



BALMORAL JUNIOR SECONDARY

IB WORLD SCHOOL



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NEWSLETTER

August 26, 2009

School Opening

Tuesday, September 8

Grade 8 Welcome & Homeroom in Gym 9:45
Grade 9 and 10 Homeroom 10:30

Wednesday, September 9 blocks 2 3 1 / 4

Homeroom 9:35 - 9:50
Block 2 9:55 - 10:35

All other blocks in the day will be as per regular timetable.

Thursday, September 10 blocks 6 7 5 / 8

Homeroom 8:35 - 8:45
Block 6 8:50 - 9:5

All other blocks in the day will be as per regular timetable.

Photo Day –Throughout the morning, students will be called to the Theatre alpha by grade.

Gr 8-10 Parent Night in Gym/classrooms 7:00 - 9:00pm

Friday, September 11 blocks 3 1 2 / 4

Homeroom 8:35 - 8:45
Block 3 8:50 - 9:50

All other blocks in the day will be as per regular timetable.

Grade Assemblies will be ½ hour and will occur as follows:

8 = 10:10 - 10:40
9 = 10:50 - 11:20
10 = 11:30 - 12:00

Go Green – Visit Balmoral’s Website Daily

A reminder that future newsletters will only be available on our website (www.balmoralsecondary.ca). The website is our primary source of communication with parents/guardians. The August newsletter is the only time we provide a hard copy. Browse the site **daily** for current information about courses, homework, teams, school news and events, calendar updates, staff contact list, BPAC news, and more! To sign up click on subscribe on the bottom left of the home page, enter your information, then click the “Subscribe” button.

Principal’s Message

As the summer draws to a close, I hope all have had the opportunity to rest and relax and are ready for the new school year.

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome students and families who are new to Balmoral, as well as those who are returning.

As we enter this 50th anniversary of Balmoral’s opening we have reason to be excited about the energy and enthusiasm an increased student population and staff will bring to the halls of the building, to curricular and extra-curricular activities, and to the new relationships we will forge with each other.

For me, this is a return to a building I left 30 years ago as a student, to an office we tried to avoid as young people. The shoe is now on the other foot. I look forward to re-joining this community and establishing and building positive working relationships with students, staff, and parents.

I encourage students and parents to engage in the variety of opportunities the school has to offer to enhance your experiences at Balmoral. The school has the reputation of being an incredible place to learn. Parents will play a vital role in working with their children and the school in promoting positive and successful school experiences that will help lay the foundation for their future.

In mid-July Balmoral received authorization as a three-year (Levels 3, 4, 5) International Baccalaureate Middle Years Programme (MYP). This is a significant accomplishment, and I commend and congratulate all those involved throughout the application process.

There are a number of new staff joining the Balmoral community:

Mr. John Buchanan (Physical Education), Mr. Dan Chong (Math & Science), Mr. Jon Erickson (Social Studies), Mr. David Gage (Special Education), Mr. Tom Harrington (English), Mr. Tom Larisch (Physical Education), Ms Julie McQuade (English & ESL), Mr. Mike Morgan (First Nations

(continued on page 2)

Principal's Message – continued

Integrated Studies), Mr. Dave Murton (Science), Mr. Rob Olson (Student Services), Mr. Rob Walker (Drama & Health and Career Education), and Mr. Steve Woodyard (Band & Math) join us from Carson Graham.

Ms Shannon Burns (Special Education) joins us from Seycove and Ms Heidi Kruz (Math) comes to us from Fromme.

We also welcome Ms Donna Johnson, Mr. Igor Vinogradsky, Ms Jessica Falandysz, Ms Kisa Sellman, and Ms Lynne Belvedere, Special Education Assistants, who bring a wealth of experience to our Special Education Department.

In addition to these new staff members we are in the process of hiring additional teaching and support staff to fill other positions.

Finally, this year promises to be a year of excitement, new experiences, new friendships, and, of course, learning.

I look forward to working with everyone in continuing the positive tradition built over the last 50 years. A tradition which has made Balmoral the place to be.

Mr. M. Kee
Principal

IB Confirmation

It's Official!

Over the summer we received confirmation that our hard work over the last few years has paid off. Balmoral is now an official International Baccalaureate World School. A big congratulations goes out to the Balmoral school community for their efforts. Our incoming grade 8's have the opportunity to be our first official MYP certificate earners! As a World School, we will continue to make strides to implement the full IB Middle Years Programme across all curricular disciplines and our teaching staff will be working hard to ensure our students are connecting their studies to the world outside the classroom, gaining an international perspective.

