



École Secondaire Handsworth Secondary School

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Principal's Message

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

I hold the belief that Handsworth has a tremendous capacity to actively engage its students in a dialogue about their school. Furthermore, I believe that by implementing a model that incorporates the two key building blocks of **Student Empowerment and Guided Dialogue**, we can begin a conversation that will address key aspects of Social Responsibility as prioritized by the Handsworth Learning Community.

At 9:35am on Wednesday, March 12th, all of Handsworth, approximately 1400 students and 80 staff, took a diversion from the routine of their regularly scheduled classes and engaged in a structured conversation about Social Responsibility and their school.

The Vision

To have everyone in the school talking about certain aspects of Social Responsibility based on the construct of "Student Empowerment and Guided Dialogue". To solicit the participation of students as leaders and to have them work with teachers in facilitating classroom discussion through a structured, "Guided Dialogue" session.

Background

This was an enormous initiative and was not without an element of risk. The vision and development of the concept began in January and gathered momentum to its fruition and implementation on March 12th.

One of my first observations of Handsworth was that many of its students have the expertise and confidence to influence and model positive leadership traits. The challenge was to create an opportunity that would address the extensive potential of student leadership with a focus and purpose that would ultimately benefit the school. The goal was to discuss in a structured way, some of the aspects of Social Responsibility and to do it in a way that would empower and actively engage students.

Guiding Principles

It was established that a model to implement Social Responsibility must:

- Empower students
- Create dialogue
- Utilize a "campaign" approach ie. implement at the same time
- Be inclusive to Student Leaders who are not currently involved in Student Leadership groups within the school ie. Student Council, Grad Council, etc.
- Be sustainable
- Have the potential for modification / adaptation to facilitate topics for dialogue on an "as need" basis
- Be inclusive of all staff

- Be supported by all staff
- Be supported by PAC (parents)
- Achieve a reasonable balance between organization, planning and goals to be achieved

Implementation

The vision of empowering students was central to the success of this initiative. To tap into the breadth and depth of potential student leaders we first of all explained the concept of “Social Responsibility – Student Empowerment and Guided Dialogue” to the Student Council and got their support. Subsequently the Counsellors and I explained the concept at a Grade 12 Planning Assembly in January followed in the next few weeks by visitations to the Grade 12 Planning classes. It became quickly apparent that students were interested in the concept and eager to participate. We needed a minimum of 40 volunteers - we got 61 students who were willing to take on a leadership role in facilitating the Guided Dialogue session!

In conjunction with the Steering Committee made up of eight staff, 61 students attended a Student Leadership Workshop during the lunch break on Monday, March 10th. At that time the students were presented with the “teaching” materials. Students gained some insight into teaching strategies such as “Think/Pair/Share”, “Four Corners” and how these strategies are instrumental at facilitating discussion, feedback and reaching consensus.

On Wednesday, March 12th, the student leaders fanned out to all the classes with their notes from the workshop in hand. Every student had a package of material to work through which formed the basis of the “Guided Dialogue” session. The student leaders facilitated the discussions which began with a definition of Social Responsibility then moved on to litter and recycling and finished with identifying and prioritizing other topics important to students at Handsworth.

In closing, students felt that they had a say in their school. They were respectfully engaged in the process – they drove the discussion. Now we are in the process of synthesizing the feedback that students provided and in conjunction with the Steering Committee, developing an action plan.

Full credit should go to the student leaders who came forward to make this a very successful initiative. This is another first for Handsworth that symbolizes its success as a school and illustrates our commitment to being a healthy and progressive place for your children to learn and excel.

Thanks!

