



CARSON GRAHAM SECONDARY

IB WORLD SCHOOL

WEBSITE: WWW.CARSONGRAHAM.CA

Newsletter

December 2011

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Principal's Message

Bobsled: Part One

I recently had a conversation with one of the parents in our school community where I likened the nature and cycle of the school year to being akin to that which a bobsled team must experience as they prepare to tear down an ice track like the one at the Olympic Sliding Sports Centre in Whistler. Something that starts off from a completely stationary position on the upper course of the track starts to pick up momentum as students, parents, and teachers push to get the year underway. And while it may seem as though the start is rather slow and gradual it does not take long before things begin to pick up considerable speed. This is what the few months looks like for many of our students and their families, and for those of us here at the school, before we settle in and routines are established. In the upper third of the track, while our teachers and para-educational staff work hard to keep the sled in the perfect position, the ice conditions in combination with the steepness and angle of the track allows the sled to fly forward. This is precisely where we are at the end of our first term. We are now three or four units into our year's studies in all curricular areas and after the first series of assessments our students are beginning to get a good sense of how they are progressing.

Now that the first term has drawn to a close we are entering what is a crucial period for *all* of our students. For many of our Gr. 12's this next term is vital for their applications to the various post-secondary institutions they will be applying to in the New Year. Our graduating students' entrance to whatever program or school it is they are hoping to attend next fall is determined, in large part,

by their success in these first two terms. For many of our grade 8-11's who have worked hard to achieve a strong standing in their courses to date... the challenge in the coming months is to maintain the high standard they have set for themselves to this point in the school year. As a staff, we have worked hard to keep all of our students on track, but we have also tried to identify individuals who, even at this juncture, are in need of extra support and assistance. For those of our students who may be in this position, this next term could provide them the "new beginning" they need in order to get themselves over the hump and on track to being successful in their learning. In the end... it is far more important how our students finish the year.

I encourage all parents – particularly during this period of the BCTF strike action – to speak directly with your daughter/son's teachers to get a better sense of the specific areas that need to be focused on in order to improve their achievement. A full staff directory of email addresses is available on our school website @ www.carsongraham.ca

When we return after the Christmas break we will be entering the lead up to the busiest time of our school year – the mid-course of the bobsled track where the focus needs to be the greatest. Until then... I would like to wish you and your entire family a blessed break. I hope that the next few weeks allows everyone within our school community the chance to rest and enjoy time with family and good friends!

Warmest regards,
Steve Garland – Principal Teacher

Construction Update: Carson 3.0

Now that structural steel for the new school has been completed...work on the inside of the building is beginning to excellerate at (what seems like) a nearly exponential pace. Nary a day goes by that you cannot visually see the progress that the builders are making. The heating and mechanical, electrical, glazing, fire-proofing, and steel stud contractors are progressively moving east to west on all

three floors of the new school. And now that the dry-wallers have begun the work of putting up the sheet rock we are really beginning to get a perfect sense of what the finished classrooms and teaching areas are shaping up to look like.

Please visit Construction Update section of our school website www.carsongraham.ca for the latest photos.

Social Media Links

For the most up-to-date source of information of what's happening at both of our campuses we encourage our parents and students to check out the links on our school maintained website (www.carsongraham.ca)

We would also ask that you follow us:
on Facebook @ Carson
on Twitter @carsonsecondary

And... by downloading the latest version (1.2) of our very own student developed Carson IOS Application for your iTouch, iPhone, or iPad available now from the iTunes Store.
[App developed by Gr. 11 student, Kyle King]

School Fees

2011-2012 school fees are now overdue. If you have not already done so, please submit your fees to Carol Oswald in the office by Dec. 16

Health Updates

For up to date Health issues and information please visit our web site @ carsongraham.ca

Girls Rugby – Fundraisers



11th Annual Christmas Tree Chip It and Bottle Drive will be on Saturday, January 7th and Sunday, January 8th from 9:30 am – 3:30 pm.



For more information on these events, please contact Mrs. Oswald, Mrs. Thornhill or Mr. Baker.

AFK Art Classes

Give the gift of Art & Art Education this Christmas. Winter after-school art courses start in the New Year. Register now. Classes run in various schools across the North Shore. All of our After School Art courses are taught by art



specialist teachers and assisted by a secondary art student. All art supplies and materials are included in the course fee. A student exhibition is held in the Artist for Kids Gallery at the end of each term.

Athletics

Congratulations to all the athletes that competed for Carson Graham during the fall season and thank you to all coaches and sponsors for their time and energy.



A few amazing field sport results to recognize.

We had another outstanding season for Field Hockey! While the JR program showcased a couple up and coming players, the Senior program once again had an outstanding season. The defending provincial champions improved all season 'in a supposed rebuilding season' and captured the silver medal at the provincial championship!!! That is Gold, Silver and Bronze the past three seasons.



A big shout out to the football program that dominated Handsworth this year in the Buchanan Bowl at both the SR and JR level!

The JR team had an outstanding year going undefeated in league play and making it all the way to the provincial semi-finals. They were unlucky to lose in a nail biter 14-13 to eventual champions Mission.

And finally a big shout out to the Grade 8 boys rugby team. They made huge strides all season and made it both to the North Shore and Vancouver and District final where they lost both title games to an outstanding Rockridge team. We will make sure to surpass them in the next couple of years!

Good luck to the wrestling and basketball programs that are getting into full swing!

GO EAGLES!

Tom Larisch
Andy Wong

The Bantam Girls Volleyball team had a very competitive season, finishing 5-3 in league play, and qualifying for the North Shore Playoffs. Highlights of the season included defeating Handsworth Blue and winning the Silver Cup at the Harry Jerome Dome. The team would like to thank Coach Kendra Samson for helping the girls have such a successful season.



The Junior Girls had an enjoyable year where they played in a very strong league. Having a joint 9/10 team, the girls

had many thrilling five set matches. Mr. Wong would like to wish the girls good luck next year.

The Senior Girls had one of their best seasons in recent memory, finishing the league as the #1 AAA team on the North Shore. The team also made it to the semi-finals of the 20 Harry Jerome Tournament. With only two grade 12's on this years squad, next season should be very exciting. Thank you to Coach Trina Hewlett for all of her dedicated work this season.

Calendar Update

Dec 16 Santa's Breakfast, North Campus Cafeteria
 Dec 16 School closes for Winter Vacation
 Jan 3 School re-opens
 Jan 7-8 Chip it & Bottle Drive 9:30 am – 3:30 pm
 Carson South Campus
 Jan 9 Bloodmobile – South Campus
 Jan 16 Curriculum Implementation Day
 Schools Closed.
 Jan 17 IB (MYP & DP) Parent Night - North Campus

Jan 18 Gr 8 & 9 Program Parent Night
 PAC meeting 7:00 Carson South Library
 Guest speaker: Nada Banic, Family Counselor
 Jan 24 Gr 10 & 11 Program Parent Night – North Campus
 Feb 7 Gr 7 Program Parent Night – North Campus
 Feb 14 Late start 9:45 – IB Development
 Feb 15 PAC meeting @ North Campus
 Feb 24 District Pro Day – Schools closed