be the final report card for our grade 8 and 9 students that will be in the traditional format. We will be utilizing the new district format for our second semester report cards. These new reporting procedures will put more of an emphasis on ongoing reporting, authentic assessment, and student involvement in their assessment. It will also see an end to the traditional percentages and letter grades for reporting on student progress. Parents of grade 8 and 9 students should have noticed a new course outline format for our second semester courses with the following format:

Competency levels:

Beginning	Developing	Applying	Extending
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Students will be self-assessing their progress on rubrics based on this language and teachers will be creating new activities as well as re-structuring tried and true practice to align with this language. This is a process that will be evolving throughout the semester and well into next year. Students at the 8 and 9 level will be involved in student learning showcases, so please stay tuned for more information. Our Grade 10-12 Students will continue on the current reporting pattern with the same format of reporting that was used in semester one. Course selection will be happening this week, Thursday, February 9th and Friday, February 10th. Students will complete course selection with their counsellors during class time, but they will bring home a second course selection sheet for further discussion with parents. The Course selection booklets will be available on our website by the end of the week. We are happy to announce that some of the new BC Curriculum will be offered in our course calendars, and these courses will be offered if enough students show an interest.

Good luck to everyone in second semester. Enjoy your BC Family Day long weekend!

Geoff Steel
Principal, NDSS

Staff emails are available at:
<http://www.myndss.ca/our-school/staff-directory/>

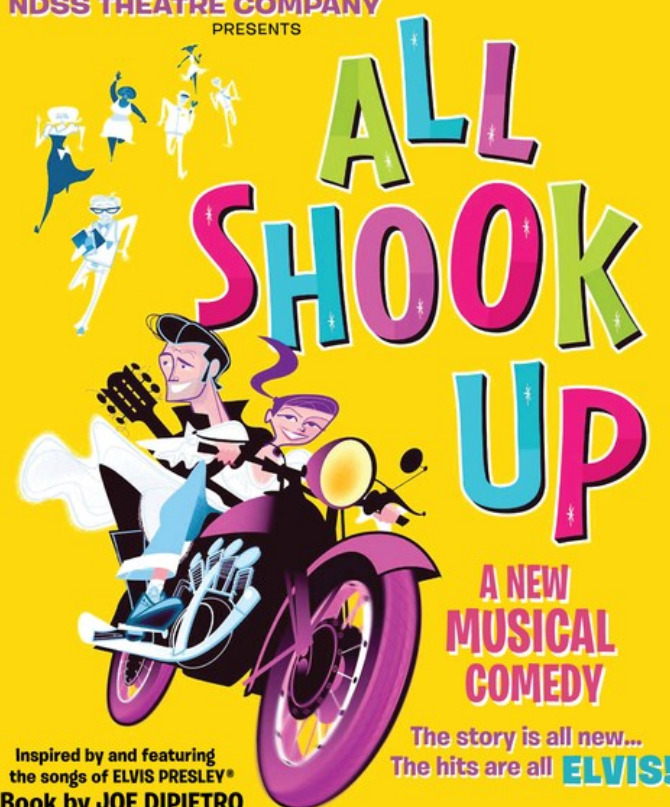
REGISTRATION FOR THE 2017-2018 SCHOOL YEAR BEGINNING NEXT SEPTEMBER WILL NOW BE ONLINE: <http://www.sd68.bc.ca/>
See the following page for more information.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF MEMBERS

Ms. Melanie Carmichael	English
Ms. Caitlin Johnston	Foods/English
Mr. Braden Kline	Science/Earth Science
Ms. Holly Olsen-Leaf	Art
Mr. Terry Steele	Student Support

DON'T MISS OUT...
GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!
NDSS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS:

NDSS THEATRE COMPANY
PRESENTS




A NEW
MUSICAL
COMEDY

The story is all new...
The hits are all **ELVIS!**

Inspired by and featuring
the songs of **ELVIS PRESLEY®**
Book by **JOE DIPIETRO**

TWO NIGHTS ONLY!
FEBRUARY 23rd & 24th
at The Port Theatre
Doors 6:30pm | Show 7:00 – 9:00pm
125 Front Street, Nanaimo. Tickets \$20; purchase online at: www.porttheatre.com
or call the Ticket Centre: 250-754-8550
PROUDLY SPONSORED BY
The Port Theatre



