

Seycove News

October 2009

Welcome to our October 2009 electronic bulletin. Please note only brief information is listed here. For more detailed news, please go to our website: www.seycove.ca.

Principal's Message – Karim Hachlaf

This past weekend, I attended the annual NVSD Administrators' conference that focused on "leading for engagement." Together as elementary, secondary and district administrators, we looked at the following question and focused on three broad areas:

How do we work together to engage our students within our schools and family of schools?

- 1 – Student Engagement through Technology
- 2 – Student Engagement through our Practice
- 3 – A dialogue with students – their perspective on student engagement

In regard to the first two themes, our conversations focused on challenging our current assumptions on technology in the classroom and taking a deeper look at our daily practice as it relates to student engagement. It became quickly evident within our dialogue, which gave us time to reflect and analyze our leadership practices and styles, that we can significantly impact the level of student engagement in our schools. One of the many strategies that surfaced included taking a closer look at how we as educators incorporate technology in our classrooms as a powerful instructional tool. The final piece of this successful conference came with the invitation of some of our District Student Leadership Council members (2 students from Seycove). These students were simply outstanding at providing great insight on their school experiences and truly reinforced the importance of student input as we work together at improving our schools. I look forward to continuing these conversations and ideas with the students of Seycove and converting them into action.

Vandalism/Security

At our last Parent Advisory Council (PAC) meeting, I had to inform our parents that our new bus, purchased through our PAC donations, was recently vandalized with some of its windows needing replacement. I am pleased to announce the repairs are complete and the bus is in full operation again. Given our remote location and susceptibility to vandalism, we are looking at off-site overnight and weekend parking arrangements.

As Halloween approaches, we will have security monitoring the school grounds. Nevertheless, I want to strongly encourage those who may walk through the school grounds during evenings and weekends to call the RCMP non-emergency line if you witness any suspicious activity. Your support and vigilance is greatly appreciated.

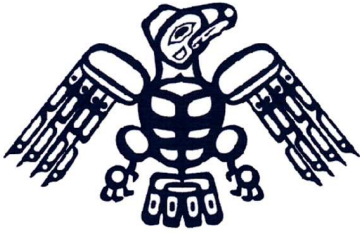
New Staff

I am pleased to announce the hiring of two new teaching staff to temporarily replace Ms. Karen Todd during her maternity leave. Ms. Karin Layton will be teaching Social Studies and Planning and Ms. Rupinder Brumpton will be teaching French. A letter informing you of any teacher changes will be sent to those respective families and included in the homeroom package – see below.

Important Homeroom this Week

On Thursday, October 29th we will be disseminating some important information for our students to take home:

- 1 – Parent Teacher Interview Request Forms – due the following day (Friday, October 30th)
 - 2 – Supplemental Fee Invoices – October invoices for supplemental fees and outstanding items
 - 3 – Photo Packages
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Community Garden Project – Vicky Digby



A funny thing happened on the way to re-landscape the front of Seycove Secondary two summers ago. In collaboration with the School District designers, a portion of the project was redesigned as raised vegetable beds for the use of the Special Education department. Kerry Findlay and Craig Johnston were the team that conceived of growing vegetables as a work experience project for the students that they were supporting. The vegetables would then be used in a cooking program as a further enrichment. With the help of an initial grant from Vancouver Coastal Health, the team was given enough money to buy seeds, plant stock and gardening tools. Through subsequent grants, the project has grown and prospered.

As a result of the garden project, this year the beds produced more crops than the students could use in their kitchen program. Ms. Findlay contacted the Edible Garden Project with the intent of donating the excess vegetables to their organization. The mandate of the Edible Garden Project is to gather and re-distribute fresh garden produce to low income families on the North Shore. Ms. Findlay was able over the summer to donate approximately 20 grocery bags of produce for this community program. In her letter to Principal Hachlaf, Heather Johnstone, the Project Coordinator said, “One of the most challenging parts of maintaining gardens on school grounds is maintaining the garden through the summer season when teachers and students are on break. Kerry Findlay and Craig Johnson have been working tirelessly over the summer to water and maintain the garden, and have been dropping off produce regularly to support low-income families.” It is because of the dedication of these two individuals that this exemplary garden has grown and flourished to benefit our North Shore community.

Athletics – Paul Shtenko

- Interested in being a coach? We are in need of a Grade 8 Boys’ basketball coach!
- Athletic PAC is meeting November 4th at 7:00pm. You don’t need experience in athletics...only a desire to help the school.

O’Nakile – Andrea Yeo

October 30th is Halloween for Hunger. Students are collecting canned goods for the Harvest Project and cash donations for building supplies to be used in the Dominican Republic.

November 20th is the Vow of Silence. This marks the 20th Anniversary of the Convention of the Rights of the Child. All participating students will pledge to stay silent for 24 hours to support children who are silenced by the denial of their basic rights. This means no cell phones, no text messages, no email...just 24 hours to ponder what it might be like to live in poverty with no one to ask for help.



