

John Barsby Community School Newsletter

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October 28, 2009

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Community Members:

John Barsby Community School has had a very successful start to the school year. "Learning" has been at the heart of the school's focus. Teachers, support staff, and administration have been planning and organizing the implementation of our new organizational model. Our first week began with a student motivational speaker named Ian Tyson. Our second week included all of our students being assigned to their Learning Group. This went rather smoothly and most students were focused, organized and knew which room to report. We are now moving to our third week of implementation and continue to review for detailed improvements. Presently, students who are assigned to study hall have been given a variety of opportunities. These include library time, Science/Math support, VIU student teacher presentation on flu season, Weightlifting & Conditioning and Basketball in the gymnasium. Tutorial and Guided Learning rooms have concentrated the instruction on organizational skill building and reflective tasks based on student's individual learning styles. As we move toward mid-semester and the end of Term 1 our senior students will be required to meet an acceptable standard of academic achievement on their report card in order to maintain their place in study hall. We look forward to working with our students to guide and support them to meet their academic potential.

Interim reports were sent home on the 14th of October to provide parents with a snapshot of how their student is performing academically. In general, the report will provide information on your child's work habits, attendance, and achievement levels. If you have any questions regarding your student's progress, please do not hesitate to contact their counsellor or teacher directly. Additionally, the next two weeks will be a time for your child to sustain a focus on their academic studies. The 1st term will end on November 10th and the new term begins the day after Remembrance Day.

October 23rd was a provincial professional development day for teachers and support staff. Many of the staff took this opportunity to attend provincial workshops in their specific area of teaching as well as some other learning opportunities organized by NDTA and CUPE.

In order to ensure that John Barsby students are learning and achieving, we will continue to complete a variety of school-based assessments. These include DART (District Assessment Reading Tool), school-wide writes, departmental and classroom assessment activities. All school and classroom based assessments will assist us in determining the learning levels and academic needs of our students. These assessments will continue to guide our planning and instruction in the cycle of learning.

Lastly, many students have been involved in extra-curricular activities. It has been a busy season between student leadership, Volleyball, Aquatics, and Football. We appreciate the efforts of our coaches, teacher-volunteers, parents and students who continue to participate and support this additional aspect of student learning.

Please be safe over the Halloween holiday weekend and let us educate and remind all our community young people of the city by-laws and dangers of fireworks.

If you have any questions or comments, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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

DATES TO REMEMBER

November 3-6	Grad Photos
November 1	Band Bottle Drive 9-12:30 Barsby Back Parking Lot
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
January 22	Last Day of Classes Semester 1
January 25 - 29	Exams
February 1	Semester 2 Begins

FIREWORKS

The City of Nanaimo has a complete ban on the sale, distribution, and lighting of all fireworks within Nanaimo City Limits. According to John Barsby's Student Code of Conduct, "students in possession of, selling, or igniting fireworks on school property will be suspended." The suspension will be for a minimum of 5 days. All fireworks will be confiscated and parents notified.



FRUIT AND VEGGIE PROGRAM

Autumn is Harvest Time in BC

Many communities are having fall fairs or apple festivals to celebrate the harvest. Farmers markets are still open and many farms offer tours of corn mazes and pumpkin patches. Try to take advantage of these opportunities to explore the bounty of food produced in our province.

Farm Tour Listings – www.aipc.ca/bc/farmtours.aspx

- Pick BC fruits and vegetables
- Wash fruits and vegetables before cooking or eating
- Enjoy and celebrate the great taste of local fruits and vegetables

DRY GRAD NEWS

The Dry Grad society is in need of some Enthusiastic Parents to help organize Dry Grad 2010. You do not have to be a Grad parent to volunteer. Our chair and a few other members of the executive are stepping down this year so we need parents to come forward and assume these important roles to make Dry Grad 2010 a success. It is time to get involved! For more information please call Gwen @758-1803. Dry Grad meetings are held on the last Thursday of every month at 7pm at Wellington School library. The AGM will be October 29TH, 2009. Everyone is welcome.

GRAD PHOTOS

Grad Photos will be taken at the school November 3, 4, 5 & 6th, 2009 from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm. There are three options for sitting fees ~ Gold \$25.00, Bronze \$20.00 and Yearbook – No Cost. Students need to sign up in the counselling office to get a photo date and time.

GRAD NEWS

Prom this year is Saturday, April 24, 2010 with a family dinner hosted by our Chef's program followed by a student dance. Both events will be at John Barsby. Student may invite a guest but Mr. Ferguson has to approve all guests.

VALEDICTORY CEREMONY

The ceremony will be held at 1:00 pm at the Port Theatre Wednesday, June 30, 2010. Dry Grad 2010 will be held at 8:00 pm Wednesday, June 30, 2010 at Beban Park.

GRAD/PROM FEES

The fees may now be paid in the office. Please note there are limited spaces at the Prom Dinner. Students will each get three tickets to the Valedictory Ceremony but may request more as the year goes on. There are a limited number of these also, as there are only 800 seats at the Port Theatre.

JOHN BARSBY ATHLETICS

Fall Sports Enter Playoffs

John Barsby's Boys Football Squads and Girls Volleyball Squads will be entering playoff competition early this November! Stay tuned on the school announcements for game times and dates.

Upcoming Winter Sports

Boys Basketball: Contact Coach Scott Robertson for tryout and team information for grade 8, JV, and Varsity Boys Basketball.

Contact Coach Joanne Tomiyama for information regarding Girls Basketball at all levels as well.

Wrestling: Girls and Boys Wrestling practices will begin this November. Contact Coach Stevenson if you are interested in wrestling this year.

Check Out The Latest Local, Regional, Provincial and National Highschool Football News Standings, Coaching Resources and Program Building Information at:
<http://www.bchighschoolfootball.com>

BARSBY BAND

Barsby Band is having a bottle drive on Sunday, November 1, 2009 from 9:30-12:30. Any donations can be dropped off at the back parking lot on the day of the drive. Band students wishing to sign up to volunteer for the bottle drive can sign up in the band room. Any questions, please contact Rose Anne @ rprok@telus.net or 754-2817.

RAISING RESILIENT TEENS

Discovery Youth and Family Addiction Services introduces a 6-week group for parents and caregivers who are concerned about their teens active alcohol and drug use.

Thursdays @6:00 – 7:00 p.m. (starting October 29 to December 3, 2009)

The group will provide...

- Conversation
- Information sharing
- Support
- Relevant Topics
- Concrete Strategies
- Safety

Call (250) 739-5790 to register. Space is limited!