

John Barsby Community School Newsletter

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June, 2009

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

We are in the last week of classes prior to starting exam week. It is important for your student(s) to know their exam schedule well in-advance. Additionally, a study plan for final exams should be established. This will assist your student with a proper review and time set aside to prepare for their final examinations.

We have continued to discuss in our school newsletter a projected organizational model for next year. Feedback gathered from students and parents has provided additional information from which we can develop plans. The majority of students looked forward to our new model. Many students commented that they would like the shorter block and that it would help with their success in school.

Due to this feedback, our Pyramid of Intervention where we will incorporate our Learning Groups into our daily time schedule will begin in October. All students will be expected to attend a 50 minute Learning Group session 2 times a week, Wednesday and Thursday a.m. Eventually, we would like to expand our Learning Groups to 4 days a week. However, we believe that to ensure the success of our program and to create an exemplary Learning Group a 2 day a week plan will be highly sustainability while staff and students learn our new system. Finally, we are always prepared to hear your comments and will continue to provide monthly updates via this newsletter.

The month of June began with beautiful student celebrations. The school and District awards ceremonies acknowledged the many achievements of a great number of our outstanding students. Our Graduation Ceremony will be followed by Dry Grad on June 26th. It is always a pleasure to see so many young people celebrate their 13 years of success in our public schools. Congratulations!

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge all of staff who have contributed to the school and the success of students this past year. The following staff will be leaving John Barsby at the end of June:

Ms. Black, Mr. Enns, Mr. Davidson, Mr. Jones, Ms. Kay, Ms. Kristiansen, Mr. Lum, Mr. Moro, Ms. Obersteiner, Ms. Patton, Ms. Prihar, Mr. Rembold, Ms. Richardson, Ms. Thompson, Ms. Young and Ms. Westwood.

We would like to also acknowledge Constable Shields who has been a large part of our school community in his capacity as a member of the RCMP Youth Team for a number of years. Not only has he been an excellent support for our school, he has also spent years coaching our John Barsby Football Team. We wish him well in

his new post on Queen Charlotte Islands. Finally, we would like to acknowledge our dear friend and colleague, Mrs. Tiwari, for her passion and commitment to the students of Nanaimo-Ladysmith School District. She will be retiring at the end of June after 30 plus years in the profession that has inspired new teachers to teach Math. We will miss you greatly.

As always, please do not hesitate to contact us at John Barsby.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

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

The school office will be closed from July 13 – August 21st, and will re-open on Monday, August 24th. If you have any questions or concerns during that time, please contact the School Board Office at 754-5521.

JOHN BARSBY COMMUNITY SCHOOL PRELIMINARY SCHOOL CALENDAR 2009/2010:

September 8	Schools Open
September 28	Non-Instructional Day
October 12	Thanksgiving
October 23	Non-Instructional Day
November 11	Remembrance Day
December 18	Last day of classes before Winter vacation
January 4	Schools Re-Open
February 22	Non-Instructional Day
February 23	Non-Instructional Day
March 5	Last day of classes before Spring Vacation
March 15	Schools Re-Open

April 2	Good Friday
April 5	Easter Monday
April 26	Non-Instructional Day
May 17	Non-Instructional Day
May 24	Victoria Day

EXAMS

Students should arrive ½ hour early for Provincial Exams. Be prepared with pen, pencil, eraser and calculator. Please check posted exam schedules for exam locations.

EXAM SCHEDULE

Monday, June 15

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	Sc. 8, Sc. 9, Bi. 11, Bi. 12
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	PMa8, PMa9, EMa11, PMa 11, Chem 12

Tuesday, June 16

8:30 – 10:30 a.m.	SS8, SS9, SS10, History 12
12:30 – 2:30 p.m.	Fr 8, Fr 9, Fr 10, Chem 11

Wednesday, June 16th

Exam conflicts – MPR

PROVINCIAL EXAM SCHEDULE

Wednesday, June 17

8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	En 10, History 12 BC First Nation Studies 12
12:30 – 3:30 p.m.	En 12

Thursday, June 18

8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Physics 12
12:30 – 3:30	Communications 12

Friday, June 19

8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	Social Studies 11
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Monday, June 22

8:30 – 11:30 a.m.	EMa 10, PMa 10 English 12 First Peoples
12:30 – 3:30	Biology 12

Tuesday, June 23

8:30 – 11:30	Science 10
12:30 – 3:30	Chemistry 12

BUS SCHEDULE FOR EXAM WEEK

June 15 - usual am drop off / usual pm pick up 3:05

June 16 - usual am drop off / usual pm pick up
June 17 - usual am drop off / 3:30 pm leave Barsby

June 18 - usual am drop off / 3:30 pm leave Barsby

June 19 - usual am drop off / 11:35 pm leave Barsby

June 22 - usual am drop off / 3:30 pm leave Barsby

June 23 - usual am drop off / 3:30 pm leave Barsby

June 24 - usual am drop off / 3:30 pm leave Barsby

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.

