



Sept. 9, 2008

The Eagle's Nest

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From: Mr. Reems

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Calendar of Events

Sept. 8-10th—Middle School Camping

Sept. 10-12th—Grade 9/10 Retreat @ Camp Moorecroft

Sept. 16th—Tentative date for Class orientation and family bar-b-que

Sept. 17th—Immunizations for grades 6 & 9

Sept. 17-19th—Grade 11 Strathcona Hike

Sept. 17-19th—Grade 12 YWAM Exposure to Missions

Sept. 30th—School Photo's

Office Request

If you have not yet done so please complete the forms that were sent with the first newsletter (Parent information form and Legal Residency form. Please return them to the office and the completed and signed Tuition Payment schedule and promissory note to Mrs. Cain. Please deduct your July deposit amount from your first payment.
Thanks for your assistance with this.

School Organization

Welcome to school! We trust your introduction to school last week was a pleasant one. In order to better serve and govern the community's overall health and welfare the board has decided to add additional staffing due to class increases. The decisions were difficult in the context of the defined parameters of last spring's approved budget. The board has to address the financial pressures that we already face in a planned deficit year, largely due to the new facility.

The first day showed overflowing classrooms in kindergarten, four, five, six, nine, ten and eleven. We greatly enjoy the tremendous blessing this brings (we have never seen so many classes of such student numbers in our history!). As has been said many times before: "God is good! and ...these are good problems to have".

Often large classes that are near to our defined limit may receive a classroom assistant depending on the nature of the class and its size. With another adult present, individual student supervision responsibilities and having the class managed for a more effective learning climate answer immediate classroom management concerns. Prior to school starting the board met to plan its priorities and clearly defined the value for doing its best to create the most effective and responsible structures for school organization. There was similar concern expressed to support the staff where student numbers exceed our policy for class sizes. Therefore, given the contextual and financial parameters, the board approved and prioritized:

- the splitting of the grade nine class up to a possible maximum of an approximately 60% additional teacher to be reviewed at the end of semester one.
- the hiring of the Gr. 1-8 French (as a second language) teacher –introducing Mrs. T. Gradica!*
- Mr. Banman is assigned to teach voice in drama
- The 'capping' of kindergarten enrolment and having to start a waiting list.

One may conclude, and rightly so, that the board of directors has swiftly acted with care while having to exercise prudence. This may not satisfy everyone's specific interests. We experienced an unexpected 'scramble' this year due to the unprecedented need to accommodate the Beacon Christian School restructuring that caused twelve more students to be enrolled at NCS. The NCS board graciously assumed the responsibility to make Christian education available to mid-island families who lost that option as BCS decided to no longer offer gr. 4-6 classes. *

Since there are many families impacted by these recommendations you are encouraged to consider your situation and forward any questions you may have to the class teachers and administration. The educational administration team is staffed as follows:

Mrs. S. De Schiffart, Special education, admissions and student placement,
Mr. D. Spyksma, K-8 vice principal,
Mr. B. De Schiffart, High School vice-principal,
Mr. J. Reems, Principal.

The administration team is working to resolve organizational and student concerns as quickly as possible. Where there were difficulties we apologize for any misunderstandings that may have occurred. If we are unavailable you may leave messages at the office and we will respond as soon as we are able. We thank you for your patience, understanding and cooperation as we move forward with the best possible structure(s) and educational plans for our students. We look forward to serving you this year.

Sincerely, Mr. J. Reems, Principal, On Behalf of the Administration Team and Board

*See BCS Task Force article

BCS/NCS Joint Task Force*

Prior to school starting both boards of Nanaimo and Beacon Christian School met in order to plan a reorganization of their operations. This was conducted by the Society of Christian School in B.C.'s executive director, Mr. H. Contant. BCS reviewed their situation and decided to restructure its school organization. This occurred as a result of a 'lower than hoped for' enrolment that caused an overall budget deficit that was declared unsustainable. Hence, the dramatic reduction to the smaller operation of Kindergarten to grade three on the current campus, under the teaching responsibility of Mrs. D. Baker and the administration of Principal B. Judd. The review process involved NCS participation in order to explore the possibilities of continuing the offering of Christian education to the effected families. This was offered and gratefully accepted by the BCS board.

While the impact of operating the Beacon Christian School at the Nanoose Bay Campus was a blessing for such a long time the BCS board recognized that it would be more desirable to relocate directly in the Parksville/Qualicum area. Their aim is to do so as soon as possible and they are currently examining various options to relocate. This was a very difficult matter that involved releasing their valued staff and hosting a parental meeting. It was an emotional time of releasing the blessing of that particular place that had impacted so many families.

The NCS board graciously assumed the responsibility to make Christian education available to mid-island families who lost that option as BCS decided to no longer offer gr. 4-6 classes. * Therefore, we ask for your understanding as our grade 4,5, and 6 classes flowed over class size limitations at the last hour of school starting.

