

John Barsby Community School Newsletter

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Website: <http://schools.sd68.bc.ca/bars/>

March 2009

Dear Caregivers, Students and Community Members:

I hope all the students had a restful spring break! It is now time to gear up for the last 2 weeks of classes in Term 1 of Semester 2. April 9th is the final day for Term 1. Teachers will be assessing students on their academic progress up to this date. Parent-teacher interviews will be held on April 23rd from 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. and 6:00 – 7:30. This is an excellent time for parents/students to meet with the teachers to discuss how well your child is adjusting to the academic expectations in their new classes. Please help your son/daughter keep focused on their studies during the next three months by continually sharing the importance of education.

As I discussed last month, there are a number of staff at John Barsby who are working together to design a new timetable for 2009-2010 that will support improved student learning. Two teams of teachers have met to draft different instructional timetables that would allow staff to collaborate and learn together while students have the opportunity to be participants in various structured learning environments. As John Barsby moves closer to developing a consensus on two 'draft' models, we will be seeking input from parents, students, and other interested parties.

On Wednesday March 25th at 7 p.m., all grade 7 parents are invited to attend John Barsby Community School Information Evening. Please join us to hear about the many programs offered for your children at our school. There will be a brief presentation and a tour of the school.

Please contact us if you have any comments and/or questions.

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

SENSITIVITY TO SCENTS

As you may be aware, there are increasing numbers of people who are developing sensitivities or even allergic reactions to heavy perfumes, spray deodorants etc. In a confined workplace, this can be very uncomfortable for the individuals affected. We would ask that students and teachers be aware of the potential effects of their scent choices when they are at school.

**GOTCHA WINNER FOR FEBRUARY IS
CADEN COOK! CONGRATULATIONS!**

DATES TO REMEMBER

March 26-29	Japanese Tour
March 31	PAC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library
April 2	Drive 09 7:00 p.m. Gym
April 10	Good Friday – Students not in attendance
April 13	Easter Monday – Students not in attendance
April 23	Report Cards distributed Early dismissal 2:00 p.m. Parent/Teacher Meetings 3:00 – 4:30 p.m. 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
April 24	Non-Instructional Day Students not in attendance
April 25	Prom
April 27	Non-Instructional Day Students not in attendance

DRIVE 09

John Barsby Students' Council is presenting the Drive 09 multi-media presentation at 7:00 p.m. April 2 in the gym.

DRY GRAD 2009

We are looking for volunteers to help at the Dry Grad event on June 26, 2009. With between 900-1000 students attending we require 240 volunteers to run the activity successfully. The all night event requires an early shift and a late shift of people. You do not have to be a Grad parent to help out. To sign up, please call Yvonne at 753-1642

The BC Liquor Distribution Branch is a supporter of Dry Grad and is currently running an in-store campaign of Botticelli chocolates sales till March 31. The proceeds of these sales will help put on Dry Grad. We would appreciate your support with this fundraiser.

Next Dry Grad meeting will be March 26 7:00 pm at Wellington School. Everyone is Welcome! For more information check out our website at nanaimodrygrad.ca

Grade 12 students: check out our new website at nanaimodrygrad.ca for more info about Dry Grad.

Just a reminder about the Dry Grad T-shirt logo contest that is open to all grade 12 students. The logo is to be put on the left front chest of the T-shirts. The specifications are maximum size 3"high by 5" wide, up to 3 colours used (one being either the black or grey T-shirt colour) wording to include: Dry Grad 2009 or A Night to Remember 2009, Aspengrove, Dover Bay, Cedar, John Barsby, Malaspina High School, Nanaimo Christian School, NDSS, Wellington, Woodlands. The deadline for the contest is April 30. Please submit your design to your School office. The winner will receive 5 sweatshirts with their logo to share with their friends!

SATISFACTION SURVEY 2008/09

The Provincial Satisfaction Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Early in 2009 the Satisfaction Survey will be administered to students in grades 10 and 12, their parents, and all school staff. We encourage parents to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province - in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

This year, the survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey. Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. All that is required is a logon number that the school will provide to participants. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site, without a logon number.

Computers will be available to parents during parent/teacher interviews on April 23rd.

For parents who do not wish to use school computers, local public library computers may be another option.

The e-survey site will be open April 24. To receive your logon number, please contact the school at 250-753-8211.

PROM/GRAD

Valedictory Ceremony (Grad)

Friday, June 26 at 10:00 a.m. - Port Theatre

Ceremony Practice - Thursday, June 25 at 3:00 p.m. Port Theatre

Dry Grad - Friday, June 26 at 8:00 p.m. Beban Park.