COUNSELLOR STUDENT ALLOCATION

Ms. Al-Hajj:	A-DAVID Francophone, Human Services
Mr. Kral:	Davidson—Laidlaw & GTS
Ms.Tomiyama:	Lam-Poystilla & GTS
Ms. Smith:	Preston—Z & GTS
Ms. Armstrong	International Students

NANAIMO DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL
SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

Subject to change

Feb 9 (Thursday)	Semester 1 Report Cards
Feb 13 (Monday)	BC Family Day
Feb 20 (Monday)	Non-Instructional Day (<i>District Pro-D</i>)
Feb 21 (Tuesday)	Non-Instructional Day (<i>School based</i>)
Mar 1 (Wednesday)	Interim Reports (<i>Jupiter grades</i>)
Mar 2 (Thursday)	Parent/Teacher Interim Meetings <i>Dismissal 1:46pm; Mtgs 2-3pm in class rooms</i>
Mar 17 (Friday)	Last Day of classes-Spring Break (2 weeks)
April 3 (Monday)	Schools Re-open
April 14 (Friday)	Good Friday
April 17 (Monday)	Easter Monday
April 20 (Thursday)	Term 1 Last day
April 21 (Friday)	Term 2 First Day
May 3 (Wednesday)	Report Cards (2:50pm via homerooms)
May 4 (Thursday)	Parent-Teacher Interviews <i>Dismiss 1:46pm (Interviews 2-5pm)</i>
May 12 (Friday)	Non-Instructional Day (<i>School Based</i>)
May 22 (Monday)	Victoria Day
May 25 (Thursday)	Aboriginal Graduation (<i>John Barsby</i>)
June 6 (Tuesday)	Athletics Banquet
June 7 (Wednesday)	Grade 8-11 Awards Assemblies Grade 12 Evening Event (<i>Large Gym</i>)
June 22 (Thursday)	Last Day of Classes Grades 8-12
June 22-29	Prov. Exams/Demonstration of Learning
June 26 (Monday)	Grad rehearsal 3:30 pm (<i>Port Theatre</i>)
June 28 (Wednesday)	Grad Ceremonies 2:00pm (<i>Port Theatre</i>)
June 30 (Friday)	Administrative Day –Schools closed

SCHOOL FEES

Thank you to those families who have paid their school fees this year. Student activity fees are essential for all students to pay, as the funds are used to support a variety of school-based events. Please pay fees as soon as possible if you have not already done so!

Sports academy fees are essential to continue running the program.

Student Activity fees: \$15

Yearbook: \$55

Grad Fee (Grade 12 only) \$65

Dry Grad \$60 fee goes up as of February 28 to \$65.00.

Soccer Academy: \$400

Hockey Academy: \$800

Beach Volleyball Academy \$800

Lacrosse Academy \$1000 new/\$800 returning

CTC/VAST /LEARNING ALTERNATIVES

DIRECT LINE: 250-740-2013

OFFICE: MEETING ROOM B in the Tech Wing

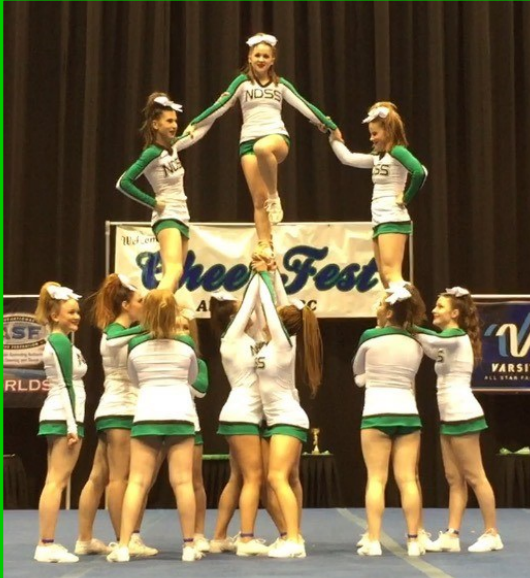
YEARBOOKS

Last chance to purchase a yearbook! We will not be ordering extra yearbooks this year. If you would like to have an NDSS Yearbook, the deadline is February 21st, 2017. Don't miss out! See the office for more details.

