



North Island Secondary School

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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Thank you and congratulations to everyone who has been involved in the process of achieving the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement. Information about the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement is below.

ABORIGINAL EDUCATION ENHANCEMENT AGREEMENT 2010 - 2015 #2

The second Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement represents an ongoing Commitment between the School District, local Aboriginal communities and the Ministry of Education. Through a continuing collaborative partnership between all parties we are committed to improving educational achievement for all Aboriginal students. We proudly acknowledge this collective relationship of shared responsibility and decision making to set goals to meet the educational needs of Aboriginal students.

September 2009 marked the beginning of the planning process and visioning for the future of Aboriginal Education within our School District. Through the months of March to June 2010, the Enhancement Agreement committee of the First Nations Education Council facilitated four community forums held in the Quatsino, Kwakiutl (Fort Rupert), Namgis (Alert Bay) and Gwa'sala-'Nakwaxda'xw villages. Meetings were structured using the 'World Café' model for generating small group discussions and were focused around the question 'What is Success?' for our students.

In addition to community forums, surveys were distributed to First Nations parents, communities and education staff in all schools in order to provide the opportunity for input on First Nations programs. Discussion groups were also held at both high schools with grade 8–12 students. First Nations support staff conducted their own review of the strengths and challenges of our programs and provided guidance and perspective to the process. This year, further consultation with school Principals was a priority as well as discussions with the District Leadership Team in order to identify systemic strengths and challenges. A highlight of this work has been the emergent theme around relationship building and partnerships that we have identified as our 4th Goal and continuing vision toward our next Aboriginal Education Enhancement Agreement.

We would like to acknowledge each of the members of the School Board, the First Nations Education Council, and the numerous members of our communities who provide their time and energy to the ongoing leadership and direction for Aboriginal Programs.

COURSE SELECTION

Although it's only February, we are already beginning to plan for the next school year. Students at all grade levels will be involved in course selections by the end of the month. Now is a good time to be discussing with your son/daughter the courses that they should be

taking in the 2012-2013 school year. We will be offering most of the courses that we already have in our timetable this year. In addition to the courses the BC Ministry of Education requires for graduation, we'll be offering electives such as Home Ec. Foods, French, Kwakwaka, BC First Nations Studies 12, Art, Guitar, Woodworking, Metalworking, Auto Tech., Social Justice, Physics, Biology, Drama and PE. As usual, class size plays a role in determining the courses that will run next year. A more complete list is on the back of the student course selection sheet that your son/daughter will be bringing home. We ask that you sign the course selection sheet so that we know that the courses they have selected have been approved by you.

LOCAL SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATIONS

Packages will be mailed out on February 17th to Grade 12 students. This package will contain a list of available scholarships and general instructions for applying. Students are encouraged to apply to all scholarships they may be eligible for. Don't assume that the scholarships are exclusively for the top academic students -- ANY graduate planning to further his/her education can apply.

We would like to encourage students to turn in the applications to the school office before the deadline of April 4, 2012 at 4:00 PM. There will be no extensions of the deadline. When students bring in their applications, they must bring in the list of scholarships as well. One of the secretaries will go through the student's package of applications and have the student initial the list for the ones they have brought in. This list is then kept in the office as a record of what was handed in. Please do not bring in applications in envelopes as they will have to be taken out.

PAC parents treated students to a Valentine lunch of hotdogs, drinks and heart shaped cookies which the students decorated.

ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTERS

This month's edition of the NISS News is being sent out by email as well as via Canada Post. If we have an email address on file for your child, this will be the last newsletter you will receive through Canada Post. We will continue to mail newsletters home to those families that have not provided an email address. Should you wish to be added to the electronic mailing list, please send a request to niss@sd85.bc.ca.

FOOD, FOOD AND MORE FOOD

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

The breakfast program is now being offered every morning from 8:00 a.m. to 8:55 a.m. in the Multi-purpose room. Free. Food donations are welcome.

CONCESSION

Concession is open Tuesdays and Fridays at lunch. Orders need to be placed in the office by the end of morning break. Pizza is \$3.00, chicken strips are \$1.00 each, chicken caesar wraps are \$4.50, cheese quesadillas are \$3.50 and strawberry smoothies are \$4.00.

