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Principal's Message

I hope everyone has eased into the New Year. January has quickly passed us by and, as hard as it may be to believe, our grade 10-12 students are now beginning the second semester of the school year.

I would like to thank all the parents, staff and students who helped to make December and January so memorable. In December, we had a multi-age Winter Pageant – it was organized by Kristina H., one of our parents, and included students from Kindergarten to grade 10. It was a great way to bring in the winter break. On January 12, we had a presentation from the Camp Quality Puppeteers; their puppet show addresses the topic of cancer, and illustrates the importance of compassion, friendship and support.



(A scene from the Winter Pageant.)

In the next few weeks, we will be organizing hosting a voluntary Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser. This is an opportunity for students to learn to skip and to raise money for people with Heart and Stroke challenges. Events like this remind us of the opportunities we all have to make a difference in other people's lives.

Have a great February.

Sincerely,
Patrick Young

Scent, Citrus & Nut Free



Due to staff and student allergies, Island ConnectEd is a: **Citrus Free, Scent Free, and Nut Sensitive Site.** Please help keep our learning environment safe for all by keeping our site free of these items!

Important Dates

Following are upcoming important dates:

K-9 First Summative Report	Feb. 10
Chapters Fundraiser (6:30-9 PM)	Feb. 10
BC Family Day (No School)	Feb. 13
Gr.4: Vancouver Island Symphony	Feb. 17
ProD (<i>Students Don't Attend</i>)	Feb. 20
ProD (<i>Students Don't Attend</i>)	Feb. 21
Pink Shirt Day	Feb. 22
Performance: Teddy Anderson	Feb. 22
Last Day of K-7 Winter Classes	Feb. 28
Spring Break	Mar.18- Apr.2
DL Conference (Many Staff offsite)	April 5-6
Good Friday (Holiday)	April 14
Easter Monday (<i>Holiday</i>)	April 17
K-7's Spring Lessons (<i>Tentative</i>)	April 18-May 18
ProD (<i>Students Don't Attend</i>)	May 12
Victoria Day	May 22
Last "Official" Day of School	June 29

- *PAC meetings are the 3rd Tuesday of the month. (10 AM at the school.)*

Chapter's Fundraiser for Our Library

Chapters and the staff of **Island ConnectEd** cordially invite you to a community FUNdraising event.



Date: Friday, February 10th from 6:30-9PM
Place: Chapters, Nanaimo

Come out and go shopping while supporting Island ConnectEd K-12. With every purchase of regularly priced, in-store items at Chapters on this special evening, up to 20% of the purchase will be donated directly back to Island ConnectEd K-12!

K-7 Winter Lessons

We hope all of our students are enjoying the winter lessons. It has been wonderful seeing many of our new families getting an opportunity to meet other students in our school.

There is an important calendar update. Due to a Professional Development day on February 21, there are no lessons on that day. We will, however, host the final Tuesday lesson on February 28th – the daily schedule will be the same.

Grade 4 – Vancouver Island Symphony



On February 17, a small group of our grade 4 students are joining other grade 4 students from across our district to attend a performance of our Vancouver Island Symphony at the Port Theatre – Patrick has been in contact with the families that are attending. This is a wonderful introduction to the symphony for our younger students.

In preparation for the event, our grade 4 students are invited to meet with Scott MacInnis, a bass trombonist, from 1-2 PM on Thursday, February 16th at the Nanaimo North Branch Library.

Closed Rooms When Unsupervised By Staff: Library, MPR, Computer Lab and Gym

Due to safety concerns, we want all students and families to be aware that the library, multi-purpose room (MPR), computer lab and Gym (and possibly other school areas) will be closed when no staff member is available to supervise these areas.

During family drop-in times or K-7 lessons, areas will be open with the understanding that students will be supervised by their parents.

