

John Barsby Community School Newsletter

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September 30, 2009

Dear Parents, Students, and Community Members,

The month of September has been busy with many school accomplishments as well as student activities. We have had an exceptional start-up. Students have focused on their new classes and are working hard to keep up with the new attendance and late policy.

Counselors, vice-principals, and teachers have worked diligently to get the school up and running. Classes have been organized and balanced. Timetables have been changed and most students should be well underway in their first month of classes.

Staff at the school spent September the 28th, a Professional Development day, gearing up and organizing for the implementation of our new organizational model officially beginning on October 7th. We will be kicking off with a school wide motivational speaker for all students. Student information gleaned from Interim Reports, scheduled for completion on October 8th, will place students in their appropriate Learning Group beginning October 14th. All grade 8's and 9's will be expected to attend a Tutorial group which will focus on Organizational Skills in the month of October. Grade 10, 11, and 12's will be assigned either to Study Hall or a Tutorial support learning group.

There have been a number of opportunities for students. Many of the school teams have begun their seasons. Junior and Senior Boys' Football, Senior Boy's Soccer, and the Girls' Volleyball Teams have all been practising and some teams have already begun their league play. Additionally, Student Leaders have had the opportunity of participating in the Me to We presentation held in Vancouver on September 29th.

Lastly, Harewood Arms held a school fundraiser to support our Food Programs. Many thanks to Harewood Arms staff and community members who supported this important endeavor.

We always look forward to hearing from parents. Please do not hesitate to phone or drop into the school if you have any questions.

Robyn Gray

Principal

New Teacher: Please welcome Kirsten Doucette

STUDENT TEACHERS

We would like to welcome the following student teachers to Barsby this year from Vancouver Island University:

Arlene McGuff, Lauren Aebig, Anna Bedard, Kiala Silverton, Laura Dempsey, Joanne Hooyberg, Samantha Keller and Amber Burden.

COMMUNITY SCHOOL NEWS

WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL! What makes a school a "Community School"? John Barsby Secondary is one of four community schools that belong to the Harewood Family of Community Schools. Community Schools are regular schools with a special focus on the value of *community involvement*.

John Barsby Community School is a place where people of ALL ages in the community use the school for education, skill development, training opportunities, recreational activities, social gatherings, meetings, cultural activities and much more! JBCS is a very busy place all year round and we hope that you will take part in some of the activities during your school year.

To get involved and for more information, come visit Shannon Wilson, Community School Coordinator. Her office is located in the Counselling Centre. Shannon can also be reached by calling (250) 616-7984.

STUDENT TRIP TO EUROPE, March 2010

It's true! During Spring Break 2010, Shannon Wilson will be leading another exciting educational trip to Europe in conjunction with EF Educational Tours!!

EF is one of the largest and most experienced organizations in the field of educational travel for students. It aims not only to introduce the sights and lifestyles of other cultures, but also to give a new dimension to the overall education and development of high school students.

The itinerary we have chosen for 2010 is London, Paris, Barcelona and Madrid. The program includes a full, carefully designed itinerary of sightseeing trips, excursions and a host of other activities lead by experienced local guides. Throughout our stay, a professional EF Tour Director will accompany us.

If you think this is exciting and would like more information, please call Shannon Wilson @ 616-7984 or come by Shannon's office for an information package!!

SCENT REDUCED ENVIRONMENT

At John Barsby we are working on developing a policy to protect individuals with fragrance sensitivities and to possibly prevent others from developing such sensitivities. We are asking for voluntary cooperation towards a scent-reduced environment. Students, teachers and visitors to the building are strongly encouraged to avoid or reduce the use of fragranced products. This is a request to voluntarily refrain from chemical-based scented products, and not a ban on scented products.

What is the issue?

Exposure to perfumes and other scented products can trigger serious health reactions in individuals with asthma, allergies, migraines, or chemical sensitivities. Generally, we consider it to be a personal choice to use fragrances; however, fragrance chemicals are by their very nature shared. Chemicals vaporize into the air and are easily inhaled by those around us. The chemicals in fragrances commonly initiate or exacerbate asthma symptoms, trigger migraines, and trigger symptoms in those with chemical sensitivities.

What can you do to help?

