



BALMORAL JUNIOR SECONDARY

IB WORLD SCHOOL



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NEWSLETTER

November 2, 2009

Administrators' Message

We have had a busy start to the school year. Energy, enthusiasm, and excitement are present throughout the halls and in classrooms.

We have had a number of positive events since the beginning of the year and more are in the planning stages. These events include:

- Tuesday, Sept 22 Grade 8 Team Building Afternoon (Ms Barter, Mr. Olson, Mr. Baker)
- Wednesday, Sept 23 TD Great Canadian Clean-up (Ms Johnston)
- Thursday, Sept 24 Terry Fox Run (Mr. McDonald, Ms Thomson)
- Wednesday, Sept 30 International Ambassadors & International Student Lunch (Mr. Scorda and Ms Barter)
- Thursday, Oct 1 IB Parent Information Night (Ms MacDonald, Ms Gellatly, Ms Anton-Marlowe, Ms Barter)
- Wednesday, Oct 21 Safeteen - Grade 10's (Mr. Olson, Ms Dolha)
- Friday, Oct 30 Halloween Events (Ms Gellatly)
- Oct 21 – Nov 18 Food Drive (Ms Gellatly)
- Tuesday, Nov 3 Music Department Concert @ Carson Graham (Mr. Woodyard, Ms Polsky)

Also of note, Mr. Scorda and Mr. Olson have trained and mobilized a group of Grade 10 Peer Tutors to provide peer academic support to students before school, during lunch, and after school. Also, our Athletic program has seen a significant increase in participation and results this year.

With the end of Term 1 (December 4) approaching we ask that students, parents, and staff be proactive in supporting students towards a successful school year. Students are encouraged to meet with teachers for extra help when needed, a component of taking ownership and responsibility for their education. In addition, parents are encouraged to contact staff directly if students bring home information that is not clear or if there are concerns regarding academic progress.

Interim Reports and Parent-Teacher Interview Request Forms are now being distributed. Interim Reports are among the first indicators of areas in need of improvement and/or areas of strength which should be continued. We encourage you to request interviews to meet with teachers on Parent-Teacher Interview day (Thursday, November 19). We encourage you to bring your son or daughter. Parent-Teacher Interviews are intended to be a snap shot of students' progress. There are some cases in which appointments will need to be scheduled at other times if more in-depth conversations are required.

The level of participation and commitment among students and staff has been outstanding, and we look forward to a dynamic winter. Please keep up to date regarding school events and important news through the school's website (www.balmoralsecondary.ca).

Mr. M. Kee, Principal Ms K. Barter, Vice Principal

CALENDAR UPDATE

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|----------|----|--|
| November | 2 | • Interim Reports & Fees mailed home |
| | | • Newsletter Online |
| | | • DPA Due |
| | | • P/T Interview Schedules sent home |
| | 3 | • Grade 9 Immunization |
| | 4 | • National "Take Our Kids to Work" Day (Grade 9's) |
| | 5 | • IB Homeroom 2:30pm |
| | 6 | • Fees Collection (Block 3) |
| | 10 | • Remembrance Day Ceremony 10:20am |
| | 11 | • Remembrance Day (school closed) |
| | 12 | • IB Homeroom 2:30pm |
| | 16 | • IB Homeroom (Block 1) |
| | | • BPAC Meeting 7:00pm |
| | 18 | • Food Drive Ends |
| | 19 | • Parent/Teacher Interviews 2-4 & 6-8 |
| | | • Early Dismissal 1:00pm |
| | 20 | • Early Dismissal 1:00pm |
| | 24 | • IB Early Dismissal 1:00pm |
| | | • IB Information Meeting for Parents of Feeder Schools 7:00pm (Balmoral cafeteria) |
| December | 4 | • End of Term 1 |
| | 14 | • IB Homeroom (Block 1) |
| | 14 | • Skating Party 6-7:30pm |
| | 17 | • Term 1 Report Card |
| | 18 | • Santa's Breakfast |
| | | • School Closes for Winter Vacation |
| January | 4 | • School Reopens |

Interim Reports

This year parents will receive two different types of interim reports in the mail. All students have completed a **Fall Interim Student Reflection**. This will provide parents with an overview of your child's perception of their learning thus far. It is intended to be an overview of all subject areas in addition to the ten aspects of the IB Learner Profile.

In addition, parents will also receive **individual subject progress reports** from your child's teachers. Grade 8 students will receive progress reports from every subject teacher. Grades 9 and 10 may or may not receive interim reports depending on their academic progress.

Please feel free to contact your child's teachers if you have any concerns or questions. The Staff Contact List is posted on our website.

