

August 2009



École Secondaire Handsworth Secondary School

1044 Edgewood Road
North Vancouver B.C. V7R 1Y7
Tel # 604-903-3600 Fax # 604-903-3601



Principal's Message

I hope this message finds you enjoying your summer, and that this reminder of the coming start of the school year does not intrude too much on your plans, or enjoyment.

Personally, I have had a great break with my family and look forward to starting back again soon. I'm expecting this to be a good year and look forward to my third assignment to Handsworth. In each of my previous assignments to Handsworth I have enjoyed my time very much.

It has been my experience that Handsworth is a great place to be. Students are eager to do well and go about their school work and life with a positive attitude. Staff are dedicated to ensuring that students do well in all aspects of school life and that students are provided the opportunities to excel in areas of interest to them, whether in the classroom or out of the classroom. It has also been my experience that the Handsworth staff work hard in their time outside of the classroom to ensure they improve the quality of their instruction so that students can have even better experiences while at school.

As you know, Handsworth has an outstanding reputation as a place of learning. We pride ourselves on our strength in virtually every area of school life which we see consisting of a high level of excellence in areas of academics/scholarship, career planning, special education services, athletics, performing arts, fine arts, and technical arts. At the same time we recognize that a large part of why Handsworth has such a good reputation is that our students take advantage of the opportunities available to them and do not shy away from the challenges presented along the way.

It is into this environment that I particularly want to welcome families new to Handsworth. As is always the case it takes a little while to get familiar with the routines, but you should feel free to ask questions if you, or your child, are unsure of anything. Further, please get involved in any way possible as many of the programs we offer would not be as good without your support. As you enter the school remember that the key to any student's success and enjoyment of high school will be how much they get involved, how active they are in taking advantage of opportunities provided and how determined they are to overcome the challenges along the way.

In closing, I know I speak for the entire staff when I convey to you that we are very excited and enthusiastic about the coming year.

Yours truly,

Mark James
Principal

SCHOOL OPENING AT A GLANCE

Tuesday, September 8th

10:00 All Grades Homeroom
10:45 Grade 8 Assembly in the Large Gym
11:30 New Students Assembly in the Library



Wednesday, September 9th

9:10 Homeroom
9:30 Regular Classes Begin
2:45 Dismissal

SCHOOL CONTACT INFORMATION

As you can imagine responding to the needs of a school community that serves over 1,400 students is a demanding task. However, there are a number of protocols that if observed, enable us to respond efficiently and effectively to the myriad of inquiries that we deal with on a day-to-day basis.

General inquiries are best processed through the Main Office where you can speak with one of our knowledgeable office staff who will be able to respond directly or advise you accordingly.

Inquiries for specific teachers can be directed to them through the main office and forwarded to their voice-mail. As well, email is proving to be a very efficient means of communicating with any of our staff members, especially teachers. Every staff member at Handsworth has the same formula for their business email address - First Initial (of the first name) followed by Last Name, followed by "nvsd44.bc.ca."

For those occasions when you wish to speak with either an Administrator or Counsellor a very efficient way to make contact with them is through email:

ADMINISTRATION

Mr. Mark James - Principal

Dr. David Overgaard - Vice Principal (Grade 8 - K to Z/ Grade 10 and 12)

Mr. Jeff Hasenauer - Vice Principal (Grade 8 - A to J/ Grade 9 and 11)

mjames@nvsd44.bc.ca

dovergaard@nvsd44.bc.ca

jhasenauer@nvsd44.bc.ca

COUNSELLORS

Mr. Jay Prepchuk - Grade 12

Mrs. Caryl Tervit - Grade 11

Mr. Don Carlson - Grade 10

Mrs. Stacey Schwegler - Grade 9

Mrs. Sue Jecks - Grade 8

jprepchuk@nvsd44.bc.ca

ctervit@nvsd44.bc.ca

dcarlson@nvsd44.bc.ca

sschwegler@nvsd44.bc.ca

sjecks@nvsd44.bc.ca

Direct Line: (604) 903-3614



All counsellors will soon have a direct line. Please check the website for updated information.

DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY (D.P.A.) AT HANDSWORTH IN 2009-2010

Last year, Handsworth staff, following the lead of District 44 Secondary DPA Task Force, implemented the Ministry of Education requirement for Daily Physical Activity (DPA).

In essence, the DPA initiative is intended to improve the health and learning potential of youth by increasing their daily activity level, at school and elsewhere. To recap the basics, students in grades 8 and 9 must complete and log 30 minutes of physical activity per day, and students in grades 10-12 must log 150 minutes per week. DPA can take place during instructional and non-instructional time. Handsworth will continue to encourage and offer a variety of both curricular and extra-curricular DPA opportunities, but students should remember that many other opportunities reside with the family and community.

