

VISION

*Learning with Purpose
Striving for Excellence
Growing through Community*

At NDSS, our mission is to inspire all to be curious, have confidence, use imagination, and persevere in their learning journey.



NDSS Term 1 Newsletter

Subsequent newsletters and important information will be sent electronically. Please ensure that we have your correct email address.



NDSS Term 1 Newsletter: Sept 7, 2021 – November 12, 2021

Principals Message

September in Secondary Schools starts with a predictable flurry of activity, organization, correcting timetable conflicts and attending to class change requests by students. As staff start to wind down these essential organizational tasks, our collective efforts shift to our school development plan goals.

One of the ways we attend to our school development plan goals is through our weekly Professional Learning Communities (PLC). Every Monday at 2pm, our teaching staff devotes time to focus on continuous instructional improvement through planned and intentional responses to evidence of achievement and data about the learning conditions that support student success.

The PLC focus at NDSS year is on tasks that teachers and educational assistants can implement with individual students or entire classrooms. The tasks will be based on universal teaching practices that have been proven as highly effective in supporting and improving the academic and social-emotional needs of secondary students.

As the Principal, I lead PLC work with our Vice-Principals, Mr. Shahi and Mr. Epp, and our Learning Leaders, Ms. Barnum, Mr. Crnkovic, Ms. Funk, Mr. Jansen, Ms. Taylor, Mrs. Smith, and Ms. McKibbon-Bell. This group of 10 are the Leaders of Learning at NDSS and collectively support all teachers and educational assistants during our weekly PLC's. We are thrilled that NDSS has received district support for this PLC work. Two NLPS Learning Coordinators, Ms. Gvojich and Ms. Lavoie, have been assigned to NDSS and will be joining us at our regular planning meetings to provide resources to support the creation of differentiated tasks for our teaching staff to implement with students.

For the month of September, we are in the planning phase of the PLC process as a large group and will begin sharing tasks with teachers in mid-October. Updates and examples of the implementation of PLC work in all courses will be provided in each term as part of this publication. We hope that you will look forward reading the PLC updates in my newsletter message and, perhaps more importantly, that you will see evidence of how this work supports your child's learning at NDSS.

Sincerely,



Ms. L. Appelt
Principal – NDSS

ADMINISTRATION

Ms. Liana Appelt Principal, Grade 12s
Mr. Shawn Shahi Vice-Principal, Grades 8-11, A-Jack
Mr. Stephen Epp Vice-Principal, Grades 8-11, Jacklin-Z

COUNSELLOR STUDENT ALLOCATION

| | | |
|-----------------|--------------------------|------|
| Ms. Al-Hajj: | A—Desilets (Francophone) | 2012 |
| Graham Giske: | Desmarais—Leischner | 2014 |
| Melissa Tolsma: | Leneveu-Ruff | 2015 |
| Michelle Smith: | Rumming—Z | 2016 |

Given that information is provided to NDSS parents & students through the Wednesday Weekly Email, a monthly School Newsletter is not required. Term specific school newsletters will be posted on our website on the following dates:

- Term 1: Sept 22, 2021
- Term 2: Nov 12, 2021
- Term 3: Feb 1, 2022

NDSS CALENDAR FOR THE 2021-2022 SCHOOL YEAR

September-

29 - National Day for Truth & Reconciliation observed in school – Please wear an orange shirt
30 – National Day for Truth & Reconciliation (no school)

October –

11 – Thanksgiving Day
22 – Non-instructional day
25 – Non-instructional day

November –

11 – Remembrance Day

December

17 – Last day of classes before winter break
18 – January 3 – Winter break – Schools not in session

January

4 – Schools reopen after winter break

February

7-8 Non-instructional day
21 – Family day

March

11 – Last day of classes before spring break

April

15 – Good Friday
18 – Easter Monday

May

5 – Non-instructional day
23 – Victoria day

June

30 – Year end administrative day – Schools are closed for summer.

