



DATE: September 2016

NEWSLETTER #1

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

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome back to school everyone; hopefully all of our staff, students and their families had a restful summer! NDSS has been a busy place over the last two months preparing to welcome in a large number of new students and staff for the fall semester. NDSS will have approximately 400 additional students and over 30 new staff members for school start up. It is important to acknowledge the legacy of Woodlands Secondary, which has been a fixture in Nanaimo for over 60 years. We are honoured to have a large majority of the Woodlands staff and students coming to our school this year. We are also thrilled to have two new feeder schools in Brechin and Forest Park. As an ex-Woodlands and Brechin alumni myself, I would like to extend a warm welcome to all.

NDSS has seen a great deal of renovations to accommodate this historic influx of staff and students. These renovations include: the acquisition and renovation of the Harewood Gym, the addition of two new portables, the installation of two new kilns, renovation of several classrooms, as well as the installation of a new mural in our cafeteria. These improvements were accompanied by a large amount of equipment and materials being moved into NDSS from Woodlands. A great effort and a big thank-you to all of the district staff that helped with this move.

The addition of so many new staff and students has also led to the re-configuration of NDSS. The amalgamation of NDSS with Learning Alternative and Learn @ Home has now come to an end. The Learn @ Home school has moved to the Mount Benson school site and is now known as "Island ConnectEd". This has allowed NDSS to move into their vacated space. Learning Alternatives, although still on the NDSS campus, will now continue on as a separate school encompassing the VAST, AbOut, and Raven's Lelum programs. We wish both of these schools all the best as they move into their new eras.

Our teachers and support staff are energized and excited about the 2016/17 school year. This year will see continued progress towards our four school goals: New BC Curriculum Development, Collaborative Inquiry, Assessment, and Inclusion. Continued progress on this path will lead to a higher level of student engagement and achievement. Here's to a great year everyone!

Geoff Steel

Principal of NDSS



Welcome to our New Staff

Counsellor– Kral, J.

Community School Coordinator-Michelle Swecera

Spanish-Bueckert, R.

French– Crnkovic, F & French, N.

French Immersion SS/Eng– Morgan, J.

Cafeteria– Wilson, T.

Socials/Dance/Drama– Barnum, K.

Science/Math-Ledingham, G.

Marketing/Drafting– Bruce, A.

SST/International Advisor-Armstrong, C

Foods/Home EC– Pyne, J

Foods/Family Studies/Planning-Kempf, S.

Connect ND Coordinators-Graaten, L., Mountain, P., Thompson, DJ, Mark, J.

PE– Myhrer, G., Taylor, B., Malenica, Z.

Office– Cooper, H., Walsh, T.(Records), Whitford, E.(Finance)

EA's– D.Andjelkovic, D. McNeil, L. Lynd, L. Lemmon

SST/International Advisor– Armstrong, C.

Aboriginal Education: Recalma, E. (Teacher), Begley, G.(Tutor), Brown, S. (Educational Assistant)

RCMP Liaison Officer– Constable Dimitre Wilson. We wish Constable Sherri Wade all the best in her new role within the Nanaimo detachment and thank her for her service.

Welcome to Secondary School! - Grade 8 Orientation- Sept. 6th -9th

Secondary schools in this district are committed to providing a smooth transition for students moving from elementary to secondary school. At NDSS, our staff is excited to offer a series of activities to serve as an orientation for all Grade 8 students. Throughout the first week of school, students will be supported through a variety of activities designed around academic, leadership, and social skills to help students feel a sense of belonging, therefore creating more confidence in their new learning environment.

Students will be supported by an engaging orientation to the new school community, learning skills such as managing a timetable, effective study skills, goal-setting, organization strategies, and digital citizenship. Students will also work with the grade 8 team on creating academic, personal, social, and community goals for the upcoming year.

Stay tuned for more information as we will be sharing more information with you in the first few days of school. We look forward to meeting the new class of 2020!

NDSS COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Uy skweyul/good day, my name is Michelle Swecera your new Community School Coordinator. I am excited to get to know the staff, students and their families here at NDSS. My goal is to continue to develop partnerships with organizations for a variety of opportunities that will benefit youth and their families in our school community.

To target the interests and needs of our youth, I will need feedback from you. Please do not hesitate to share your thoughts and ideas with me. Feel free to drop by my office in Rm 252 across from the CTC office, you can contact me by phone #250-740-2033 or send me an email mswecera@sd68.bc.ca.

Wishing everyone a great start up to a new school year!
Michelle

Student Council

Student Council will be getting up and running as of September 13th. Come to Room 207 at lunch to find out what it's all about! Everyone is welcome!

Student Council is divided into 4 committees - Spirit, Sports, Community and Global. Come see which one would be the best fit for you!