Peter Evens

HANDSWORTH'S VISUAL ARTS WEBSITE

The Visual Arts Department is creating online galleries of student work on the Handsworth Website. From the School's main site, click on departments, then Visual Arts. Currently on display are this fall's Media Arts 11's Digitally Altered Photograms. *Coming soon:* Ceramic Sculpture and Digital Logos. The Main Page 'Sign' is designed and rendered by Graphic Arts and Printmaking 12 student, Blake Ellis. The digital display design is by Graphic Arts and Printmaking 12 student, Tiffany Ho. Tiffany also does the file management for the work displayed. Thanks, Tiffany and Blake, for all of your talent and effort!

Thank you! Stephen Maclean



Drama Department

VIA: Still IN Motion

The play VIA: Still in Motion will be held at the Centennial Theatre from April 10th to April 12th.

Tickets: Adults 15\$, Students 12\$ Alumni 10\$. As of April 7th tickets will go up in price, so get your tickets A.S.A.P. There are over 200 performers in this student written play!!! We encourage you to join us to enjoy this piece filled with singing, acting and dancing.

Thanks! Crystal Primrose

RECOIL '08 FASHION SHOW

April 28th at 7:00 to 9:00 pm

In the Large Gym

Admission: \$5.00



Join us for an exciting evening of fashion, music, hair design and video. All of these are plucked from the past and re-created for the now!

Tickets are available from the models in Room 200 and at the door.



APRIL 2008

Thursday, April 3rd
REPORT CARDS

Tuesday, April 8th at 8:30 -11:45 am
SAFETEEN WORKSHOPS

Wednesday, April 9th at 8:15-9:30 am
PLANNING 12 ASSEMBLY

Thursday, April 10th -13th
JR. & SR. JAZZ FESTIVAL IN KELOWNA

Thursday, April 10th -12th at 7:00 pm
SCHOOL PLAY @ CENTENNIAL THEATRE

Tuesday, April 15th
GR. 10-12 EUCLID MATH CONTEST

Tuesday, April 15th - 29th
JAPAN TRIP

Wednesday, April 16th at 7:30 pm
HANDSWORTH ZONE BAND CONCERT
IN THE LARGE GYM

Thursday, April 17th - 21st
INT. CONCERT & JAZZ BANDS @ BANFF

Monday, April 21st - 25th
TALLSHIPS

Monday, April 21st at 7:00 pm
PAC MEETING

Friday, April 25th
CURRICULUM IMPLEMENTATION DAY
SCHOOL CLOSED

Monday, April 28th at 7:00-9:00 pm
FASHION SHOW

Wednesday, April 30th at 7:30 pm
SR. WINDS & STRINGS WITH VSO AT THE
CENTENNIAL THEATRE

Winter Sports



With snow still falling in late March, it was no surprise that our Winter Sports teams decided to extend their seasons for as long as possible. Handsworth was represented in 12 this winter, with competitors qualifying for the Provincial Championships in five of those sports.

We had nine Basketball teams competing this winter, four boys' teams and five girls' teams competing in Bantam, Juvenile, Junior and Senior leagues. The remarkable accomplishments in our Basketball program included four teams making the Provincial Championships - Juvenile Boys, Junior Girls, Senior Boys and Senior Girls. What was also impressive was that eight of our nine teams qualified for the play-offs, six of those teams moved on to the Vancouver & District/Lower Mainland Championships and Handsworth finished in first place in every division of girls play on the North Shore!

Our Juvenile boys qualified for the Provincials through a wild-card berth and finished an excellent season in 10th place at this year's Provincial Championships in Abbotsford. The Junior Girls were a top ranked team throughout the season and brought home a fourth place finish from Victoria. Meanwhile our Senior Boys played another exciting series against Argyle to qualify with the only entry from the Howe Sound league. The Senior Royals came out on top and earned a trip to the Provincials. In the opening game against sixth ranked St. Georges, our boys fell short in overtime before finishing in eighth place. Finally our Senior girls had their best ever finish at the Provincial Championships, finishing in third place! After an incredible season that saw the girls go unbeaten in league and play-off games, they were edged out in the semi-finals before winning the Bronze medal. Overall we have much to be proud of with our basketball program and a looking for another exciting year!

