



École Secondaire Handsworth Secondary School

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Students

I am pleased to say that this has been a very productive and rewarding year.

We undertook a number of key initiatives this year which have had a very positive impact on the teaching and learning environment. We are very pleased with the progress made in those areas which define a school as being healthy, effective and progressive.

The comprehensive “needs assessment” that we undertook in the Fall was very informative and enlightening. Two main themes emerged: the need to upgrade some of the physical aspects of the classroom and to upgrade technology in support of instruction. In the area of technology, staff expressed a very keen interest in enhancing their use of technology in support of instruction, assessment and communication. As well, many staff indicated an interest in upgrading their skill set as it relates to the use of various types of hardware and software applications.

As an outcome of the assessment, we ensured each classroom was equipped with a desk top or laptop computer, a “Media Cart” which consists of an “In Focus” projector, DVD/VCR player and speakers. The “Media Cart” has enabled teachers to integrate technology into their teaching practice and has thus enhanced both instruction and assessment. As well, students have done a remarkable job of presenting their own work, projects, etc, by utilizing the media at hand. This has raised the bar on the quality and presentation of assignments and as well, it has become a catalyst for enhancing instruction.

The Handsworth web-site has been an invaluable portal into life at the school. Informal surveys done during the programming sessions in the Spring, indicated that approximately 80% to 90% of parents refer to the web-site for information. Due to the high percentage of readership, we have committed our resources to ensure that it is updated daily! It will be dormant over the summer but please ensure to check it for school start up information in the last week of August.

The strength of the various pillars of the school are truly impressive. Whether it is in the area of academic achievement, athletics, fine and/or performing arts, Handsworth has a remarkable cadre of dedicated, hard working staff who are committed to doing the very best for your child.

In closing, we are well underway to planning for next year. I look forward to providing you with a complete update in the September newsletter of the plans for the upcoming year. Until then, I wish you and your family a restful, enjoyable and most of all, a safe and relaxing summer.

Peter Ewens

❁ Handsworth “After Grad” Celebrations a Roaring Success ❁

Handsworth’s first ever parent organized and supervised after grad was held without a hitch in the wee hours of Saturday, June 14. Over 200 grads danced the night away atop the peak of Vancouver, Grouse Mountain, in addition to enjoying the fun of a mock casino, photo booth, magician, karaoke, and more. The event was followed by a breakfast at the school at 4:00 am for which about 140 students managed to stay up long enough to enjoy a wonderful meal prepared by a team of sleepy-eyed parents.

Congratulations to the winners of the door prizes that were drawn during the event:

I-Pod - David Scovell

MAC Book - Natasha Sanderson

Merchant Gift Certificates - Lauren Ko and Michelle Lee

Over \$26,000 was raised in eight short weeks to fund this year’s event. Thank you once again to all the businesses, parents and others who donated so generously to this cause.

And though all required finances were raised for this year, the After Grad Committee decided to hold a raffle to raise funds for a community gift on behalf of the graduating class and to begin a legacy fund for future years.

The winners of the raffle prizes were:

Andrew Burian - I-Pod Nano

Colin Weeks - I-Pod Nano

Alysson Hall - I-Pod Touch

Hayley Goodman - Rock Band

Haley Sorenson - Nintendo Wii

Ben Porter - Sony Digicam

Shauna Shrivastava - Panasonic Camera

Adam Thornson - Sony Playstation

Thank you to Mr. Ewens, the parent volunteers, Ms. Sorensen for being the teacher-sponsor for the breakfast and the office staff who helped along the way.

And most of all, thank you to all the grads who had a great time and were respectful of the venue, parents and staff. We look forward to future after grad events so that all our students can have a safe and memorable graduating experience.

After Grad Organizing Committee

Passport to Education Stamps- Grades 10 and 11

Students who are eligible to receive a Passport to Education Stamp will be contacted directly in August. The letter of notification will instruct recipients to pick up their Stamp through the main office during the month of September.

Peter Ewens

Summer Hours

Regarding summer office hours, please check the Handsworth website as of July 4th.



