



École Secondaire Handsworth Secondary School

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Principal's Message

Dear Parents/Students

This is a very important mail-out newsletter. It contains important information about a number of topics that will benefit your child at Handsworth:

- **Course Verification Letter**
- **Support Blocks**
- **Distributed Learning**
- **Peak Performance Program**

ATTENTION ALL PARENTS/GUARDIANS OF GRADE 8-11 STUDENTS

Attached to this special mail-out newsletter, please find the "Course Verification Letter" that lists the courses that your child has been registered in for next year. If there are any changes necessary, please return the corrected sheet to the appropriate counselor, or contact the counselor with your questions. As we are about to set up our timetable, it is very important that any changes be brought to our attention no later than Wednesday, June 11th 2008. If there are no changes, no further action is necessary.

"SUPPORT BLOCKS"

The Ministry of Education has indicated that they will be providing funding for a new course type to be offered for the 2008/2009 school year.

Support Blocks

Handsworth has an opportunity to offer "Support Blocks" for students for the 2008/2009 school year. A "Support Block" is a supervised study with a teacher assigned as part of his/her teaching load. Given sufficient interest and resources, a "Support Block" would occur within the timetable ie. it would be scheduled like any other course.

A "Support Block" is not an LAC block and it does not displace those regularly schedule LAC blocks. A **"Support Block" is designed for students who have fewer than eight courses but who want the benefit and structure of a scheduled study period.** As in any other course, students would be registered, attendance would be taken and the teacher would provide assistance to those in session. This is an excellent opportunity for your child to gain individual support on an "as need" basis.

We are opening up registration for this new course for students who have fewer than 8 courses and who are in Grades 11 or 12. We will be asking those students who register to indicate the subject area in which support would be most beneficial. For example, students will specify their preference in Math (Calculus), English, Science (Biology/Chemistry/Physics), Social Studies (History/Geography), French Immersion and/ or Modern Languages and Music. Based on the number and subject area of the registrations, we shall attempt to schedule subject area specialists with the student preferences. For example, if 25 students indicate a

preference in a Math “Support Block” then we shall endeavour to schedule those students with one of our Math teachers.

Students may register for a “Support Block” by filling in the registration form which is located on the Handsworth web site. Please ensure you drop it off in the Counselling Department before, Wednesday, June 11th. The offering of one or more “Support Blocks” shall be subject to registration and/or staffing.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting your Counsellor for more information.

DISTRIBUTED LEARNING

North Vancouver Distributed Learning School (NVDLS) offers a brand new opportunity for students in British Columbia and particularly in North Vancouver and the North Shore. This is a new program for North Vancouver and we have expanded our course offerings, which are free, for September 2008:

GRADE 10

English 10
Principals of Mathematics 10
Physical Education 10
Essentials of Mathematics 10
Planning 10
Science 10
Social Studies 10

GRADE 11

English 11
Principals of Mathematics 11
Social Studies 11
Essentials of Mathematics 11
Communications 11
Biology 11
Earth Science 11
Chemistry 11

GRADE 12

English 12
Principals of Mathematics 12
Transition Planning 12
Communication 12
Biology 12
Law 12
Chemistry 12
Geography 12

It is our intention to provide students with the best online course experience anywhere. In order to do so we will be providing top quality curriculum, frequent contact with our teachers – online, face to face, and by phone. It is our goal to ensure that the online course is an engaging course that leads to success.

What are online courses?

Online courses in North Vancouver are regular high school graduation courses that allow students a different method of completing courses.

With this option students are able to complete courses:

- from any location they choose
- at the pace they choose
- at the time of day they choose

It's important to remember that while there is a great deal of independence expected of students there is always a teacher available to assist the student.

Teachers provide:

- a structure to the course
- learning opportunities
- direction as students proceed through the course
- assistance (via email, chat, online tools, face to face)
- assessment (assignments, quizzes, tests...)

- an environment for communication and instruction

Although Distributed Learning is offered through Continuing Education, some of its courses have been taught by staff in our Secondary Schools with opportunities to expand that for next year.

