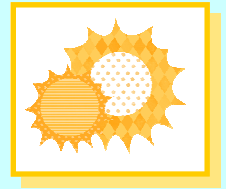




École Secondaire Handsworth Secondary School

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Tel # 604-903-3600 Fax # 604-903-3601



Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Students

It is with mixed emotion that I write my final newsletter. I have had the honour and privilege of serving the North Vancouver School District for these past 35 years- 15 as a teacher and 20 as an administrator.

It has been an absolute pleasure to have been the Principal of Handsworth for these past two years. I consider myself to have been extremely fortunate in coming to Handsworth as it was fertile ground for my style and vision of leadership. I felt there was an immediate synergy with the staff, students and the incredible support of the PAC and parent community in general. Right from the outset the values which I brought to Handsworth in the form of a vision were embraced by the school community. As the foundation to our own growth we turned our focus to enhancing those values and attributes of a professional, humanistic teaching and learning environment.

With support from the PAC and the assistance of the District's Information Technology department we made considerable upgrades to the teaching and learning environment. The list consisted of server and network upgrades, "saturating" the building with a wireless network, extensive deployment of laptops in conjunction with "media carts", screens and DVD/Video players. Using the information technology tools as a foundation, the staff quickly embraced the technology and capitalized on it to enhance home/school communication through emails and staff web sites.

Consistent with the values of a professional humanistic environment, we addressed a number of areas that impacted students' day-to-day lives. For example, the expansion of the Library which included adding 30 computer stations, the upgrading of the Career Centre and computer labs, the installation of the "Digital Showcase", adding more benches around the school and the addition of microwaves in the Cafeteria were all enhancements that directly benefited students.

It is important to note that the enhancements of "things" are just that- it is the people who truly make the difference. The staff of Handsworth care passionately about your children. By "staff" I am being all inclusive in referencing both the NVTa and CUPE staff of the school. We are a front-line organization made up of 100 staff with an operating budget in the tens of millions of dollars dedicated to serving the needs of a student body of over 1400 students. We have always embraced the primacy of the classroom as a core value and deployed our resources to create the best learning environment and "school experience" as possible. The concept of a "school experience" cannot be overstated. It reflects a philosophy that acknowledges the importance of learning experiences that occur outside the classroom as important adjuncts to your child's social, intellectual, spiritual and physical development. These enhancements are made possible through field trips and extracurricular activities in Athletics, Fine Arts, Performing Arts, Technical Arts and the incredible array of clubs and activities sponsored by the Student Council and Grad Council.

Handsworth will continue to thrive as a stellar and exemplary learning community. It will do so within the ever changing context and values of both our society and our community. Change is the constant-adapting to change is the variable-influencing change is by design. The Handsworth Learning Community has the enviable capacity to influence and moreover, define how it will continue to change in providing one of the best educational experiences for your child now and into the future.

In closing, thank you for the trust, confidence and opportunity to be part of defining Handsworth's future as one of the most successful public school's in the Province.

Peter Evens

SAFETY ONLINE & IN DOWNTIME

Student Safety

This year we have included a number of resources that address what may be potential risks to our students. Specifically, please note the reference to two key areas of risk; Internet Safety plus crystal meth. In addition to the resources provided Handsworth will once again be hosting Internet Safety expert, Jesse Miller as part of the Planning 10 curriculum (see school web site for a more complete description). As well, the PAC will be facilitating their own information sessions on Internet Safety plus Drugs and Alcohol as part of their PAC meetings. As parents, you are encouraged to capitalize on the resources and information sessions provided through newsletters, the school web site and PAC meetings to ensure the safety of your child.

Peter Ewens

Internet Safety

SWDYT?

Learn netlingo, it's E123
N-A-Y-L U won't be SITD
B4YKI U can chat 2.
Don't let's KPC!

Acronyms & Glossary: <http://www.webwisekids.org/>

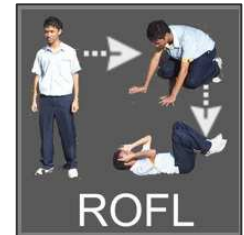
So what do you think?

Learn netlingo, it's easy as 1, 2, 3.
In a while you won't be still in the dark.
Before you know it you can chat too.
Don't let's keep parents clueless!



As part of an on-going campaign to alert students, staff and parents to the potential risks of being online, Handsworth would like to provide tips about Internet Safety.