Self-Managers, due to having permission from both parents and teachers, are allowed to work in unsupervised areas with teacher permission. In an earlier Newsletter, we introduced our Self-Manager program. To become a self-manager, students complete an application form where they reflect on their leadership skills, and where they are required to get a parent signature and a staff signature (normally, the staff member that oversees the

student's studies most closely). Forms may be picked up from the office or from teachers.

FIRST Lego League



On Saturday, February 4, our FIRST Lego Team completed in a Robotics challenge in Victoria. While the weather created challenges, it couldn't prevent Mrs. Massey and Sydney N. from making the trek down for the competition. Sydney represented the team in the tech challenge and the team's robot performed with skill and precision resulting in the team winning the "Rising Stars" award for great accomplishments by a First Year team. Well done! Team Members include: Morgan K., Ryan S., Max C., Pascalle L-B., Brendan M., Sydney N., and Lochlan S.

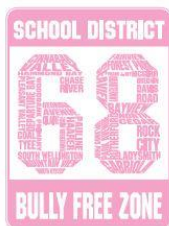
Performance: Teddy Anderson



Mark February 22, 2017, into your calendar. Teddy Anderson will be presenting his Hoop Dance performance in our gym at 9 AM. This is a dynamic performance appropriate for all ages. Parents are invited to attend the performance.

Anti-Bullying & Pink Shirt Day

February 22th is Anti-Bullying / Pink Shirt Day. Students are encouraged to wear pink shirts on this day to both show school spirit and to help raise awareness of the importance of having the often silent majority stand up against unhealthy and bullying behaviours. Special pink shirts are sold at many local businesses – keep an eye out for them.



Winter Skating



Our PAC has booked more free drop-in family skating times for the new year. Skating started on January 18th, and runs until March 8th; that's nine weeks of skating fun. They all occur on Wednesdays from 1:30 PM to 3 PM. Whole families are encouraged to participate. Please see our list-serve communications for more information.

A New Way to Register For School in 2017

For families new to the district or switching schools, there is a new process to register your child in Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools that will begin on January 11, 2017. The following information will help determine if this process will apply to you.

Take a moment and ask yourself the following questions:

- Is my child new to Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools?
- Do I have a child that will be turning five years old on or before December 31, 2017?
- Do I want to register my child in French Immersion?
- Do I want to register my child in Late French Immersion?
- Do I want to register my child at Departure Bay Eco-School?
- Do I want to register my child in secondary academies? (Hockey, Soccer, Beach Volleyball, Lacrosse, Baseball, Performing Arts or Jazz)
- Do I want to apply for a school transfer request (out-of-catchment)?

Before you begin, you will need the following:

- 1) A valid email address
- 2) Photo or scan showing proof of citizenship (ie. Birth certificate)
- 3) Photo or scan showing proof of Canadian residency (ie. Mortgage or bank statement, utility bill, driver's license, etc.)

Online registration began on **Wednesday, January 11, 2017** Pacific Standard Time.

New Academy, Out of Catchment and Out of District student registrations will be prioritized by date and time submitted online. Deadline was **January 31, 2017**.

For more information please visit the district website or by emailing ereg@sd68.bc.ca.

School Closures Due To Weather



If schools are closed due to snow, or any other weather-related problems, announcements will be on local radio stations (WOLF 106.9 FM and WAVE 102.3 FM) by 7 a.m. on the day of the closure. Please do not call the radio station – tune in and listen for the announcements, which will be made on a regular basis.

In addition, the district will post the information on the district's website, Twitter and Facebook, unless there are technical problems or a power outage.

List-Serves

If you haven't already signed up for our list-serves, please do so at your earliest convenience.

To sign-up for the information list-serve, go to this web link:

https://wwwssl.sd68.bc.ca/Parent_Subscription/ice_k-12.htm

*To sign-up for the discussion list-serve, go to this web link (**Note:** The first time you sign up you will need to create a password):*

https://wwwssl.sd68.bc.ca/Parent_Subscription/islandconnectedk12_discussions.htm