IB-MYP Update

We have had a busy start to this school year. After being officially authorized to deliver the IB-Middle Years Program this August, we welcomed what is our first group of "official" IB learners as we opened our doors to 250 new Grade 8's in September.

All students at Balmoral have been busy participating in Monday morning IB homerooms. These have covered a diverse range of topics from "Using Your Agenda to be Successful", "The IB Learner Profile", "What is Community and Service", and most recently all students completed a self-reflection document that had them take a look at the last 2 months and comment on their successes and areas for future growth. This document was mailed home with the interim reports and students fees on November 2.

In late September a group of students led by Ms Johnston went out into the community to be a part of the TD Canada Great Canadian Shoreline Clean-up. These students donated a Saturday morning to bettering an aspect of our community. Inter-River Park has never looked so good. Way to go!

The knitting club has just had their first meeting of the year. This group of avid needle clickers is busy crafting "beanies for babies" and building newborn blankets. If you have any wool lying around your house looking for a purpose this group will happily take it off your hands. Wool donations can be dropped off in the main office.

We hosted our first parent information meeting about IB at the start of this month. This session was well attended and parents indicated that it was an informative evening.

IB Information Meeting for Parents of our Feeder Schools

On November 24 at 7:00pm we will have an information meeting for parents of our feeder schools. The meeting will take place at Balmoral in the cafeteria. Please come & join us.

Collection of Student Fees

As we outlined in our August newsletter, we have intentionally postponed the collection of fees until now. You should know that the fee statement reflects fees which have gone through a several step process including consultation and approval starting within the school and moving through the School Planning Council, the PAC and the Board of Education for North Vancouver. At each step there is a check for compliance with school board and Ministry of Education policy.

Two copies of the Student Fees were mailed home with interim reports on November 2. Student Fees Information and Policies are on the reverse and also posted on the website. Please return one copy with full payment by **Friday, November 6** when fees will be collected during Block 3 at the beginning of the day. Retain the second copy for your receipt purposes. We thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this item.

PAC Computer & Enhanced Technology Donation

Through the generous donations from parents, students have access to convenient computer technology. Lease obligations continue this year and are met through a donation of \$50 per student.

The Student Fees mailed home on November 2 contains an item for PAC computer lab donations. Please include your donation with the payment of fees.

The school district will issue a tax receipt in January 2010 for all donations to be included with your 2009 income tax return. This tax deduction reduces the actual cost to under \$40.00 for most parents - an excellent value!

Thank you to the Parent Advisory Committee and all contributing parents for your support to ensure this important technological learning environment.

Grade 9 Immunizations

Grade 9 immunizations will take place on **Tuesday, November 3** and not on November 23 as previously posted on the school calendar. Boys and girls will have their tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) vaccine. Girls will also receive their first of three rounds of the Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) vaccine. Round 2 is on January 21 and round 3 is on May 19.

Consent forms must be returned to the main office as soon as possible.



Counsellors' Corner

Grade 10's

On October 21 the grade 10's participated in the renowned **Safeteen** program. This is a highly informative program which deals with assertiveness, antiviolenace, and healthy life choices. Students were divided into gender specific classes based on their Planning 10 classes.

Grade 9's

The annual **Take Our Kids to Work Day** takes place on Wednesday, November 4. This job shadowing initiative allows the entire community- parents, teachers, employers and workers - to play a part in the career development of Grade 9 students.

The primary objective of Take Our Kids to Work is to link classroom learning with the workplace. It also allows students to see their parents in a workplace role and to help them understand what work their parents actually do to support a family. This job shadowing activity supports learning outcomes found in Career and Personal Planning 8 to 12.

Classroom follow-up assignments are a valuable basis for class and family discussions, and evaluation of the day. In the past, we have had excellent parental support and we look forward to your support again this year.

Information was sent home in mid October and consent forms must be returned to students' English teacher by Monday, November 2. For more information, please contact Mr. Rob Olson at rolson@nvsd44.bc.ca

Parent-Teacher Interviews

November 19 – 2-4pm and 6-8pm

Parent Teacher Interviews will be held in the afternoon and evening of November 19. Students will be bringing home an interview request form which is to be returned to the counselling office by November 6. Requests for interviews will be scheduled on a first come first served basis.

Interview schedules will then be sent home with students on November 18. **Please ensure that you prioritize the teachers you wish to see.** It is not possible to see all teachers.

Should you request an interview and not get one during the Parent-Teacher Interviews, the teacher will be informed of your request and will follow up. We will do our best to accommodate all requests.

Daily Physical Activity

The Ministry of Education has announced the introduction of Daily Physical Activity for all schools and students in B.C. This is a joint effort between schools and home. The requirements are:

Grades 1-9: Schools will offer 30 minutes of Daily Physical Activity as part of students' educational program.

