



# BALMORAL JUNIOR SECONDARY

## IB WORLD SCHOOL



3365 Mahon Avenue, North Vancouver, BC V7N 3T7 Tel: 604-903-3400 Attendance Callback: 604-903-3408

Fax: 604-903-3401

E-mail: [balmoral@nvسد44.bc.ca](mailto:balmoral@nvسد44.bc.ca)

Website: [www.balmoralsecondary.ca](http://www.balmoralsecondary.ca)

# NEWSLETTER

April 1, 2010

### Administrators' Message

Now that the excitement of the Olympics and Spring Break has subsided it is time to turn our attention back to our efforts towards a successful school year. Many students have demonstrated a marked improvement since Term 1. The information provided on the Term 2 Report Card and at Parent-Teacher Interviews should provide additional guidance to students as to where they need to focus their attention in the remaining months.

While staff and students are engaged in this last push to the end of the school year, staff are also in the midst of preparing for the 2010-11 school year. Counsellors have been working with students in selecting their courses, and based on the information gathered we have begun to identify the courses we might run next year. In turn, this helps us determine our staffing needs and instructs us in the construction of the master timetable. It is very important that students and parents review the Option Verification Forms attached to the report cards to ensure they have properly requested the courses they hope to enroll in next year. Once the school year begins there is typically limited flexibility in the timetable for students to make changes.

Prior to Spring Break staff began working with Grade 9 students who are at the initial stages of developing their I.B. Personal Projects. The Personal Project is a significant body of work which is intended to reflect students' learning during their participation in the I.B. Middle Years Program. Each student has a staff member who works with them individually and in small groups to provide guidance towards completion in the spring of their grade 10 year. We look forward to seeing the final products.

We continue to receive updates regarding the exciting work on the construction of the new Carson Graham Secondary. The Ministry of Education recently announced confirmation approving an increase to the capacity of the new facility to 1,100 students. We encourage you to keep up to date on developments regarding the new building at:

<http://www.nvسد44.bc.ca/sitecore/content/CapitalProjects/Cars onGrahamCapitalProject.aspx>

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### CALENDAR UPDATE

- |       |       |  |
|-------|-------|--|
| April | 1     | • Report Cards – Home<br>• Newsletter (online)<br>• P/T Interview Request Forms - Out<br>• 2010/11 Option Verification Forms – Out |
|       | 2     | • Good Friday  |
|       | 5     | • Easter Monday  |
|       | 6     | • DPA Due<br>• P/T Interview Request Forms - Back  |
|       | 7     | • IB Personal Project Meeting 8:30am   |
|       | 12-16 | • Anti-Bullying Week   |
|       | 13    | • P/T Interview Schedules Sent Home  |
|       | 15    | • Parent/Teacher Interviews 2-4 & 6-8<br>• Early Dismissal 1:00pm  |
|       | 16    | • Early Dismissal 1:00pm   |
|       | 19    | • IB Homeroom<br>• BPAC @ 7:00pm in the library  |
|       | 20    | • IB Early Dismissal   |
|       | 22    | • Earth Day Neighbourhood Clean-up   |
|       | 23    | • Professional Day (district)  |
| May   | 4     | • DPA Due  |
|       | 5     | • IB Personal Project Meeting 8:30am   |
|       | 10    | • Curriculum Implementation Day<br>(no school)   |
|       | 13    | • Fine Arts Night / Chili for Change   |
|       | 17    | • IB Homeroom<br>• BPAC @ 7:00pm in the library  |
|       | 19    | • Gr 9 Girls Immunization Round 3  |
|       | 24    | • Victoria Day   |
|       | 28    | • Gr 10 Boat Cruise  |
|       | 31    | • Library Books Due<br>• IB Community & Service Hours Due  |
| June  | 1     | • DPA Due<br>• Athletics Banquet 6:00pm  |
|       | 2     | • IB Personal Project Meeting 8:30am<br>• Awards Ceremony 7:00pm ( <b>note date change</b> )                                       |
|       | 10    | • Locker Clean-Out   |
|       | 11    | • <b>Last Day of Classes</b>   |
|       | 14-21 | • <b>School-Based Exams</b>  |
|       | 23    | • English 10 Provincial Exam   |
|       | 25    | • Science 10 Provincial Exam   |
|       | 28    | • Math 10 P,A,E Provincial Exams<br>• Distribution of Final Report Card<br>and Newsletter (online)                                 |