BCS and NCS has agreed to jointly launch a task force to make recommendations for the relocation of the BCS campus and the future amalgamation of the two Christian education societies. The board has approved the appointment of Mr. J. Van Rensburg, Mr. J. Reems and Mrs. C. Finlay to this responsibility. There is every reason to be thankful to the Lord for his many blessings for a generation of Christian education to be served to students on the Beacon campus since 1993. We are thankful for God's faithfulness during this time and to pray for it to continue as we search out His will. Our desire is to have a vibrant, thriving and relocated Christian elementary school in Nanaimo's neighbouring Oceanside community.

Vaccinations

Last spring the education committee reviewed the latest vaccination offer for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) by the public health authority. It was affirmed that the primary responsibility for the authorization of any such vaccination program is the parent's decision. Consequently, we will continue to offer vaccinations on campus as an extension of the Public Health authority program. Should you have any comment or question in this regard you may contact the administration or education committee. The education committee currently consists of Mr. D. Lindsay, Pastor J. Toews, Mrs. C. Fehr, and Mrs. A. Sevenhuysen.

Families are reminded to return the grade 6 and 9 consent forms to the school as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention and consideration in this matter.

From the Board of Directors

1. "You may have noticed (if you missed the last society meeting) that the tuition schedule is somewhat different from last year. Please note that Student Activity Fees are now included in the tuition amount, and we do not require separate payment for the same."

2. "The **south end bus** is scheduled to start operating on Thursday morning, September 11. Please let Lynne know should you have an interest in using the bus. At this time we will start at Coronation Square in Ladysmith (around 7:30 a.m.) with stops at Malaspina and Gabriola ferry (London Drugs downtown). We are also considering 4 more stops to be determined by user locations. More details to follow."

3. "We have a set of bleachers to donate to anyone interested. You may see these currently located on the side of the gym."

New Staff Biography

We are pleased to introduce our new teaching staff to you. We welcome Mrs. J. Crosby, Miss C. Hancox, Miss M. Hogeterp, Mr. G. Friesen, and Mrs. T. Gradica to NCS. We also welcome the returning, Mr. A. Bakker, as he assumes the grade 9 Social Studies teaching this semester. We would like to share some of their background with you in this newsletter and the next one in order to build an understanding and appreciation for the calling that the Lord has given for them to teach.

Mrs. J. Crosby, is a former NCS student who recently graduated from Malaspina University with distinction in a Bachelor of Arts with minors in Physical education and Geography. She received her Bachelor of Education in 2006. You may have just seen her picture in the local bulletin as a Friday Night Basketball Coach where she has served since 2002 as coordinator and head coach. She has also been a youth group leader at the Nanaimo Alliance Church where she is in attendance. You may also know her as a local camp counselor at summer camp (Imadene). Her interests are sports, making music (piano, guitar and clarinet), painting and drawing. She teaches the grade 7b class and came to NCS after substituting at BCS and at NCS last year.

Miss C. Hancox graduated from UBC in 2007 with her Bachelor of Education (elementary) degree. Prior to that, she graduated from Malaspina U-C with minors in Visual Arts and Global studies. She has been active in assisting in the “Kidz Kompany” as an assistant day camp counselor, volunteer work in South Africa, Sunday school teaching in her previous church and currently at Oceanside Church where she is in attendance. Christie moved back to Nanaimo after being hired as an educational assistant last spring at NCS. Her passion is to make learning enjoyable and meaningful to children. She is teaching kindergarten.

Miss M. Hogeterp Melanie hails from Hamilton, ON (making the Dean’s honours list) and is new to Vancouver Island this year. She received her BA & BEd from Redeemer University in Ontario and this is her first year of teaching. She played volleyball at Redeemer for 4 years and her passion is in physical education. She loves any type of outdoor activity including hiking, biking and her new found love: surfing. She says that she yet has to master it though! Melanie graduated from Hamilton Christian High School and her most recent Christian service in leadership was as a youth group leader at the York Christian Reformed Church.

Many thanks to the great team who have worked long hours on the construction of the band portable; Cliff Faust from Elise Construction, Jack & Ingrid Roos from Oceanside Church, Chris Verveda, Peter Fehr, Bernie Taekema, Randy Smith, Ed Lock, Rohann & Johann Van Rensburg. Thank you for all your hard work!!

Thanks also to Hadi Abassi of Atlas Windows & Doors for the donation of 3 windows for the project and for providing the beam at cost. We appreciate your service to the school. Thank you!

Terry Fox Run

This year N.C.S. will once again be participating in the Terry Fox Run for cancer research. We will be holding our run on the afternoon of **Friday, Sept. 26th**. Students in grades 1-3 will be bussed to Westwood Lake and will walk a short loop together. Students in grades 4-12 will run from the school to Westwood, around the lake, and back to school. Please remind your child to bring a donation for the Terry Fox foundation on the day of our run. Thank You!



A **car pool** is needed in the Diver’s Lake area. If you can help please call Meghan at 585-3886.

Barbara Anderson is looking for a **ride home** for her son to the Jinglepot/Mostar area, Tues—Friday. If you can help please call 751-1574. Thank you!

Car needed for YWAM trip.