A practice which we started last year will continue. The third Monday of every month will begin with an hour long IB focused homeroom. To kick start our homerooms this year, in September students will have an IB homeroom every Monday starting the second week of classes. This time will be used to inform students about the importance of agenda use, refresh their memories about the basic understandings of the IB Learner Profile and go over the expectations with respect to student service and involvement within the school and school community.

Toby MacDonald
Balmoral MYP Coordinator

Bus Schedule

Bus transportation is available for students who live in the Carson catchment.

BUS SCHEDULE for Carson and Balmoral 2009–2010

AM Carson to Balmoral			PM Balmoral to Carson		
Bus 1	leave Carson	7:20	Bus 1	leave Balmoral	3:00
2		7:30	2		3:10
1		7:40	1		3:20
2		7:50	2		3:30
1		8:00	1		3:40
2		8:10	2		3:50
1		8:20	1		4:00

- Carson feeder school students will get themselves to Carson for pickup in front of school. Students can wait in the main hallway if it is raining.
- Pick up and drop off at Balmoral will be at Queens & Mahon (transit bus stop area)
- Students who are going to Carson in the AM from the upper Lonsdale area can catch a ride to Carson on the return trip
- Students who are going to the Balmoral area in the PM can catch a ride to Balmoral on the return trip
- Buses will not run after the last posted trip – 8:20am & 4:00pm

Importance of Start-Up Homerooms

Homerooms are scheduled for the following days:

- Tuesday, September 8 (opening day)
- Wednesday, September 9
- Thursday, September 10
- Friday, September 11

These homerooms are vital for the gathering of enrollment data for the school and school district, and the distribution of timetables, lockers and agendas. All students ***must*** attend these classes. During the year, homerooms are scheduled on a monthly basis for IB activities as well as to distribute reports cards, interview schedules, photos and various notices.

Supplies

All students should have the following with them on September 9 when classes begin:

- 3-ring binders
- 3-hole lined paper
- pens, pencils and erasers
- gym strip

Other specialty items (such as calculators and dictionaries) should not be bought until students meet with their subject teachers.

Student Agenda Books

We require students to use our school agenda book as an instructional and time management resource. Teachers will be reviewing the agenda book and its importance with students early in the year in an IB homeroom. We will be teaching students specific strategies in using their agenda books as part of the Approaches to Learning of the Middle Years IB Programme. Please take some time to have a look at the pages outlining some of the key components of the Middle Years International Baccalaureate Programme.

Parents are asked to read pages 4 to 13 **outlining school policies on the use of teacher tutorial blocks, cheating and plagiarism, and Internet use.**

Students are to enter the titles and identification numbers of all textbooks issued during the year. Students must return the textbooks issued to them. As the school requires its books for subsequent student use, we must hold students accountable for returning all correctly numbered books originally issued. Students will be assessed the cost of replacing unreturned textbooks. There is a fee of \$5.00 for the late return of each textbook.

Finally, a number of teachers will use the agenda book as a way of communicating with parents and so checking your child's agenda book on a regular (not necessarily daily) basis is recommended.

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.

Attendance

Regular attendance is essential for success in school. When students are away from school, we ask parents to notify the school by telephone using the callback line. Regardless of the reason for absence, it is the student's responsibility to catch up on missed work.

Excused Notes for Absences

A reminder that **all** excused notes for your child must be brought to the **Main Office** who will inform the appropriate teachers of any absences. Otherwise, your child will be marked as an unexcused absence and you will receive an automated phone call and email.

In order to better track attendance, to keep you better informed, and most importantly for the students' safety and protection, we need the following three components to work cooperatively:

1. **Phone-In** - If your student will be absent or late please advise the school. The attendance callback number is 604-903-3408 and is voice-mail activated 24 hours a day so messages may be left at any time.
2. **Check-In and Checkout Through the Office** - If students arrive late or need to leave before dismissal for appointments or commitments, they **must** check through the office. As well, parents **must** notify the office by sending a note to be dropped off in the Main Office or by leaving a voice-mail message **before** school starts.
3. **Morning Lates** – Lates continue to be an issue for some students. We ask parents to work with us to ensure that your children are at school on time and prepared for their classes. Students who demonstrate a pattern of lateness can expect increasing interventions from the school. We hope that by working together we can encourage our students to be punctual for their work.

Automated Absence Notification

Parents/guardians will receive an automated phone call and e-mail notifying them that a student from their household had an unexcused absence from class that day.

