

Nakusp Secondary School Newsletter

October 08, 2009

“Prove it Possible”

Principal van der Pol's last message to parents before retirement

What a strange feeling...17 days and I will no longer be Principal of Nakusp Secondary School!

Since September 1979 I have been connected with BC education, as a teacher for three years in Telegraph Creek (a K-10 school of 70 students), then 7 years in Cassiar (now a bulldozed-over asbestos mining town). There we were a K-12 school until it split up...I stayed at the secondary level. During that time I earned my master's degree, which allowed me to become vice-principal of Queen Charlotte Elementary-Secondary School (K-12) for six years before moving to Nakusp in 1995. I have been at NSS since then, first as vice-principal, and then principal. Our current Grade 8s were not even born when I first arrived!

I have seen a tremendous change in education over the past thirty years...with the greatest one being increased choice...in curricula, delivery technologies, resources, choice of schools, access to provincial-wide courses delivered over a variety of means, Strong Start centres, full-day or half-day kindergarten. The explosion of technological advances in communications, media, data acquisition, and especially the Internet and the Google revolution are both tremendous assets and worrisome social demons. Parental rights through Parent Advisory Councils and School Planning Councils, and rights of appeal, have given parents greater choice and a greater voice.

Parents, do not choose to stand by passively as your children are inundated with social pressures, advertisements, sexual enticements and opportunities, an unprecedented access to drugs and alcohol. Your children, as high school students, need you now more than ever. Please talk to them about what matters in life, on a daily basis.

My life has been so tied up with Nakusp Secondary, I hope I will be able to survive retirement. I know I will miss tremendously my myriad interactions with students, with teachers, with support staff, with office staff, and with Sue Paterson, your next principal. I thank all of them for a wonderful fifteen years.

NSS is a GREAT school...do not let anyone out there tell you anything differently!

Kees

Principal-to-be Paterson's first message to parents

As I watch Mr. van der Pol organize his office and files in preparation for his retirement, I must admit I too am feeling a little strange. The fact that I will be soon sitting in the office of the principal, as the principal, is even stranger because of the fact that this is the high school I graduated from in 1972. I remember feeling at that time that I was heading out to change the world. I certainly never envisioned that I would be doing that through educating children and definitely not in Nakusp. It is truly amazing how our lives come full circle.

I am very proud to be stepping into the role of Nakusp Secondary School Principal. I am continually amazed by the dedication of our staff and the joy of learning of our students. Even as we face declining enrolment and budget restraints, we continue working hard to redefine ourselves as a school for the future.

I encourage all of you to get involved with NSS to help us be proactive in areas which will impact our students. The NSS Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meets the last Wednesday of each month and it is an excellent way to have a say in all aspects of school life. I hope to see you there.

If you have any questions or comments or concerns, please feel free to contact me at the school 250-265-3668. I look forward to working with all of you to work together to keep NSS the GREAT school that it is.

Susan Paterson

TOUR 2011

Yes it's that time again! Information meeting on Tour 2011 will be on Wednesday, Oct. 14th at 6:30pm in room 5. Come and get info on how your child or you and your child can spend spring break 2011—Europe, the Mediterranean, etc., etc., etc. It can be affordable, come check it out or if you can't make the meeting ask for an information package to be sent home.

NSS Code of Conduct (2009-10)

Statement of Purpose

To provide a caring environment to support purposeful learning amid a balance of individual and collective rights and responsibilities. This code applies to student conduct at school, while going to and from school, and while attending any school function at any location, that negatively impacts the safe, caring, or orderly environment of the school and/or student learning.

