

North Island Secondary School

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NISS NEWS

October 2010

Principal's Message:

You will soon be receiving in the mail a report about your son's/daughter's progress at North Island Secondary School. Because we are using the new software program, the reports have a different look to them. We try to get these interim reports to parents soon after students have settled into classes and have had the opportunity to demonstrate how and what they are learning. If you have any questions about the report you receive, please contact your son's or daughter's teacher. All teaching staff can be reached by telephone at 250-956-3394, or by e-mail using their address that can be found at www.niss.sd85.bc.ca.

Vice Principal Mr. Jay Dixon:



We would like to introduce Mr. Jay Dixon, our new Vice-Principal. He graduated from NISS in 1995. He spent several years travelling and working throughout the world. He

returned to the North Island 5 years ago and has spent the last 3 years as Vice-Principal at Port Hardy Secondary. He is excited to be back working in his home community.

He believes NISS is a great school to be working at and has noticed that students,

staff and parents are full of positive energy. He is looking forward to many years in the future getting to know students and working together to make a positive difference in the community.

His initial focus is ensuring students are in class and the school is a safe place to learn in.

Mr. Dixon is here at 7:30 in the morning and can be reached by calling the main office number. His email is jdixon@sd85.bc.ca

Welcome, Mr. Dixon.

Work Experience:

If your son or daughter is in grade 11 or 12 and has a job, they can earn up to 8 credits with their employment. They simply have to see Ms. Kennedy (Room 101) to sign up and receive a booklet to start recording their hours. Students can also earn these credits through volunteer services at approved work sites. For more information please contact Ms. Kennedy.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Elena Rardon (Class of 2010) for being an "Award of Excellence" winner in the 2010 Poetry Institute of Canada's National Short Story Competition for young writers aged 12-18. Elena received second place for her story "Summer Spit".

The following is Elena's story.

Summer Spit

This summer was buzzing lights and beer bottles; cars thrumming with urgent sound and the sticky smell of gasoline. The heavy air pushed me down on the trampoline, and with bare, sun-brown legs in the sky, I watched the boy next door watching me. We chased each other through sprinklers, long arms and legs wild with ungainly grace. I remember chain-link fences and chlorine and the click-click of bicycle chains worn down. I remember water always tasted best from the hose.

That summer, we stayed out too late, and the fireflies and starlight stayed out with us. I was fifteen, I was barefoot, and I was never-ending youth. We ran through the long grass that was just about taller than me. The spit-bugs had their eyes on that grass, and they cocooned themselves to it and clung to my bare legs and stuck to my skirt so I was covered in sticky bug-foam - that's why the spit-bugs remind me of sunshine kisses and hot breath and "I love you" spoken too soon.

Sometimes I drive past the place where the convenience store used to be, with 24-hour neon lights, and I remember sucking on ice when the evening sun was in my eyes. I remember that's where he was when he said, "See you next summer," but I never did see him again. That convenience store was torn down last summer, and that's when I learned that fireflies and starlight are the same, because they're both so far above us, and you only love a boy like that once.

Elena Rardon (age 18)

North Island Secondary School

Donation to Kingcome Residents:

On September 28th, several boxes of toiletries were sent over to Alert Bay from NISS for Kingcome residents that were forced out of their homes due to flooding. We hope they will have some return to normalcy soon.

Thanks to the students and staff of NISS for their donations.



Parent Advisory Committee (PAC):

The next PAC meeting will be held Wednesday, November 3 at 6:30 pm in the Library.

At the October 6th PAC meeting, re-opening the NISS Concession was discussed. We have several very enthusiastic parents and we're looking for a few more. A list has been posted in the office asking students to let us know what kinds of foods they would like to have offered in the concession. We do need to remember that the School Food and Nutrition Guidelines do not allow fatty, sugary or very salty foods to be served. Any parents who would like to help with the concession or soup day, please contact Mrs. Deadman or the office staff.



School Start-up Barbeque:

On Thursday September 30th, the students and staff were treated to a school start-up barbeque. Vice Principal Mr. Dixon was the chief cook

and organizer and was assisted by some staff members and students. The barbeque was enjoyed by all and we hope to have many more events like these in the coming months.



Student Council News:



On Friday, October 8th, Student Council held the Annual Turkey Trot. Students

were tied together, three legged style and timed to complete the wacky course. Students and staff donated canned goods or \$2.00, which was all donated to our local food bank. An example of NISS giving thanks!

Staff:

We wish to welcome Ms. Debbie Huddleston, who is filling the Learning Assistance position until Molly Dixon's return in second semester.

Attendance Reporting:

Phone/Email attendance reporting is now up and running. Should you have questions regarding your child's attendance please call or respond to the Email.

If you are receiving phone calls and would prefer Email notification, please contact the office.

Parents are reminded to please call the office to excuse your child if he/she is away.

Pictures From Around The School



Young Scientists

Hard at work



FOODS 9/10 CLASS

Recently you may have noticed some students picking berries near the basketball court. They were picking blackberries to use in their Foods 9 and 10 class.



ARTWORK IN THE SCHOOL

We are very excited to have Mrs. Kathleen McArthur back at our school as our Art teacher. The school is again full of student artwork. Please take a walk through the school to see the impressive displays.



Grad 2011:

A date for the School Leaving Ceremony has not been set as yet. Please watch for updates in the next few months.



DATES TO REMEMBER

Oct 18: Interims mailed home

Oct 22: Pro D Day

Nov 11: Remembrance Day

Nov 12: Pro D Day

Nov 17: Report cards mailed home

