

John Barsby Community School Newsletter

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January 21, 2010

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Community Members:

Happy New Year! I hope that you and your family had a wonderful holiday.

This week and next, students will be finishing their course work, studying for exams, and focusing efforts on meeting their academic goals. Please encourage your student to be prepared by setting time aside to complete the necessary commitments required to meet the demands of their courses. Students should be using their tutorial and study block time to organize and coordinate these efforts.

Final exams are worth varying amounts depending on the course. All grade 10 provincial exams, English, Science, Math, and Social Studies 11 are worth 20%. English/Communications 12 are worth 40%. All other grade 12 provincial exams are optional. These include the following: Biology, Chemistry, Math, French and History. Students will be required to write a class room exam in these subject areas regardless of the provincial exam. At this time, post-secondary institutions are not requiring optional provincial exams for entry.

Our new model of organization has provided many opportunities for students since its inception. Grade 10-12 students who have earned a place in study hall have been given a number of opportunities. These have included a sign-up for the following inclusive sports in the gym, 3 part yoga series, extra-time in the art room, healthy options presented by student nurses from VIU, Leadership planning, and the use of the Library. Additionally, supervising teachers have offered learning support for specific subjects as well as practice for provincial Math exams.

Lastly, many extra-curricular activities have resumed after the winter break. The Jazz Band presented Jazz Nite 2010 on January 20th, which began with a wonderful dinner followed by performances by our own student musicians. Second, our basketball teams have been busy with their own season games and tournaments. A pep rally held last week honoured the hard work of these athletes as well as showcasing performances by our dance classes and other individuals. John Barsby's school spirit is certainly alive and well. I'd like to thank the leadership students who coordinated this effort.

As always if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact any one of us.

Ms. Gray, Mr. Ferguson, and Mrs. Proctor

DATES TO REMEMBER

January 22	Last Day of Classes Semester 1
January 25 – 29	Exams
February 1	Semester 2 Begins
February 2	Parent Scholarship Mtg. 6:00 PM Multi-Purpose Room
February 2	Parent Course Selection Mtg. 7:00 PM Multi-Purpose Room
February 3	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library
February 11	Semester 1 Report Cards Sent home
February 22	Non-Instructional Day
February 23	Non-Instructional Day
March 3	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library
March 5	Last Day of Classes Before Spring Vacation
March 15	Schools Re-Open
March 16	Grade 7 Information Night 7:00 p.m.
March 22	<u>Interim Reports sent home</u>
March 23	<u>Early dismissal 1:35 PM</u>
	<u>Parent/Teacher Conferences</u>
	<u>About interims 2 – 3 PM</u>
April 2	Good Friday
April 5	Easter Monday
April 7	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library
April 20	<u>Early dismissal 1:25 p.m.</u>
April 22	<u>Report Cards to go home</u>
	<u>Parent-Teacher Report Card</u>
	<u>Conferences 3:30 – 6:30 PM</u>
April 23	Non-Instructional Day
April 24	Prom
April 26	Non-Instructional Day
May 5	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library
May 24	Victoria Day
June 2	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library
June 15	Last Day of Classes Semester 2
June 16-25	Exams
June 30	Valedictory Ceremony Dry Grad

PARENT MEETING

Course Selection

There will be a parent information evening for parents of students in Grades 8 through 11 on Tuesday February 2 at 7 PM in the multipurpose room. Please attend the informative session with your son or daughter's course selection booklet and any questions you may have.

Counsellors and administrators will present information and be available to answer questions about:

- Course selection process
- Programs offered at John Barsby
- Goal setting and wise decision making
- Grad Requirements
- Post Secondary Requirements

Grade 7 students, at our feeder elementary schools, will begin the course selection process in early March. There will be an information session for parents of Grade 7 students on Tuesday March 16 at 7 pm.

SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION NIGHT

There will be a parent information session for parents of students in Grades 10 through Grade 12 on Tuesday February 2 at 6 pm in the multipurpose room. Students with plans for post-secondary education will benefit from this informative presentation. Grade 10, 11 and 12 students, together with their parents, are encouraged to attend.

Counselors and administrators will present information and be available to answer questions about:

- Cost of Post Secondary Education
- Local Scholarships and Bursaries
- How to make your application stand out
- Using the web for scholarship information
- Government scholarships
- Entrance Scholarships and open scholarships
- Government Student Loans and Grants

EXAM INFORMATION

Students should arrive ½ hour early for Provincial Exams with all required materials (pens, pencils, and calculators). Students may prepare for their Provincial Exams by writing practice exams at <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/exams/search/>. Buses will pick up and drop off at the normally scheduled times during exam week.

