



DATE: JANUARY 2017

NEWSLETTER #5

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.

WELCOME TO THE NEW ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY NDSS NEWSLETTER !

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

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

On behalf of the NDSS staff, I would like to wish everyone in our community a happy new year. NDSS concluded 2016 with a flourish, celebrating a variety of events. Some of these events included feeding the entire school breakfast, hosting a Winter Band Concert, performing a Christmas Assembly and winning a Provincial Championship in JV football! Go Islanders! We expect 2017 to be just as exciting.

As we move forward to wrap up semester one, there are many important aspects to consider. Our semester one regular classes will conclude on Tuesday, January 24th for all grades. Students should ensure that they are taking notice of what they need to do to bring each of their courses to a successful conclusion. Classes will all have individual due dates for assignment submission and test re-writes and in class final exams. Also, some classes may be ending with student presentations or celebrations of achievement. Students should use their preferred methods to track these important dates, either by using a planner or a digital calendar. If there are any parent or student concerns about progress, please connect with the teacher first and then the academic coordinator if assistance is needed.

PROVINCIAL EXAMS - There are still three provincial exams which will be taking place at semester end:

ENGLISH 12

(8:30-11:30am - Tuesday, January 24th)

COMMUNICATIONS 12

(8:30-11:30am - Wednesday, January 25th)

FRANCAIS LANGUE 12

(12:00-3:00pm - Wednesday, January 25th)

Classroom teachers will be preparing students for these exams. Sample exams can also be found at the following government link: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/search/>

Distance Learning (Island ConnectEd) – Students that are enrolled in DL courses should ensure that they are active and are moving forward towards

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.

course completion. Any student that has selected a DL course as opposed to enrolling in a typical NDSS classroom setting will need to ensure that they are pacing themselves towards their completion target. This is particularly important when students are nearing graduation and are in need of those course credits to be in a position to graduate.

Semester Two will begin on Monday, January 30th. Students will be involved in course selection for next school year early in February. Please expect students to bring their course selection materials home during the second week of February. As the BC Curriculum is currently being revised, expect to see some new course offerings for next year. These courses will run if enough students show interest through this selection process.

The way in which Grade 8 and 9 student progress is reported is changing for second semester. This is in alignment with the new British Columbia reporting procedures and goes hand in hand with the new BC curriculum. These changes will put the focus on learning and continuous feedback on student progress. It will also involve a change to the way in which progress is reported, and will not include percentages and letter grades. Please stay tuned as more information will be provided as we move forward.

Let's have a terrific New Year everyone,

Geoff Steel

Principal, NDSS





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

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

Subject to change

Jan 9 (Monday)	Schools re-open
Jan 24 (Tuesday)	Last Day of Classes for Grades 8-12
Jan 23-27 (Mon-Fri.)	Provincial Exams Start & Demonstration of Learning
Jan 26 (Thursday)	Term 2 Last Day (<i>Tentative</i>)
Jan 30 (Monday)	Semester 2 Day One
Feb 9 (Thursday)	Semester 1 Report Cards (<i>Tentative</i>)
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 (<i>2 weeks</i>)
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 (<i>2:50pm via homerooms</i>)
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

BC High School Transcript Requests

Ministry Transcripts and Certificates

<http://bit.ly/bctranscriptrequest>

Former High School Students

The Ministry of Education will only have your transcript of marks for a B.C. graduation program if you were a student who:

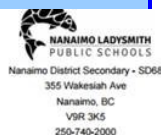
- ▶ Graduated after 1985 in B.C. or Yukon Territory
- ▶ Completed a Grade 12 course after 1985
- ▶ Attended Grade 12 prior to 1974 in the University Entrance or Academic-Technical Program

[Find out how to order your transcript online](#)

TRANSCRIPT REQUESTS

If you wish to order transcripts from the Ministry website after you graduate you must retain your confidential Student PEN number. Your Student PEN number is a 9 digit number at the top of your report card.

STUDENT NAME		GRADE	ATTENDANCE RECORD FOR 2017													
DIV NUMBER		TEACHER	ABSENT	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Total
ATTACHMENTS		STUDENT PEN	LATE	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0



Once you have your PEN number please go to the website above to order transcripts.

IMPORTANT REMINDER FOR GRADE 12S

All grade 12s please make certain that you have given the office your current, correct mailing address. If your address changes at any time during the year, it is your responsibility to make certain that this information is updated, as your transcripts will be sent to this address.