Acceptable conduct

- Be respectful of self, others, and property
- Be accountable for actions
- Promote a healthy lifestyle, both physically and emotionally
- Foster growth in confidence, hope, ability, reliability, strength and trust
- Treat one another with honesty, respect and integrity
- Dress appropriately for the workplace
- Attempt to solve problems "at the lowest level possible"

Unacceptable conduct

- Behaviours that:
 1. Discriminate based on race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, religion, sex / gender, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, age or mental or physical disability (as per the BC Human Rights Code).
 2. Interfere with the learning and teaching of others
 3. Detract from the businesslike tone of a public school
 4. Interfere with an orderly environment
 5. Create unsafe conditions
- Acts of:
 1. Bullying, harassment, retaliation or intimidation
 2. Physical violence and inappropriate physical conduct/contact
 3. Misuse of technology and plagiarism
- Illegal acts, such as:
 1. Possession, use or distribution of illegal or restricted substances
 2. Possession or use of weapons
 3. Theft of or damage to property

Rising expectations

As students move from grade to grade it is expected that they have increasing personal responsibility and self-discipline (the age and learning abilities of special needs students will be taken into consideration). There is a system for increasing consequences for inappropriate behaviour as age increases, and if the number of occurrences increases.

Consequences

- Responses to unacceptable conduct are consistent and fair
- Disciplinary action, whenever possible, needs to promote self-discipline and restorative justice
- Students, as often as possible, are encouraged to participate in the development of meaningful consequences for violations of the established code of conduct
- Retaliation against students who make complaints will be treated very seriously.

Notification

School staff may, depending on the severity and frequency of unacceptable conduct:

- Have students inform parents directly about instances of unacceptable conduct
- Contact and inform parents directly about a student's unacceptable conduct
- Inform the parents of students who have been the victims of unacceptable conduct
- Inform school district officials as required by district policies
- Contact police and other agencies as required by law
- Alert school staff, parents, and students of serious situations or incidents as appropriate, and inform the school community of the actions taken to address these situations.

Students have the rights of advocacy and appeal.

The school encourages all school partners to communicate openly, according to established protocols, and in a timely manner.

November 28, 2006
September 19, 2008
September 30, 2009

Next PAC Meeting: AGM Wed. Oct. 28th 7 pm

Budget cuts are being felt across the province. Come out and hear what your PAC & our district are doing for our students.

Soup Days are back! Homemade soup & a bun for \$1 most Tuesdays from now until Spring Break. Any parents want to help serve? Call Sue Paterson at NSS 265-3668

Nominations for the executive at the last meeting are as follows:

- Chairperson Lee-Anne Marshall
- Vice-Chairperson Stephen Marks
- Treasurer Jennifer Cliff-Marks
- Secretary Darcy Wanstall

Director positions need to be filled, as well. Election will take place at the next meeting. Everyone is welcome! Get involved with your child's education – meetings are typically about 90 minutes the last Wednesday of the month.

Nakusp Secondary Ski & Snowboard Team

Cookie dough Fundraiser

The NSS Ski & Snowboard team members are taking orders for frozen cookie dough. There are a lot of cookie dough choices—they come pre-portioned—all you have to do is put them on a cookie sheet and pop them in the oven. Orders are due October 14th. If you need more information please call Denise Douglas@ 250-269-7410.

PHOTO PROOFS

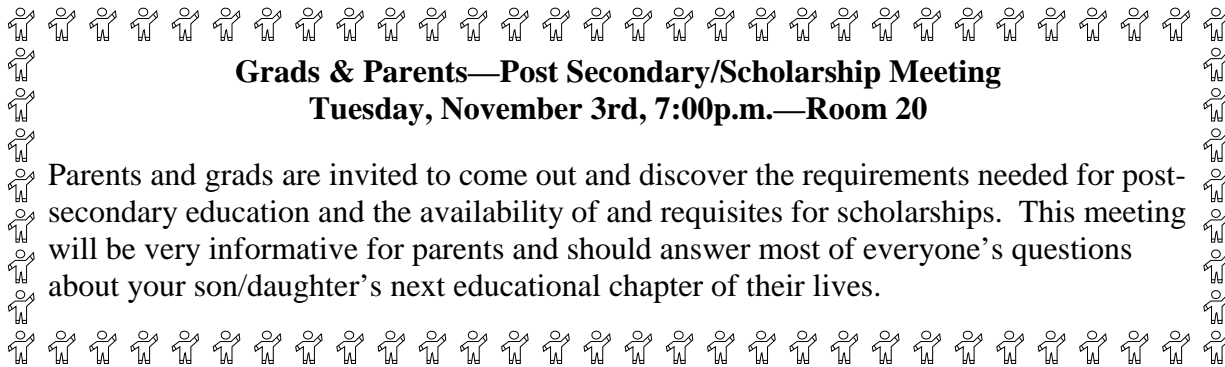
Photo proof sheets went home today with the students.