## Administrators' Message (cont'd)

The remaining months include opportunities to celebrate the work of our students, including Fine Arts Night, Drama productions, Music Concerts, athletic competitions, and the Awards Ceremony.

We look forward to continuing our work with students, staff, and the school community!

Mr. M. Kee  
Principal

Ms K. Barter  
Vice Principal

## Term 2 Report Cards Parent/Teacher Interviews

Term 2 report cards were distributed in homerooms April 1<sup>st</sup>. Included with the report cards are Parent/Teacher Interview Request Forms which are due back by Tuesday, April 6<sup>th</sup>. **Parent/Teacher Interview Schedules** will be sent home with students Tuesday, April 13<sup>th</sup>. Parent/teacher interviews will be held on Thursday, April 15 from 2:00-4:00pm and 6:00-8:00pm in teachers' classrooms.

## Teachers' Tutorial Times

Teachers' tutorial times are now posted on the Balmoral website in the *Staff* section. Check it out!

## Academic Boot Camp

Academic boot camp is held every Tuesday at 3:00pm in the library. Students are encouraged to drop in for extra help in any subject area. If you have any questions regarding the tutorial, contact Shannon Burns or Kathleen Barter.

## Honour Roll Term 1

We congratulate the honour roll students on their excellent achievement in Term 1. You can find a complete list of these students on the website home page link ***Term 1 Honour Roll***.

Term 2 Honour Roll will be posted online before April 15<sup>th</sup>.

## 2010-2011 Option Verification Forms

Attached to your child's Term 2 report card is the 2010-2011 Option Verification Forms. This outlines the courses that your child has chosen for the upcoming school year. **Students need to make sure that the courses on the sheet are the ones they selected.** All students must have 8 courses. Band and Choir courses may be selected as a ninth or tenth course. If there is an error, students should return the form, with corrections, to the counselling office before April 7<sup>th</sup>.

## June Exam Schedule

The June 2010 Exam Schedule is now posted on the Balmoral website in the *Exams* section under *School Information*. Check the schedule carefully to see when your child's exams are. Please read the **Missed Final Exam Policy** below which outlines the consequences of missing a final exam. Students who have exam conflicts should see Ms Barter to resolve the issue.

## Missed Final Exam Policy

Final exams are an important part of the assessment process in many courses at Balmoral. The primary purpose of these exams is to evaluate individual student learning within these courses. In addition, they serve to reinforce the content that has been taught and they provide valuable preparation for the writing of provincial and scholarship examinations. **As such, all students who have final examinations are required to write them during the scheduled school examination period. In addition, Provincial exams at the grade 10 level are compulsory. The Provincial Exam schedule cannot be altered: it is set by the provincial government for all students in British Columbia. Parents and families must make all efforts to avoid planning holidays that conflict with scheduled exams.**

If, for some reason, such as a medical emergency, a student is unable to attend the examination session, he/she will be assigned a "zero" letter grade (0) for the exam. In order to change the zero letter grade, the student must make arrangements for an alternative writing of the examination with the classroom teacher directly. The writing of this rescheduled exam must take place within two weeks after the original exam or by the end of the school year, whichever occurs first. Students who are medically unable to write a rescheduled exam within the two-week period will be assessed at the discretion of the individual teacher.

If the student fails to complete these alternate arrangements, the result of the examination will be zero, which will be included in the calculation of the final letter grade/percentage for the course.

