

North Island Secondary School

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November 2010

Remembrance Day

The Remembrance Day Assembly organized by the NISS Student Leadership group was very well received by students, staff and visitors. Thank you to the students who were very respectful during the assembly and thank you to the staff, students and guests who contributed to a meaningful assembly.

Author Visit

NISS was pleased to welcome Alert Bay author Diane "Honey" Jacobson to classrooms on October 29th. Ms. Jacobson spoke to students about the process of writing a book and bringing it through to publication. She also provided historical information and informal anecdotes about the Namgis First Nation. Teachers and students were engrossed in her presentations and we greatly appreciate her visit. Thank you Ms. Jacobson!

Extended Student Absences

If you are planning to excuse your child for an extended absence (other than illness or bereavement), please arrange to pick up or download from our website an "Application for Extended Absence" form from the office. This form will require parent and administrator's signatures as well as initials of classroom teachers.

Bus Passes

Parents must provide written permission notes to the office for non-bus students wishing to ride a school bus. These permission notes must be presented in the morning to give Mr. Dixon time to complete a "Non-Registered Passenger" form for the student to pick up later in the day.

Student Absences

If you are sending a note to school with your child regarding an excused absence, please ensure that the note is brought into the office. We will gladly copy the note so that your son or daughter can take it to their teacher. Notes given directly to teachers will not be entered in system as excused absences.

NISS Website

Our website is up and running again. Please visit our site at www.niss.sd85.bc.ca We will be updating and adding items to the site. If you have any suggestions, please contact us in the office and let us know.

Trustee's Message

Dear Parents,

Now that the district is well into the first quarter of the school year allow me to bring you some information of what topics are on the board's agenda at this time and what some issues are that the board will face in the months ahead.

Always of interest to the board at the beginning of a new school year is school enrolment. The number of students enrolled drives the funding the district receives. I'm happy to report that our district's enrolment at 1529 pupils is higher than projected by about a dozen students. Of special interest to the district is the number of students in rural, isolated schools. All of those students, to a certain limit, generate more than \$10,000 each in addition to the funding other students generate.

Of concern to the board are classes exceeding class size regulations and the number of classes with more than three students who require an individual educational plan. Our district staff will continue to work toward resolving these issues. A broader concern to the trustees is the number of children from families living at or below the poverty line. In our province the number of students living in poverty has climbed from one in six to one in five in recent years. There is no question there is a direct correlation between poverty and school performance of children affected. Along with other districts we have contacted the Ministry of Education with this concern, and we'll continue to explore what more we can do in our schools to help.

In the coming months the issues the board will need to address include, among others, creating a new three year district educational plan. Our current plan will end with this school year. The board will call on its partner groups to work with trustees on a new plan for the three years ahead. The future of schools in Port McNeill is a major issue the board with PACs, parents and the community

will need to address in the months ahead. The number of trustees that should make up this district's board and the geographical area they will oversee will also demand board time. In addition, the issue of ongoing insufficient funding will be on board's agendas across the province once more. It is also a problem for boards that the funding available for a succeeding school year is not announced by the Ministry until the previous mid March. This makes planning for the new school year difficult on several fronts.

In the months ahead the board will also work on a number of district policies which need to be revised or updated. The revision of student admission and school choice may be of special interest to you. You can ask to read board policies at your local school or log onto www.sd85.bc.ca for access to the policy manual. Policies about child neglect, suicide intervention and race relation are other policies to come under review in the months ahead.

These issues among others will demand much planning and time. As always, it is my goal to work with other board members in the best interest of all our students.

Sincerely,
W. H. Manke, Trustee

Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)

The next PAC meeting will be held Wednesday, December 1st at 6:30 pm in the Library.

The concession at NISS will hopefully be operational by January thanks to PAC. The School District Maintenance Department is in the process of revamping the concession kitchen to meet Health Board requirements. Parents are getting a menu together and the concession will be open three days a week to start.