We also had competitors in Wrestling and Gymnastics. With Amie Chartier finishing third overall in the Gymnastics individual competition at this year's Provincial Championships in Powell River.

Our Ski and Snowboard team was also well represented with nearly 50 competitors racing in male and female events at Whistler in the North Shore Championships.

Looking ahead to the Spring Sports there is a lot of action for Royals fans to see. We will have both a Junior and Senior Girls soccer team again this year. The Senior Girls will be looking at improving upon their seventh place finish at last year's Provincial Championships.

The Golf team is also looking at a return trip to the Provincial Championships after finishing in third place last year.

The Spring Sports season also showcases Mountain Biking, Track & Field and Tennis here at Handsworth. All three teams still have some openings available if you are interested in participating. Please listen to the announcements or check the Athletics Page on the web site for more information.

New this year is the Ultimate Frisbee team, the only High School sport in which both genders compete against each other at the same time. This is one of North America's fastest growing sports and is extremely entertaining to watch. The team trains regularly in the mornings and generally plays its games on Friday afternoons.

And finally our two Rugby teams have returned to action this year. The Junior team has strong numbers and is looking to improve upon its fourth place finish last year. Meanwhile, after winning consecutive Lower Mainland Championships in Division 2, the Senior Boys Rugby team has moved back to Division 1 in the LMBRL and will be competing for one of the remaining spots to qualify for the 2008 Provincial Championships.

JAPAN EXCHANGE PROGRAM

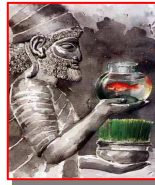


On April 15th, 20 Grade 9 students are heading for Japan. The first week of their trip will be spent touring Japan.

The trip includes visits to world heritages sites in Kyoto, Universal Studios in Osaka, ground zero in Hiroshima along with a quiet few days in the Japanese Alps. The second week of the tour involves attending school in Chiba at Inage Secondary School. The students will be hosted in family homes. They will attend classes at the Japanese High School, tour Tokyo and experience life in Japan.

Grade 8s who are interested in participating in next year's 2009 tour should come see Mrs. Ballou in Room 116 or email her at bballou@nvsd44.bc.ca. The first planning meeting will be held in early June of this year.

Persian New Year Celebration



Every year, Persian families celebrate their New Year "Norouz" on the first day of Spring (March 21st). The word "Norouz" means "New Day" in Farsi.

This symbolic and poetic change of spirit corresponds to the Mathematic instance of the sun leaving the Zodiac of Pisces and entering the Zodiac sign of Aries, also known as the Spring Equinox. In order to celebrate this unique and cultural event, the school, with the help of the administration, teachers, parents and students organized a festivity on March 12th in the Gallery. This year's event was the most successful and enjoyable experience. Many parents, teachers as well as hundreds of students immersed in this event through displays, Power Point presentation, food, music and dance competitions. Again, we would like to thank the administration, the parents and the students for their wonderful contribution to help make this event so incredible.

Mashid Yaraghi

Heritage Fair 2008

On March 11, 2008, the Handsworth school community just enjoyed another hugely successful Heritage Fair. Some quick facts:

- Projects: More than 140 projects were exhibited this year in the Large Gym.
- Participation: All 280 Grade 9 Social Studies students participated.
- Topics: Students choose their own topic about Canada's Heritage. Examples of the range of topics include: a model and poster of a mining waterwheel used the BC Goldrush; a model and poster of the Bluenose sailing ship and Maple Syrup - just to name a few.
- Sea 2 Sky Regional Heritage Fair: 12 projects are chosen to represent Handsworth at the the North Shore Museum and Archives on May 10, 2008.
- National Fair: three projects are chosen from each region to attend a National Heritage Fair - all expenses paid.
- Nationally, 350,000 students participate in Heritage Fairs. Historica Canada sponsors the national program with funding from the Bronfman Family and Canadian Government. (remember the Heritage Minutes on TV?)
- The founder of the National Heritage Fairs Program and now retired Canadian Senator Laurier Lapierre visited Handsworth and spoke to students in 2004. Mr. Lapierre, who's also a professor of history and a former High School teacher, urged students to pursue their own interests in their heritage projects. Be passionate about your studies and take ownership of your learning, he said.
- We held our first fair in 2002.