- Be considerate of those who are sensitive to fragrance chemicals. Avoid using scented products; instead, use scent-free alternatives.
- If you do use scented products, use them sparingly. A general guide-line for scented products is that the scent should not be detectable more than an arm’s length away from you. **DO NOT APPLY SCENTED PRODUCTS IN A PUBLIC AREA.**

DATES TO REMEMBER	
October 7	Interim Reports Day PAC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library
October 8	Early Dismissal – 1:30 p.m. Parent/Teacher Meetings 2:00 – 3:00 p.m.
October 12	Thanksgiving
October 7	All School Assembly
October 14 & 15	New school wide Timetable
October 19	Grade 12 Assembly-Block B-2
October 23	Non-Instructional Day
November 2-5	Grad Photos
November 4	PAC Meeting 7:00 p.m. Library
November 11	Remembrance Day
November 26	Early Dismissal - 1:35 p.m. Parent/Teacher Report Card Meetings 3:00-4:30 p.m. 6:00 – 7:30 p.m.
December 18	Last Day of Classes Before Winter Vacation
January 4	School Re-Opens

JOHN BARSBY ATHLETICS

The John Barsby Athletic Program is off to a super start in terms of teams and participation in 2009!

Fall Sports

G. 8 Girls Volleyball: Coach R. Christianson
Jr. Girls Volleyball: Coach D. Mack
Sr. Girls Volleyball: Coach C. Letourneau

Girls and Boys Dance: R. Kristiansen
Girls and Boys Swim Team: Coach R. Der
Sr. Boys Soccer: Coach S. Robertson

G. 7/8 Boys Football: Coach L. Cooper
Jr. Boys Football: Coach R. Stevenson/L. Cooper
Sr. Boys Football: Coach R. Stevenson

In addition, Mr. Birch will be opening the weight room for after school workouts several days per-week. Intramural Indoor Soccer begins next week at lunch in the gymnasium. Stay tuned to morning announcements for league formation and team selection details.

Winter Sports on the Horizon: November-February

Boys and Girls Wrestling 8-12: Contact Coach R. Stevenson
8 Girls Basketball: Coach TBA
Jr. Girls Basketball: Coach TBA
Sr. Girls Basketball: Coach TBA

8 Boys Basketball: Coach S. Robertson
Jr. Boys Basketball: Coach S. Robertson/K. Polze
Sr. Boys Basketball: Coach S. Robertson

As you can see, there are plenty of opportunities to get involved in athletics at John Barsby. Those who do not wish to play but would like to help out with scorekeeping and minor officiating should contact the coaches posted above about lending a hand.

Football

All upcoming games and events can be found on the following websites:

- John Barsby Football Blog:
<http://johnbarsbyfootball.blogspot.com/>
- BC Highschool Football:
<http://www.bchighschoolfootball.com>

Go Dawgs!

JOHN BARSBY CONCERT CHOIR

Practices have begun and it looks like we are off to a good start with lots of enthusiasm. Girls and guys in grades 8 – 12 are invited to join us in room 123 to have fun singing, meet new friends, and prepare for concerts and festival trips.

Rehearsals are: Monday’s 3:15 – 4:30 p.m. and Friday’s 7:00 – 8:15 a.m.

FURUKAWA VISIT CANCELLED

Due to concerns about H1N1, Furukawa High School from Japan has cancelled its usual December visit this year.

B.C. SCHOOL FRUIT AND VEGETABLE SNACK PROGRAM

The B.C. School Fruit and Vegetable Snack Program has started at John Barsby. This week students will receive pears as a snack.

Students will receive a free snack twice a week for the school year. This snack is not meant to replace food normally consumed during breaks or at lunch. The goal is to increase fruit and vegetable consumption. Fruits and vegetables contain vitamins, minerals, phytochemicals, antioxidants, and fibre that promote health and prevent disease. Studies show that Canadians in general are not eating enough fruits and vegetables. Eating one more fruit or vegetable a day can make a difference.

If you wish for your child to NOT participate in this program, please return this memo to the office prior to October 9.

____ Please excuse my child from the BC Fruit and Veggie Snack Program.

Student’s Name _____
Parent’s Name _____
Phone # _____