- Place your computer in a highly visible location, like a family or living room so you can see what your kids are doing. Look at the sites they visit.
- Teach your kids to never give out personal information such as names, addresses, phone numbers, email addresses or credit card numbers.
- Encourage your kids to tell you if anyone is asking for personal information.
- Teach your kids not to talk to strangers on the Internet, they may not be who you think they are.
- If your child starts receiving phone calls from strangers, or places calls to people you don't know, get involved immediately and find out what is happening.
- Tell your children that if someone harasses them on-line, says something inappropriate, or makes them feel uncomfortable in any way they should tell you, their teacher or a trusted adult.
- Contact the RCMP if your child receives pornography, has been sexually solicited or has received sexually explicit images from an adult.
- Encourage your kids to use the privacy settings that Facebook and other online social networks provide.



For further information about internet safety please visit the following sites:

RCMP: <http://www.rcmp-grc.gc.ca/youth-jeune/ws-sw-eng.htm>

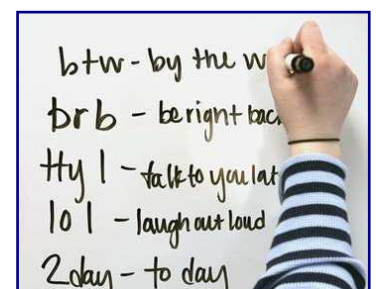
Cyberbullying: www.webawareness.org

Acronyms & Glossary: <http://www.webwisekids.org/>

Tips to prevent sexting: <http://www.connectsafely.org/>

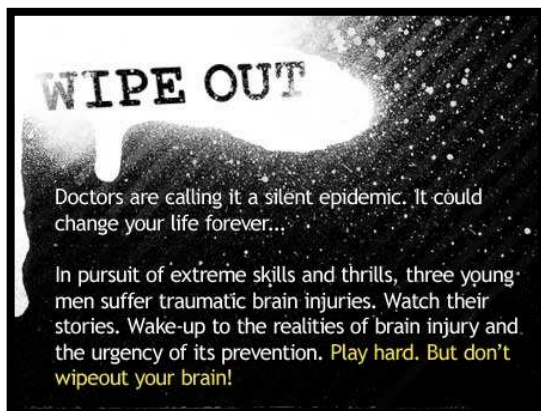
How to recognize "grooming" <http://www.safekids.com/>

Canadian Centre for Child Protection <http://www.safekids.com/>



WIPE OUT

WipeOut, produced by Lionel Goddard and the Knowledge Network, tells the story of three young BC men who thrived on extreme sports until traumatic brain injuries changed their lives.



Olympic gold medalist Ross Rebagliati narrates this documentary, which offers unprecedented insight into the lives of those who are part of what doctors call the "invisible epidemic" - brain injury, the leading cause of death and disability among men under the age of 35.

View the trailer or the entire video at <http://wipeout.knowledgenetwork.ca/>

No 2 Meth

With this Newsletter, we have distributed "No 2 Meth" resource pamphlet to all students in grades 8 and 9. We encourage all parents to reference the No 2 Meth website at www.no2meth.ca to find the answers to such questions as:

- What is crystal meth?
- What does methamphetamine do to the body?
- How common is methamphetamine use?
- What are the risks of methamphetamine use?
- Why do kids use drugs?

Students can explore:

- Know what you're putting in your body
- Friends don't force friends
- Going out with your friends
- If something goes wrong when you're out

When youth are buying "E" (Ecstasy) they are actually buying Meth. There are certain 'red flags' associated with Meth use that will be noticeable from the very first time someone tries the drug. Not every user will display every one of these symptoms; other illicit drugs may also cause similar signs.

Signs/Symptoms of Early Meth Use

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| Euphoric "high" state | Paranoia / anger issues |
| Decreased appetite | Increased physical activity |
| Incessant talking | Rapid eye movement |
| Dilated pupils | New Friends |
| Anxiety, shaking hands, nervousness, sweating | |
| Increased body temperature | |

If you are concerned about your son/daughter, contact Shannon Eberts, the Youth and Family Therapist at West Coast Alternatives (604) 984-0255

Teens and Alcohol Use

The most commonly used substance among teenagers is alcohol.

A 2004–2005 Health Canada survey revealed that the average age of first use reported among grade 7–9 students was 11 years for alcohol and just under 13 years for cannabis.

Some teenagers will "experiment," but others will use these substances on a more regular basis and go on to have drug or alcohol problems.

Drinking can be risky when people drink too quickly. This is known as **binge drinking**:

Binge drinking is commonly defined as drinking 5 or more standard drinks on one occasion.

It takes about one hour for the body to process 1 standard drink.

Drinking 5 or more drinks in a short period of time does not allow the body to process the alcohol or to detoxify the effects of alcohol and therefore increases the risk of getting drunk.

Parent Resources:

- Health Canada - Be Drug Wise www.theantidrug.com
- Alberta Alcohol and Drug Abuse Commission www.aadac.com
- Centre for Addiction and Mental Health www.camh.net
- National Institute on Drug Abuse www.nida.nih.gov
- BC Ministry of Education www.no2meth.ca

Student Resources:

- Freevibe www.freevibe.com
- Streetdrugs.org www.streetdrugs.org
- The Cool Spot www.thecoolspot.gov
- BC Ministry of Education www.no2meth.ca



TRANSCRIPTS

Handsworth will be unable to deal with transcript issues or errors between July 8th and August 4th, 2009.