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 Student Support

Staff emails are available at: www.sd68.bc.ca

WINDS OF CHANGE IS NOW ONLINE!

The NDSS mural is now a Student Success Story on the Ministry of Education website and their Facebook site!

Thanks to you all for your efforts in helping to write this amazing story!

It's now live on the Ministry of Education website and Facebook site:

<https://www.facebook.com/BCProvincialGovernment/posts/1625284920823127>

YEARBOOK CLUB

It's not too late to get in on the Yearbook Club!! Meetings are held on Thursdays from 3:00 - 4:00 pm in Room 300. See you there!!

Don't forget there is still time to order your yearbook through the office!

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 for details.

NDSS BASS FISHING CLUB

The NDSS Bass Fishing Club, the Grade 8 Survival Class and the West Coast Wilderness Studies course are looking for donations. If you have anything in the area of fishing, camping, survival, etc. and would like to donate it to the students, please contact Mr. Crnkovic. If you are a business and would like to donate an item to our raffle for the April 8th fundraiser, please also contact Mr. Crnkovic: FCrnkovic@sd68.bc.ca

CTC/VAST /LEARNING ALTERNATIVES

A reminder that CTC, VAST and Learning Alternatives, while a physical part of our school, have their own phone line, 250-740-2013 and store all of their student records in their own office. The office for these programs is located in the technical wing of the school (near the band room and automotive shops), in Meeting Room B.

PAINT NITE FUNDRAISER

Hosted by NDSS Performing Arts to fundraise for our Dance Program. Join us on Thursday, January 19th at 7pm at Simon Holt. Tickets are \$45.

This event is only for those 19 years and older. For tickets go to:

<https://www.paintnite.com/events/1142161>



STUDENT PHOTOGRAPHY SHOWCASE

January 19th

12:15 - 2:30 pm

Small cafeteria at NDSS

The NDSS Grade 9-12 photography students are currently involved in an inquiry unit, focused on personally meaningful photography that will impact their lives as photographers. The Inquiry questions that has guided the class is: "How can photography transform my thoughts, feelings and beliefs towards myself and my world around me?" The students are each required to choose a topic of personal interest or passion and create an individual inquiry question, which they will answer within their photographs and writing. We are currently busy at work to create effective and meaningful photographic images.

The Grade 9-12 photography class is inviting you to view their Photography Showcase in the NDSS Small Cafeteria on Thursday, January 19 from 12:15 pm to 2:30 pm. The photography will reflect the personal style and character of each student. The young photographer will display an inquiry question that has guided their work to convey a message or explore a topic or genre of photography that is relevant to their lives. A brief write-up will accompany each piece which will provide information about the process and the meaning of the photographs. We would like to encourage you to be active participants and ask these young photographers 3 Big Questions: What did you learn? What supported your learning? What would you take to your next learning experience in photography?

Please come and view our display of photographs that will surely impact and impress any viewer!

Sincerely,

Ms. Kloppenburg and the NDSS Photography Classes

STUDENT COUNCIL

Upcoming Spirit Days:

January 13: Islanders Day - Dress in our school colours

January 20: July in January - Dress for summer or as a tacky tourist

February 3: Fan Day - What are you a fan of? Dress to show everyone what inspires your inner fan!

TEXTBOOKS!!!

The end of the semester is upon us, textbooks will soon be returned. As students return their texts the library staff will confirm the book being returned was assigned to the student returning it.

Staff can send students to the library to return books individually, or teachers may accompany entire classes. Special arrangements can be made with the library to collect textbooks in classrooms, or at exams. This offer may be ideal for those courses where students need their textbooks right up to the final day of class.

Together we can save thousands of dollars in textbooks! Let's get those books back!

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.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL CORNER

Self Defense for Teen Girls will be offered at NDSS on Thursdays from February 2nd to March 9th, 3:30pm-4:30pm in the small cafeteria. Cost is \$36 for 6 sessions. Registration is through Nanaimo Parks and Recreation at 250-756-5200 or register online: www.nanaimo.ca or <https://ireg.nanaimo.ca>

If your child is interested in joining sports or physical activities, but will need financial support, you may apply for Jumpstart funding on the following website: jumpstart.canadiantire.ca Jumpstart 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 with any questions you may have.

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!

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

NDSS THEATRE COMPANY PRESENTS:

All Shook Up

The Port Theatre
February 23 & 24th at 7 PM

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: Oct 6th & 20th, November 10th & 24th and December 8th & 15th.

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.