Continuing our practice from last year, the Handsworth website displays more complete details of interest to families. Among such topics will be the following:

- Background and rationale to DPA provided by the B.C. Ministry of Education;
- Links to relevant pages in the Ministry Website;
- Types of recommended physical activity;
- Possible DPA options for students at school, at home, and in the community;
- Procedures for keeping a DPA log (available on the Handsworth website), and submitting it to a specified school staff member for reporting purposes.

Additionally, parents can reinforce with their children the importance of daily physical activity to general health and to learning. If applicable, parents can begin planning to increase their children's activity level during non-school time, including the use of community facilities, walking or cycling to and from school, individual or family recreational pursuits, dance, household and yard chores, and community sports. These home and community activities will add to opportunities offered at school to make Daily Physical Activity both achievable and enjoyable.



For the 2009-2010 school year, Handsworth will be reviewing and possibly altering its DPA tracking model. Please be assured that these changes will not affect the basic routine for families. Students should plan on periodically filling out their DPA log sheets (available on our website), and submitting them to their DPA contact teacher when requested. More details of DPA procedures will be communicated to students and parents early in September, 2009 through this newsletter, through automated phone messages (SynerVoice), through print bulletins brought home by your child, and through the Handsworth website.

TRAFFIC SAFETY NEWS

Beginning May 2008, we formed a Traffic Safety Committee. The mandate of the Committee is to look at ways to improve student safety on the streets around and leading to the school, and to reduce Handsworth's environmental footprint by reducing the number of vehicles dropping off and picking up students before and after school.

We have looked at a number of ways to achieve our goals. We have worked with the District of North Vancouver to improve the markings on cross-walks and improve signage and pedestrian traffic barriers. We have commitments from the District to make a number of upgrades.

Our biggest proposal to date, however, is our plan to create Bike Rack parking for 50 bikes. This proposal, to create an environmental statement, while providing much needed bike parking, is supported by all the stakeholder groups within the Handsworth community.

Currently at Handsworth we have no functional bike racks. Students are locking bikes to railings and fencing in various locations around the school. Staff members who ride their bikes are bringing their bikes into the school and storing them in their classrooms or in various storage or prep rooms around the school.

As a result the Traffic Safety Committee, which comprises two parents, a member of the Handsworth staff and two student reps and an admin rep, has worked with the Board and appropriate vendor who can provide, not only excellent pricing, but an excellent product and track record to support this project.

Urban Bike Racks is able to provide the necessary product, support and expertise to make this project a reality. Beginning this September the Bike racks will be installed in the courtyard of the school, a high profile location to provide maximum exposure and security for students and staff who wish to ride to school. Our intention is to raise the profile and attractiveness of riding a bike to school by also having a roof for the bike racks.

As of September, there will be no student parking stalls available off of Edgewood Road. All student parking will be located in the main north parking lot off of Handsworth Road.

We will have a grand opening of the new bike rack parking sometime in the fall at a date to be announced on the school web site.

H1N1 Virus

The Ministry of Education has published information Fact Sheets for parents and an *EdInfo* update on the H1N1 (Human Swine Flu) Virus. This information is posted on the School District's website <http://www.nvsd44.bc.ca>. Topics covered include: Talking to Kids About Swine Flu, Protecting Your Kids From Swine Flu, If you think Your Child May Have Swine Flu.

We are in touch on a regular basis with Vancouver Coastal Health regarding procedures concerning an outbreak of the H1N1 Virus.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES

Absences

Parents are requested to contact the school **prior to 8:30 a.m.** each day, at 604-903-3600, to inform us if their son or daughter will be late or absent from school. Please leave the following information:

- Your Child's name – **please spell the last name**
- Grade
- Reason for Absence (illness, appointment, excused)
- Length of absence i.e. morning, afternoon, all day



Students who are absent and not on the absentee list are considered to be unexcused (unless teachers have been notified of field trips or early dismissals).

Early Dismissal

Students needing to miss a class during the day for such things as doctors' appointments will need to have this absence verified in the Main Office by a parental phone call or a written note. The early dismissal will be noted in BCeSIS (Student Information System). When students arrive back at school after leaving for appointments, they need to go directly to their class.

Students who have an early dismissal for athletic teams will have their names submitted by their coaches to the Main Office before 9:00 am on the day of the event and these early dismissals will appear on BCeSIS.