FIRST PLACE!
CONGRATULATIONS, NDSS CHEER TEAM!



Congratulations to the NDSS Cheer Team on placing first this past weekend at the Cheerfest Championships in Abbotsford. The team competed in the senior level 3 division and excelled at their 2.5 minute routine that consisted of cheering, gymnastics, dance and stunting. The team also had five athletes competing in an individual stunt competition; these girls rocked their routine and took home first place as well. For more images of their competition check out their Instagram account at NDSSCheer.



SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Last year, Nanaimo Ladysmith Scholarship Foundation distributed \$400,000 worth of scholarships, bursaries and awards and helped 306 high school students pursue their dream of post-secondary education. The 2017 awards booklet, listing more than 275 scholarships, bursaries and awards will be active on January 27th to complete the online application visit www.NLSF.ca. Deadline is March 3, 2017.

GRADE 11 STUDENTS!

VIU - - Start your University education early. Will you be in Grade 12 next year? Want to learn more about University Credits while still in High School?

Information Session : Wednesday February 15, 2017 from 6-7:30pm.

Location: VIU Theatre Building 310.

Open to students currently in grade 11 and their parent or guardian.

QUEBEC EXCHANGE OPPORTUNITY!

GRADE 10 FRENCH IMMERSION STUDENTS:

- Discover another culture!
- Improve your fluency in French!
- more independent!
- Gain self-confidence!
- Make new friends!
- Visit new places!

Interested in a FREE exchange to Quebec in your Grade 11 year? See Mme. Cunnian in room 207

We all have 'those' items gathering dust in our garages or garden sheds...

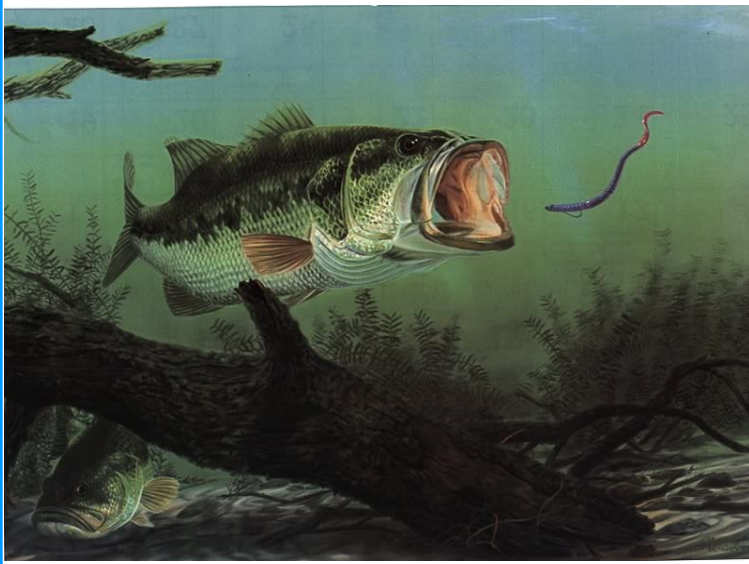
**NDSS BASS FISHING CLUB,
Grade 8 Survival Class and
West Coast Wilderness Studies**

Are still looking for donations...

If you have **ANY** items in the area of fishing, camping, survival, etc. and would like to donate it to the students, we would be so grateful!

If you are a business and would like to donate an item to our raffle for the April 8th fundraiser, please contact Mr. Crnkovic: FCrnkovic@sd68.bc.ca

Thank you for your support!



IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR GRADE 12S

Mailing addresses must be up to date for all Grade 12 graduating students who will have their final transcripts and/or their diplomas mailed to them. Property address must be within Canada.

VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY CONNECTIONS

Various activities are happening over the next few months. Keep this list to make sure you do not miss out.

Grade 12 students:

Educational Advisors will be visiting the school soon to offer a Group Applicant session followed by one on one appointments for those attending VIU in 2017.