## Daily Physical Activity (DPA)

Your child has been recording their Daily Physical Activity in their agenda books since the beginning of September. Once a month students meet with their Block 3 teacher to transfer this information to school documents. As per ministry requirements each student in grade 8 and 9 must complete 30 minutes **per day** of physical activity. Grade 10 students must complete 150 minutes of physical activity **per week**. Teachers will be reporting on DPA on the June report card. Please check with your child to ensure that they are meeting these requirements.

## Community & Service at Balmoral

A critical part of the IB Middle Years Program is the idea that **every student** at Balmoral will contribute some form of service to the community; be that to the school community, our local community or our global community. **Students are required to perform 10 hours of Community and Service during the school year.** These hours are due by May 31<sup>st</sup>.

Balmoral is striving to increase the awareness of its students, teachers and parents to the needs of its local and global community. The implementation of the Community and Service Plan provides students with numerous opportunities both individually and as part of a group to volunteer their time and talent.

By volunteering, students gain a variety of important experiences and knowledge. They gain a sense of responsibility to their community, they learn that one person can make a difference, they learn the benefit of sacrificing their time to help others, they learn tolerance and understanding of the different members of our community, and finally, they gain important job skills and experience.

Students are encouraged to find their own opportunities to volunteer but there are also many opportunities that are available through the school. This year students have received Community & Service hours through the following activities: the Terry Fox Run, Parent/Teacher Interviews, the Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up, score-keeping at sporting events, assisting teachers with classroom chores, the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle Campaign, Santa's Breakfast, the Hungry for Change 24 Hour Fast for Oxfam, BC Hydro's Ambassadors program, and volunteering at a Meal Service for the homeless and needy.

Upcoming events where students can continue to earn hours are:

- Meal Service for the homeless (3 Fridays a month for April and May)
- Parent/Teacher Interviews April 15<sup>th</sup>
- Earth Day neighbourhood clean-up April 22<sup>nd</sup>
- our annual Fine Arts Night / fundraiser for our Plan Canada sponsor child and the Stephen Lewis Foundation "Chili for Change" May 13, 2010.

For more information, please contact Ms Gellatly [tgellatly@nv44.bc.ca](mailto:tgellatly@nv44.bc.ca).

## I.B. Personal Projects

We are excited to report that all Grade 9 students have begun their I.B. personal projects. We are impressed with the enthusiasm the students have shown for their chosen area of study. By now they should have met with their supervisor at least once, chosen their topic, and started a process journal to record their progress. The next meeting with their supervisor is at 8:30 am on Wednesday, April 7<sup>th</sup>. Students need to bring four entries from their process journal that reports investigations they have made so far. Next we will be working on building and evaluating references.

## Counsellors' Corner

April 12<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> is **Anti-Bullying Week**. Balmoral staff and students will be doing their part to contribute to a school culture that is safe and caring. All of Balmoral will be invited to participate on Wednesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> as a day to wear a pink shirt. This is an important statement by all members of our learning community. Bullying in schools is reduced substantially when non-bullies stand up for the rights of those targeted. Please remember to wear your pink t-shirts April 14<sup>th</sup>.

We have a number of other events happening during this week.

**April 7<sup>th</sup>** – School-wide bullying information and a bullying survey will be going out to all staff and students to assess bullying in our school.

**Monday & Tuesday (April 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>)** We are watching the movie "Pay It Forward" in the theater at lunch. Admission is \$2.00 and the proceeds from this movie will go to charity.

**Wednesday (April 14<sup>th</sup>)** is **PINK T-Shirt Day!** Please remember to wear your pink t-shirt to make your voice heard as being an anti-bully leader in your school.

**Thursday (April 15<sup>th</sup>)** - Positive Posters - Students will be putting up positive posters around the school to highlight some pro social attributes that we value as a learning community

**Friday (April 16<sup>th</sup>)** - Sign the Anti-Bullying Oath. We will have all staff and students sign the anti-bullying oath at Balmoral and will post it in the cafeteria!