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Spirit School – Petra Willemse



Did you know that Seycove is now a Spirit School? As part of the BC Government's Olympic initiatives, schools can sign up to become a Spirit School online. Any events that show our school demonstrating any of the three pillars of the Olympics (sport, culture and/or sustainability), are then posted to the website. Check out our postings at: <http://www.gamestown2010.ca/North-Vancouver>

Take Our Kids to Work – November 4th

The annual Take Our Kids to Work day takes place on Wednesday, November 4, 2009. This job shadowing initiative allows the entire community—parents, teachers, employers and workers—to play a part in the career development of Grade 9 students. The primary objective of Take Our Kids to Work is to link classroom learning with the workplace. It also allows students to see their parents in a workplace role and to help them understand what work their parents actually do to support a family. This job shadowing activity supports learning outcomes found in Career and Personal Planning 8 to 12. Classroom follow-up assignments are a valuable basis for class and family discussions and evaluation of the day. In the past, we have had excellent parental support and we look forward to your support again this year. Watch for further information in mid October, when we will be sending an information package home with your child.

For further information please contact Neeru Parmar @ nparmar@nvsd44.bc.ca

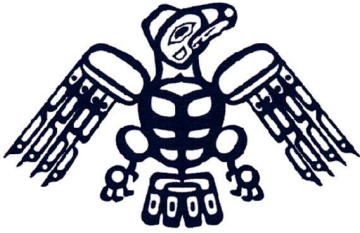
Katimavik

Hey grade 11 and 12 students!

If you are wondering what you should do after you finish grade 12, have you thought about Katimavik? Katimavik, means meeting place in the Inuktituk language.

Right from its beginning in 1977, Katimavik offered youth the possibility to engage in volunteer service. Its founder wanted to give young Canadians from all walks of life the chance to discover their country, live in a group and be involved in communities. Learning Canada's official languages and protecting the environment have always been an integral part of the program. Katimavik hopes to foster intercultural exchanges, gives hope to youth with limited opportunities and raises their awareness of all the country's realities. Katimavik is an opportunity for teens to participate in a structured, time-proven program that will enable them to explore career options, gain valuable life experience and challenge themselves in ways a traditional class room setting cannot. Data shows that a well thought-out gap or interim year after high-school helps young people do better in their future academic/vocational careers while preparing them to achieve their overall personal goals. The Katimavik program provides youth with an extra year to mature, see Canada, learn about themselves and to gain a better sense of what they want out of life.

If you are wondering what you should do after you finish grade 12, check out www.gokatimavik.com.



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English 10/11 Field Trip – Petra Willemse

On Tuesday, October 20, seventy-three grade 10 and 11 English students went to the Vancouver International Writers Festival on Granville Island to hear Mariatu Kamara speak about her book: *The Bite of the Mango*. After being brutally attacked by rebels in Sierra Leone, Mariatu eventually made her way to Canada and now, in her early 20's, is a UNICEF Special Representative for Children in Armed Conflict. Seycove students were a great audience and asked Mariatu some very thoughtful questions. Much appreciation is given to the chaperones who gave their time to accompany the students: Lesley Edwards, Kerry Henderson, Jill Watson and Petra Willemse.



Student Services – Nancy Roberts

Post Secondary Night is coming! Monday, November 23rd @ 7:00pm:

This is an important night for all grade 11s and 12s and their parents to hear updated post-secondary information. Students will have an opportunity to listen to three 40-minute presentations from places such as UVIC, SFU, CAPU, and Emily Carr. Sign-up sheets will be going home next week in Grade 12 large group and English 11 classes. This year's post secondary night takes place at Windsor – looking forward to seeing you there!

Important Upcoming Dates for Grade 12s:

Grade 12 Large Group – November 3rd in blocks 5 & 6 in the Music Room

- post secondary applications and information

Grad Parent Meeting – November 4th @ 7:30pm in the Cafeteria

- post secondary and scholarship information

Dates to Remember:

Oct 28	Photo Retakes @ 1:00pm	Dec 4	Term 1 Ends
Oct 29	HOMEROOM (PT Interview Request forms distributed)	Dec 8	Christmas Grad Cruise PAC Meeting (7:30pm – Library)
Oct 30	Parent-Teacher Interview Request forms DUE	Dec 9	Grade 12 Large Group
Nov 4	Take Our Kids to Work (grade 9)	Dec 10	Winter Music Concert
Nov 5	Parent Teacher Interviews (2:30 – 4:30pm & 6:30 – 8:30pm); Early Dismissal	Dec 16	HOMEROOM (Report Cards distributed)
Nov 6	Early Dismissal	Dec 18	Santa's Breakfast Winter Break begins
Nov 10	PAC Meeting (7:30pm – Library)	For a complete calendar, please follow this link .	
Nov 11	Remembrance Day (no school)		