



DATE: OCTOBER 2016

NEWSLETTER #2

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

Dear Parents and Guardians,
 I would like to welcome our NDSS Community to the month of October. Now that September is in the rear view mirror, we can move forward with our students and staff now settled into the new school year. NDSS has endured a host of changes for this school start up, and although not perfect, it has gone relatively smoothly. The influx of new students and staff has brought a positive energy and I hope everyone that is new to NDSS feels a warm welcome.

NDSS is striving to improve our communication for the 2016/17 school year. Our school has communicated very traditionally with our community, mostly through monthly newsletters, assemblies and our vintage Wakesiah road-side sign. Recently we have updated our website and continue to add features to improve this service. For the majority of our families, we have the ability to communicate through Jupiter Grades via email. We have added Synervoice this year, which can send out telephone messages and emails for attendance and other notifications. NDSS also has a twitter account (@NDSSISlanders) which sends out regular blurbs promoting our school culture. NDSS athletics and student council will also communicate via Facebook and Instagram. Adding to our communication would be our school district communications department. Follow our school district on the free NLPS app available at the app store.

Having a solid communication system will be integral as we move toward the changes that are upon us within the Province of British Columbia. Most notably, the complete revision of the K-12 curriculum and the new reporting guidelines. Our teaching staff have been incorporating the new curriculum at the Grade 8 and 9 level and have been investigating the draft Grade 10-12 curriculum. This new curriculum is a major reimagining of what our students are to Know, Do and Understand. Our learning leaders are working to move this curriculum forward in a thoughtful way, to better support our students as they move further into the 21st Century. Coinciding with the new curriculum is the way in which student progress is reported. The reporting procedures for Grade 8 and 9 will look the same as usual for semester one, but new methods will be employed in semester two. There will be a parent open house on these reporting changes on Thursday, October 25th from 7:00-8:00 pm. Lastly, a most spectacular mural can now be viewed in the NDSS cafeteria. This is the "Bowl is Half Full" mural stemming from the creative mind of our very own Bev Long. This mural will be officially dedicated on Thursday, October 13th at 7:00pm. Visitors are welcome to attend this dedication ceremony. Have a great October and Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

Geoff Steel
 Principal of NDSS

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

WELCOME TO OUR NEW STAFF!

Math	A. Minhas
Math/Science	T. Martin
Math/Science	J. Lemoine
SS/Law	N. Grigoletto

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

Subject to change

2016	
Oct 5 (Wednesday)	Interim Reports (<i>Jupiter Grades</i>)
Oct 6 (Thursday)	Parent/Teacher Interim Meetings <i>Dismissal 1:46pm; Mtgs 2-3pm in classrooms</i>
Oct 10 (Monday)	Thanksgiving Day
Oct 17 (Monday)	Photo Retake Day
Oct 21 (Friday)	Non-Instructional Day (<i>Prov. PSA Day</i>)
Nov 8 (Tuesday)	Term 1 Last Day
Nov 9 (Wednesday)	Term 2 First Day
Nov 11 (Friday)	Remembrance Day
Nov 23 (Wednesday)	Report Cards (<i>2:50 pm via homerooms</i>)
Nov 24 (Thursday)	Parent/Teacher Interviews <i>Dismissal 1:46pm, Interviews 2-5pm</i>
Nov 28-Dec. 2 (Mon-Fri)	Grad Photos (<i>Small Cafeteria</i>)
Dec 12-16 (Mon-Fri)	Interim Reports (<i>Jupiter Grades</i>)
Dec 23 (Friday)	Last day of classes - Winter Vacation
2017	
Jan 9 (Monday)	Schools re-open
Jan 24 (Tuesday)	Last Day of Classes for Grades 8-12
Jan 23-27 (Tues-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 classrooms</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 TBD	Grad rehearsal (<i>Port Theatre</i>)
June TBD	Commencement (<i>Port Theatre</i>)
June 30 (Friday)	Administrative Day -Schools closed

HALLOWEEN

Get ready for this year's Halloween Parade! Wear your best costume for Halloween and enter our parade as an individual or as a group. Could you be the winner this year?

VANCOUVER ISLAND UNIVERSITY CONNECTIONS

Grade 12 Students Please note the important dates and timeline for those of you applying to VIU.

