

John Barsby Community School Newsletter

550-7TH STREET
NANAIMO, B.C.
V9R 3Z2

Phone: 250-753-8211

Fax: 250-753-2430

Principal: Ms. R. Gray

Vice-Principals: Mrs. K. Proctor / Mr. M. Ferguson

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

May 27, 2009

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

There will be a number of events occurring this month and next that will celebrate our students' success at John Barsby. Honour roll assemblies will occur this week, John Barsby Awards Evening will be held on June 2nd, and the District's Honours Night is scheduled for June 9th will honour all students who are excelling in their areas of study. We are proud of our students and their achievements. Congratulations to all those students who have worked hard to meet their learning goals!

As we near the end of the term, it will be more challenging for your son or daughter to remain focused and on-task as we move toward the final weeks of Semester 2, Term 2, and final course assessments/exams. Please encourage them to continue with purpose and strive to do their very best in the learning process. If at anytime, you wish to know how your student is academically performing, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher or counsellor for an update on their progress.

Early in May a letter was sent out describing an organisational model for 2009-2010 school year that involved the addition of students attending a specified learning group Monday through Thursday. We have received a number of positive responses from our parent body and will continue to receive input from parents and students. Please feel free to offer any suggestions, additional comments, and any support that you could provide.

Students have been busy participating in a number of activities throughout these last months. The theatre production "Dark Side of the Moon" will be presented by John Barsby student performers this Wednesday through Saturday, May 27th to May 30th. Spring Football has begun with all athletes working hard out on the field in preparation for the Jamboree this weekend. Leadership students have been busy touring our new grade 7 students around our school and ensuring that they are ready for secondary school life. The Touring Concert Band showcased their talents throughout British Columbia and Alberta over Victoria Day long weekend. We are grateful to all of our teacher, parent, and community supporters who continue to work closely with our students to provide extra-curricular opportunities. Students are very appreciative.

Thanks for all of your support.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

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	Report Card Distribution Gym 9:00 am -10:30 am 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. Gym

Please be seated by 6:45

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. **THIS YEAR THE SCHOOL WILL NOT BE PHONING PARENTS TO TELL THEM THEIR CHILDREN WILL BE RECEIVING AN AWARD, RATHER A LETTER WILL COME HOME WITH THE STUDENTS RECEIVING AWARDS DURING THE WEEK OF MAY 25 -29.**

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

Thank you to all the Grade 12 students who designed logos for our T-shirt contest. It is going to be a tough decision! The winner will be announced in our June newsletter. The Dry Grad committee is busy preparing a **FANTASTIC CELEBRATION** for all Grade 12 graduating students in Nanaimo. There are great prizes to be won; tons of activities and food so don't miss out! For more information check out our website at nanaimodrygrad.ca

The Dry Grad entertainment committee is looking for hockey sticks; if you have any you would like to donate please call Kathleen @ 758-8271 or Nina @ 758-6197

PARENTS, we are looking for volunteers to help at Dry Grad on June 26th. 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

To support our Dry Grad fundraising, consider donating your QF points to Nanaimo Dry Grad at any local Quality Foods grocery store, please specify Nanaimo Dry Grad or donate your bottles at Nanaimo Bottle Depot, be sure to receive a cash receipt to make sure it went through or use a Co-op Gas Card every time you buy gas. There is no cost to you, with every \$10 worth of gas purchased, the Co-op will stamp your card, when the card is full, hand it into any Nanaimo or Gabriola Co-op and they will donate \$5.00 toward Dry Grad. This fundraiser runs till the end of June.

Finally, our next meeting is May 28th 7pm Wellington School library. Everyone is welcome!

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

The focus of the Aboriginal Education department this past month has been on two things: helping students to complete their work and successfully finish the year, and planning and preparing for the various awards and graduation celebrations.

Aboriginal Graduation

On Thurs. May 20, John Barsby hosted the District Aboriginal Graduation event. All secondary school Aboriginal grads were invited and a great many attended with their families, relations, and friends. We had approximately 500 people at the event. Students who attended received grad caps with an Aboriginal design as a keepsake, and staff from the various schools presented their students with certificates and necklaces. The necklace charm was designed by Snu Ney Muxw artist Noel Brown. Métis students also received a Métis sash, contributed by the Mid Island Métis Nation.

The event drew many honoured guests in addition to school staff, from the Snu Ney Muxw chief Viola Wyse and elder Geraldine Manson to the mayor of Nanaimo, school board representatives, Aboriginal community education representatives, District Parent Advisory Committee representatives, and many others.

The dinner buffet was outstanding and was a huge success due to the superb efforts of Barsby's Chef Chandler, his team of Culinary Arts volunteer students, and Barsby staff volunteers. Dustin Herlihy was our tech person for the evening and did a wonderful job.

Our thanks to everyone who made this event a grand success.

Girlz Group

Michelle Swecera and Joelene Akitt of our staff have organized a girls group, which will be meeting until the end of school and, we hope, continue to meet in the next school year. This group is by invitation only, and is proving to be a solid success.

Awards Ceremony

Staff have been busy selecting worthy recipients and preparing awards for the Barsby Awards Ceremony on Tues. June 2 at John Barsby, which will include not only Barsby awards, but also the District Aboriginal Awards for our school. We have had many worthy students to chose from this year, which has made our task difficult, but also fills us with pride that so many students are showing such success. We hope to see all our Aboriginal families in attendance to honour their students.

Youth Leadership with the City of Nanaimo

The City of Nanaimo's popular Leaders in Training (LIT) AND Quest programs are back this fall! These programs are a great opportunity for youth age 13-18 to gain valuable work experience, meet new people and have fun, all while making a difference in their community. The program includes 13 hours of training on topics such as basic child management, safety considerations, and confidentiality, as well as face painting, balloon animal making, and leading games and crafts! Participants then volunteer at community events and Parks and Rec programs. Don't miss out on this fantastic opportunity! For more information or to register, please call 756-5200 or visit us online at www.nanaimo.ca

Leaders in Training (LIT) and Quest can be used to fulfill part of the Graduation Transition Standards!

“I can’t say enough positive things about these programs and how well they were run. The whole experience has enhanced their lives and contributed to shaping them into better young men.”

- Cynthia Nash, mother of three LIT’S

“Overall, this whole experience in the youth leadership program has opened a lot of doors, given me confidence, and led me to meet some uber cool people! I would certainly recommend taking the youth leadership program.”

Gabrielle Bishop (Jr. LIT, LIT and Quest participant)

Parent information night: June 3, 2009

6:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Oliver Woods Community Center

LIT/Quest Coordinator: Jennifer Ryan, 250-756-5200

**JAPANESE STUDENTS VISIT BARSBY
OCTOBER 3-9 2009**

We are hosting a group of Japanese girls in October 3-9 from Kanagawa Japan. We need homestays for these students while they are visiting us. We are looking for homestays that will take one or two girls. If you are able to help or want more information, please call Lynn Smith at 250-619-8171.

VIU Mariner Gold Medal Summer Sports Camps

Stay active this summer with the VIU Mariner Gold Medal Summer Sports Camps. This year BASKETBALL, VOLLEYBALL and SOCCER camps will be offered. The camps are open to all skill levels and a variety of age groups. All camps are led by the VIU Mariner Head Coaches. Participants are grouped by skill level so every camper benefits. Camps focus on individual development, team play, sportsmanship and much more!

All participants receive a VIU Mariner Athletics T-shirt. Call 250-740-6418 or visit the VIU Mariner Website at WWW.GOMARINERS.CA for complete details on the camps !!