What to do if you receive a phone call/email: The automated phone call/email system refers to "**PERIODS OF THE DAY**" (1 thru 4) so you must look at your student's timetable to determine which missed class the call is for. If your student says they were in class, they must speak with the teacher who marked them away. Only that teacher can verify and change the attendance.

Explanations should be provided on the attendance callback line at 604-903-3408 which is voicemail activated 24 hours a day.

If the school does not have your current phone number or e-mail address please notify the main office at 604-903-3400.

We would appreciate it if you would review these procedures with your son or daughter. As you are aware, regular attendance and punctuality are important components of student learning and success.

Synrevoice

Synrevoice is an automated callback system that is integrated with our school management system. It has numerous capabilities, one of which is to call back to report on daily absences; but we intend to use it mainly as a mass messaging service. If we have important messages or reminders that need to go home, we will occasionally use this system to ensure that the message does get home. We would also use it to remind parents that report cards are going home or that Parent/Teacher Interview forms are due back at school on a particular date. This technology also has the potential to send messages electronically via e-mail. If you haven't sent your e-mail information to the school include it on the enclosed Student Information Verification Form.

Course Changes

As the school year begins, Counsellors will be programming new students, addressing timetable conflicts, and adjusting timetables according to final report cards from the 2008-09 school year and Summer School results. Student initiated course change requests will not be considered until Monday, September 21st.

Counselling assignments for the 2009/10 school year:

Grade 8	- Mr. Rob Olson
Grade 9	- TBD
Grade 10	- Mr. Bruce Bourdon

Secondary School Counsellors are teachers who provide personal, social, and educational support to students. School Counsellors also liaise with parents, staff, and administration in their work with students. Please feel free to contact the appropriate counsellor should you require assistance.

Student Accident Insurance

In September, students will bring home Student Accident Insurance forms and information packages for this important coverage – which includes dental coverage. The Advisory Committee of the School Protection Plan (SPP) urges parents to review the coverage provided in this plan. The cost is modest!

Loss Prevention

Please note that the North Vancouver School District is unable to insure any and all personal property owned by students such as musical instruments, calculators, and computers. The school district will therefore, not accept any liability for loss or damage of personal property under any circumstances.

Students should refrain from bringing personal belongings of value to school, unless necessary. Items brought to school should be adequately insured by parents for loss or damage. For more information regarding insurance, please contact your insurance agent providing homeowner coverage.

Fees for 2009-2010

We will be mailing home individual student fees due letters on **October 9**. The collection of school fees will take place on **October 19**. This makes for a streamlined start-up and also ensures that the student fee assessments reflect any timetable or course changes that may have been made after the start of the school year.

As a reminder to families, course fees are optional but are in place in some courses to provide materials and activities that extend beyond the basic curriculum.

Computer Support Program

Once again, thank you to our Parent Community. For the last number of years, over 90% of Balmoral families have been generous supporters of the leased computer labs, donating \$50.00 a year via the Parent Advisory Committee towards the lease payment.

Since its installation, the PC lab has proven to be an important resource for students and teachers at Balmoral. Last year the addition of a new portable Mac lab increases the learning opportunities for our students in the ITC curricular area. The labs are utilized by classes and by students during supervised hours. Both the existing PC lab and the portable MAC lab will be critical to the Technology Curricular Area of the Middle Years International Baccalaureate Programme being implemented at Balmoral.

The success of this computer support programme depends on the continued financial support by all parents. The “fees due” letter, which will be mailed home October 9, contains an item for 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!

Student Photographs – Thursday, September 10

Photo day information providing all the details of the photographer's services will be sent home with students the day before photos (September 9).

All students ***must*** be photographed for their Go Card bus passes and for the school's student information system. There is no charge for this service. Students will be provided with two proofs to take home approximately two weeks after photo day. Families wishing to purchase colour packages will then submit orders to our school office. Payments are to be made **payable to Mountain West Studios.**

Exams

Students and parents should be aware of Balmoral's exam policy. These include exam procedures, rules and requirements for writing both provincial and school based exams. Balmoral applies the provincial exam policies to the administration of both school based and provincial exams. This information is available on our web site. It can also be accessed via the Ministry of Education website at www.gov.bc.ca/bced/.

EXAM POLICY - MISSED FINAL EXAMS

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.**

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 grades, 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 of 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.

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 also make efforts to page students immediately after school. Though we do our best, unless it is an emergency, it is difficult for us to deliver personal messages to students at other times during the day. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

Daily Physical Activity

Starting in September, students are expected to record their daily physical activity on a daily basis as per provincial requirements. The 2009-2010 student agenda book has monthly recording sheets to aid students with their record keeping.

