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www.phss.ca

# Port Hardy Secondary School

# NEWS

*Home Of The Whalers*

February 2016

Volume 16 Issue 4

## Upcoming Events

### February

- 8 Family Day—No School
- 15-16 Grad Photos
- 19 District Pro-D In-Service Day
- 29 Non-Instructional Day

### March

- 10 Parent-Teacher Interviews
- 11 Interim Reports Mailed Home
- 18 Semester 1 School Awards Mailed Home
- 21-1 Spring Break
- 25 Good Friday
- 28 Easter Monday

### April

- 4 Classes Resume
- 15 End of Term 3

## Grad Photos

Grad photos are happening on February 15-16. Check the office for your time slot. Retakes will be on March 10th.

## Visitors

We would like to remind any visitors to please sign in at the office upon arrival.

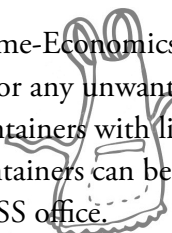
## Principal's Message

Where did the time go??! It is hard to believe that we are half way through the school year as we start into our second semester. It was impressive to see how hard students have worked since the Christmas break to finish off their Semester One courses and study for final and provincial exams. There has been a positive energy with the start of Semester Two as students begin new courses with new teachers. We have a lot of exciting things happening from now until June!

We will start the course selection process for next year's courses soon. We are excited to be offering Chemistry 12, Physics 12, Calculus 12 and French 11/12 through a "blended model". It has been past practice to offer these courses alternating every second year. However, for the 2016-17 school year we will be working with teachers at both

## Plastic Containers Needed

The Home-Economics department is asking for any unwanted small plastic containers with lids for donation. Containers can be dropped off at the PHSS office.



NISS and PHSS to bring these courses to students in Port Hardy and Port McNeill. Through video conferencing, face-to-face interactions and on site labs, we will be able to offer students a rich experience in these higher academic courses. Please contact Ms. Burt for further information

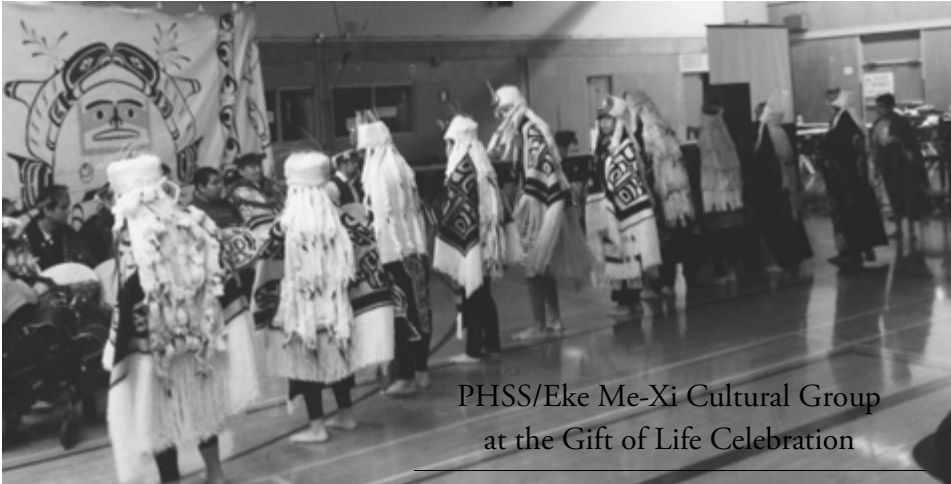
**Patti Burt, Principal**

250-949-7443 ext. 3222

[pburt@sd85.bc.ca](mailto:pburt@sd85.bc.ca)

## Parent/Teacher Interviews

In order to better address the needs of parents and students, PHSS is changing when and how we run parent/teacher interviews. For Semester 2 we will be having the P/T interviews earlier in the semester so parents and teachers have the opportunity to connect earlier in the semester. P/T interviews will be held **Thursday, March 10 from 7:00 - 8:30pm**. Interviews will also now be **by appointment** instead of drop ins. We saw how frustrating it can be for some parents to be waiting up to 2 hours to catch all the teachers they need to see. We will start taking appointment times two weeks before the interviews are scheduled.



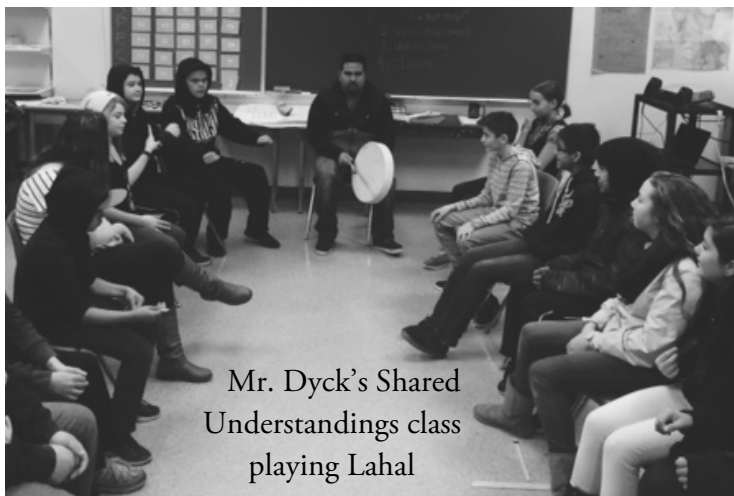
PHSS/Eke Me-Xi Cultural Group  
at the Gift of Life Celebration

## Non-Instructional Day—February 29

The Ministry of Education has directed school districts to hold two additional non-instructional days during which school staff will focus on the new curriculum. These non-instructional days will take place on Monday, February 29, and Tuesday, May 24. On Monday, February 29, there will be no school for students; however, staff will be learning about the new curriculum – what it is and why the change. Parents and community members are welcome to

attend this informational day. If you are interested in attending, please contact Lori Deacon at the School Board Office to register (250-949-6618 local 2235).

Get more information about the new curriculum at this site. <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca>



Mr. Dyck's Shared  
Understandings class  
playing Lahal



Mr. Williams' class learning about  
t'hubakwilanu'xw with Wade Charlie

## Vice-Principal's Message

There has been a positive, vibrant energy in the school with the start of a new semester. It is nice to see that students seem excited about their new courses. We want to give each student the best chance to excel throughout the semester. If your child needs to be absent from school for any period of time, please call in to let us know. This will give us the chance to prepare course materials for them so that they do not fall behind, or to plan for their return to class to make sure that this transition goes smoothly.

I look forward to helping support learners throughout this second semester. Please contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

**Adrian Pendergast**

**Vice-Principal**

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apendergast@sd85.bc.ca

## Vancouver Island Crisis Line: 1-888-494-3888

Helping People Find Their Way

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alone.

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[www.vicrisis.ca](http://www.vicrisis.ca)