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 and NVSD Policy 506: Employee Code of Conduct. Volunteer forms must be filled out every school year. If you have not already done so, please fill out the North Vancouver School District Volunteer Application form which is available from the Main Office.

STRACHAN HARTLEY 5 KM LEGACY RUN

Handsworth is pleased to once again be the host site of this very important event. Please join us in the Handsworth gym for registration prior to the 9:30am start on Sunday, October 18th (the gym opens at 8:00 a.m.). For more information about the event, visit <http://www.shlf.ca/run.html>

ENTERTAINMENT BOOK FUNDRAISER

Handsworth will undertake the successful **Entertainment Book Fundraiser** again in the fall of 2009. Last year our book sales injected funding into many departments and areas of the school. Last year's sales staff applied their earnings to the following programs, which included: **Foods** room equipment upgrades, supplies, and the yearly Ginger Bread House Competition, **Math, English, and Social Studies** texts and learning materials, **library books, heritage festival, and extra-curricular athletics** programs. Some of next seasons Entertainment Book will include the following vouchers: T & T Supermarkets (\$60), Safeway, IGA, Red Robin, Edo Japan Restaurant, 300 casual and finer dining restaurants, 90 carry out food vouchers, and many more attractions and savings.

To help students we have increased the student \$ earning and enrolled in a prize program. These rewards help students to make money and earn useful gifts. Starting with the second book sold students will make \$10 a book for books #2-5, \$11 a book for #6-10, and \$12 a book for sales ≥ 11 . In addition, we have the following prizes for students: Burger King Voucher (1 book), \$5.00 Starbuck Gift Card (3 books), free Entertainment Book (which can be resold, 5 books), Whooper a month card (8 books), two Cineplex movie passes and another free Entertainment Book (10 books), \$10.00 Sport Chek gift card (12 books), and Adidas gym bag (15 books). As a result, **a motivated student that sells 15 books and sells the free books they earned will make \$253 and all the prizes listed above.** This is a big improvement from the \$126 a student would have earned last year.

The annual Entertainment Book sales drive is extra work taken on by a handful of teachers at school. The goal is to allow students to raise funds and gain financial support for school programs. Your support of our program is **appreciated**. Please encourage your daughter/son to help the school by selling at least one book.

Details of the campaign are as follows:

- The Entertainment Book is a book of discount coupons. The price is **\$46.00**
- On the first day of school every student receives an Entertainment Book to take home and sell to parent/guardians, co-workers, friends, neighbours, and/or relatives.
- Students simply need to return a cheque, or cash, by the end of the sales campaign which finishes on **Thursday, October 22nd.**

Cheques are made payable to **Handsworth Secondary School**

Students deal with their grade coordinator for sales and books. Grade coordinators are:

Grade 12: Rick Raible(room 225) and Michelle Pye(116)

Grade 11: Fernando Torres(218) and Sal Audia(208)

Grade 10: Lori Zuk and Judy Mould (Library)

Grade 9: Marianne Macario(204)

Grade 8: Rick Turner(241) and Randy Storey(Main PE Office)

Questions should be directed to **grade coordinators** or Randy Storey at rastorey@nvسد44.bc.ca

Information Notice re: School Fees

During the 2007/2008 school year Handsworth undertook a very comprehensive review of all school fees. The review included extensive consultation with the staff, Department Heads and parent representatives through the Parent Advisory Council and School Planning Council. Every fee was analyzed to ensure clarity, consistency and compliance with the Provincial Legislation as per the B. C. School Act and District Policy. The outcome of this process has resulted in many significant changes to school fees.

You will notice the structure of your fee invoice reflects the following:

Three main categories of fees: (1) Supplemental Fees, as noted in the course guide as provided in the Spring; (2) a “General School Fee” which covers “goods and services”; and, (3) optional fees for things such as a Yearbook, Grad Fee, etc.

All fees charged are in accordance with North Vancouver School District Policy 706 - School Fees and are in compliance with both the recent court ruling (Young vs. British Columbia (Minister of Education)) and the B.C. School Act.

Supplemental Fees:

Supplemental Fees will only be charged for optional or supplemental activities and/or materials. The specific purpose of the fee is clearly identified by the teacher.

School supplies (e.g. pens, pencils, PE strip, duo tangs, etc.) remain the responsibility of the parents.

Course Materials:

Handsworth provides the materials needed to complete the basic projects required to meet the learning outcomes or assessment requirements for a course (e.g. fabric for Textiles, lumber for Woodworking, ingredients for Foods). Students have the option to bring additional or superior materials from home or, purchase additional or superior materials from the school if they wish to do a particular project that utilizes a different or better quality material. Materials purchased from the school are sold based upon a cost-recovery basis only.