Report from the HPAC/HSSA



- For information on the meetings and workshops put on by the North Vancouver District Parent Advisory Committee (NVPAC) please check their website <http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/AboutUs/NVPAC.aspx>
- Artists for Kids have their new 15th Annual Paradise Valley Summer School of Visual Art calendar out. July 6 - 11: drawing, painting, printmaking & raku for ages 8 - 12 with Roz Marshall and July 13 - 18: drawing, painting and sculpture for ages 13-18 with J Carl Heywood and Tiki Mulvihill. Please go to www.artists4kids.com for details.
- The UBC School of Nursing is Introducing a Research Study Titled: Fostering Connectedness & Capacity Building: Parent, Teen & Community Perspectives. The study aims to explore parents', teens' and others' perspectives on the ways the community provides opportunities or resources to foster teen growth and development. To achieve this aim they would like to speak with parents and teens and persons who work with, or on behalf of, teens on the North Shore. The Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council fund the research. Teens and parents who participate in an interview will receive \$10. Parents who participate in a small group discussion will receive \$15. For more information contact Dr. Judith Lynam - UBC School of Nursing 604-822-7476 lynam@interchange.ubc.ca

Note - We have an executive meeting generally one week before the scheduled HPAC meeting and that is where we set our agenda. If you have any concerns, issues, ideas, etc. that you would like to discuss at a future HPAC meeting, it would be appreciated if you would please get in touch with one of our executive members so we may discuss it and put it on the agenda.



TRANSCRIPTS

As a result of summer maintenance on the student information system BCeSIS, Handsworth will be unable to deal with transcript issues or errors between July 8th to August 15th, 2008. Handsworth has no control over this decision as it is a direct result of BCeSIS being unavailable at the Provincial level.

However, students are asked to do the following to ensure the correct reporting of marks to the Ministry:

1. Upon receiving your Report Card, please check your final marks carefully. If there is an error please see the teacher immediately on Wednesday June 26th or at the latest June 27th to correct the error so it can be reported correctly.
2. Any questions or concerns regarding final Report Card marks can be addressed at the school office from July 2nd to July 4th. Final exam results will be posted to the Ministry website (www.bced.gov.bc.ca/transcripts) on July 31st. Transcripts for Grade 12 students will be mailed home on July 31st. The school office will **NOT BE ABLE** to deal with any transcript issues from July 8th to August 15th due to BCeSIS being off line for maintenance. Any issues or concerns that arise over the summer can be dealt with by contacting the Main Office the beginning Wednesday August 20th, 2008.

Dr. David Overgaard

Exam Rewrites

The Ministry of Education is no longer offering Grade 12 August exam sessions at post-secondary institutions. Previously, students had the opportunity to rewrite exams at Capilano College. In accordance with this directive from the Ministry, this will no longer be offered.

The Ministry notes that "Not all Districts/Schools will be hosting August Exams" and further identifies that schools or districts should facilitate writing at other locations. It also simultaneously notes that the majority of districts will not accept out of district students.

North Vancouver School District does not have the capacity to offer August exam sittings for the general student population. Students enrolled in summer school sessions will write August exams, however, these sittings will not be open to other students. Students with exceptional circumstances that prohibited them from writing in June, e.g., serious illness, death in family, etc. may apply to write in August through the Summer School Administration.

With an increase of 50% this year in the number of summer school students enrolled in examinable courses, coupled with limited computer lab space, North Vancouver School District does not have the resources to accommodate additional students at the summer school sitting.

As the ministry site indicates: "In the event that a student is not able to locate a district to write in for August, they will have to write in the next available exam session offered in their home school".

Handsworth students wishing to rewrite a Provincial Exam may inquire in September as to the earliest opportunity for rewriting an exam offered through Handsworth School.

Peter Ewens

RETIREMENTS

There are many things that define a school and more importantly, excellence in a school. It gives me great pleasure to acknowledge the significant contribution that the individuals listed below have made to Handsworth Secondary School. Each person has, in their own unique way, made a positive difference to Handsworth's Learning Community.

Teaching is one of those professions for which the rewards are quietly intrinsic. These individuals have given their careers to the betterment of education and it has been our good fortune, your children's good fortune, that part of their respective career has been spent at Handsworth.

I know parents and students alike will join me in publicly thanking the following staff for their tireless, generous and professional dedication as we all wish them well as they retire from the excellent service that they have given to the Handsworth School Community.

Ms. Briar Ballou	Sciences
Ms. Allison Ross	Physical Education
Mr. Jack Taylor	Mathematics

Peter Ewens