



NEWS

Port Hardy Secondary School

Volume 13 Number 2 November, 2012
Check out our website at www.phss.ca

Home Of The Whalers

Principal's Message

The first quarter of the school year is already over with this first report card and second term has begun. Parent-Teacher Night at PHSS is November 22 in the gym, from 7:00 to 8:30 pm. Please come and speak to your student's teachers that night. The connection between parents and teachers is very important as we work together to get the best results for students.

Our breakfast program continues this year, with our vice-principal, Malcolm Fleeton, ensuring students get bagels before school on Wednesday mornings. This year, Stephanie Nelson, our Connections Worker is helping Malcolm with this program. Many students are grateful for a warm breakfast in the morning and we really appreciate their good efforts.

Our PHSS community is focusing efforts on building academic skills of our younger students. We have moved to year-long courses for our grade 8 and 9 students; teachers are working together to build consistent course and behaviour expectations for all students. Your input is needed and

welcomed as we work to ensure all our students are ready for the graduation program. Please join us at a Parent Advisory Council meeting, or phone or send me an email if you have something you would like to add to the conversation. Our Parent Advisory Council meets the third Monday of each month in the PHSS Learning Centre/Library. This month, our meeting is November 19, at 7 pm. We hope to see you there.

We welcome Michael Bortolotto, a motivational speaker from Nanaimo, back to our school this year during the last week of November. The last time Michael was here, the gym full of students was so quiet and still as they paid rapt attention to his presentation that the automatic lights went out- a unique occurrence for most schools. We thank the Gwa'sala 'Nakwaxda'xw council, Port McNeill Rotary, School District 85 District Parent Advisory Council, and school Parent Advisory Councils for helping to fund Michael's presentations in the district this year.

At the end of October, our grade 12 students and our grade 8 students sat down together to give the grade 12s the

opportunity to get to know the grade 8s and to pass on some hard-earned knowledge about how to succeed in high school. The meeting was an interesting event for all concerned, forging new relationships and understandings between junior and senior students. We hope to provide additional mentorship opportunities throughout the school year for our senior students to work with younger ones.

It has been a busy year so far, with our new timetable for junior students, our expanding opportunities for First Nations students to learn traditional language and culture, our sports teams that have travelled to provincial competitions, and our student ambassadors who, with a team of district staff and PAC members, travelled to a Ministry of Education institute held to explore options for re-designing secondary school education. We appreciate your support and your input as we work together to ensure the best possible experiences and outcomes for our students.

Steve Gray
250-949-7443 Ext.3222
sgray@sd85.bc.ca



Halloween Assembly

Thank you to all the staff and students who participated in the costume walk. Congratulations to Thomas Wamiss and Dennine Reid for first place.



PHSS Grad News



Fundraising:

Purdy's - Orders Due Nov. 22

Bottle Depot - There is an account for donations at the Bottle Depot.

Bottle Drives - Jan 6, 2013

Christmas Raffle - EVES Christmas Bazaar and Thunderbird Mall

Cookies by the Pound - Nov 24 - Thunderbird Mall

Next Meeting - Nov 13 @7pm in Rm. 300

Gilaskasda'xw'la!!

I am Stephanie Nelson, the PHSS First Nations Connections Worker as well as a member of the First Nations Support Team. This position was created from the Enhancement Agreement consultation process (2010) to provide additional support services to students through a more holistic vision. Areas of focus for the position are to monitor attendance, to support specific student transitions, to provide academic support, to advocate for students and their needs, and to provide intervention/prevention measures by connecting with students, staff, family and community support systems to increase student success.

First Nations Parents Club Meeting - Nov 26 @5-7pm in Rm. 615

Student-Led Cultural Group Tuesdays @Lunch in M.P Room

White Elephant Sale Nov 21-22. We are still looking for donations of gently used items to include in the sale.

If you have any questions, feel free to call me.

Stephanie Nelson

250-949-7443 Ext.3233

Vice-Principal's Message

Thank you to all the participants in the recent Remembrance Day assembly. Extra appreciation goes to the Royal Canadian Legion, Port Hardy Junior Rangers, and the Student Council members.

The next project for the Student Council will be sponsoring a scavenger hunt. Students will compete by grade to gather the most items on the list. Some items are harder to find than others and are worth more points. Lists will be posted around the school. Good luck to each grade.

The school will be collecting food for the hamper fund again this year. We would like to collect more than 3000 non-perishable items. Some of the staff will be offering incentives to the students to try and collect the items. All items must be in and counted by Wednesday, December 19th.

The Student Council will be sponsoring an assembly at 12:15 p.m. on Friday, December 21st where some games and events will occur. A few groups from around the school will provide some entertainment fitting to the season.

A free breakfast will be offered to all students on Friday, December 21st from 8:00 a.m. onwards. Eggs, sausages, bacon, and pancakes will be served in the Multi-Purpose Room.

In sports news, Wrestling is happening each Tuesday and Thursday evening with a new coach, Mr. Tyler Preece. There are both girls and boys teams and a great way to get physically fit. Basketball is also happening every day after school with girls practicing on Mondays and Wednesdays while the boys practice Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thank you to all the coaches that are helping out with basketball.

Don't forget the free bagels and milk available every Wednesday before school at the concession.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to contact me.

Malcolm W. Fleeton

Vice-Principal

250-949-7443 local 3223

Upcoming Events

November

22 Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews

7:00-8:30 in the Gym

Early Dismissal - 1:15pm

December

20 Interim Reports - Term 2

21 Last day of Classes Before Christmas break

January

7 Classes Resume

21 School-Based Pro-D Day

25 Last Day of Classes

28 Final Exams Begin

BC's EDUCATION PLAN

For information on BC's Education Plan visit

www.bcedplan.ca

PHSS PAC News



Officers:

Chairperson - Vicki Howard

Vice-Chair - Vacant

Treasurer - Nadine Gough

Secretary - Vacant

DPAC Rep - Heather Jones

School Planning Council:

Heather Jones, Georgina Speck, Vicki Howard

Next Meeting - Nov 19 @7pm in Library