1. Applications open on October 3rd – go to viu.ca/apply
2. Individual Appointments at NDSS with a VIU Recruiter
 - a. November 10th, 2016
 - b. November 24th, 2016
3. Future Student Online Webinars
 - a. November 8th, 2016 – 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
 - b. November 14th, 2016 – 11:30 am – 12:15 pm
 - c. November 15th, 2016 – 11:30 am – 12:15 pm
 - d. November 16th, 2016 - 4:30 pm – 6:00 pm
 - e. November 22nd, 2016 - 4:30 pm – 6:00 pmRegister online at connect.viu.ca/future-students/webinars
4. 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

Apply now: viu.ca/apply

Post-Secondary Connections

Vancouver Island University

All Grade 12's interested in attending Grade 12 Day at VIU can pick up a permission slip in the counselling area.

VIU will be hosting a day for **Grade 12's on October 19th**, 2016. This one day event will run from **10:00am – 2:00pm** and will provide our students with an opportunity to:

- ⇒ take a campus tour
- ⇒ attend a Faculty Panel of students, alumni and/or faculty in their area of interest
- ⇒ attend the VIU Health & Wellness Fair
- ⇒ submit an application
- ⇒ attend an 'Ask an Ambassador' (a current student) session

Faculty Panels will be offered in the following areas:

- Art, Design & Performing Arts
- Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences
- Business & Management
- Academic & Career Prep
- Education
- Health
- Human Services
- International
- Science & Technology
- Trades & Applied Technology

There are two steps to attend this amazing day.

Step 1: Hand in your permission slip to Ms. Smith by October 3

Step 2: Register online for the faculty that you are interested in. The link to register online will be made available to us on October 4. Each student gets to personalize this field trip to suit their interests.

Step 3: We will be leaving NDSS at 9:30 am and walking up on October 19 for the 10am start. Dress appropriately for the weather.

Ms. Smith

TERRY FOX RUN

Congratulations to the students and staff of NDSS for raising \$729 during our annual Terry Fox run! Way to go Team Raven for raising the most money!

NDSS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Check out the new "Community Corner" bulletin board in the main hallway leading to our cafeteria. Programs and events that are happening in our school's community will be posted there.

Hearing from our students and their families is always welcome. Please feel free to contact your Community School Coordinator Michelle Swecera. She is available by phone 250-740-2033, by email mswecera@sd68.bc.ca or in Rm252.

Interim Report and Meeting Opportunity

Interim Report day will be on Wednesday, October 5th, 2016. Students will pick up a paper copy of an interim in their first block class and take them to each of their classes during the day. If you have a spare or miss your first block in the morning, students are asked to pick up an interim copy at the main office. At the end of the day a copy will be going home with the students. On the following day (Thursday, October 6th) there will be an early dismissal at 1:46pm and Interim Report Meetings will take place from 2pm to 3pm in the classrooms. Please remember to bring the interim to the meetings as it will have the room numbers of where the teachers will be in the school.

Open House Thank you!

A huge thank you to everyone that was able to attend last Wednesday's Open House event at the school. The turnout was fantastic and it was a pleasure to have the opportunity to connect with so many of you that evening.

Photo Re-Take Day

Photo Retakes will be on Monday, October 17th, 2016. If your student missed the first photo day, then they are to come down, when the announcement is made, to the small cafeteria. If you require retakes, please make sure that your student brings back the first photo package, along with a note indicating the reason for the re-take, to the photographer.

Yearbook Club

It's not too late to join this exciting group of students in putting together this year's yearbook. Anyone interested in joining is asked to see Mr. Marusic in the office for meeting dates and times. Don't forget there is still time to order your yearbook through the office.

SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES & AWARDS

Students graduating from high school this year are encouraged to apply for financial awards offered by the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation to pursue post-secondary education.

Funds for the scholarships, bursaries and awards are provided by local service clubs, community organizations, and private donors to encourage Grade 12 students from Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools to continue their education at a college, institute, or university.

"There is a wide variety of scholarships, bursaries and awards available to high school graduates who are active in the community, excel in sports, are interested in pursuing specific areas of study, or who have a financial need. We encourage students to apply for as many as are appropriate for them.

All interested grade 12 students please attend an information meeting Wednesday October 12th at lunch in the Library.

NDSS IN NYC

Any students interested in travelling to New York City in May, 2017, please see Ms. Barnum (kbarnum@sd68.bc.ca) in room 205 for more details. This is an amazing opportunity for any performing arts or history student!

ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Students and staff participated in Orange Shirt Day Sept. 28th, a day to remember the experiences of former students of Residential Schools and to show our support to ongoing reconciliation in Canada. Thank you to everyone for your participation!

Let's Gear Up for this year's

WALK & WHEEL TO SCHOOL

Monday October 3 – Friday October 7, 2016

This year NDSS is participating in a province-wide active transportation event called **Walk & Wheel to School**, from Monday October 3 to Friday October 7. The event is sponsored by DASH BC and is designed to encourage students and staff to actively commute to school by walking, biking, boarding or a combination of bussing and walking. Students sign up through homerooms as part of one of the four house teams: the Bears, Ravens, Orcas or Wolfs.

THE BENEFITS OF ACTIVE COMMUTING

The benefits for students, staff, and parents are a cleaner environment, reduced transportation costs, a more enjoyable trip to school, reduced traffic congestion around the school, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Moreover, a growing body of research shows that daily activity, particularly cycling or walking, is the optimal way to maintain a healthy weight and to prevent the lifestyle-related illnesses associated with a lack of exercise and poor diet. And research also shows that improved daily physical activity boosts student learning! For more information on the benefits of active transportation go to:

<http://www.bikesense.org/>

HOW CAN PARENTS HELP?

If you normally drive your children to school, encourage them to choose an active commuting option, beginning next week and continuing to the end of the school year.

PRACTICAL PROBLEMS?

If biking or walking to school isn't a convenient or practical option, here are a few tips to help your son or daughter earn active commuter points:

- If their commute is too long to walk or bike, consider car-pooling part way and then having them bike or walk the remaining distance.
- If you take transit, go the extra distance and take your bike for the return trip. Every transit bus in Nanaimo is equipped with a bike rack for easy, stress-free commuting. You can access information at www.bctransit.com.
- If you have traffic safety or other security concerns, students can always bike or walk with friends or family members.

HOW WALK & WHEEL WORKS

Using a tracking form, students record their active commuting mode through the week of October 3 – 7. Active commuters earn 2 points for each part of their commute to and from school for a total of 4 points per day. If students are bussing to school and walking to the bus, they earn 1 point for each part of their commute for a total of 2 points per day. Biking and walking to school is a fun, a great way for kids to interact, to get in shape, and to learn about their neighborhoods.

David Grey

Environment Club Sponsor

NDSS

FISHING CLUB

Any students that are interested in joining the Bass Fishing Club, there will be a meeting October 6, in room 258 at lunch. Any questions, please see Mr. Crnkovic.

GRADE 9 VACCINATIONS

A reminder for all grade 9 students to please complete your immunization consent forms and return to the office as soon as possible. If you have any questions regarding the immunizations please call the Nanaimo Public Health Unit School Team Line at 250-755-6248.

YOUTH SERVICES—ISLAND HEALTH

The NDSS Youth Services will be Thursday afternoons from 12-3:30 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.

VIU: GRADE 11/12 STUDENTS

VIU will be here at NDSS this **Thursday October 6 from 3:30-4:45 in Room 129**. **Joanna Hesketh** from VIU will be here to discuss admissions, how to apply, scholarships and if you're undecided what are some options. **VIU is open for new registrants this October 3, 2016 for the fall of 2017**. Please join Joanna in Room 129.

Joanna will also provide individual appointments to Grade 12 students starting in November 2016.

Hope to see you there.

CAFETERIA

Please note that we have a fantastic cafeteria program at NDSS! We are now serving our delicious fare out of the main cafeteria. Along with a salad bar, there is a short order item and an entrée.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Congratulations and thank you to this year's Student Council Executive! We look forward to a great year!

President: Taylor Olsen

Vice-President: Laura Greene

Secretary: Emma Simard-Provençal

Grade 11 Representatives: O-Lin Metz and Paige Martineau

Grade 10 Representatives: Morgan McPhee and Mikaella Payne

Grade 9 Representatives: Aidan Metz and Hayden Dunstan

Spirit Committee Representative: Bailey Thompson

Global Committee Representative: Colton Van Der Minne

Environment Committee Representatives: Alexa Bevis and Tristan Tolley

Sports Committee Representative: TBA

Orca House Team Representative: Ben Fridriksson

Raven House Team Representative: Tatiana Mayen

Wolf House Team Representative: Holly Kroetsch

Bear House Team Representative: Allysha Bissessur