



Apr. 14, 2009

Inside this issue:

From: Mr. Smith

Musical Theatre notice

Band Notice

School Notices

Calendar

Calendar of Events

Apr. 15th—Grade 6 & 9 Immunizations

Apr. 17th—High School Report Writing day, no classes

Apr. 24th—High School Reports issued

May 15th—Grandparents/Grandfriends day

May 18th—Victoria Day, no classes

May 19th—Class Photo's

Kids Club Preschool

Is accepting registrations for Sept. 2009. There is an Open House for **April 25th from 11-2 pm**. Come and check us out.

Shelley Yates at 250-667-4222

Re-Registration

Anyone who has not yet re-registered your student(s) for the 2009/10 school year needs to do so as soon as possible in order to reserve placement for next year. If you have made the decision not to return to NCS please contact Dawna in admissions to advise her of your decision. Thank you to all who have already completed this process.

The Eagle's Nest

Tel: (250) 754-4512 Fax: 754-4271
E-mail address: admin.ncs@shaw.ca
www.nanaimochristianschool.ca

Not Afraid To Use the 'F' Word

A while back, the snow had me housebound; and, yes, slowed down. I took some time to do some personal reading and having not written anything for the school newsletter since coming to NCS, I thought that it was time to submit something. So, here goes.

In a recent reading of an editorial in the *Canadian Music Educator* journal (vol. 50 no. 2 Winter 2008) I was captivated by the title (my title adapted) and content by Benjamin Bodden. Upon reading and reflecting on it I felt the need, perhaps catharsis, to respond by sharing to the NCS community the thoughts of a teacher regarding the 'F' word – FAIL.

As an educator the 'F' word seems to be a bad word. Definitely a word not heard amongst staff and administration's communication. A word far too often avoided at all costs. The perceived costs being: the cost of the feelings of those students with one less layer of skin, the cost of verbally combative parents and its outfall, the cost of administrative concerns and protocol, and the cost of self-doubting your teaching ability. These costs are why 'fail' is an expense too bitter a pill to swallow and therefore issuing 50% is easier to digest. Or is it?

I suppose I've personally become more galvanized and have realized as Benjamin states: "... learning's rarely about getting it right the first time." I have generally gone out of my way to ensure that I set up students for success; and, yes, I have even given 50% when the 'F' was definitely due. I suppose that the reading of Benjamin's article is timely, as I have given more fails this year than I have collectively in all my years of teaching.

While living abroad I recall an advertising campaign that had a poignant catchphrase simply put: See me, not my label. The focus of that national initiative was targeted at de-stigmatizing the stereotyping of mental illness. Borrowing that slogan, I see it in a much broader context – especially in regards to failing. See me, not my failure. No one wants to be labeled a failure. Nor should we allow ourselves to wear that tag as our identity. I failed; therefore, I am a failure. A fact of life is that at some point on some level we have and will fail.

Is there value in allowing someone to fail?
There are lessons to be learned in both the positive and negative outcomes of all our endeavors. Recently, a young student elated with the grades he received on his report card came and thanked a colleague of mine. I was taken aback by my colleague and the truth of his response to the student. In effect, he said that it wasn't him, it was he (the student) who earned it – thanks wasn't necessary. He got what he deserved. Both the student and I realized that truth. Conversely, a student can earn the 'F' word too without the need to thank anyone but him or herself. You get what you earn.

When I look at my life's legacy so far, it is full of fails or mistakes. You only need to look at a nobel prize winner, award winning poet, professional athlete, or the like and see their accomplishments – their successes. What we miss is the countless fails that have proceeded their latest accomplishment. We would hardly label them a failure. I know that I am not a failure but will fail at times.

I hope that my reflections have you look at yourself, your spouse and your family and realize too, that learning's rarely about getting it right the first time. Whether its life's lessons, or a letter on a report card you are not a failure – you are a precious and unique creation of God being perfected daily. Don't be afraid of the 'F' word.

