

# John Barsby Community School Newsletter

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Principal: Ms. R. Gray

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

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

November 26, 2009

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

### Dear Parents, Caregivers, Students and Community Members:

Report Cards will be distributed to parents and students during the Parent-Teacher Interview evening held on Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup>. They will also be sent home with students on Friday, November 27<sup>th</sup>. If you have not received your student's report card, please pick it up at the office. Below is the counsellor and administrator team who is the school liaison for your son or daughter. Please contact a member of the team if you have any concerns regarding your student's report card:

A-H Vice-Principal: Mike Ferguson  
Grade 8-12 Counsellor: Candice Boyle

I-R Vice-Principal: Karen Proctor  
Grade 8-12 Counsellor: Michelle Black

S-Z Principal: Robyn Gray  
Grade 8-12 Counsellor: Lisa Sunde

We had over 240 grade 8 through 12 students who achieved a 3.10 or greater Grade Point Average. Congratulations to all those students who gained eligibility to the following lists: Principal's List 4.00, Honour Roll 3.20-3.99, and/or Honourable Mention 3.00-3.19.

Additionally, the Student Intervention Team has reviewed the report card data and will be re-assigning students to a specific learning group based on their individual results. Grade 10-12 students will be assigned to a Tutorial group if they have received any Incomplete and/or Failing marks. Grade 8 and 9 students will be assigned to a Guided Learning group under the similar academic circumstances.

Our fall sports programs including Volleyball, Swimming, Football, and Soccer have just concluded their seasons. The Junior Football team is heading to their semi-finals at Bear Mountain Stadium Thursday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. We wish them luck. Moreover, a number of our teams and individual athletes excelled during their playoffs. Congratulations to all the athletes, coaches, and parents who have supported our students to be great competitors in their sport of choice. Basketball season will be getting underway. Please take note of all upcoming schedules.

Lastly, all grade 8's and 9's are required to complete 30 minutes of physical activity everyday. Grade 10, 11, and 12 students are also responsible for completing 150 minutes per week of physical activity. Physical Education courses, extra-curricular programs and community activities can fulfil this requirement. It is important for students to monitor and track these

activities. The Ministry of Education has more information for those parents/students who require more information at [www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dpa/](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dpa/)

I would like to also take this opportunity to thank Kirsten Doucette who has been teaching Science 8 and 9 during the 1<sup>st</sup> term. I would like to also give a warm welcome to Tara Wannamaker who will be teaching Social Studies 9 in term 2.

Please help us keep our students focused on their studies in the next coming month. December and January will go by very quickly leading us to end of the semester. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the office.

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

## DATES TO REMEMBER

December 2	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm Library
December 18	Last Day of Classes Before Winter Vacation
January 4	School Re-Opens
January 6	PAC Meeting – 7:00 pm Library
January 22	Last Day of Classes Semester 1
January 25 – 29	Exams
February 1	Semester 2 Begins
February 3	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library
February 22	Non-Instructional Day
February 23	Non-Instructional Day
March 3	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library
March 5	Last Day of Classes Before Spring Vacation
March 15	Schools Re-Open
April 2	Good Friday
April 5	Easter Monday
April 7	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library
April 23	Non-Instructional Day
April 24	Prom
April 26	Non-Instructional Day
May 5	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library
May 24	Victoria Day
June 2	PAC Meeting 7:00 pm Library
June 15	Last Day of Classes Semester 2
June 16-25	Exams
June 30	Valedictory Ceremony Dry Grad

## SNOWBALL POLICY

- Students are reminded of the snowball policy
- This policy deals with the throwing of snowballs and any other inappropriate action with snow, including bringing snow into the school with intention
- Students throwing snowballs in the school or outside on school grounds will be dealt with through the code of Conduct which may result in suspension.

## SNOW CLOSURE

A reminder to parents that if schools are closed due to snow, or any other problems such as power outages or bad weather, announcements will be on local radio station (WOLF 106.9 and WAVE 102.3 FM) by 7 am on the day of the school closure. Please do not call the radio station – tune in and listen for the announcements, which will be made on a regular basis.