Standing up for the rights of all our student's is taken seriously at Balmoral. Please do your part and help out. For more information please see Mr. Olson.

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**Attention Balmoral and Carson Graham students going into grade 10, 11 or 12!** Do you know that Carson Graham is sending 20 students to Mexico this July to help build homes for families living in poverty as well as working to equip two schools? The Global Initiatives and Leadership Class has been working hard this year to act as leaders within our community both locally and globally. Students have been involved with a number of initiatives including emergency backpacks for the homeless, regularly helping with dinner service in the downtown eastside, the vow of silence, helping renovate a shelter for the Salvation Army, social justice film festival, canned food drives and other service learning opportunities.

We will be holding an information night in the Carson Graham library on April 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00pm about next year's trip destination and class. This meeting is for both students and parents. Some students from this year's class will be available for you to speak to and see what they think of the program. If you are interested please make time to come out. For more information please email Mr. Olson at [rolson@nv44.bc.ca](mailto:rolson@nv44.bc.ca).

## Drama News

The Drama department has been very active and is looking to finish the year with two productions. Musical Theatre will feature their production of “**Bye Bye Birdie**” this spring. “**Clueless**”, an original student created and produced work, will also grace the stage in early June.

**B.I.G.**, the Balmoral Improv Group, has two very exciting performances coming up in our community. B.I.G. will perform as part of Balmoral's anti-bullying awareness week April 12<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> and also on May 8<sup>th</sup> as a part of City Fest!

## Reading Buddies Program

A Reading Buddies program involving the Balmoral First Nations students and the grade 2's from Larson has successfully completed a series of meetings in the Balmoral Library. Organizers were Lisa Ottenbriet, Carol McKay, Jason Haywood and Mike Morgan.

## DATE CHANGE Student Awards & Recognition

Balmoral's annual June awards and student recognition ceremony date has been changed to Wednesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2010. The ceremony will start at 7:00pm. If your child is the recipient of an award, a letter will be mailed home in late May. Awards criteria can be found on the Balmoral website and in the student agenda book.

## Can you help our Photography Department?

The Photography department is in need of 35mm single lens reflex film cameras or any other film camera. If you have one in good working condition and wish to donate it please contact Lorna Menzies at lmenzies@nvsd44.bc.ca.

## Olympic Torchbearers

Two of our students, Jessica Neilson and Aidan Baker, ran a leg of the Olympic Torch Relay. Jessica ran on Thursday, February 4<sup>th</sup> in Sechelt and Aidan on Saturday, February 6<sup>th</sup> in Lillooet. Congratulations to both on being torchbearers.

## Vancouver Sun Run

This year's Vancouver Sun Run will be held Sunday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. Join the Balmoral team by following the link on the Balmoral website, code word “castle”.

## Student Drop-off and Pick-up

Unfortunately, we continue to have drop-off/pick-up congestion especially at the back of the school both in the mornings and after school. The artillery service roads on the south and west sides of the school are very narrow and are particularly unsafe when we have the dangerous combination of cars and people. Please do not drive around to the back of the school to drop-off or pick-up your child. In addition, parking is **not** permitted at the back (west side) of the school. As mentioned in the November newsletter **student drop-off and pick-up is to be on Mahon Avenue only**. The parking lot is reserved for staff.

## BPAC News

The Balmoral PAC extends its heartfelt thanks to both the Balmoral and Carson Graham parent community for supporting the “Boogie Bash” at Mosquito Creek. There were many laughs and lots of fun! This event could not succeed without the generous support of our community and we are grateful. The B&B (as it is affectionately known) raises funds for program enhancements for all of the kids.

Thanks also for your support for the Official Olympic Souvenir Program fundraiser, which was an excellent accessory for the games! Again, all of the funds raised go towards educational enhancement for our students.