Grades 10-12: Students must document and report a minimum of 150 minutes per week of physical activity, at a moderate to vigorous intensity, as part of their Graduation Transitions Program.

At Balmoral, The recording of the DPA will occur in Block 3 during the first Block 3 of each month (see schedule below).

1. On a regular basis, students will be required to record their daily/weekly physical activity in their agenda books. Parents can check their child's agenda book for the most up-to-date record of activity.

2. Once a month, on the first Block 3 of each month, teachers will spend 5-10 minutes having the students transfer over their records from the agenda books to their personalized sheets in the blue DPA binders.

3. June 1 will be the last opportunity for DPA recording. All DPA must be completed by June 1 to meet the requirements.

4. For the June report cards, teachers will finalize the sheets, then report out by comment only whether the *students have met or not met the DPA requirements.*

**Block 3 DPA recording dates:
(these are in the student agenda books)**

October 5	March 2
November 2	April 6
December - no scheduled meeting	May 4
January 5	June 1
February 2	

Homework Requests

If you anticipate the absence **being three days or more in length** please contact the school for homework.

It takes time for teachers to collect work (allow 24 hours) so please be sure to call the main office prior to coming in to the school to pick up the homework.

Homework can be picked up in the main office.

Students should see their subject teachers immediately upon their return to ensure that they receive all missed work and to arrange a schedule to get caught up.

Student Conduct on the Shuttle Bus

Student behaviour on the shuttle bus needs to be consistent with student behaviour in school. Students need to be respectful of both the driver as well as the bus itself. Students who do not follow the guidelines of the Student Code of Conduct will not be allowed to use the bus service.

Students must wait on the **sidewalk** at Queens and Mahon for the bus. Please do not wait on the road.

The current bus schedule is posted on the main page of the Balmoral website (www.balmoralsecondary.ca).



Student Drop-off and Pick-up

Student drop-off and pick-up is to be on Mahon Avenue only. In order to avoid a student getting hit by a car, we ask that you please do not drive around the back of the school when dropping off your children. **Students should be dropped off at the front of the school on Mahon Avenue.** In addition, please be mindful of your speed as you drive around the Balmoral community. There are many students who walk to school.

The traffic on Mahon Avenue is particularly congested between 8:15am and 8:30am and 2:40pm and 3:00pm. Students are reminded to check both ways before crossing the street and we ask drivers to adhere to traffic regulations with respect to both speed and parking. Please do not stop in the areas marked by the yellow curb and keep the driveways clear. Be aware that Braemar Elementary students also travel in front of Balmoral.

Most of all we encourage students to walk to school. Walking is a healthy activity and your children are safer if the school front is not congested with cars.

We ask the cooperation of everyone so that we can continue to provide a safe and caring environment for the community, staff, and students.

Entertainment Books

Support Balmoral's Drama & Music departments! Once again, this year we are selling Entertainment Books for \$46.00. Please call the school and ask for Ms Reale, Mr. Walker, Mr. Woodyard or Ms Polsky. Thank you.

Drama

This year the Drama department will present three performance groups:

- Bye Bye Birdie
- Snoopy
- Improv Team

Dates will be announced in the very near future.



Synrevoice

At Balmoral we regularly use the automated synrevoice messaging system. When your child has an ***unexcused absence***, this absence is automatically phoned home during the evening. In addition, a notification of the absence is e-mailed to the parents. This has proven to be an effective way to inform parents about their child's attendance.

The synrevoice system also provides the capability to mass message our school community about upcoming events and timelines. From time to time you will also receive this type of message.

In order for the synrevoice system to work to its full potential it is important that parent e-mail addresses are current. If you have recently changed your email address please forward this information to the main office.

Department Heads / Coordinators 2009-10

The following teachers will serve as subject department curricular leaders / coordinators for 2009-10:

Counselling/Planning	Mr. Bourdon/Mr. Olson
Math/Science	Mr. Burt/Ms Johnston
PE/Language B	Mr. McDonald/ Ms Gellatly
Social Studies/English	Mr. Erickson/ Ms Thomson
Technology/Fine Arts	Ms Wedge/ Ms Anton-Marlowe
Athletic Directors	Mr. Larisch/ Mr. McDonald
IB Coordinator	Ms Macdonald
International Students	Mr. Scorda

If you have any questions, please feel free to call or email them.

Personal Messages for Students

Announcements are read aloud each day at the beginning of the second period. These announcements include any messages for students. The announcements are also posted on our school-wide TV-Monitor system and on the Balmoral website. We do not deliver personal messages to students during the day. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

FYI: When Fun Goes Too Far

Over the past few weekends, several schools in the North Vancouver School District have experienced vandalism requiring costly clean-ups and repairs. Broken windows have been a particular problem, creating a disruptive hazard and straining our maintenance budget.

