



NEWS

Port Hardy Secondary School

Volume 14 Number 1 September, 2013
Check out our website at www.phss.ca

Home Of The Whalers

Principal's Message

It has been my pleasure and a privilege to welcome returning and new students to Port Hardy Secondary School this September. Many of the faces are familiar, as I've lived in Port Hardy with my family for twenty-three years, and I've been a principal at Coal Harbour Elementary School and Eagle View Elementary School over the years.

One thing that's common to all of the students I've met over the past two weeks is their desire for learning and their generous hearts. With those assets, and the strengths and commitment demonstrated by the teaching and support staff at Port Hardy School, I know that we are on the right path to providing your children with an education that is going to equip them for an unknown future.

We want to work with you, the parents and guardians of our students, so that together we work to engage our young people in learning, and being the best that they can be.

Please don't hesitate to contact me if I can be of assistance to you.

Mrs. Lauren Deadman
Principal

PHSS PAC News

The PHSS Parent Advisory Council is always looking for parents to participate in meetings and other activities around the school. If you are interested in coming to a PAC meeting, please feel free to join us. No commitment necessary.

Next Meeting: September 19th @7pm in the Library



PHSS Inquiry Project



This year our school's Inquiry Project focus is improving Grade 8 and 9 literacy skills. It is anticipated that this project will span two years as there is a benefit to collecting data over a number of consecutive years. Baseline data was collected last June when all grade 8 students wrote a personal response passage. This year grade 8 and 9 students will be writing three written passages in order to demonstrate growth on a learning continuum. Initial writes will occur this month followed by grade-wide writes in January and June.

On our first In-service day staff targeted specific skill building strategies that will foster improvement in student reading and writing. These strategies will be implemented school-wide and across all subject areas; and the staff is committed to introducing, modeling and integrating a number of instructional techniques within the next two months. Staff will revisit, review, and refine school-wide teaching practices with the continuing goal of improving literacy skills through real-world connections.

Robert Fyles
Teacher of Math and Science

PHSS Website

The PHSS website is undergoing some changes. Please bear with us while we get it back up and running. Check us out soon at www.phss.ca



Post-Secondary Institution Visits



On September 25, representatives from six post-secondary institutions will be visiting PHSS. Grade 12 students will have the opportunity to speak with them from 9:00 - 10:00 am.



Passport to Education

The Ministry of Education has started phasing out the Passport to Education program. There will be no Passport to Education stamps granted for Grade 10s in 2014.

Grade 11 and 12 stamps will be phased out in 2015 and 2016 respectively.

Upcoming Events

September

- 19 PAC Meeting - 7pm (3rd Thursday of each month)
- 27 School Photo Day

October

- 3 Meet the Staff Evening - 6:00 - 7:30
- 11 Interim Report Mailed Home
- 14 Thanksgiving Day
- 25 Provincial Professional Development Day
- 30 School Photo Re-takes

November

- 8 End of Term One
- 11 Remembrance Day
- 12 Term Two Begins
- 15 Formal Reports Mailed Home
- 21 Parent-Student-Teacher Interviews - 7:00 - 8:30
- 22 School-Based Professional Development Day

Date Changes (make changes on calendar magnet)

- October 30 School Photo Re-takes
- June 7 Graduation Day



We are pleased to announce that our school will be continuing with the **BC School Fruit and Vegetable Nutritional Program**

Please advise the office of any food allergies.



IAP Kids Plus Accident Insurance

If you are interested, please pick up an Enrolment Form at the office.

For more information visit:
www.kidsplus.ca

Vice-Principal's Message

Moving to Port Hardy Secondary School after working in all 3 elementary schools in Port Hardy is kind of like moving to a new room in an old house— there's familiarity all around, but the space is different. I've reconnected with many former students, and I am quite impressed at what time has helped to accomplish for these folks.

It will be my goal to increase opportunities for student leadership in the coming year. Student leaders are those who endeavor make a difference in the lives of their peers at school. Mr. Dunlap and I look forward to supporting student leadership through PHSS's Students' Council. If you have any suggestions or ideas that would engage our students or raise the profile of our school in the community, we will always be willing to listen.

I have a good feeling about this school, and the potential that we all have to make an impact on our future. It will be my pleasure to serve this school community this year and in the years to come.

Frank MacLean
Vice-Principal