## UPCOMING EVENT FOR GRADE 10 & 11

### Vancouver Island Education & Career Fair “Your Future Begins Now” – December 3

This event will take place at the Vancouver Island Convention Centre and is designed to introduce senior secondary students to a variety of post-secondary education choices, career and employment options and labour market information to assist them with career planning. **Please Note:** This is a **mandatory curricular** event for students and is endorsed fully by the School District. Students will be transported by school bus. John Barsby students will be attending the afternoon session. If you wish your child not to attend and complete an alternate assignment, *please provide a written note to the school.*

## POST SECONDARY PLANNING

### Post –Secondary Institute Day – Dec 8

Representatives from nine BC universities, colleges and institutes be available at Dover Bay the morning of December 8. The morning will start with a mini fair, and then students can choose two presentations from the following institutions: UBC, SFU, UVIC, BC Institute of Technology, Camosun College, Thompson Rivers University, University of Northern BC, Nicola Valley Institute of Technology and the Royal Military College. John Barsby students who are interested in attending this event should see Mrs. Tomiyama as soon as possible.

### Registering for Post secondary:

Registration is now open for all post secondary institutions. Early applications get preferable registration dates.

### Register Now for Vancouver Island University

Students who apply to V.I.U. early have the best chance to reserve their place for September 2009. Applications are usually made on line at [www.viu.ca](http://www.viu.ca); choose the “Become a Student” link. You will need your PEN# (not your school student #) which can be found on your report card. Have a credit card number ready to pay the \$35 application fee.

### Self Reporting Marks –University of Victoria

Current Grade 12 students are able to report their final Grade 11 marks from September to November 30, 2009 and potentially receive a conditional offer of admission for 2010. Apply on-line for admission to UVic. Then visit [www.uvic.ca/self-reporting\\_before\\_November\\_30](http://www.uvic.ca/self-reporting_before_November_30). Don't forget to also apply for housing if you want to live on campus.

## MORNING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Thanks to Mandy Jones and our morning announcers. We now have morning greetings in Hul'q'min'um.

## FRUIT AND VEGGIE PROGRAM

### Breakfast FAST

No time for breakfast? Try these:

### Breakfast in a Drink

Make fruit smoothies in a blender or food processor. Blend fruit juice, milk, yogurt, or soft tofu, and pieces of fruit. Experiment with different juices and fruit. For a thicker drink use chunks of frozen fruit. Pour into a travel mug and enjoy on the way to school or work.

### Breakfast Wrap and Roll

Spread a tortilla with light cream cheese and add any vegetables on hand (left over cooked vegetables, shredded carrot or lettuce, alfalfa or mixed sprouts, strips of sweet red or green pepper), season with your favourite dressing or salsa. Roll up and eat on the go.

Grab a muffin or a bagel, add a piece of cheese, and nature's fast food – a piece of fruit – for a quick nutritious breakfast.

- Pick local fruits and vegetables
- Wash fruits and vegetables before eating
- Enjoy the great taste of local fruits and vegetables

## GRAD PHOTOS

Most of our Grade 12 class had their grad pictures taken by Lifetouch the week of November 4. For any students who missed the opportunity, there will be one more chance on January 5 2010. The student pays a sitting fee of \$20 or \$25 to the photographer for their poses. Lifetouch will send the poses( proofs) to the students in the mail and then you can choose the type of pictures and quantity. Students who only want a photo in the yearbook should also get their picture taken but there is no sitting fee charge. Students should listen to the announcements to find out the time they might sign up for a photography appointment.

## GRAD FEES

Students should be paying for their grad fees in the office as soon as they are able. The grad banquet has limited seating so the purchase of tickets is on a first come first served basis. There are no ticket sales at the door of the banquet. All tickets must be pre- purchased. Cut off of banquet ticket sales will happen when we have reached our seating capacity.

## GRAD DATES

Prom will be Saturday April 24. There will be a grad banquet to which parents/guardians are invited. There is limited seating. Please read the item in GRAD FEES. There is a dance following the dinner. Both activities will be held in the Multi Purpose Room times are approximate: dinner at 5:30 pm and the dance at 8:00pm.