Photo orders need to be returned with payment to the school by Wed., October 14th. Family plan discount coupons are available at the office for families of 3 children or more between schools (NSS, NES, LESS, SZS).

If for some reason you were not happy with your child's photo, re-takes are scheduled for October 20th and must be prepaid. Retake envelopes are available at the office.

Soup Du Jar

Soup and a Bun is happening again this year, every Tuesday, in Room 10. Still a \$1 for students



**Grads & Parents—Post Secondary/Scholarship Meeting
Tuesday, November 3rd, 7:00p.m.—Room 20**

Parents and grads are invited to come out and discover the requirements needed for post-secondary education and the availability of and requisites for scholarships. This meeting will be very informative for parents and should answer most of everyone’s questions about your son/daughter’s next educational chapter of their lives.

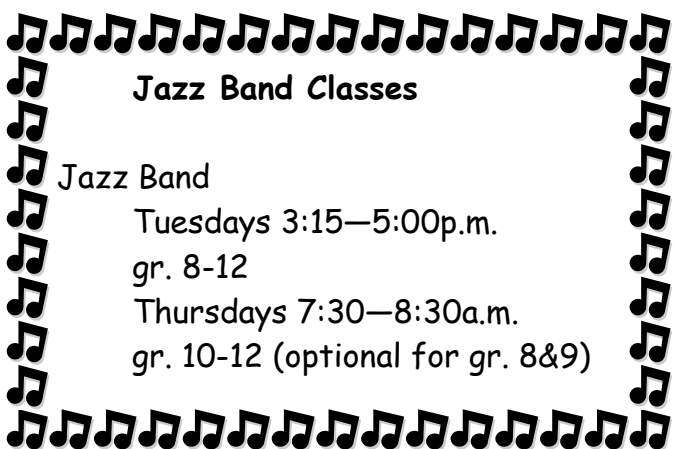
Work Experience

A number of students have already stopped by to inquire about work experience and to pick up the work experience package for their employers. It is fantastic to see keen students getting organized in a timely manner. If you are in Grade 11 or 12, you can claim up to 200 hours in the work place or as a volunteer; you can gain 8 credits by completing a few assignments.

If you are interested or have any questions, please come and meet with me.

Ms. Clark

Work Experience Coordinator



Jazz Band Classes

Jazz Band

Tuesdays 3:15—5:00p.m.

gr. 8-12

Thursdays 7:30—8:30a.m.

gr. 10-12 (optional for gr. 8&9)

Important Dates:

- Oct 12 Thanksgiving Day-no school
- Oct 20 Interim Reports Mailed Out
Photo retake day
- Oct 23 Non-Instructional Day-school not in session
- Oct 28 Parent Advisory Council meeting
7:00 p.m. Library
- Nov 10 Remembrance Day Ceremony
10:45 a.m.
- Nov 12 Newsletter #4
- Nov 19 1st Term Report Cards issued
- Nov 21 Non-Instructional Day— school not in session
- Nov 25 Parent Advisory Council meeting
7:00 p.m. Library
- Nov 26 Recognition Assembly—9:45 a.m.
Parent/Student/Teacher Interviews
(2:30-5:30 p.m.) Gymnasium

SPORTS AGENDA

SOCCER—BOYS-Oct. 14th & 19th—practices
Kootenay Playoffs-Oct. 20 or 21
if we are going to the provincials we will then practice on: Oct. 26, 28 and Nov. 2
the Provincials are Nov. 4-7

Volleyball-Girls-PRACTICES
Juniors—Tues., & Thurs-3:15-5:00pm

Seniors –Wed.,-3:15-5:00pm
-Thurs.,-5:00-6:30pm

Until the end of November