



NEWS

Port Hardy Secondary School

Volume 13 Number 3 January, 2012
Check out our website at www.phss.ca

Home Of The Whalers

Principal's Message

First semester classes ended January 20, 2012, and students at PHSS are now writing first semester exams. Junior school students write school final exams in all those subjects that lead to or have provincial exams in the senior grades. Graduation program students, in Grades 10, 11, and 12 must write exams in math 10, science 10, English Language Arts 10, Social Studies 11, and English Language Arts 12.

With the end of the first semester we say goodbye to Adrian Pendergast who has been teaching science and English. Adrian will be missed. For the second semester we welcome Mike Cleary who will be teaching science, physical education, and English.

Teacher job action is continuing, so only grade 12 students will have final marks entered into report cards. Please note that grade 12 English Language Arts exams constitute 40% of a student's final mark in a grade 12 course. These exams are marked externally; results generally take 30 days or so to reach schools.

At the grades 10 and 11 levels, provincial exams which have a locally marked

component will be marked by teachers so the Ministry will be able to get provincial exam marks as usual. Students *other* than those registered in grade 12 will not get marks for first semester courses so final marks for courses, including those in which provincial exams have been written, will not be available until after the strike is over. As a consequence, if your student is not in grade 12, your student's report card will only carry attendance information.

As always, parents can contact teachers individually to get an update on their student's progress.

Teaching staff holds promotion meetings at the end of each semester. Our school promotion meetings will take on added significance this year, as the promotion meeting will be the only place administration will receive information as to which students may need to have timetables adjusted for the second semester. We have set February 3, 2012, as the final day for any timetable changes for students; all changes must be in place by or before this date.

As the second semester begins, we look

forward to more daylight and many exciting activities in and around the school. Basketball is in full swing with a senior boys team having home games and travelling down island for the first time in many years. Two of our wrestlers, Dusty Cadwallader and Graham Wiggins travelled to the provincials, where Graham qualified for the nationals there.

In February, we look forward to the first visit in a series of well-known Aboriginal writers, beginning at PHSS with a day with Duncan Mercredi's presentations and workshops. Later in the month, the Geneskool team will provide DNA related workshops for science classes.

We are already planning for next year by projecting enrolment which will determine staffing. Students will be making course selections for next year in February and we will be creating next year's timetable through the spring.

Steve Gray,

Principal



Tech Ed. Class

A new kitchen play set for Eagleview school would have cost over \$800.00. With the help of the senior and junior PHSS Tech Ed. department it has been refurbished and is being well used in a Kindergarten class at EVES.

Upcoming Events

February

- 3 Last Day for Student Timetable Changes
- 17 District Professional Development/In-service Day

March

- 9 Interim Reports – Term Three
- 16 Semester One School Awards Mailed Home
- 19-23 Spring Break
- 26 Classes resume

April

- 5 End of Term Three
- 6-9 Easter Holiday
- 10 Term Four Begins
- 16 Formal Reports Mailed Home

Welcome to Mr. Cleary who can be reached at extension 3320

Mr. Prong can now be reached at extension 3696



Drama Club News

The Drama Club will be travelling to Courtenay for the North Island Regional Drama Festival, or N.I.R.D. Fest on February 23, 24 and 25. We plan to bring fourteen cast and crew to put on our play *The Magic Fairy in the Microwave*. PHSS has sent groups to this festival in the past and from what I've heard it has always been a positive, rewarding experience. Wish us luck!

Mr. Boyko



Room 615

(First Nations Program)

Happy New Year's everyone! This semester promises to be action packed and exciting for all who are involved in planning. Next month, we will be presenting a workshop to grade eights and if time allows we will present to the grade nines on sexual health, healthy relationships and building self-esteem. The workshop would be set up in the same manner as a healing circle; each presenter will sit randomly throughout the circle of girls. Presenters will speak from their individual perspectives, for examples an elder would speak on the personal responsibilities of young women, a nurse would speak on sexual health ... and so on. I believe we will be screening National Geographic's video "in the WOMB" will add dramatic visuals, assisting in teaching girls about pregnancy. Each girl would have a bag placed on her chair with items like a journal, pen, water, pamphlets and possible other self-care products.

The diversity group is working on a project for Anti-Bullying Day, on February 29. I don't have any details at this time; however, the ideas which are being discussed are creative and exciting. These youth have talents, energy and leadership skills.

I wanted everyone to know that we are still counseling youth around grief. If you or students need our services, please let me know. I can be contacted at ext. 3615 or in room 615.

Thank you for your time and I hope everyone has a wonderful year.

Brigette Avoine

First Nations Youth Worker

Vice Principal's Message

I look forward to my new teaching assignment for semester two, Social Justice 12. I hope to see the various students involved with projects in the school and the community as they develop their moral and ethical compass to issues locally and globally. One of the projects that we will be involved with this spring is the 30 hour famine.

Student Council is busy planning events for semester two. They will be selling chocolates and flowers to give away to your sweetie for Valentine's Day. They are also busy planning other spirit activities like their recent Salad Week where students were encouraged to dress for each salad dressing. They also gave away free salad three days at lunch. The

points that each grade receive for each event go towards a year end prize of a BBQ at Storey's beach.

Thank you to all the people that supported the hamper fund before Christmas with donations. I received my free yearly haircut due your generosity of over 1 000 items.

At the recent Campbell River Wrestling tournament, every one of the wrestlers that attended received a medal in their weight class. They will be going to Port Alberni this weekend for the final meet before the Islands and then Provincials. The Basketball team will be participating in the North Island championships in Gold River on Feb. 17th and 18th. Good luck to all our athletes and thank

you to their coaches.

Presentations will be made to a variety of students over the next few months from authors such as Duncan Mercredi, scientists, guests from Fiji, a Shakespeare production, and the Enhancement Agreement signing at the Big House in Fort Rupert. I would also encourage students to prepare Science Fair projects for the Regional Science Fair being held at the Civic Centre April 5th. There are monetary prizes to be won and a chance to attend the National Science Fair in PEI. See Mr. Fleeton for details.

Mr. M. Fleeton,

Vice Principal