EXAM SCHEDULE

Monday, January 25

8:30 – 10:30

Science 8, Science 9, Biology 11, Biology 12

12:30 – 2:30

PMath 8, PMath 9, EMath 9, PMath 11, EMath 11

Tuesday, January 26

8:30 – 10:30

Social Studies 8, Social Studies 9, Social Studies 10, History 12

12:30 – 2:30

French 8, French 9, French 10, French 11/12, Chemistry 11

Wednesday, January 27

8:30 – 10:30

Exam Conflicts

PROVINCIAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Monday, January 25

12:30 – 3:30 Biology 12

Tuesday, January 26

8:30 – 11:30 Communications 12

12:30 – 3:30 Math 12

Wednesday, January 27

8:30 – 11:30 English 12

12:30 – 3:30 Social Studies 11

Thursday, January 28

8:30 – 11:30 English 10

12:30 – 3:30 EMath 10, PMath 10, History 12

Friday, January 29

8:30 – 11:30 Science 10

GRAD FEES

Students should be paying for their grad fees in the office as soon as they are able. The grad banquet has limited seating so the purchase of tickets is on a first come first served basis. There are no ticket sales at the door of the banquet. All tickets must be pre-purchased. Cut off of banquet ticket sales will happen when we have reached our seating capacity.

GRAD DATES

Prom will be Saturday April 24. There will be a grad banquet to which parents/guardians are invited. There is limited seating. Please read the item in GRAD FEES. There is a student dance following the dinner. Both activities will be held in the Multi Purpose Room times are approximate: dinner at 5:00 pm and the dance at 8:00 pm.

VALEDICTORY CEREMONY (GRAD)

The ceremony will be at 1:00 pm at the Port Theatre Wednesday June 30, 2010. Each graduating student will receive three tickets for seats in the audience for their guests/family. If more tickets are needed, please have your child contact Mr. Ferguson as soon as possible to let him know how many more tickets would be requested. We cannot guarantee to have enough seats for everyone who might want to attend.

DRY GRAD FUNDRAISER

The BC Liquor Distribution Branch (LDB) will again conduct a fundraising campaign to raise money for the B.C. school districts' dry grad societies.

There will be an in-store campaign of chocolate sales from February 24 to March 31, after which time the LDB will forward proceeds directly to the Superintendent's Office for distribution.

All proceeds collected in Nanaimo and Ladysmith will be combined and distributed to the dry grad committees in Nanaimo and in Ladysmith.

DRY GRAD

Dry Grad happens at Beban Park Wednesday June 30, 2010 at 8:00 pm. This is an alcohol free event that runs from 8:00 pm that day to 6:00 am the next morning. THIS EVENT IS ONLY FOR NANAIMO GRADE 12 GRADUATING STUDENTS. NO GUESTS ARE PERMITTED.

PROM

From this year is Saturday, April 24, 2010 with a family dinner hosted by our Chef's program followed by a student dance. Both events will be at John Barsby. Students may invite a guest to the dance but Mr. Ferguson has to approve all guests.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

We welcome back Patti Burridge as a tutor in our department. Patti returns after completing her Bachelor of Education at Vancouver Island University. We would like to thank our former tutor Chris Jones for the work he did with students while with us. Chris also worked extensively with Barsby's football teams.

EAs and tutor Michelle Swecera, Val White, Bonnie Bill, and Patti have been busy working with their students to ensure they completed their courses this semester and were prepared for their exams.

Donna Flett, who has the Grade 12 Aboriginal students on her caseload, has been working with several students to help them get their Métis and Aboriginal status cards in preparation for Aboriginal student scholarship applications later this year. She has also been assisting students to apply to post-secondary institutions, as the cutoff deadlines for a September 2010 entry are fast approaching.

Two of our Aboriginal students were part of the Barsby team that competed in the Western Canada Age Class Wrestling Tournament in Kamloops on Jan. 14 and 15: Isaiah Taylor (Gr. 11) and Kody Walker-Hill (Gr. 12). Congratulations!

FAMILY TIME CONNECTIONS PROGRAM

Family Time Connections is a brand new addition to the Barsby community, in room 122, created for the purpose of providing links for families to services in Nanaimo and bringing families together to learn, play, eat, and grow.

We have lots of really fantastic opportunities for both families and students to have their opinions heard about what family means to them.

Food 4 Thought - Questions are put out on Tuesday and closed on Fridays to find out what the school thinks about families, services, and the community. Come share some insight and have a snack!!

The Roots - A Family Reconnect Experience - Feb. 13, 2010 from 12:30-4:30 - FREE!! Information about services, workshops, entertainment, and refreshments. Come in and take a peek or call 250-716-8888 for more information