Law enforcement has been successful in apprehending vandals in our neighbourhoods, sadly, some of these individuals are students in the School District. When this is the case, we can ask the families of these individuals to cover repair costs. But in many instances, it is the School District that funds the repairs, which strains our resources and reduces funds for valuable programs and services. We are asking parents to talk to their children about having fun without causing harm.

Youth Outreach Workers

Capilano Community Services Society has provided youth outreach services to North Vancouver since 1968. Youth Outreach Workers' primary function at Balmoral is to support students in making healthy and informed decisions as they grow up in this age of information. "Boyz Club" and "Girlz Group" are free drop-in lunch groups that focus on fostering connections between youth as well as dispelling myths students may have about current issues.

These groups both take place on Mondays at lunch in rooms 408 and 410. Youth Outreach Workers are also available to provide confidential 1:1 support for students who may be struggling at school or in their personal lives.

If you have any questions about our services please do not hesitate to call 604-988-7114.

Pejman Pirgheibi 604 417 7095
Robyn Laughlin 604 418 3525
Dan Monument 604 417 5474

Food Drive

We began the food drive for the Greater Vancouver Food Bank on Wednesday, October 21 and we will be collecting items until Wednesday, November 18. The food bank often runs out of food at this time of year. Please send donations for non-perishable food items with your children. Donations should be sent to their Block 4 teachers. Thanks for helping out!



Vacations During School Time

While the school recognizes the value of travel and family holidays and supports the benefits and educational opportunities that travel affords, parents and students should expect that missing school time to go on a holiday will have an impact on progress and achievement at school. Parents and students should make all reasonable efforts to avoid planning holidays that interfere with scheduled classes. Class time cannot be replicated and some activities and assignments may be impossible to do if students miss classes. Students and parents should be aware that teachers are not required to provide extra work or extra time to complete assignments for missed absences. Students are responsible for finding out what they have missed; either from the teachers' web sites or a friend. Students who are absent for unit examinations are particularly at risk.

With that in mind, the school recognizes that there will be times when families will go on holidays during school time. Families and students must make every effort to minimize the impact of missing classes by informing the school and individual teachers as early as possible.

Vacation forms are available in the main office and need to be completed by the students and returned to the office prior to the absence.

Grade 8 Team Building

On September 22 we had a grade 8 mixer and scavenger hunt. Students had a BBQ lunch followed by a scavenger hunt in the neighbourhood. By all accounts this was a great way to meet people and make some new friends. Check out the Balmoral website for some great photos of the afternoon. <http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/SchoolSites/Balmoral.aspx>

Remembrance Day Ceremony

On November 10 Balmoral will be having a Remembrance Day ceremony in the gym. The ceremony will start at 10:10am. We encourage parents to come and participate in this reflective event. If you have any questions please call the main office (604-903-3400).

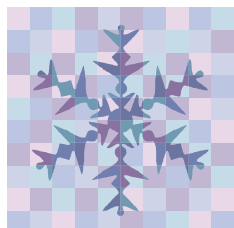


Emergent Weather

With the winter season soon upon us, we would like to remind parents of the procedures surrounding emergent weather conditions. In the event of inclement weather conditions, it is imperative that parents check the school and district websites for up-to-date information regarding school closures.

- www.balmoralsecondary.ca
- www.nvsd44.bc.ca

If possible, a synrevoice message will be sent the evening prior to predicted emergent weather, directing parents and students to the appropriate resources (websites, listen to media etc.).



Important School Forms

The following forms were mailed home with the August newsletter and should have been returned to school on September 8:

- Student Information Verification Form
- Student Emergency Identification Form
- Photo Release Permission Request Form

It is imperative that the school database information be up-to-date. If you have not already done so, please complete, duly sign, and return these forms to the main office immediately.

If you require copies of these forms please contact the main office or download them at www.balmoralsecondary.ca Quick Links / Download School Documents.

Should any of your information change during the course of the year, please notify the main office as soon as possible.

Athletics

Balmoral has the following teams competing in the NSSAA this Fall:

Bantam Rugby

The Grade 8 Rugby team finished third in regular season play, and now head into the playoffs. The team appears to be peaking at the right time of the season.

Junior Field Hockey

The Junior Hockey Field team remains undefeated in League play heading into the playoffs. They have obviously been extremely competitive thus far, and can hopefully crank up their performance by a notch in the next few weeks.

Volleyball

Both Bantam and Juvenile Volleyball teams are participating enthusiastically.

Cross Country

Some top three performances in League Meets so far, especially by Juvenile Boys Conor O'Callaghan and Kyle Longoz. Team members have been out for hour-long runs with their coach, Greig Gjerdalen.

Swimming and Rowing

Participating well.