COOKIE DAY

Jumbo chocolate chip cookies are available during morning break on Wednesdays. Cookies are \$1.00 each.

SOUP DAY

Homemade soup, buns and juice are available on Thursdays at lunch. Free.

FOODS PROGRAM

The Foods Program would appreciate any unwanted IGA stamps to use towards replacing damaged knives and adding a set of seven cleavers to our collection. The stamps can be left in Ms. McCrae's box in the office or brought to the Foods room.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS

The grade on grade competition continues.
The current standings are:

Grade 8	85
Grade 9	45
Grade 10	109
Grade 11	74
Grade 12	145

PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEWS

The next PAC meeting is scheduled for Monday March 5th at 5:00 p.m. in the school library.

GROUNDMOLE DAY



The Chemistry 12 students took a break from their busy lab work to celebrate Groundmole day. "Port McNeill Paul" did not see his shadow, which means six less weeks of broken glassware. A mole is a chemistry term that is used to represent a large number of atoms or molecules.

NISS GRAD CLOSET

Do you have any gently used gowns just hanging in your closet taking up space?

Consider supporting the 'Grad Closet'. We have a variety of dresses that are available to NISS and PHSS Grads.

This is a terrific way to save money and reuse those beautiful gowns! Please contact Jacqui Engel at NISS for a private viewing of the gowns. If you find a suitable dress, it is yours to keep. Donations are gratefully accepted.

We accept suits for men, too.

CONGRATULATIONS



Congratulations to Michael Forbister who has been named as Outstanding Youth Citizen of Alert Bay for 2011.



Andrew Mitchell was one of 40 young photographers from across Canada who had their work displayed at the Rideau Canal Skateway in Ottawa this winter. Andrew's

photograph was selected from nearly 300 entries in the National Capital Commission's Eco Art Contest. Congratulations Andrew.

Andrew has also been selected to be part of the Rotary Summer Exchange Program. He will be heading to the Netherland for 6-8 weeks this summer.

GUITAR CLASS

Mrs. Beatty is looking for working guitars, (electric or acoustic) and an amplifier or two. If you have any around the house that you would like to donate, they would be gratefully accepted for use by the Guitar class.

GRAD 2012 INFORMATION

Grads will be holding a car wash and BBQ at IGA on Saturday, February 19th from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Island Foods and the Liquor Store are both accepting recyclables to raise funds for Dry Grad 2012. They will be accepting contributions now through May 2012. Just mention that your returns are for NISS Dry Grad.

The next Student Meeting will be Tuesday, February 28th at lunch in Room 201. The next Parent & Student Meeting will be Thursday, March 1st, 6:30-7:30 p.m. in the library.

Please continue to visit our website at www.niss.sd85.bc.ca and follow our monthly newsletters for further updates.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Feb 17	District In-Service/Pro D Day
Feb 20	Scholarship packages to be mailed out
Mar 19-23	Spring Break
Apr 4	Scholarship applications due by 4:00 p.m.
Apr 6	Good Friday
Apr 9	Easter Monday

Satisfaction Survey 2011-2012

The Provincial Satisfaction Survey is unique in its scope, size and usefulness to schools. It gathers information from parents, teachers and students on topics related to school environment, safety, and achievement. The information is used for planning in individual schools and provides a district and provincial perspective.

Early in **2012** the Satisfaction Survey will be administered to students in grades 10 and 12, their parents, and all school staff. We encourage parents to participate in this survey, as the results are important in identifying and celebrating current strengths, as well as determining where the school needs to focus improvement. The surveys contain standard questions for the Province - in addition, questions from the school and/or district that focus on local conditions or issues may be included.

This year, the survey can be completed electronically and can be accessed on the Internet at http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/sat_survey. Any computer with an Internet connection can be used, and access to the e-survey is simple and secure. All that is required is a logon number that the school will provide to participants. Provincial, District and School Reports for previous years can be viewed at the same site, without a logon number.

The school will be open during the evenings of Monday, February 20th and Monday, February 27th from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m. in Room 318 for parents who would like to participate but do not have access to a computer.

For parents who do not wish to use school computers, local public library computers may be another option.

The e-survey site will be open until April 15th, 2012.

If you have not received your logon number by February 24th, please contact the school at 250-956-3394.

Our central focus is to enable all learners to fulfill their potential.