Grade 8 and 9 students are required to complete 30 minutes per day of physical activity. Grade 10 students are required to complete 150 minutes per week as part of their graduation requirements.

Letter grades for DPA are not assigned. The June 2010 report card will indicate whether or not the DPA requirement has been completed.

Students will have the opportunity to complete their DPA requirements at school, in the community or on their own.

For more information visit the Ministry website at: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/dpa/>

Athletics

Fall Sports at Balmoral

The start of the 2009-2010 Baron's athletic season is almost upon us. The tradition of athletic excellence continues this year with the hope to be as or more successful than our last season. This fall we are planning to offer the traditional fall sports.

We depend upon the community to run many of these teams. Each team needs a coach and willing parents to drive our players to league games. Without volunteers some of these teams will not run. Balmoral is a strong community school, we need your support!

If you would like to coach please contact our Athletic Directors, Mr. Ian McDonald (imcdonald@nvsc44.bc.ca) or Mr. Tom Larisch (tlarisch@nvsc44.bc.ca).

Volunteers Needed

Balmoral is a strong school community because of the dedication of parent and community volunteers. If you are able to help in any way please contact the main office.

Emergency Student Release

Enclosed with this newsletter is a letter regarding **Emergency Student Release Procedures** and the **Student Emergency Identification form**. The letter explains procedures in the case of a community emergency such as an earthquake requiring school evacuation. For more information about emergency student release procedures, please go to the North Vancouver School District website at www.nvsd44.bc.ca.

Medical Alert Information

Promoting a Safe and Healthy School Environment for Children with Medically Diagnosed Life Threatening Conditions

Ensuring a safe and healthy school environment is a responsibility shared by students, parents and staff. It is important that all members of the school community are aware of their role in promoting that child's safety. Please notify the school if your child has any or all of the following:

A MEDICALLY DIAGNOSED health condition/s, which may require emergency care at school. This includes anaphylaxis, diabetes, severe asthma, seizure disorder, blood clotting disorders or serious heart conditions. Please contact the school office to complete a Medical Alert Information Sheet.

Attached to this newsletter

- Student Information Verification Form (return on Sept 8)
- Emergency Student Release Procedures (letter)
 - Student Emergency Identification Form (return on Sept 8)
 - School Emergency Pamphlet
- Photo Release Permission Request Form (return on Sept 8)
- Timetables
- School Calendar 2009-2010
- IB Homeroom Schedule

Welcome everyone!

BPAC News

The Balmoral Jr. Secondary Parent Advisory Council (BPAC) welcomes and invites all parents and guardians of Balmoral students to attend the first PAC meeting of the year, **Monday, September 21 at 7:00pm** in the school library. Agenda items include a welcome orientation, a report from principal, Mr. Michael Kee, and discussion about the upcoming year.

Nominations will also be held for the following executive positions at the September meeting:

- Secretary
- Communications Coordinator
- Feeder School Reps: Norgate, Capilano, Westview, Queen Mary, Larson, Braemar Carisbrooke
- Carson Graham PAC Rep
- School Planning Council (SPC)

Current members of the Balmoral PAC Executive for 2009/10 are:

- Mark Heieis & Sheri Thomas, Co-Chair
- Cheryl Koehle, Treasurer

BPAC is the voice of and for parents whose children attend Balmoral Jr. Secondary. We provide funding for staff and students, share information about school operations and activities, and create opportunities for parent education and connection. Meetings are held on the 3rd Monday of every month and include regular reports from our feeder schools and partner school, Carson Graham. Please check the "Parent" section of the school website, www.balmoralsecondary.ca, for updates and further information.

Upcoming events:

Terry Small: "How to get Better Grades in School"

