

John Barsby Community School Newsletter

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April 29, 2009

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

It has been a very busy month for staff, students, and parents at John Barsby. Parent Teacher Interviews were held April 23rd. If your student has not brought their report card home, they can pick it up at the office.

Parents, Tina Fabbro and Drena Robinson, worked with John Barsby administration on the 'Preliminary Draft School Goals 2009-2010'. These goals have specific action plans that have been reviewed by staff at our Curriculum Implementation Day held last Friday, April 24th. The 'draft' goals are as follows:

1. To improve competency in reading and writing
2. To improve numeracy skills and student success rates in Mathematics at grades 8, 9, and 10
3. To increase the number of students displaying socially responsible behaviour

These preliminary plans will be reviewed by District Staff and School Trustees. Final plans are due in to the School Board Office by September 2009.

Secondly, the Staff at John Barsby has worked collectively to organize a new timetable for next year. This timetable will include a block of time that will allow students an opportunity to work within small or large student settings to achieve specific goals related to their own individual needs. This 'Pyramid of Intervention' will include small group instruction as well as enrichment activities for all of our students. More information will be going home by mail. Please look for a letter from John Barsby which will provide an overview of next year as well as an opportunity for you as parents to provide feedback to us. You should receive this information by the end of the first week in May.

On April 25th, our grade 12 students had a beautiful family Banquet and Prom themed 'Stay Classy'. The students were dressed up, polished, and were truly classy on this night. A great big thanks to students and staff who worked the night away to keep everyone fed, safe, and happy!

During the last week of May, our Drama Group led by Mr. Rokeby, will be performing Dark of the Moon. Please come out and support our actors/actresses and backstage supporters during their Spring production.

Lastly, the Aboriginal Graduation will be held at John Barsby on May 21st at 6:00 p.m. All graduates from Nanaimo-Ladysmith schools will be honoured at this annual event.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

April 30	Jeans Day
May 6	Grade 10 Visit to V.I.U.
May 8	Spring Fling 7:00-9:00 p.m.
May 20	Grade 12 Meeting 8:30 a.m.
May 21	Ab Ed Grad 5:00 p.m.
May 26	PAC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library
June 2	School Awards Night 7:00 p.m.
June 9	District Honours Night Port Theatre
June 12	Last Day of Regular Classes
June 25	Grad Ceremony Practice 3:00 p.m. Port Theatre
June 26	Grad Ceremony 10:00 a.m. Port Theatre Dry Grad 8:00 p.m. Beban Park

AWARDS CEREMONY

June 2 – 7:00 p.m.

As we approach the end of the year, the Awards Ceremony is a significant event where we take time to recognize academics, athleticism, and service. This year there will be a change in the way you will be notified if your son or daughter is receiving an award. **YOUR SON OR DAUGHTER WILL BE GIVEN AN INVITATION WHICH THEY ARE TO BRING HOME TO YOU.**

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.

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.**

Fees

Pay all of your grad fees at the school office.

Grad Ceremony	\$60
Dry Grad	\$40

Your Studies

Remember, as we approach Grad, 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.

DRY GRAD NEWS

Attention Grade 12 students: Have you bought your ticket for Dry Grad yet? If you're a grade 12 student and have not paid for Dry Grad, be sure to do so at your school office, the cost is \$40.00 Dry Grad is a celebration for all high school graduating students in Nanaimo. This year's Dry Grad is June 26, 2009 starting at 8pm at Beban Park.

We are looking for volunteers, parents and students to help with our fundraising. To hold the Dry Grad event it costs approx. \$60,000. Part of the money comes from student's admission; the rest is from donations and fundraising. One of our main fundraisers is the Co-op Gas card, we require volunteers to promote the cards at Co-op Gas stations for a 2 hour stint on specific Friday afternoon and Saturdays. To volunteer please call Janet @758-0897

We are also currently looking for volunteers to help at the actual event on June 26th. To successfully put the event on it takes approximately 240 volunteers. You do not have to be a grad parent to volunteer but you do have to be at least 23 years of age. To sign up please call Yvonne @ 753-1642

Our next Dry Grad meeting is Thursday, April 30, 7pm at Wellington School library. Everyone is welcome. Our May meeting will be May 28, 7pm at the same location. For more information check out our website @nanaimodrygrad.ca

JBCS ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

As these are the final months of the school year, JBCS Aboriginal Education office finds itself in the centre of a maelstrom of activity.

In the past few months our Grade 12s participated in a post-secondary scholarship Power Point presentation and scholarship web search workshop. Aboriginal Students from grades 8 to 12 were treated to a Power Point information session about Aboriginal Summer Science Camps at both the University of British Columbia and the University of Victoria. Students were also encouraged to enroll in the Aboriginal Gulf Island Film and TV (GIFTS) workshop. Deadlines have not closed for these workshops/camps, so students can still apply through the Ab Ed office.

On March 24 the provincial RCMP Aboriginal Recruiting Officer visited Barsby to speak with interested students. Several students were lucky enough to win prizes, and everyone got an RCMP zipper pull. On March 26, Ab EA Joelene Akitt took a small group of Grade 10-12 students to the Vancouver Island University Aboriginal Education Day event, where students had VIU campus tours, took part in workshops, and listened to speakers.