SCHOOL SCHEDULE

Monday

- ◇ Warning Bell: 8:25 am
- ◇ Start time: 8:30 am
- ◇ Lunch: 10:55 am to 11:15 am
- ◇ PM classes starts: 11:20 am
- ◇ Dismissal: 1:46 pm

Tuesday to Thursday

- ◇ Warning Bell: 8:25 am
- ◇ Start time: 8:30 am
- ◇ Lunch: 11:23 am to 12:02 pm
- ◇ PM classes starts: 12:07 pm
- ◇ Dismissal: 3:00 pm

Friday

- ◇ Warning Bell: 8:25 am
- ◇ Start time: 8:30 am
- ◇ Lunch: 10:55 am to 11:15 pm
- ◇ PM classes starts: 11:20 am
- ◇ Dismissal: 1:46 pm

NDSS LATES POLICY

Students are expected to be on time. Entering classes late disturbs the class and the student will likely have missed part or the day's entire lesson. Students who have arrived to school late in the morning, or are late returning from lunch must report to the office to obtain a permission slip needed to enter class. Teachers will hold students accountable for being late to class.

SCHOOL RECOGNITION OF ATTENDANCE

To recognize students' excellent attendance, NDSS will celebrate at the end of every month, semester, and school year in a variety of ways. Students are eligible to win prizes, or be invited to attend special events for outstanding attendance. If a student is legitimately absent, they start over the next month.

Senior students will receive a school letter of reference which reflects their responsible attendance.



NANAIMO DISTRICT SECONDARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2016-17 SCHOOL YEAR

Subject to change

2016

Sept 6 (Tuesday)	Schools open for Students
Sept 14 (Wednesday)	School Photos
Sept 28 (Wednesday)	Meet the Teacher 7-8:30pm
Sept 29 (Thursday)	Non-Instructional Day (District)
Sept 30 (Friday)	Non-Instructional Day (School Based)
Oct 5 (Wednesday)	Interim Reports for Students (Jupiter Grades)
Oct 6 (Thursday)	Parent/Teacher Interim Meetings (Dismissal 1:46pm) Meetings from 2-3pm in the classroom.)
Oct 10 (Friday)	Thanksgiving Day
Oct 17 (Monday)	Photo Retake Day
Oct 21 (Friday)	Non-Instructional Day (PSA Day)
Nov 8 (Tuesday)	Term 1 Last Day
Nov 9 (Wednesday)	Term 2 First Day
Nov 11 (Friday)	Remembrance Day
Nov 23 (Wednesday)	Report Card Distribution (2:50pm via homerooms)
Nov 24 (Thursday)	Parent/Teacher Interviews (Dismissal 1:46pm(Interviews) 2-5pm
Nov 28-Dec. 2 (Mon-Fri)	Grad Photos (Small Cafeteria)
Dec 12-16 (Mon-Fri)	Interim Reports for Students (Jupiter Grades)
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 24-27 (Tues-Fri.)	Provincial Exams Start & Demonstration of Learning
Jan 30 (Monday)	Semester 2 Day One
Feb 13 (Monday)	BC Family Day
Feb 20 (Monday)	Non-Instructional Day (District Pro-D)
Feb 21 (Tuesday)	Non-Instructional Day (School based)
Mar 1 (Wednesday)	Interim Reports for Students (Jupiter grades)
Mar 2 (Thursday)	Parent/Teacher Interim Meetings (Dismissal 1:46pm) Meetings from 2-3pm in the classrooms
Mar 17 (Friday)	Last Day of classes-Spring Break (2 weeks)
April 3 (Tuesday)	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 Card Distribution(2:50pm via homerooms)
May 4 (Thursday)	Parent-Teacher Interviews Dismiss 1:46pm (Interviews 2-5pm)
May 12 (Friday)	Non-Instructional Day (School Based)
May 22 (Monday)	Victoria Day
May 25 (Thursday)	Aboriginal Graduation John Barsby
June 6 (Tuesday)	Athletics Banquet
June 7 (Wednesday)	Grade 8-11 Awards Assemblies Grade 12 Evening Event (Large Gym)
June 22 (Thursday)	Last Day of Classes Grades 8-12
June 23 (Friday)	Start of Provincial Exams (June 23-28) & Demonstration of Learning
June 30 (Friday)	Administrative Day -Schools closed

COUNSELLOR STUDENT ALLOCATION

Ms. Al-Hajj:	A-DO & Francophone Student Advisor
Mr. Kral:	DO-KOP
Ms. Tomiyama:	KOR-PL
Ms. Smith:	PO - Z
Ms. Armstrong	International Students/Student Support



FRIDAY ROTATION

September	October	November	December	January
(9) ABCD	(7) DCBA	(4) BADC	(2) CDAB	(13) CDAB
(16) CDAB	(14) ABCD	(18) DCBA	(9) BADC	(20) BADC
(23) BADC	(28) CDAB	(25) ABCD	(16) DCBA	
			(23) ABCD	

PAC MEETING

The next PAC meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 14, 2016 at 7:00pm in the school library. PAC usually meets on the first Tuesday of the month. All parents, guardians, caregivers, and community members are welcome to attend meetings. It is a great way to keep in touch, learn of the day-to-day and special activities at NDSS, and to provide your input.

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.

- Locks \$5
- Student Activity fees \$15
- Yearbook (Annual): \$55
- Grad Fee (includes activity fee & annual) \$135



Youth Services—Island Health

The NDSS Youth Services will be expanding from once a month to operating on Thursday afternoons from 12-3:30 twice a month. Island Health is happy to announce its services will be enhanced by providing both a public health nurse and a family doctor starting this September of 2016. The first dates of services will be Thursday Sept 15th and Thursday Sept 22nd. Dates so far for the fall also include Oct 6th and Oct 20th, November 10th and 24th and December 8th and 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.