General School Fee:

Under the B.C. School Act, a General School Fee is permissible where the fee provides for “goods and services” not essential to delivery of the student’s educational program.

The General School Fee provides for: Student Council governance and funding; leadership activities; Student Agenda Book; funding for clubs/athletics; awards/student recognition events; special assemblies; subsidy for hardships; motivational speakers; and paper, writing tools, calculators other than graphical calculators, exercise books, computer storage media and other school supplies and equipment for a student’s personal use. The school subsidizes a number of the expenses associated with funding in this category. These fees are not used for such things as locker repairs or setup, postage or cafeteria supplies.

Workbooks:

Where students are required to use a workbook (no alternative is provided) in order to meet the course/subject learning outcomes and/or for assessment, workbooks are provided at no cost to the student.

Handsworth dedicates approximately \$23,000 of its District funding to support learning through the use of workbooks and related media.

Where use of the workbook is optional – it is the student/parent’s choice to write in the workbook for demonstration of learning, comprehension and mastery and that, alternatively, they may choose to complete the exercises using their consumable school supplies (e.g., notebook, paper, duo tang).

Where workbooks are suggested as an opportunity for optional, supplemental “practice” and the student’s work in the workbook is not marked as a part of student assessment, a fee is charged. Purchase of the workbook is completely optional as its use is not required for successful completion of the course’s learning outcomes. Students choosing not to purchase the workbook will not be negatively disadvantaged in their educational program.

Yearbook:

The Yearbook fee covers the cost of producing the yearbook.

Grad Fee:

The Grad fee covers all the expenses associated with the Graduation Ceremony ie. Rental of facility, gown rentals, decorations, etc. The school subsidizes some of the costs for this event.

Field Trips:

(Not included in September invoice – assessed as applicable throughout the school year)

If student participation in a field trip is necessary in order to successfully meet the learning outcomes of a course and/or is a component of student assessment, the field trip is mandatory and is provided free of charge.

All other field trips are optional, and fees are charged on a strictly cost-recovery basis. You can expect that Field Trip notices will identify all the costs that will be incurred for the field trip so as to provide a clear accounting of the basis of the fee amount.

Trips may be optional because an alternate, cost-free means of meeting the course learning outcomes exists and is available. Students or parents may elect for the student to remain behind and participate in an alternate activity as provided for by the sponsoring teacher(s). Expectations regarding student conduct and safety are clearly communicated for all field trips.

Trips may also be optional because they provide an enhanced or supplemental experience not necessary for meeting the course/subject learning outcomes. Students or parents may elect for the student to remain behind, in which case alternate instructional arrangements will be provided.

Lastly, trips may be optional because they are an extra-curricular activity (e.g., extra-curricular athletics, international trips, etc.).

Please note that the North Vancouver School District and Handsworth Secondary School recognizes the right of each student to access of education regardless of financial circumstances. Therefore, we have a Financial Hardship Policy for those families who are unable to pay fees. If you would like to discuss or apply for this option, please do not hesitate to contact your Grade Counsellor. Any request for fee deferral will be held in the strictest of confidence.

STUDENTS 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 we have an accurate account of students with serious medical conditions in order to create the Medical Alert List.

The purpose of the Medical Alert List is to communicate a student's **MEDICALLY DIAGNOSED, life-threatening condition** and his/her needs to school staff to ensure their safety should a medical emergency arise.

Should you have a medical condition, and in order to ensure a safe school environment, we ask the parents and students to agree to the following responsibilities:

Parent/Guardian

- Complete the medical alert information sheet (Forms are available on the website or in the Main Office)
- Supply the school with medication and replace it when it has expired or is depleted
- If onsite medication is required a doctors signature is a *must* on the form
- Review medical alert information with school staff annually (especially classroom teachers)
- Notify the school staff of any changes in your child's health status during the school year
- Participate in educating staff/students regarding your child's medical alert condition
- Ensure that your child has emergency medication with him/her on field trips

Students

- Participate in self-care activities as appropriate for age
- Inform school staff and friends of medical alert condition
- Avoid allergy triggers or other potentially harmful situations

It is the responsibility of the parent/guardian to inform the school if your child has a **MEDICALLY DIAGNOSED, life-threatening** health condition.

STUDENT PARKING



There are a limited number of student spots available in the North Lot off of Handsworth Road. There is absolutely no student parking off Edgewood Road so all students must enter from Handsworth. Students are not to park in numbered staff stalls, visitor spots, or fire lanes.

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