Two of our senior students—Nigel Williamson and Justine Curley—were nominated to the Ch'nook workshop at UBC in May, and both were accepted into the program. Nigel and Justine will get a chance to work with computer design, which meshes nicely with their interests in pursuing architecture.

Finally, Barsby is gearing up to host the Aboriginal Grad; Barsby staff Val White and Donna Wilford will MC the event. We look forward to seeing everyone there.

MULTICULTURAL FAMILY GAMES & YOUTH GYM NIGHT

What is it?

Family Games & Youth Gym Nights are an opportunity for people of all ages to get out and have a good time making some new friends.

The gymnasium will be for children and youth who want to be physically active.

The Multi Purpose room will be used for games and socializing. Snacks, coffee and tea will be provided.

When is it?

Wednesday Nights from 7:00 to 9:00 pm on the following dates:

March 25, April 8, April 22, May 6, May 20, June 3, June 17

Who can go?

Anyone who wants to meet some new people, play some games and have fun in an intercultural setting.

Adults, Families, Youth, new to the country or long standing citizens. Everyone is welcome! Please remember that all children under 12 years old need to be supervised by a parent or guardian. . .

Where is it?

The gymnasium and multi Purpose Room at McGirr Elementary School, 6199 McGirr Road

If you would like more information about the Family Games & Youth Gym Nights, please contact Terry

Ketteringham at 250-753-6911 ext: 114 or tketteringham@cvims.org.

The Family Games & Youth Gym Nights are hosted by the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society.

LIBRARY NEWS

Barsby Reads Contest

What are the most popular books at Barsby? According to our recent Barsby Reads contest, here they are:

- Twilight series by Stephenie Meyer
- Unseen series by Richie Cusick
- Eragon and sequels by Christopher Paolini
- Haunted series by P.C. Cast.

Congratulations to Blake Nelson and Shawna Charleson who won free passes to the Galaxy Cinema. The following students won cafeteria vouchers: Justin Mabillard, Sean Little, Rikki Nelson, Jennifer McNevin, Ryan McCallum, and Kaiti Westby-Schmidt.

Thanks to the many students who entered. Look in the library for the display of books they recommended!

Responsible Students

Thanks to all the students who returned their books at report card time. Libraries work when we take out books and return them—or renew them. Then everyone can find the book they want!

LETTER GRADES FOR LEARNING ASSISTANCE, RESOURCE ROOM, SKILLS FOR LIFE, SENIOR ALTERNATE

If you are the parent of a student who has ever been in Learning Assistance, Resource Room, Skills for Life or Senior Alternate, you would only have seen a comment on your child's report card for those classes. The comment may have been a work habit comment or it may have directed you to a more detailed explanation of your child's progress in that class or an attachment report stapled to the report card.

Our report card computer system generates report cards that indicate all of the courses students are in, but if a grade is not given in that course then there is no record that the course has ever been taken. The Ministry of Education has mandated that all of the courses a student takes must be recorded and kept for student transcripts. In order for that to happen, a final percentage (letter grade) has to be given. That is why you will begin to see letter grades given for Learning Assistance, Resource Room, Skills for Life and Senior Alternate. Students who are in the School Completion Certificate Program will receive grades to honour their personal achievement in those courses and a transcript to recognize their achievement.

If parents have any concerns about this program, please contact your child's teachers or school administration.

MAY 12 PROVINCIAL ELECTION

For the May 12 provincial election, the SD68 Board of Education is joining with community partners to sponsor three all-candidate meetings. The Board is encouraging voters to become informed about the education issues in the campaign. While there will be discussion of education issues at the forums, the public will also have the opportunity to question the candidates about other election issues.

There are three electoral areas within the boundaries of the school district and voters should note that the provincial electoral areas have changed for this election. Information about the electoral areas is available online at <http://www.elections.bc.ca/index.php/voting/electoral-district-finder/>.

The all-candidate forums are scheduled as follows:

Nanaimo-North Cowichan Electoral Area – Wednesday, April 29 at Ladysmith Secondary. Meet and greet candidates at 6 p.m., with the forum to start at 6:30 p.m. Sponsors: School District 68 Board of Education, Ladysmith Chamber of Commerce, the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board and the Ladysmith-Chemainus Chronicle.

Nanaimo Electoral Area – Monday, May 4 at Nanaimo District Secondary. Meet and greet candidates starting at 6 p.m. with the forum to start at 6:30 p.m. Sponsors: School District 68 Board of Education, Harewood Community Schools-NDSS, NDSS PAC, Nanaimo District Teachers Association, Canadian Union of Public Employees CUPE Local 606

V.I.U. NEWS

Professors from the Faculty of Science at Vancouver Island University will be putting on a public science show called "Extreme Science" on May 26 from 7:00 – 8:30 p.m. at the Vancouver Island University theatre. The show is for all ages and will feature some very exciting demonstrations from Physics and Chemistry. The show is a fundraiser for LED Africa (Lights for Education and Development in Africa). LED Africa (www.ledafric.org) is a charitable organization created in order to provide solar powered lighting to rural secondary schools in Malawi. Tickets (\$10) are available at Falconer Books in Port Place Mall. All funds raised from the shows will go directly to the charity. For more information, email extreme.science@viu.ca.

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.