Prom Banquet - Saturday, April 25 5:00 p.m. until

7:00 p.m. - **John Barsby Multi-Purpose Room**

Prom Dance - Saturday, April 25 at 8:00 p.m. until 12:00 a.m. - **John Barsby Multi-Purpose Room**

Ceremony Practice 3:00 P.M. Thursday, June 25 - Port Theatre

The Valedictory (Grad) Ceremony practice will be held Thursday, June 25 at the Port Theatre. All grads are expected to attend. They will receive their caps and gowns, get their report cards and have a picture taken in their caps and gowns. We practice the walk up and get last minute instructions for the ceremony the next day.

Valedictory (Grad) Ceremony 10:00 A.M. Friday, June 26 Port Theatre

The students will receive their Grad gowns at the practice the day before the Grad Ceremony, so there is an opportunity for photos. The students will bring their caps and gowns to the ceremony the next day and turn them in after the ceremony. **EACH STUDENT WILL GET THREE GUEST TICKETS TO THE CEREMONY. IF YOU NEED MORE, PLEASE CONTACT MR. FERGUSON SOON. THERE ARE LIMITED QUANTITIES. FIRST COME—FIRST SERVE.** Only students in a position to graduate may participate in the ceremony. Check with your counselor!

Dry Grad Friday, June 26, 8:00 P.M., Beban Park

This event is sponsored and run by the Nanaimo Dry Grad Society. The event runs from 8:00 p.m. until 5:00 a.m. the following day. There are many activities, cash prizes and just a great event for everyone. Only Grads may attend Dry Grad. The cost is \$40.00 payable at the office at John Barsby. **Grads cannot invite guests to this event.**

Prom

This Year's Prom Is Being Held At John Barsby

The family banquet will be from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. at a cost of \$15.00 per person and the dance will be from 8:00 p.m. until midnight for \$35.00 per person. The banquet is meant to be an event where family members may be invited. Please be aware there will only be 250 places available, so this will be first come first served for banquet ticket sales. Pay at the Barsby Office. **PROM IS AN ALCOHOL AND DRUG FREE EVENT.**

Prom Tickets—No ticket sales at the door for either the banquet or the dance. Pre-purchased dance and banquet tickets will not be given out until later in April.

Prom Dance Guests

If you plan to invite anyone to the Prom Dance, this means anyone who might be a non-graduating student at Barsby or a guest from another school or

even someone not currently in a school in Nanaimo, see Mr. Ferguson. If you are inviting anyone to the dance, you must have approval for your guest before you pay for them at the office. If your guest, for some reason, is asked to leave the dance, the person who invited him/her will have to leave also. You are responsible for your guest. Your guest must bring photo ID to the Prom. No selling of tickets between students. Your ticket number must match your name.

Fees

Pay all of your grad fees at the school office.

Grad Ceremony	\$60
Dry Grad	\$40
Prom Dance	\$35
Prom Banquet	\$15

Your Studies

Remember, as we approach Grad and Prom season, it might be tempting to slow down in your studies. Now is the time to re-focus, and do your best to ensure you have the best marks you can achieve.

Textbooks

If you owe money for lost texts from either semester this year, the bills must be paid or texts returned before you are allowed to go across the stage in June.

LIBRARY NEWS

New Teacher-Librarian: Ms. Kate Girard has joined Barsby staff as teacher-librarian. Mrs. McKierahan, librarian for 15 years, retired at the end of the first semester. Ms. Girard looks forward to continuing the strong research programs and support for reading here at John Barsby.

Barsby Reads Contest: Can you recommend a good book? Enter the Barsby Reads contest from March 23 to April 16. Weekly draws will be made for cafeteria vouchers. On April 17, a grand prize of two movie vouchers will be drawn. Entry box is in the library

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEER HOURS?

XploreSportZ Spring Break Camp needs volunteer camp assistants.

When? Monday, March 16 – Friday, March 20, 2009, 8:30am – 4:30pm

Where? Various locations in Central Nanaimo

What will you do as a camp assistant?

- ↪ Assist the Program Coordinator with organizing participants.
- ↪ Have fun assisting coaches of different sports

- ↪ Be responsible for the safety and enjoyment of the participants aged 8 – 13 years old.
- ↪ Learn new sports.
- ↪ Must be available for at least one full day, 8:30am – 4:30pm, during the camp dates.

What qualifications do you need?

- ↪ High school student grades 10 – 12
- ↪ Each camp assistant needs to be enthusiastic about working with kids in a sport environment.
- ↪ First Aid certificate an asset but not required.

How do I get involved?

Contact Catharine Edwards
XploreSportZ Coordinator
740-6572
cedwards@pacificsport.co