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**Principal's Message**

Thanks everyone for a wonderful February. The Pink Shirt Day is always a great reminder that we can all help make the world a more kind place; please help spread kindness through all the months of the year.



We hope all of our students are well into their studies for the second half of the school year. With Spring Break being just a few days away this means we are quickly entering the final three months of the school year.

The Island ConnectEd staff wish everyone a very enjoyable and relaxing Spring Break. The break starts at the end of the school day on Friday, March 15, and reopens on Monday, April 1<sup>st</sup> (That isn't a joke!).

Sincerely,  
Patrick Young

**Important Dates**

Following are some of our upcoming important dates. Please check out our ["Year At A Glance"](#) calendar under the "Students & Parents" section of our website for a more comprehensive list of dates.

Spring Break Begins	Saturday, March 16
Spring Break Ends	Sunday, March 31
100 Day Celebration	Thursday, April 4th
ArtStart: Andy the Musical Scientist	Thursday April 11 (9AM)
Science World Tip K-12	Wednesday April 17th
Good Friday	Friday, April 19
Easter Monday	Monday, April 22
World Food and Culture Day	Thursday, April 25
<b>Secondary: Term 3 Ends</b>	Friday, April 18
<b>Provincial Exams (En &amp; Com)</b>	Thursday, April 25 & Friday, April 26
Garden Rock Painting Event (More info to come)	Thursday, May 2
<b>(Elem)School Track Meet (w/ Coal Tyee)</b>	Wednesday, May 8

- PAC meetings are usually held on the third Thursday of each month in our Parent Room (Rm. 106).

**Scent, Citrus & Nut Free**



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

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**PAC Fundraisers**

Our PAC would like to remind families of our two ongoing PAC fundraisers, (a) if buying items from Cobb's Bakery, please mention "Island ConnectEd" and a portion of your purchase will be donated to our school's PAC, and (b) if you shop at the Country Grocer, please submit receipt in the envelop on the PAC board.

## Grade 3-7: Track and Field

Our Grade 3-7 Track and Field season is starting shortly. Students interested in participating are asked to look for the sign-up form recently sent out by Mrs. Watford. Practices will be held on Tuesdays (following our onsite lessons) with an additional optional practice held on Thursdays.

## Grade 11-12 Course (Enrolment & Completion Deadlines)

*Our grade 11 and 12 course registration is now closed. A reminder that due to the change in curriculum for July, all grade 11 and 12 courses must be finished before the end of June.*

Our teachers are actively working on creating their new courses that align with the redesigned curriculum. It will take time for all the courses to be available. Teachers will update the projected course release dates – please look under the “Parent & Student” tab on our school’s website.

## 100 Days of School

On Thursday, April 4<sup>th</sup>, at 9:30 AM, our K-7 students will be celebrating “**100 Days of School**” for the 2018-2019 School year. Please see the April/May Lesson Sign-up form (sent out by Mrs. Watford) for more information about this fun event!

## ArtStart: Andy the Musical Scientist

Come join us at 9 AM on Thursday, April 11<sup>th</sup> for our second Artstart presenter of the year: Andy the Musical Scientist. This is a free event.

Andy uses homemade instruments and humor to demonstrate technology in music, scientific principles of sound and even recycling. Come and enjoy the experience.

## World Food and Culture Day

We will be holding our third annual “World Culture and Food Festival on Thursday, April 25<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM to Noon.



World Food & Culture Day is a fun social event that provides an opportunity for our K-12 students to explore different cultures and their foods.

Students may work independently, partner-up or

work in a small group to create a display or presentation (clothing, relics, poster board etc.) and to share some tasty food (recipes) about the culture of the country of their choice. The event will take place in our gym with each country (student/group) given their own table. Students, Parents and Guests are encouraged to explore and have a taste of each country.

A short sign up survey was emailed out by Mrs. Watford (K-7) and Mrs. Doucette (8-12).

The more people the merrier. During the event, students, parents and guests are encouraged to explore the different presentations and to have a taste of each country.

## First Tech Challenge: BC Championships



The 2019 First Tech Challenge (FTC) BC Championships included 18 teams from across BC and Washington State. Teams of students in grades 7 to 12 designed and built robots to do a variety of tasks and overcome detailed challenges. Each year the challenges are released in September and students work through a design process and learn construction and programming technology to solve the challenges. Teams get together several times over the season to work together, share ideas and have mini-competitions to test their designs and skills against each other. The BC Championships occur in February and the top two teams qualify for the FTC World Championship in Houston, Texas.

The 2019 Island Connect Ed FTC team consisted of 6 students in grades 8 and 9. Overall, the team ranked 13<sup>th</sup> out of the 18 teams at the BC Championships. But ... Our team won one of the two prestigious Judges Awards this year; an award given by the judging panel to teams whose unique efforts, performance, and team dynamics merit recognition and who exemplify the life skills promoted by FTC.

Well done, students. A big thank you to Mr. Mernbery for being the teacher-sponsor of our First Tech Team.

### Swim to Survive (Grade 7)



Our school district and Nanaimo Parks and Recreation have partnered up again to offer the Swim to Survive program to our grade 7s. This is a proactive program that provides students with valuable swimming and survival skills to help keep them safe during recreational swimming and water-based activities.

Families with students in grade 7 were recently contacted with quick survey to gauge expected participation. If you missed this email, please contact Patrick.

### Immunizations: Grade 6 & 9



The Nanaimo Health Unit often visits school sites during the school year to provide immunizations to grade 6 and 9 students with parent approval. Due to the flexible nature of our scheduling, the Nanaimo Health Unit and the school agree that families may be better served by keeping the immunization schedule flexible for families, too. As such, we will not be having onsite-school immunizations; instead, families may book an appointment at their leisure with a local Health Unit.

Parents of Grade 6 and 9 students that would like to be immunized are asked to call the Health Unit front desk at **250-755-3342** to book an appointment or **250-755-3388** to speak with a Public Health Nurse.

The Health Unit will also try to connect with parents/guardians to book the students into Health Unit appointments when needed.

### School Registration 2019-2020

For families who are looking to change schools, registration for the 2019-2020 school year opened on Wednesday, January 9<sup>th</sup> at 8:00 AM. An important Enrolment date to remember is June 15. Applications for enrolment (through the district's E-Registration) must be received by that date to ensure a student's placement in their catchment-area school.

### Graduation Transcripts (Change in Process)

June 2019 sees a significant change in how graduates can access their transcripts. The Ministry of Education (MOE) will no longer be mailing graduates an "original transcript" for their records upon graduation. Instead, the MOE is encouraging students to create an account and access the Student Transcript Service (STS).

Students are encouraged to create an STS account prior to the release of provincial assessments and exam results.

Students may use the Student Transcript Service to:

- *print or order a copy of their transcript*
- *Send/forward a copy of their transcript to a post-secondary institution*
- *Order their graduation certificate*
- *View their scholarships (if any)*
- *View provincial exam or graduation assessment results*

If reading an electronic version of this newsletter, click this [link](#) to go to the website. Otherwise, simply type "Student Transcript Service BC" into your browser.



Have a great Spring Break!