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 24th or at the latest June 26th 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 June 29th to July 3rd. 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 4th 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 for two days only in the first week of August.: August 5th and August 6th from 9 am until 2 pm. If you are unable to contact the school on one of these two days then the school office will reopen beginning Wednesday August 26th, 2009.
3. Please ensure you know your PEN number prior to leaving school at the end of June.

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 University. 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.

David Overgaard

Duke of Edinburgh's Award

I was asked whether or not I would like to sponsor the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards here at Handsworth. My good friend Shirley Turner just finished showing Prince Edward around Van Tech High School and joined him in the Awards Ceremony that took place there. I learned from her the benefits of this particular program and decided to take it on provided there was enough support from parents and initiative from students. To find out more about this you can go to the following link:
<http://www.dukeofed.org/Home.aspx>

“The Award Programme is filled with activities that you can do in your spare time. There are three award levels to achieve; Bronze, Silver and Gold. Achieving an award is as easy as setting and achieving your personal goals in the four areas of the programme: Community Service, Skills, Physical Recreation and Adventurous Journey.”



If we do go ahead with this we will have to meet once a month and you will need to make a 25.00 deposit to receive the pamphlet that outlines how each student should proceed. I would meet with you to go over the information. The best way to contact me to let me know if you are interested is via email: mklausen@nvsd44.bc.ca

Mary Klausen

VOLUNTEERS

The active involvement of parents in a volunteer role has the potential to provide considerable benefit to the intellectual and social development of students.

In addition, the participation of volunteers increases communication and positive relationship between the school, parents, and the community. Consequently, the Board supports and encourages the use of volunteers to support the work of employees. (Excerpt from NVSD Policy 404: Volunteers in Schools).

All volunteers at Handsworth are governed under the provisions of NVSD Policy 404: Volunteers in Schools.

In the school year 2009-2010, Parent volunteers will be asked to pick up a Volunteer Package from the Main Office.

Jeff Hasenauer
Vice-Principal

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 Ms. Shollert and Mr. Shewchuk for their tireless, generous and professional dedication that they have given to the Handsworth School Community.

Ms. Carol Shollert Mathematics Mr. Ken Shewchuk Languages (Spanish)

At the time of writing, the following staff will be not officially be returning to Handsworth. Layoff's have become a reality of the District's operational budget for the 2009/2010 school year. One can never predict how circumstances may change and one can only hope that an easing of these economic times may create opportunities for those who have been impacted by budget constraints.

Staff Leaving

These staff provided excellent teaching, coaching and care for you children while they were at Handsworth. I know I speak for everyone when I extend a sincere thank you to them for their excellent service and dedication to the Handsworth community.

Ross Ballard Mark Barrett Alena Irvine Laura Kirk Scott Ramsay

New Staff

Mark James, Principal Marc Johnston, Science/Math

Message from the Athletic Department

If there ever was a year to call the "Year of the Royal" 2008-2009 would be it! Winning 4 Provincial Championships - Boys AAA Soccer, Girls AAAA Volleyball, Girls AAA Basketball and Girls AAA Soccer - along with several North Shore Championships this has been a *banner* year! Lindsey Butterworth put the icing on the cake with both a Gold and a Silver at the Provincial Track and Field Championships in the first week of June. All of this could not be accomplished with a solid foundation of participants from Grade 8 through to Grade 12. This year we had nearly 700 athletes competing on 37 teams. A heartfelt thank you goes out to the army of volunteers who helped coach, manage and sponsor these teams. Without these volunteers our teams would not even get off the ground.





News from our Handsworth Parent Advisory Council (HPAC)... Report from the HPAC/HSSA



The last HPAC meeting for this school year was our social held Tuesday, June 9th which was very well attended. Many parents from the Handsworth feeder schools came and were able to meet our administration, Mr. Ewens, Mr. Hasenauer and Dr. Overgaard. There were a number of “retirements” that were recognized. Mr. Ewens has retired as school principal and many thanks were given for all he has accomplished over his two years at Handsworth. Ernie Filzwieser is retiring as the HPAC Secretary. He has not only spent time as the treasurer but was integral in getting the code of ethics and constitution and bylaws established for the HPAC/HSSA. Michael Wei and Diana Zargarpour are two members at large that have worked tirelessly behind the scenes. Michael has been a great help with the school’s IT requests. Diana has been great at applying for grants as well as doing background work for budget requests for athletic equipment as well as others. We were also able to introduce the new faces to HPAC. Rose Harvey is the new HPAC Secretary, Kim Moen is the new HPAC treasurer and Jean Mill and Cheryl Leia will share the HPAC Chair position until Dec 2009. Peter Wei and Patti Cross-Bishop are two new members at large. Barb Vincent and Sheila Drummond will stay on as past Chairs. Sandra Hancock, Cathy Floe (DPAC Rep), Gwen Groberman (SPC Rep), and Harriet Tracy make up the balance of the Executive for HPAC. Thank you to all parents who have come throughout the year and supported the HPAC.