## VALEDICTORY CEREMONY (GRAD)

The ceremony will be at 1:00 pm at the Port Theatre Wednesday June 30, 2010. Each graduating student will receive three tickets for seats in the audience for their

guests/family. If more tickets are needed, please have your child contact Mr. Ferguson as soon as possible to let him know how many more tickets would be requested. We cannot guarantee to have enough seats for everyone who might want to attend.

## **DRY GRAD**

Dry Grad happens at Beban Park Wednesday June 30, 2010 at 8:00 pm. This is an alcohol free event that runs from 8:00 pm that day to 6:00 am the next morning. THIS EVENT IS ONLY FOR NANAIMO GRADE 12 GRADUATING STUDENTS. NO GUESTS ARE PERMITTED.

## **PROM**

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. Students may invite a guest to the dance but Mr. Ferguson has to approve all guests.

## **JOHN BARSBY ATHLETICS**

### **John Barsby Football**

Congratulations to the Varsity Football Team on a fine 2009 season! The varsity Dawgs played in the opening round of the Provincial Playoffs this year ultimately coming up short 61-53 in double-overtime against the Rick Hansen Hurricanes of Abbotsford in what turned out to be the highest scoring game in the history of BC High School Football. The game was an inspiration to all who played and watched it! Well done!

JV Dawgs: Have reached the Provincial Semi-Final Game vs Mt. Douglas HS after completing 45-0 and 32-8 victories against Ballenas HS and North Vancouver's Handsworth HS respectively.

Football Awards Banquet and Dinner will be held on Thursday, 10 December 6-8:30 PM in the Multi-Purpose Room. Tickets are \$20.00 with all proceeds going to cover the cost of the event. Tickets will go on sale Wednesday, 2 December @ 12:00 Noon in the school office.

### **John Barsby Volleyball**

Congratulations to our Grade 8, Jr. and Sr. Girls Volleyball teams on their fine performances this year. We are very proud of our volleyball squads and program! We are looking forward to lots of returning players in 2010!! Much thanks to all of our volleyball coaches.

### **John Barsby Wrestling**

Wrestling practices for boys and girls grades 8-12 take place on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in the Multi-Purpose Room from 6:30-8:00 PM. All prospective wrestlers are welcome to come out for the team and no experience is necessary.

### **John Barsby Basketball**

We will be featuring grade 8, Jr. and Sr. Boys squads this year. Please contact Coach Scott Robertson for details.

We will be featuring grade 8 and Jr. Girls squads this year. Please contact Coach Joanne Tomiyama for details.

## **Check Out The Latest Local, Regional, Provincial and National High School Football News Standings, Coaching Resources and Program Building Information at:**

**<http://www.bchighschoolfootball.com>**

## **BARSBY BLAZERS SWIM TEAM**

Five members of the Barsby Blazers Swim Team recently competed at the Vancouver Island High Schools Zone Regional Swim Meet . There were 293 swimmers from 25 High Schools throughout Vancouver Island, and our school was very well represented. Congratulations to Emily Quinn, Carmela de Gracia, Rodney Seward, Liam Silver, and Catherine Carriere Der, on their stellar efforts at the Swim Meet.

Catherine and Liam qualified for Provincials, by finishing in the top five for each event.. The Provincials are in Richmond on Nov 20 & 21.

Here are the Placings and Events they qualified for:

**Catherine** – 3<sup>rd</sup> ( 100 M Freestyle – B ), 5<sup>th</sup> ( 50 M Butterfly – B ), 3<sup>rd</sup> 100 M Individual Medley – B )

**Liam** – 3<sup>rd</sup> ( 50 M Freestyle – Para ), 1<sup>st</sup> ( 50 M Backstroke – Para )

The Blazers had an awesome season with lots of good swimming and fun at the pool. Other Swim Team members include Isaac Mitchell, Richard Habel, and Matt Allers. Special thanks to coaches Dawn Henderson and Stacey Juss. We will be looking to have twice as many swimmers next year. Well done everyone !!

## **ABORIGINAL EDUCATION**

John Barsby's Aboriginal Education staff members have been extremely busy since the start of the year. We held our grade level Meet and Greet events, reviewed student binder organization for the junior students, held two scholarship and post-secondary workshops for the Grade 11s and 12s, had a pizza lunch presentation for Grade 11s and 12s from VIU, and are well on our way in planning our annual cultural event for the whole school.