DISTRIBUTED LEARNING FOR HANDSWORTH

At Handsworth, we are in the midst of building our timetable for the 2008/2009 school year. To plan effectively it is important to get a sense of the number of students who may be considering taking a DL Course during next school year. Students are not able to take a DL Course and its “Mainstream” version concurrently – it must be one or the other.

If you are considering taking a DL course anytime during next year, please fill out the “non-binding” registration form available on the NVSD Web Site (see “Learn Online 44”) and turn into Counselling on or before Wednesday, June 11th. Knowing the number of Handsworth students who may be interested in DL courses may, in consultation with Continuing Education, enable us to base one or more courses at Handsworth.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate in contacting your counsellor for more information. Thanks!

Peter Ewens

North Vancouver School District Peak Performance Program

In conjunction with the North Vancouver School District Handsworth Secondary School is very pleased to offer a Peak Performance Program for the 2008/2009 school year.

A Peak Performance Program allows students to pursue their goals without compromising their schooling. It is appropriate for student athletes who are competing at the provincial or national level or students highly involved in the fine or performing arts.

Students who meet the entrance criteria to the program and are accepted after the application process will be accommodated to the best of our ability so that they may pursue their area of interest and passion at a very high level of expertise. A student may also be able to receive credits towards Graduation through their accomplishments. Students will be required to re-apply on a yearly basis in order to demonstrate that their program and level of competition are at the standard required to be part of the program.

The Peak Performance Program will be of interest to elite student athletes involved in **individual sports** such as gymnastics, golf, ice skating, mountain biking, skiing, rowing, etc. This program will also appeal to students involved in **team sports** at an elite level such as soccer, hockey, basketball, volleyball, etc.

As well, it will be of interest to students involved at an elite level in **Fine or Performing Arts** pursuits in the areas of Dance or Music.

For more information on the Peak Performance Program and the registration form, please visit the Handsworth Web Site.

Emergency Supply Container Arrives at Handsworth

Those parents using the north parking lot may have noticed a new addition to the landscape. It's large, green, shaped like a breadbox, and sits beside the track just off Handsworth road. Yes, it's our new emergency supply container, obtained through the generosity of the Handsworth PAC.

The long-term plan for this container is to stock it with emergency food, water, shelters, first aid equipment, blankets, and other supplies that would be needed by our students and staff in the event of a serious situation (e.g. a large earthquake) that necessitates staying on school property for an extended period of time. If it were ever necessary to use the container for its intended purpose, it would also serve as a medical treatment shelter once the contents are removed. In the meantime, this container serves double-duty: by combining PAC funding with additional school money, we "overbought" this large container to create some much-needed outdoor athletic equipment storage.

PAC contributions notwithstanding, our hope is that the emergency container takes on the status of the spare tire in your vehicle - maintained, ready for service, but hopefully unnecessary. On behalf of staff and students at Handsworth, a big thank you to the PAC for the funding and an equally big thank you to the school's Safety Committee who managed acquisition, contents and use of the container.

School Planning Council

The School Planning Council made up of parent reps, Jo-Ann Bayley, Kim Moen, Dawn Strong, and student reps Sierra Megs and Malcolm Horne, have worked diligently in improving and refining our School Planning



document. We have retained Literacy, Numeracy, and Safe Schools as our major goals. We have endeavoured to make the document more "reader friendly" by reformatting and supporting data with narratives. In addition we have added data that may be of interest to parents and will serve to identify trends over time that may need the attention of a future School Planning Council. For example, we have added data on Grade-to-Grade Transitions, Graduation of First-Time Grade 12 Students, Grade 12 Graduation Program Examinations Scholarship, Passport to Education and Transition to BC Public Post-Secondary.

Through extensive consultation, we have undertaken a major revision to the School's Code of Conduct. In addition, and through the guidance of the school's Safety Committee, we have made significant enhancements to our Emergency Preparedness program.

In closing, I would like to publicly thank the members of the SPC who have done an outstanding job of working with the Administration in ensuring we reflect the priorities of the Handsworth community in this important School Growth Plan.