ORDERING STUDENT PHOTOS

Parents can register now on the [Edge Imaging Website](#) to receive an email notification when the NDSS student photo proofs are available to view and purchase through their [on line ordering](#). The site asks for a school code and our is: **DPV**

If there are students who were absent today for individual photos, they can attend photo re-takes on Thur. Oct 21st.

Spirit Wear

Spirit Wear (NDSS –branded clothing such as hoodies, t-shirts, sweatpants, etc...) can now be purchased using our online cashless system. The order deadline is September 30th.

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear – MASK - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5595/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - Dad Hat - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5594/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - Cinch Bag - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5593/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear – Sweatpants - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5592/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - Champion Windbreaker - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5588/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - Men's Polo Shirts - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5584/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - Women's Polo Shirt - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5583/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - Women's Short Sleeve T-Shirt - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5576/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - T-Shirt - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5571/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - 2 Tone King Hoodie (embroidered) - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5565/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - 2 Tone Performance Hoodie - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5381/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - Pullover Hoodie - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5379/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - Crewneck Sweatshirt - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5378/267/False/True>

2021 NDSS Fall Spirit Wear - Short Sleeve T-shirt - <https://nlps.schoolcashonline.com/Fee/Details/5377/267/False/True>

Parking Concerns

- Some students parking in Serauxman lot have been seen “drifting” in the west side lot, resulting in sprayed gravel onto vehicles and equipment. Driving in a reckless manner may lead to police fines and/or loss of their student parking pass.
- Some of our parents who are dropping off or picking up their teens have been pulling into the district parking lot near our music room portable off Wakesiah. This lot is reserved for district staff and parents are kindly asked not to enter that lot.
- NDSS buses drop off & pick up using the back lane between the field and main school building. **To ensure student safety, vehicles are not permitted in the laneway from 8:15-8:30am M-F, 1:30-2:00pm Mon/Fri and 2:30-3:10pm Tues/Wed/Thur.**
- Flashing red lights on the back of a school bus mean that drivers in vehicles behind them need to stop their car and wait. It is illegal to drive around a school bus when their red lights are flashing as students can dart out unexpectedly.

Thank you!

A big thank you to all the student volunteers who came the week before school started to organize our first day of school for our Grade 8's and 8's. We appreciate your time and help!

Terry Fox

Thank you to Student Council for organizing this event for our school. We are still collecting donations through our Schoolcashonline website if you would like to donate.

National Day of Truth and Reconciliation

Our school is committed to reconciliation and ensuring that the tragic history and ongoing legacy of residential schools is never forgotten. September 30th is a new federal statutory holiday called the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation when Canadians will have a day for quiet reflection or participate in Nanaimo's downtown event. We will be observing this holiday at our school September 29th and ask all staff and students to please wear an orange shirt.

Intramurals

Handball is starting soon. Please pick up a team roster form from the office if you would like to play.

Social Media

To stay up to date on all school activities, please follow us on Facebook (Nanaimo District Secondary School), Instagram @ndssislanders and @ndss.sports, and subscribe to our sports Youtube channel (Nanaimo Islander Sports) for highlight videos and game films. Please also make sure to download the My School Day app to keep your day organized.

Breakfast Club:

Our new CYFSW, Kaylin Compton, would like to start up the Breakfast Club as soon as possible. We need staff volunteers to run this program.

When: Monday-Friday 8:00-8:25

Where: Small Cafeteria

Who: Students in need of breakfast

There will be a staff sign-up sheet in Teams. We ask that you commit to 1 day per week for a 2 month period. Communication will be shared with a start date ASAP. Please email Kaylin at Kaylin.Compton@sd68.bc.ca if you have any questions. Thank you for your help! :)

COVID 19 MASK REMINDER:

IT IS MANDATORY TO WEAR MASKS AT ALL TIMES WHILE RIDING THE BUS.

Please encourage your children to bring their masks to school everyday