Please visit the www.handsworth.ca website and click on “student activities” and then Heritage Fair 2008 to see some photos from the fair.

Concours d'Art Oratoire

Every year, all Francophone, French Immersion and FSL students participate in the public speaking competition called the “Concours d'Art Oratoire” organized by the Canadian Parents for French. This year, the following students are chosen to compete at the District level which will take place on April 9th at the LMCC at 3:30 pm.

The students are:

- ✚ Grade 8 Francophone: Delphine Lewis
- ✚ Grade 8 French Immersion: Maya Guttman
- ✚ Grade 9 Francophone: Olivier McGuire
- ✚ Grade 9 French Immersion: Monika Lesiowski
- ✚ Grade 10 French Immersion: Lauren Vincent
- ✚ Grade 11 Francophone: Nahal Torabi
- ✚ Grade 11 French Immersion: Genevieve Coholan-Lachance
- ✚ Grade 11/12 FSL: Samantha Bulmer



We would like to wish all the participants Good Luck! Félicitations et Bonne Chances les élèves!

BEING IN THE LOOP – THE HANDSWORTH WEB SITE

During the programming meetings parents indicated with a show of hands that approximately 80% to 90% of them have accessed the Handsworth web site!

This is extremely encouraging as we view the web site as an indispensable medium for communicating with parents, students and staff. The web site is such a high priority for us that we have realigned some of our resources so that we are able to update it daily!

To access the site go to: Handsworth.ca. You immediately see a scrolling banner that has up-to-date Announcements and News. At the time of writing the News items had information about:

- ✚ Summer Québec Trip for Grade 8 French Immersion Students
- ✚ Grade 12 Announcements
- ✚ Handsworth Project Hands Club call for recipes
- ✚ Vancouver Coastal Health March Newsletter

These News items are linked to more information about them and a many other items of interest which are updated daily! The daily updates are our commitment to you to ensure that the Web-Site is current, progressive and interesting.

Like an onion, each of the above headings has multiple layers of information embedded within it – go peel back some layers and go exploring!

Peter Ewens

News from our Handsworth Parent Advisory Council...

Report from the HPAC/HSSA

The next HPAC meeting is Monday April 21, 2008 at 7 pm in the recently renovated school library and there will be a guest speaker.

Mr. Jesse Miller, Community Liaison Officer will be speaking about **Internet Safety** from 7:15 – 8:15 pm. Jesse's presentation will be for parents. He has and will be speaking to a number of student classes at Handsworth prior to our meeting. Come to the meeting to hear what he told the students and what they told him about their computer use.

Hope to see you at the next meeting! All parents are welcome.

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.

After Grad

A core group of interested students and parents have had a number of informal meetings and have been making great progress in setting up an After Grad at Grouse Mountain and perhaps a pancake breakfast at the school. Although, the foundation of this important initiative is in the process of being established, there are still a number of details to be addressed.

Based on the adage of “many hands make the work lite” we are in desperate need of more grade 12 and 11 parents to help move this new initiative forward. This is a terrific volunteer activity where your participation can make a significant difference to the culture of the school. Please express your interest by contacting Barb Vincent at thevincents@telus.net or phone 604-980-0913 or Sheila Drummond at drummond4@shaw.ca.

The BC Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils (BCCPAC) is a charitable non-profit organization that advocates for the best possible public education for all children in BC through the active involvement of parents. Our membership of over 1,000 includes parent advisory councils and district parent advisory councils in BC. Please visit <http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/> to stay informed about upcoming news and events.