Hosted by the Balmoral Family of Schools

Admission: \$10/family, no limit on family size

Date: Tuesday, October 6, 2009

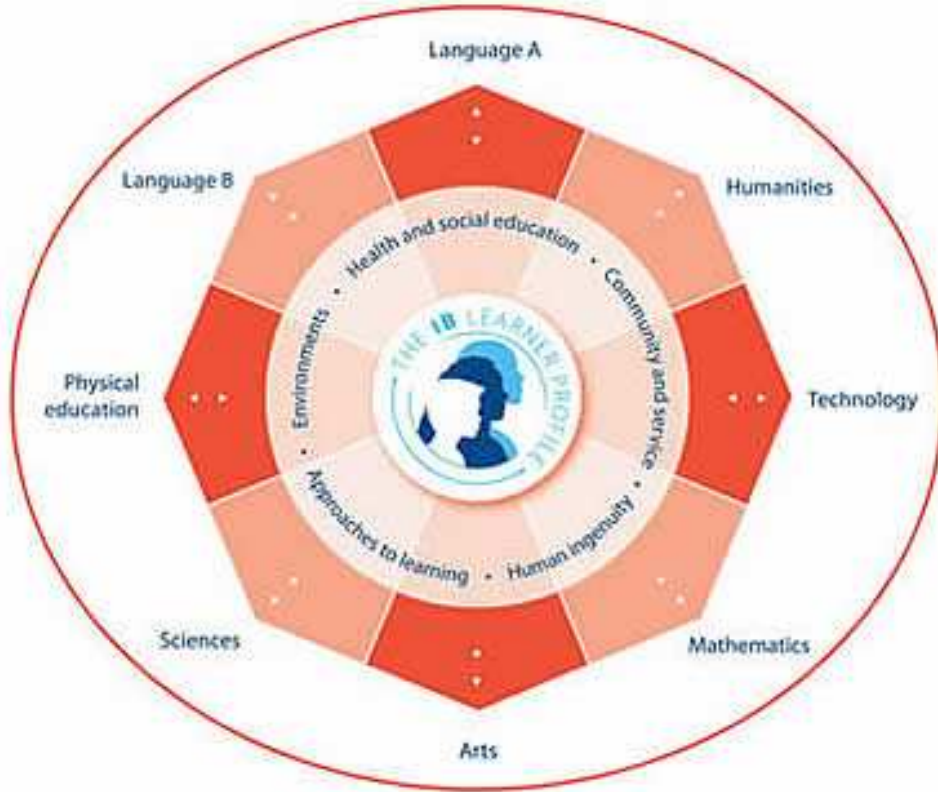
Time: 7:00pm

Location: Balmoral Cafeteria

Parents and students attend this seminar together to learn proven strategies and study secrets.

Guaranteed: better grades, self-confidence, more free time and fun learning! You will have fun and be entertained. This seminar is suitable for students in grades 5-10.

MIDDLE YEARS CURRICULUM MODEL



This model illustrates the 8 curricular subject areas – Math, Science, Art, Technology, Language A, Language B, PE, and Humanities - and the 5 areas of interaction which enable teachers to connect the curriculum to the ‘real world’ – Approaches to Learning, Community and Service, Human Ingenuity, Environments and Health and Social Education.

IB COMMUNITY AND SERVICE

Community and Service is an integral component of the International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. It is the service volunteered by an individual to an organization for the benefit of the community. Starting within the classroom and extending beyond it, Community and Service aims to encourage responsible, caring participation in the local environment and in the wider world. Our emphasis is on examining our roles as citizens in our local and global community; instilling a sense of personal responsibility with others and within ourselves; and developing the skills and attitudes needed to make a positive contribution to society.

At Balmoral, Community and Service is a multi-faceted program. For the 2009/2010 school-year, as a requirement of the IB-MYP Program, all students must complete **10 hours of community service**. Community and Service hours can be collected for completing any service volunteered by a student that benefits the school or a community group. The activity can be completed within the school or in the larger community. Documentation of these hours are collected and recorded by homeroom teachers at the start of every monthly homeroom period. Students are encouraged to exceed the minimum required hours and doing so will qualify them to compete for a Balmoral service award.

Another aspect of Balmoral's Community and Service Program are our school wide activities. Students will be informed about these initiatives in September and asked to choose and sign up for an option of their liking and interest. These activities will be organized by Balmoral staff and may involve students participating outside of school hours.

WHY WE DO COMMUNITY AND SERVICE?

- **A sense of responsibility**
We learn what it means to make and keep a commitment. We also learn that, ultimately, we are responsible for the well-being of the entire community
- **The knowledge that one person can make a difference**
- **The benefit of sacrifice**
- **Tolerance**
Working in community service can bring us in touch with people of different backgrounds, abilities, ethnicities, ages, and education and income levels. We will likely find that even the most diverse individuals can be united by common values
- **Job skills**
Community service can help us decide on your future career. Hospitals and clinics often have teenage volunteer programs. Learning to work as a team member, taking on leadership roles, setting project goals – these are all skills that can be gained by volunteering and will serve us well in any future career
- **How to fill idle time wisely**
If we are not involved in traditional after-school activities, community service can be a wonderful alternative

COMMUNITY & SERVICE IS NOT...

- Family chores or tasks you get paid for
- Attendance or participation at meetings or clubs