Halloween Assembly



Gym Schedule

- Mondays: Badminton 6:30-8:30
- Tuesdays: Gymnastics 3:30-5:30
Wrestling 6:30-8:30
- Wednesdays: Badminton 6:30-8:30
- Thursdays: Gymnastics 3:30-5:30
Wrestling 6:30-8:30
Community Drop In Volleyball 8:30-9:30

Social Justice 12

On October 14, Stephanie Rukin organized a demonstration to bring awareness about Youth Homelessness on the North Island. Other students joined the Social Justice 12 class along Campbell Way holding posters and wearing blue to show support. Kim Cote has just concluded her coin drive in which she raised \$365 that will be donated to Youth Homelessness on the North Island. Please bring any gently-used gloves or mitts to school for the month of November. Mitchell Janveau and Lauren Bono are collecting gloves and mitts to donate to the North Island Salvation Army. Look for more upcoming awareness campaigns.



Youth Homelessness Demonstration

Report Cards

Report cards will be mailed home Wednesday, November 17th. Parents are encouraged to phone or e-mail their son's/daughter's teachers with any concerns or needs for clarification about the progress of their son/daughter. Parent/Teacher Interviews will be on Thursday, November 25th at 6:30 p.m. in the school gymnasium. Appointments are not necessary. Students will be dismissed at 2:00 p.m. on November 25th.

Tundra, the Wolf-dog

On October 28th several classes enjoyed a presentation by Sointula resident Gary Allan and his wolf-dog, Tundra (she is 85% wolf). Gary provided a unique educational experience for the students, dispelling the myths of this beautiful, misunderstood animal.



Senior Boys Soccer Provincials



The road to the provincials was not an easy one but with a lot of help from parents we managed to attend. We came second at the Islands in Victoria, losing to the Provincial winners Glen-Lyon. The Provincials took place in Rossland, near Trail, B.C. This was a long and expensive trip. Thanks to all

parents, and especially to the drivers, the Desrochers, Mr. Kenny, Mrs. Brittain and Mrs. Balcke.

We were seeded low, and found ourselves in a strong group, although we lost our first three games, we played well after early jitters. In the knockout stage we played better winning our next two games, and finished 13th out of sixteen. James Kenny won the most valuable player for our team, playing well in goal and as a striker. I was proud of the team as all tried their best. The trip was a success, the boys were well behaved, and mature, and all had a good time.

P.E. Department

We have Wrestling and Gymnastics teams starting now so if your children are interested in these sports they should see Mr. Mork and he will give them all the information.

Intramural sports are starting again at NISS during lunch, and we will begin with floor hockey, this usually ends with a match against Port Hardy.

Also if you are interested in volunteering your time, we would appreciate the help.
Casey Mork

Junior Canadian Rangers

From Nov. 11-14, 40 students from Port McNeill, Alert Bay and Port Hardy will be taking part in 'Exercise Victoria Vision' as members of the Junior Canadian Rangers. While in Victoria, the students will be get an opportunity to go paintballing, swimming, repelling, as well as test their skills on a military confidence course and finally tour a Canadian Navy frigate. The Port McNeill JCR program is run at NISS every Monday evening from 7:00 to 8:30.

Grad 2011

Grad parents and students held their first meeting on Tuesday, November 9. The meeting was well attended by both parents and students.

Fundraising activities were discussed. There was also a request of parents to serve as executive (chairperson, treasurer, secretary) and on several committees.

The full minutes of the meeting will be posted on NISS website (www.niss.sd85.bc.ca).

The next meeting is Monday, November 22 at 6:30 p.m. in the NISS Library.

Wood Work Projects

Many wonderful projects are being designed and built in our woodwork department. Here are pictures of just a few of them.



DATES TO REMEMBER

- Nov 17: Report cards mailed home
- Nov 25: Parent Teacher Interviews
Classes dismissed at 2:00
- Dec 17: Last day of classes
- Jan 4: School Re-opens