Graham De Greeff will be taking the grade 12 class for a missions experience with YWAM next week. He is in need of another vehicle for this trip. An adult will be driving at all times. Graham would like to pick up the car on Tuesday evening, Sept. 16th and the car would be returned on Friday, Sept. 19th. A minivan would be great, but a car would suffice. Please contact Graham if you have a vehicle he could use. Thank you!

Elementary Welcome to School Picnic

On **Thursday, Sept. 11th** the K-5 classes will be having a Welcome to School Picnic. Students will be eating their lunches outside together and then we will have some fun games and activities. Students will get the opportunity to work with friends from other classes and get to know students they may not have met yet. Students are welcome to bring a blanket or towel to sit on outside while they eat their lunch. Students should also be reminded that there will not be a microwave available outside so they should bring an outdoor friendly lunch. Our picnic will begin at **12:35** and we will have activities running throughout the afternoon. Parents are more than welcome to join in on this fun afternoon. We look forward to seeing you there!

K-5 Teachers

Teacher Assignments for 2008/09

Preschool	Mrs. Shelly Yates
Elementary	
K	Miss Christie Hancox
1	Mrs. Kim Kirkbride
2	Mrs. Elana Nagtegaal
3	Mrs. Michelle Whitehead
4	Mr. Chris Verveda
5	Mr. Jim Banman
Middle School	
6	Mrs. Kim Tarby
7	Mrs. Shannon Gillespie
7	Mrs. Jennifer Crosby
8	Miss Melanie Hogeterp & High School P.E.
8	Mr. Darren Spyksma, VP Middle School
High School	
	Mr. Brian De Schiffart, VP High School, Humanities, Law
	Mr. Graham De Greeff, Math, Sciences
	Mr. Paul Henderson, Humanities, Planning
	Mr. Russell Berg, Biology, Math, Theatre
	Mr. Glen Friesen, Applied Skills, Math
	Mr. Arend Bakker, Social Studies
Specialists	
	Mrs. Sue De Schiffart, Learning Assistance, 6-12, Applied Skills
	Mrs. Yvonne Vandergrift, Learning Assistance K-5
	Mr. Randy Smith, Band & Music
	Miss Bev Scholman, French
	Mrs. Trisha Gradica, Elementary French
	Mrs. Sue Collette, HS Guidance Counselor
	Mrs. Kathy Cooper, Librarian
Principal:	Mr. John Reems
Support Staff:	Mrs. Patsy Cain, Bookkeeper
	Mrs. Diane Dyck, Administrative Assistant
	Mrs. Lynn Kopec, Secretary, Receptionist
	Mrs. Dawna Ferris, Admissions
	Mrs. Corina Finlay, Development & Community Relations
Custodians:	Mr. & Mrs. Kevin Brewer, Josh Brewer

1) Volunteers Urgently Needed! - The Band room is under construction and is in need of many helping hands. Every evening this week a work bee will be happening in order to complete this room. If you are able to come and lend a hand with dry-walling, mudding, painting or assisting in any capacity, please come by after 5:30 pm.

2) Monday Morning Prayer - If you have a heart to pray for Nanaimo Christian School and are able to meet with us Monday mornings at the school (8:30am) then we would love to have you come and be a part of our prayer group. Please feel to drop by or come on a regular basis. We will meet outside the main office in building A and will be praying in an empty classroom. If you have questions, please email Corina at business.ncs@shaw.ca.

3) Email addresses! We would love to have your email address! If you would like to receive your notices & newsletters via email or be in contact with the office via email, please send your name & email address to Corina @ business.ncs@shaw.ca. Thanks!

3) Thank You Oceanside Church! You may have noticed a new structure is being added on to our gymnasium. Oceanside Church International has generously offered to pay for & build our new stage being incorporated into our gym. The cost of the stage is \$230,000.00 and in return NCS will provide free rent to Oceanside for the next 10 years. In addition to this blessing (as if this weren't enough) Oceanside is also having our gym painted. This is an amazing blessing from the Lord coming via Oceanside and we at Nanaimo Christian School thank you for being a part of our school community and blessing us with this new addition.

**Middle School Band
Student Notice.**

Middle School 3 and Middle School 4 students need to bring their instruments to school on Thursday.



Southend Bus

If anyone is interested in a bus for south Nanaimo & Ladysmith/Cedar area please call Lynn Kopec at 754-4512 ext 102. The new bus will be arriving this week and will be starting it's route very soon.

Thank you!



The office staff are working on a new school directory for this year. If you have had a change in name/phone #/address please advise the office this week. Also, if you would like to advertise your business in the directory for a nominal fee of \$5.00 please provide the office with your business card and we will be happy to display an ad for you.

Thank you!

Also, we would like to move from giving out late slips to stamping children's hands to indicate to the teacher that we have seen them in the office. We would like to know if anyone has an objection to an ink stamp. If so please call Diane or Lynn in the office. (754-4512) Thank you!



Executive Assistant (34) with Languages seeking permanent employment on Vancouver Island. 15 years British, Spanish and Australian experience in the financial, healthcare and education sectors.
Contact: Vanda Jones on 778-232-8158 or Wendy Jessen 250-729-2606