In addition, Aboriginal students who were involved in the Me-to-We workshops last year attended the big rally in Vancouver in September.

Students Justine Curley and Nigel Williamson, who participated in the UBC Ch'nook Aboriginal Business Program last year, received the Nike shoes they designed themselves as part of the program. Justine is featured in the district newsletter; Nigel has graduated. You can find video advertisements the students made at their workshop by visiting the UBC Ch'nook website at: <http://www.ch-nook.ubc.ca/highschool.html> .

Aboriginal staff members are especially proud of the three Barsby students who ran in the recent Olympic torch relay. Congratulations to Dylan Paul Seward and Jessica White (both in grade 10), who ran in Nanaimo, and to Isaiah Taylor (grade 11), who ran in Port Alberni. Former Barsby student Marty Wyse will be travelling with the Olympic relay entourage for three months. Jessie and Dylan were featured in the Nanaimo Daily News on Fri. Oct. 30, and you can find the archived article at:

<http://www2.canada.com/nanaimodailynews/news/story.html?id=267c917f-03f2-428d-bfc0-8ab0c90a55da> .

Isaiah's picture was posted on the home page of the

Olympic Torch Relay website in early November. Isaiah is a new student to Barsby. He is a national-level wrestling champion who played this year for the senior football team.

Staff were pleased and proud to have Barsby's Hul'q'min'um' language teacher and Aboriginal staff member Mandy Jones and her nephew Thomas Jones open the school's Remembrance Day ceremonies on Nov. 10. As a result of the connections Mandy made at these events, she and her drumming and singing group were invited to the legion ceremony Nov. 11 in Cedar, where they were warmly welcomed and much appreciated.

The Aboriginal Ed department also congratulates our own Education Assistant Michelle Swecera on obtaining her Level II First Aid Certificate. Michelle is now one of Barsby's First Aid attendants.

On December 1<sup>st</sup> staff will be taking a small, select group of our Grades 8-12 science students to an all-day science fair and workshop presentation in Chemainus. Students have been selected because of good academic standing, good attendance, positive attitude, and an interest in science or science careers.

Finally, our regular caseload and organizational meetings continue on a weekly basis. With the new Pyramid of Support system the school has instigated, and with the staff members being present in classrooms on a regular basis, our student caseload referrals have dropped to approximately one-third what they were a year ago. We are proud of our success with students, would be happy to answer any questions, and welcome visits from parents/guardians of our Aboriginal students.

### **P.A.R.T.Y.**

Next month, Planning 10 students will be attending the program: Prevent Alcohol and Risk Related Trauma in Youth (P.A.R.T.Y). This event will take place December 9<sup>th</sup> at Nanaimo Regional Hospital. The program was designed to expose teens to the sometimes tragic consequences of risk-taking behaviours like drinking and driving, riding without a seat belt, not wearing a bike helmet, or jumping off a bridge. The program has been running since 1986 and has had great success and positive feedback from teens, parents, teachers, and community agencies.

For more information you can contact the program coordinator directly  
Peggy Pearce: Margaret.Pearce@viha.ca

### **COMMUNITY ROOTS GARDEN WINS AWARD**

This month, John Barsby's '**Community Roots Food Garden**' has been selected to receive an Innovative Community Capacity Building Award from the Canadian Cancer Society's Community Capacity Building Strategy, an initiative of the BC Healthy Living Alliance. The Innovative Community Development Award aims to:

- Recognize local development / redevelopment projects or programs, and the individuals behind them, that inspire communities to take action to identify and meet their own needs; and
- Honour individuals and their affiliated organizations who continually contribute to the foundation of their community.

Our thanks go to Anna Dodds, our Community Garden Coordinator, who works very hard to make our garden

grow and continues to make a difference in our community. Congratulations to all the students at JBCS who spend time caring for the garden and growing vegetables that are shared by our school and community.

If you'd like more information, have a donation of equipment or seeds, or would like to volunteer time in the community garden, please call Shannon at (250) 616-7984.