Dates: (**February 10th** , **February 24th** *Individual Appointments*, **March 3rd** *Group Applicant Session*)

Grade 11 students:

Are you considering VIU? Would you like to learn more?

Stay tuned to newsletters and check the counselling department for dates coming soon.

Upcoming Events:

Discovery Days for Grade 10's February 21-23, 2017

[Spring Break Days:](#) March 20 – 31, 2017

[Program Information Sessions](#) – various dates

[Dual Credit Information Session](#)—Feb 15, 6:00pm
Building 310 Theatre

How to connect with VIU:

a. General inquiries & prospective students connect with the Office of Enrolment Management at 250.753.3245, Local 2088 or viuconnect@viu.ca

b. Application status and documentation questions connect with the Registration Centre at 250.740.6400 or registration@viu.ca

c. Applicants developing their individualized plan for academic transition to VIU connect with Advising at 250-740-6410 or advising@viu.ca

GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATIONS

Grade 9 immunizations will take place the morning of Wednesday, February 8th, 2017, in Meeting Room A. Students will be called down in groups alphabetically by last name.

FAMILY LITERACY DAY® is a national awareness initiative created by ABC Life Literacy Canada in 1999 and held annually on January 27 to raise awareness of the importance of reading and engaging in other literacy-related activities as a family.

<http://abclifeliteracy.ca/family-literacy>

The NDSS library is celebrating the day by promoting [the 100 Best Books for Secondary Students](#). This list is generated through the input of many educators and represents some of the finest books available for youth. We have reviewed the list, bought titles we were missing, and we will have all the books on display in the library for the month of February. Look for these books and more in your library!

STUDENT COUNCIL

Latest Team point counts:

Raven – 2500

Wolf – 2000

Orca – 1800

Bear - 900

TEXTBOOKS!!!

We are short textbooks this semester due to a high number of textbooks that have not been returned from last semester.

Please encourage your son/daughter to return all textbooks to avoid fines on accounts and to ensure sufficient textbooks .

NORTHERN GAMES IS COMING TO NDSS

Students & staff will be preparing and training for the 2017 Northern Games at NDSS.

We will be hosting our own Northern Games event in early March, and then taking our top competitors to compete against Barsby, Ladysmith, and other Secondary Schools in a *Challenge of the Champions* event on March 16th at Cedar Secondary School. ***Stay tuned for more updates coming soon.***

Indigenous Learning & Recognition Portfolio course- VIU

Students identified as having Aboriginal ancestry have an opportunity to earn dual credits through a new course offering at VIU in second semester. This course will require four in-class sessions at VIU, and will earn students both credits towards secondary school graduation, as well as University-level credits. For more information, please contact the AbEd team in R205, or email jmark@sd68.bc.ca or lgraaten@sd68.bc.ca

COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORNER

Canadian Tire Jumpstart is funding for families that could use financial support towards your child's organized sport or active program costs.

2017 Applications can be submitted from January 15th to November 1st. Details below...

Jumpstart's website is jumpstart.canadiantire.ca and has many resources for families including FAQ's and the Electronic Application.

1-844-YES-PLAY is the call centre number that the general public (parents) can call to be connected with the Dedicated Contact at the local Chapter for basic information about Jumpstart.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or would like support through the application process.

Michelle Swecera

Community Schools Coordinator

Cell: 250-755-6892

Email: mswecera@sd68.bc.ca

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The NDSS PAC meets the first Tuesday of the month at 7:00pm in the NDSS Library. Parents should park in the rear of the building behind the bandshell.

Meeting dates for the remainder of the school year:

Tuesday, February 7th

Tuesday, March 7th

Tuesday, April 4th

Tuesday, May 2nd

Tuesday, June 6th

Stay involved in your student's school - come to a meeting!

This is getting ridiculous....



Registration Information

A New Way to Register for School 2017/2018

A new convenient and streamlined **online** process to register your child in Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools



Online registration will begin **Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 8 a.m. PST.**

Kindergarten
French Immersion
Late French Immersion
Departure Bay Eco School
Secondary Academies
School Transfer

To register online you will need the following:

- An email address
- Snapshot or scan showing proof of your child's age and citizenship (ie, birth certificate, passport, care card, etc.)
- Snapshot or scan showing proof of BC residency (ie, driver's license, utility bill, mortgage document, etc.)