- June 19th was the Handsworth Teacher/Staff Lunch. This is an annual event that is really appreciated by staff. Many thanks go out to the more than forty parents that supplied the food and helped with set-up, serving and clean-up. A special thanks to Amanda Pospiech who coordinated the event.
- Handsworth’s return of the Spring Fair was a great success. From all accounts it exceeded expectations on the community turnout, money raised and enjoyment had by all. The final numbers are being tallied and we will have a full report out in September. Thanks to all those involved and especially to Anne Strain who made the huge job of overseeing seem effortless.
- 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>
- The first HPAC meeting for September is already set for Monday September 21, 2009. Please plan on attending and meeting the new school Principal Mr. Mark James. All parents are welcome. Meetings are held in the school library and begin at 7:00pm.

- The HPAC will again host the Grade 8 Parent dinner in September where the parents only will attend a meal and then get to follow their child's timetable and meet the teachers. The date has been set for Thursday September 24, 2009.
- Please see the August mail out for more information. Be sure to check the "Parent" section of <http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/SchoolSites/Handsworth.aspx> for much more info.

Have a restful, safe summer and we look forward to seeing you in September.

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.



News from our Handsworth Parent Advisory Council (HPAC)...

Report from the HPAC/HSSA



How to Sign Up for Handsworth E-Mail and Stay Informed!

The Handsworth Parent Advisory Council (HPAC) would like to continue to provide better communication with the parents of students at Handsworth Secondary School.

To do this HPAC, in conjunction with the school, would like to establish a database of parents' e-mail addresses to be used for HPAC and school purposes only. Examples of purposes to communicate with you are as follows: make you aware of HPAC meetings; forward meeting agendas and minutes, seek your input regarding matters affecting students at Handsworth and the school district, and to make you aware of important school related events. This database would replace the g-mail that has been used in the past.

The HPAC will ensure that the database is not sold or otherwise provided, distributed or made available to any other person or organization, and that will be used solely for communications relevant to school matters. If you provide your e-mail address you will also be able to "unsubscribe" from the database at any time.

To sign up for the Handsworth e-mail please go to the school website (<http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca/SchoolSites/Handsworth.aspx>) and scroll down the home page to the bottom left. Click on the word Subscribe. Follow the instructions.

September 2009

Tuesday, September 8th

School Reopens 8:30 am - 2:45 pm

Thursday, September 10th

Photo Day

Saturday, September 12th

Buchanan Bowl

Jr. Game 11:00 am, Sr. Game 1:30 pm

Monday, September 21st

HPAC Meeting 7pm in the Library

Tuesday, September 22nd

Grade 8 BBQ & Dance 6:00 - 9:00 pm

Thursday, September 24th

Grade 8 Parent Dinner / Meet the Teachers

September 25th - 27th

Gabriola Sr. Winds Retreat Weekend

Tuesday, September 29th

Music Open House 7:00 pm, MPAC Meeting 7:30 pm

Wednesday, September 30th

Post Secondary Day 3:15 - 5 pm

October 2009

Friday, October 2nd

School Based Professional Day SCHOOL CLOSED

Inage Students Arrive

October 2nd - 3rd

Bantam Girls Volleyball Tournament

Sunday, October 4th

PE 12 Retreat at Outdoor School

Thursday, October 8th

Inage Students Depart

October 2009 cont.

Monday, October 12th

Thanksgiving Day, SCHOOL CLOSED



Wednesday, October 14th

Planning 12 Assembly 8:15

Thursday, October 15th

Italy Trip Departs

Friday, October 16th

Photo Retakes

Friday, October 16th-17th

Jr. Girls Volleyball Tournament

Saturday, October 17th

MPAC Bottle Drive

Sunday, October 18th

Strachan Hartley Legacy Run

Monday, October 19th

HPAC Meeting 7pm in the Library

Friday, October 23rd

District Wide Professional Day SCHOOL CLOSED

October 23rd - 24th

Provincial Honour Music Ensembles, Surrey

Sr. Girls BCO Volleyball Tournament

Wednesday, October 28th

Gr. 9 Immunization Clinic

Jr. Music Homecoming at 7:30 pm in the Large Gym

Thursday, October 29th

Sr. Music Homecoming at 7:30 pm Large Gym