Randy Smith
Music Teacher.

Spring Tea + Fashion Show

A Fundraiser for 2009 Graduating Class

Saturday, April 25/09 from 12 noon–2pm.

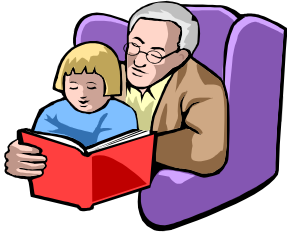
By a table of 8 (\$80) or \$10/ticket.

Invite your family and friends. Enjoy refreshments and fashions from KC's Boutique and KC's Petites.

Tickets available through Grad class.



Middle School Camping Trip
To Port Renfrew June 9-11th . Chaperones and drivers will be needed. If you can assist us in any way please call Mr. Sypksma at the school 250-754-4512



Grandparents/Grandfriends Day May 15/09

From 9:00 am– 1:00 pm with lunch served at noon.

Watch for invitations to be sent home by Friday, this week!

NCS Service Club:

The April service project is a food drive, to benefit Loaves and Fishes! Middle and High School students are participating but donations are welcome from K-12. Non-perishable food items. Service club meetings are held the first Wednesday of every month- all are welcome! Please contact Kirsti for more information: (250)-390-1272, or kirsti_smiles13@hotmail.com

BOOK FESTIVAL – Registration is now open for the Vancouver Island Children's Book Festival being held Saturday, May 2 at Vancouver Island University. The festival is an annual event with children's authors and illustrators presenting their work to children. Sessions are fun and informative, as authors and illustrators share their experiences and inspirations.

Tickets are \$10 per child with a maximum of \$25 per family. Adults are free, when accompanied by a child.

The grade 11/12 Musical Theatre Class is excitedly preparing for the upcoming production of "The Wizard of Oz". Performance dates are set for May 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th, all starting at 7 pm. We are expecting sell out performances for each evening, so buy your tickets early to guarantee you'll get to see this beloved classic. Tickets go on sale next Monday, April 6th, at the main office in building A. Adults are still priced at \$10 each, students are \$7 each. There are a few PROPS that we are in need of borrowing. Please look over the following list and if you see something listed that you would be willing to loan, please let Liz Henderson or Sue Collette know right away, or leave a message with the office staff.

Old Fashioned Bicycle (The style Mrs. Gultch rides)

Old buckets, especially wooden style (you may be using it as a planter)

Horse bridle

Old fashioned wagon – the sort a horse would pull

Wooden wagon wheel

Area rug or crocheted afghan, daisy loop design preferred (the style that the cowardly lion uses as his regal robe when singing "If I were King of the Forest")

Barber shop chair

Cart on wheels

6 bales of hay

BAND POTLUCK DINNER



HIGHLIGHTING THE CALIFORNIA TRIP

On Thursday, April 23 the high school and middle school advanced band will be hosting a potluck dinner for all band families and any other families who may want to learn more about band and the recent trip to California. This promises to be a fun evening of music, pictures and games. We will be showing a video of our trip to California and the animation highlighting the bands recording at Disneyland! As well, both bands will be performing!!

If your last name begins with A-F please bring a salad or veggie tray, for G-R please bring a main dish and S-Z please bring a dessert. Make sure that you bring serving utensils and that your item is ready to serve (ie: slice desserts). We will provide tea, coffee and juice.

Dinner will begin at 6:00 pm in the gym. If you have any questions please contact Dawna Ferris in the office or at 756-2208.

Myra Hawker has recently opened an infant/toddler centre located near the Aquatic Centre. If you or anyone you know require child care for children 0-36 months of age you are invited to call (250) 729-1552 or e mail cuddlesandsnuggles@shaw.ca for more information.

Free Math 9 tutoring:

If interested, please contact Kirsti @t (250)-390-1272, or kirsti_smiles13@hotmail.com