In January, BPAC's special guests for the evening were Dan Monument and Pej Pirgheibi, of Capilano Youth Services, who gave an excellent and very informative presentation on “Drug and Alcohol Awareness” for our parent community. A copy of their presentation is available in the **Parents** section of the Balmoral website.

BPAC also provided funding for Mr. Jesse Miller who spoke to the students about “Internet Safety and Awareness”, with an emphasis on social networking sites. To date, all of the grade 10 students have heard Mr. Miller's presentation and sessions with the grade 8's and 9's will begin soon. BPAC also plans to host a parent information session so you know what your child is talking about. Look for the notice in your email and on the school website to arrive soon.

There are only two more BPAC meetings left this year, April 19<sup>th</sup> and May 17<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm in the library. Please join us to learn what is happening in the school and to discover how you can be involved. Given the recent Ministry of Education funding announcements and the need for cuts to the school district budget, there is certainly going to be plenty of information that we will share with you. Come and find out what's happening at your child's school! We are looking forward to seeing you.

## Student Fees

If applicable, outstanding student fees have been attached to the report cards. We thank you for your prompt attention to this item.

Sponsored by  
Windsor / Seycove PACs

## Parent Awareness Forums

focus: Intermediate and Secondary Parents and Students

### Internet Safety - Social Networking

Speaker: Jesse Miller - Miller Consulting Services



**location:** Seycove Secondary School  
**date:** Tuesday, March 30, 2010  
**time:** 7pm - 9pm

### Alcohol & Teens - Realities & Implications

Guest Panel Presentation with "Q&A" - Agency Information Available

**location:** Windsor Secondary School  
**date:** Thursday, April 8, 2010  
**time:** 7pm - 9pm



Cost per Family : \$3 for one forum

\$5 for both forums

tickets available at Windsor and Seycove  
and Elementary FOS School Offices

For further information call:

Seycove 604-903-3666

Windsor 604-903-3700

See School Websites

[www.seycove.ca](http://www.seycove.ca)

[www.windsorsecondary.ca](http://www.windsorsecondary.ca)

**TICKETS ALSO AVAILABLE AT BALMORAL**

# Navigating Support Services for Children, Youth and Families

As part of an ongoing initiative to **connect families with local support services**, we invite you to this **free** information-sharing event. This workshop provides an opportunity to hear from multiple North Shore professionals. If you are interested in learning more about community services for your child, this is an event worth attending.

There will be an opportunity for questions and discussion following the presentations.

## Presentations by the Following Services

- **Vancouver Coastal Health (Mental Health and Addictions, Health Clinics)**
- **MCFD (Mental Health Counseling, Group Programming)**
- **Hollyburn Family Services**
- **Capilano Community Services Society**
- **North Shore Neighborhood House**
- **Parkgate Community Services Society**
- **Community Youth Workers**
- **North Shore Crisis Services**
- **Family Services of North Shore (Parent Support Programming, Specialty Programs)**
- **North Shore Restorative Justice Society**
- **West Coast Family Support Services**

**Date:** April 14, 2010

**Time:** 6:30 – 8:00 PM

**Location:**

Lucas Centre Cafeteria  
**2132 Hamilton St,  
NVan**

**Register:**

Call Jacquie: 604 903 4621



**VISIT [summersocial.ca](http://summersocial.ca) FOR MORE INFO...**



# SUMMER SOCIAL

**Vancouver's very own Therapeutic Summer Camp for kids and adolescents with high functioning Autism, AD/HD and other diagnoses that impact social development.**

**Join us this summer to learn, play and create lasting memories.**

- > **HIGH-QUALITY INTERVENTION**
- > **SMALL THERAPY GROUPS**
- > **CAMPERS MATCHED BY ABILITIES**
- > **PLENTY OF FUN**
- > **LOTS OF WAYS TO CONNECT WITH PEERS**
- > **BUILD CONFIDENCE**

Our goal is to develop children's social skills and confidence through fun, interactive activities, that can provide them with positive social experiences.