Register @ www.sd68.bc.ca

For more information email: ereg@sd68.bc.ca

Registration is online only

LACROSSE

Our Jr. and Sr. Lacrosse teams will be competing in the High School Field Lacrosse Provincial Championships in New Westminster on March 1st - 3rd. Thirty teams in the province will play for the championship titles.



Go NDSS!!

RUGBY

Rugby season is upon us! Any students wanting to play rugby, come on out after school Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays at 3:15 p.m. Dress in PE strip and cleats if you have them. Mouthguards may be purchased for \$2.

We are looking for coaches! If you are interested in coaching or helping, please leave your name and number at the main office, or speak to Mr. Laforest at practice.

VANCOUVER ISLAND YOUTH PARLIAMENT



THE 25TH

VANCOUVER ISLAND YOUTH PARLIAMENT

A model parliament for youth ages 14-18

March 10-12, 2017

Hosted at the Gulf Islands Secondary School

For more information contact Kyle Dow, Chair: Kyle.Dow@bcyp.org or Zachary Authier, Chief Returning Officer: Zach.Authier@gmail.com (Or contact the NDSS main office.)

NANAIMO DRY GRAD

Next meeting for Nanaimo Dry Grad

Thursday, 16 February

7:00 pm

In the Wellington School Library

All are welcome!

www.nanaimodrygrad.com

YOUTH SERVICES—ISLAND HEALTH

The NDSS Youth Services will be Thursday afternoons from 12-3:30 p.m. twice a month. Island Health will provide both a public health nurse and a family doctor on the following dates:

February 9, 2017

February 16, 2017

March 2, 2017

March 16, 2017

April 6, 2017

April 20, 2017

May 11, 2017

May 25, 2017

June 8, 2017

June 22, 2017



The centre will offer health services by either drop-in or appointments and is open to all students of NDSS School. The centre is located next to the counselling office. Services include low cost birth control and emergency contraception; free pregnancy testing; STI testing and screening; immunizations; and referrals to child youth mental health and addiction services. Physicians will see students for any health/wellness related matters including referrals for x-ray, blood work and mental health support.

Essentially, the students can see a doctor for any reason just as they would in the community at a walk-in clinic. The Youth Centre is intended to allow low barrier services and convenient access for our youth population. Students are welcome to come in with any health related questions or concerns and will be treated with respect and be given outstanding care by our staff. All services are confidential. The centre is closed during regular school breaks such as Winter Break and Spring Break and professional development days.



NDSS Photo Gallery Show



**A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL THE CLASSES THAT
TOOK VALUABLE TIME OUT OF THEIR DAY TO
VIEW THE PHOTO GALLERY SHOW!**

This is an amazing student body that showed appreciation and respect to all the photographers. The comments in the guest book were very encouraging and complimentary to the student's skills and to their creative eye.

Social Media Awareness + Parenting the Digital World



**Wednesday, February 8, 2017
7:00 PM Coast Bastion Hotel,
Benson Room
SCOTT ROTHERMEL will
present to parents of School
aged children**

With society heading in a direction of being constantly connected to technology, what do we need to know as parents to protect our kids and teach them responsible and appropriate use of technology? The parameters of rules and expectations that you put in place at home will undoubtedly guide their behaviour in the years to come. Please join us for an informative presentation which will cover the following topics and more!

- **Social Media Update** – The most current apps & trends in their social media lives
- **Pick Your Battles!** – You will have to balance the yin with the yang, promote independence whilst taking a strong stance on certain subjects
- **Current Research** – Brain development & technology, violent video games
- **Digital Footprint and Reputation** – With their future approaching, recruiters and employers are taking note – What will they find? What will they leave behind?
- **Tips & Tricks to Use at Home**

PARENTS: Do not miss this free event!



SAFER SCHOOLS TOGETHER
is an organization focused on promoting a climate and culture of safety in schools through comprehensive education.

Please email
Pam Graham @ pgraham@sd68.bc.ca
to RSVP and reserve your seat!



The sun is out there, somewhere...