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

Textbooks

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

DRY GRAD NEWS

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.

LIBRARY

Overdues: Thanks to all the students who have returned their books. If you have lost a library book, please let Ms. Girard know. If books are not returned by the end of exam period, students will be billed. Bills will be attached to report cards.

Study Place for Exams: Students who are looking for a quiet study place (no computer use) are welcome in the library during exam time.

Summer Reading: Books from the school library aren't available, but everyone can join the public library. The VIRL (Vancouver Island Regional Library) has a large branch downtown. Their catalogue is online (www.virl.bc.ca), and membership is free. They have a terrific Young Adult collection.

SUMMER WEIGHT ROOM HOURS

Beginning Monday, June 29th:
Monday, Wednesday and Friday 10 AM-11:30 AM.

Football Practices Begin Monday August 24th

Junior Varsity 3:00-5:30 PM

Varsity 6:00-8:30 PM

We will practice Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Practices will continue along this format until Tuesday, September 8th!

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

This year was a very busy year for John Barsby's Aboriginal Education department, as our team was new, and a number of new organizational strategies were started to help the department function more smoothly. We will be bringing in more initiatives next year to ensure that none of our students are overlooked.

At the beginning of the year, Aboriginal EAs and staff divided up their Aboriginal student caseloads and duties. This past year Ms Swecera has been responsible for all Grade 8s; Ms White has been responsible for all Grade 9s and Grade 11s with last names from K-Z; Ms Akitt has been responsible for all Grade 10s and Grade 11s with last names from A-J; Ms Wilford has been responsible for all Grade 12s.

Aboriginal teacher Ms Wilford organized and/or facilitated several workshops at JBCS for summer science camps, senior student post-secondary scholarships, Canadian Armed Forces and RCMP Aboriginal recruitment programs, and Vancouver Island University Aboriginal information sessions.

She also recruited and escorted students to the Mystic Science Workshop for female students at VIU and helped two students get to a two-day University of British Columbia provincial Aboriginal workshop on Aboriginal business and design.

Ms Swecera and Ms Akitt have worked hard, and with great success, to establish a Girlz Group for invited students. Recently the girls learned some self defense techniques from wrestling expert and SD68 Aboriginal worker Frank Broz.

Both Ms Swecera and Ms Akitt have also worked longer than normal and teamed with our Aboriginal tutor Chris Jones to set up and run the homework club. This club has been especially busy in recent weeks as students rush to catch up on work they missed and to re-do and upgrade assignments.

Many of our students earned places on the school honour rolls and principal's lists this year. In total we had 85 separate academic winners. This number does not include those Aboriginal students who won Barsby awards on June 2; there were a large number of our students who took home trophies, book prizes, certificates, and cheques that night. We are proud of their success!

Several of our students also deserve applause for participating in activities that were school generated, but extra-curricular: Rikki Nelson, Shayla May Bellerose, Justine Curley, Laura Shade, and Cheryl Wieler attended the Mystic Science conference at VIU; Rikki Nelson and Justine Curley attended all the Me-to-We workshops; Raymond Johnny spent a day cooking for his community; Stevie Ray Cook attended VIU to be a Culinary Arts student for a day; Charvelle van Paridon attended Emily Carr University to present her art portfolio; and Nigel Williamson and Justine Curley participated in a provincial Aboriginal business and design workshop at UBC.

Aboriginal staff would also like to thank Coburn Tom, who was our "official" photographer this year for Aboriginal events, and Andrew Demoors, who did tech set up and management for many of our workshops and events.

We enjoyed working with students this year and hope everyone has a relaxing and successful summer.

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.

GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATION PROGRAM

To parents of grade 8 students who will be entering grade 9 in September 2009.

Early in September, grade 9 students will bring home information and a consent form for the following vaccines:

- ◆ Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis (Tdap)
- ◆ Human Papillomavirus (HPV) for girls only

Please read the information and consent carefully. Sign and return the consent to the school as soon as possible in the fall.

Tetanus, also called ‘lockjaw’, is caused by bacteria most commonly found in the soil. When the bacteria enters the skin through a cut or scrape it produces a poison that can cause painful tightening of muscles all over the body, including the breathing muscles. **Diphtheria** is a serious infection of the nose and throat and can result in severe breathing problems. **Pertussis** or “whooping cough” is a serious infection of the lungs and throat and can cause complications including pneumonia, brain damage and death especially in infants. **Human Papillomavirus** (HPV) vaccine protects against cancer of the cervix and will be offered to girls only.

For more information contact:

- ◆ Your local Health Unit
- ◆ Health Link BC – dial 8-1-1 for a free call (formerly known as the BC Nurse Line)
- ◆ www.immunizebc.ca

Health Units:

Nanaimo Public Health	250-755-3342
Princess Royal Family Centre	250-739-5845
Ladysmith Health Centre	250-755-3342