Peter Ewens

Report from the HPAC/HSSA

- HPAC will be having a Social event for their last meeting this school year in the Library on Monday, June 9th at 7:00 pm. An assortment of appetizers and non alcoholic beverages will be served. All parents are welcome and we would especially like to invite parents of incoming Grade 8 students. Please come and enjoy!
- We will be hosting a luncheon for the Handsworth Staff on Thursday, June 19th at 12:00 noon in the Library. This is an annual event that is really appreciated by staff. There is need for main entrees, salads and desserts. The food was incredible last year. People went to a lot of effort. If you would like to get involved please contact Amanda Pospiech by e-mail at apospiech@telus.net
- 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.
- Tuning into Our Teens - A conference for parents of teenage girls - Hosted by Soroptimist International of North and West Vancouver. Topics include: Become the parent your daughter needs, What parents need to know about teen sex, and The truth about drugs in school. Takes place on Saturday June 7th at 9am to 3:30 pm at the North Vancouver Council Chambers at 355 West Queens Road. \$20 pre-registration or \$25 at the door. Call 604-922-8342 or go to www.soroptimistnvwv.org
- 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.

“SCHOOL TALK”

Public input on North Vancouver School District Communications” is taking a look at all our communication such advertising, newsletters, the website as well as our school based processes. Please check our website www.handsworth.ca for detailed information.

ARE YOU NOT RETURNING TO HANDSWORTH NEXT YEAR? PLEASE LET US KNOW!

We are preparing next year's timetable and are trying to track down students who have not handed in their Course Programming sheets for next year. In doing this, we are finding students who already know that they will not be at Handsworth next year, **BUT WE DON'T!!** If your child will not be returning to Handsworth next year, please contact Lori Sealey via email at lsealey@nvسد44.bc.ca or at 604-903-3600, or return the Course Verification Letter with that information, it would be much appreciated.



VOLUNTEER TEA



There is no way that a school can function without the help of people outside of the school who volunteer their time. There are the more visible volunteers like coaches, but behind the scenes there are many more who give freely of their time to enhance the educational experience of our students. Each year we like to recognize those volunteers with a tea which will be held in the Handsworth Library on Monday, June 23rd at 3:30 to 5:00 pm.



We would like to formally invite ALL members of the Handsworth Community who have volunteered their services this year. You will be contacted by a mail-out invitation and it is most important that you RSVP as soon as possible. If you have not received an invitation by Friday, June 13th, please contact Anne-Marie Cartier to register as a volunteer (even if you cannot attend the luncheon). If you are a Handsworth volunteer and you have inadvertently been omitted from our register of volunteers, please accept our apologies for the oversight and contact the school so we may update our records.

In closing, I would like to personally thank you for the time and expertise that you have so willingly provided to make Handsworth one of the best schools in the Province.

Peter Ewens

HANDSWORTH 2008 COOKBOOK

Handsworth 2008 Cookbook is a loving compilation of over 150 Handsworth families and teacher's favourite "excellent" and "easy" recipes. Pre-orders for this limited printing available by emailing Shelley Stanhope at sstanhope@nvسد44.bc.ca. Sale price \$15.00 cheques made payable to Handsworth School (cookbook). All proceeds from the sale of this cookbook are being given to [Project Hands.org](http://ProjectHands.org) - a non-profit charity of local doctors and surgeons who travel to Guatemala twice per year to provide free medical and dental to impoverished people. Thanks very much to the Handsworth Project Hands students and parents who worked hard to make this dream a reality!



Desperately seeking Grade 11 parents to supervise “Handsworth After Grad” event on June 14th



A small committee of parents is organizing Handsworth's first ever, parent-organized, supervised after grad party. We have raised over \$24,000 in just a few short weeks and are ready to go with an event at Grouse Mountain that includes a DJ, a mock casino and other entertainment, food and more. The event will be followed by a breakfast at the school.

We are anxiously searching for 10-12 Grade 11 parents to supervise the “After Grad” at Grouse. As there will also be hired security at this event, parents will simply be providing supervision at door entrances and will help create a modest adult presence. The event is on Saturday, June 14 from 11:00 pm to 4:00 am.

