



News from New Westminster Secondary

Friday September 23rd 2016

NWSS CODE OF CONDUCT: • Respect learning • Respect yourself & others • Respect the environment

WHAT'S HAPPENING

We are now well into the first term of Semester 1. With schedules set, and routines shaping place the school is full of energy. Throughout this week, I had the opportunity to make my way from the Visual Performing Arts Department in Massey all the way to Sigma at the other end of campus in Pearson. On these learning walks I saw many amazing things happening from one end of campus to the other.



In particular I am excited to watch how Teachers are engaging learning in so many ways as they implement the Redesigned curriculum. Some of these approaches are new or different and some are reshaping ways in which students have been engaged in the past.

What does this mean?

Previously, the number of *learning outcomes* students were expected to master (and teacher were expected to teach) led to classrooms that worked to *cover* curriculum. This led to a focus on content acquisition. Today our kids can get a great deal of content from online sources and as a result there are different skills and competencies they need to master. Some examples are the need to be able to:

- find information using powerful search terms using online search engines and databases
- be able to look at these sources with and to determine if the source is reliable
- take time to check multiple sources and be able to determine if the information they have found is reliable and accurate

The focus now is on bigger ideas and concepts, allowing teachers to engage learning that has greater meaning to each individual student. For this students need to be able to think critically evaluating the information they find, filtering out irrelevant information, and determining which information they find to share how to share their learning with an audience.

For many of us, when we were in school, an assignment was created and there was one audience – the Teacher. The redesigned model recognizes the audience is still a Teacher but includes classmates, parents, friends, the school community (through online sharing), or a public online community.

What are these Competencies?

Literacy and numeracy remain essential content at the centre of learning and assessment. Core competencies are sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional skills that all

students need to develop in order to engage in deep and life-long learning.

Through [provincial consultation](#), three core competencies were identified – **Communication, Thinking, and Personal and Social**.

So what does this mean for my child?

An intended outcome of this redesigned curriculum is to ensure that each learner not only graduates with a deep base of knowledge but a skill set that allows her/him to critically think, be creative and innovative and problem solve in a world that is changing at a rapid pace.

Some examples at our school include a focus on improving access to technology and the Internet. We are actively working with the District Technology Department to have Internet accessible throughout our campus. The Library is planning to shift their space from a place of content acquisition to include more spaces to create. And you may find a shift in many classes as the learning incorporates more questions and less focus on memorization. These are just a few examples of the great work that our Teachers are doing throughout our building.

Relationships

One thing that remains constant in all of these changes – relationships. Last night I had the pleasure of sharing my vision on how we can go forward. One of the ways I spoke of is **making the big feel close-knit**. We have well over 2000 people on our campus on any given day. Within all of the moving parts that keep our school functioning, we need to stop and make time to get to know the people we spend our time with every day.

It is an exciting time to be in school. I look forward to moving forward together with you.

Your Principal,

Mr. John Tyler
#gohyacks

STUDENT FEE COLLECTION

Student Fees are still being collected! They can be paid at Pearson Office during non-instructional time (before school, breaks and after school).

All students	Student Activity Fee	\$30.00
Grade 12's	School Leaving Ceremony	\$65.00
Optional for all	Yearbook	\$50.00
New Students	Textbook Deposit	\$100.00

COMING EVENTS

- **TONIGHT** Sept. 23rd - Sr. Varsity homecoming football game vs. Carson Graham 7:30pm @ Mercer Stadium
- Sept. 26th - Professional Development Day – **students do not attend**
- Sept. 29th - Terry Fox Run
- Sept 29th - Jr. Varsity football game vs. Terry Fox @ 5:30pm @ Mercer Stadium
- Sept. 30th – Orange Shirt Day
- Oct. 5th – Music Auxillary Parent Meeting
- Oct. 7th Curriculum Implementation Day – **students do not attend**
- October 10th – **Thanksgiving – students do not attend**
- October 14th – Football Seniors Night
- October 18th – Grade 12 Parent Information Evening

GRADUATION PORTRAITS

The Artona website is now open (as of Sept 16) to book Grad Portrait appointments in the mobile studio which will be located in the school parking lot starting Sept 30. Keep checking back as appointment times can open up.

You must book online at www.artona.com.

This is the last chance to opportunity to be photographed in time to be included in the Grad Section of the yearbook.

WWW.NWSS.CA

Our website is back online! While we are continuing to add information and specific information, this is the best place to look for current information on upcoming events, school news and calendar dates.

TERRY FOX RUN

We will be holding our annual Terry Fox Run on Thursday September 29th. Teachers will be collecting any donations for the Terry Fox foundations in B Block just before the run.

Unfortunately, Cancer has impacted so many of our lives ...any donation amount is appreciated.

COUNSELLOR'S CORNER

Language Challenge Exams

The applications for the Language Challenge Exams are now available online at http://www.deltasd.bc.ca/content/schools/secondary/challenge_exams Applications must be filled online and then printed. Handwritten applications are not accepted.

The deadline to submit your application and fees to you school counsellor at NWSS is November 4, 2016.

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ORANGE SHIRT DAY

Friday September 30th is "Orange Shirt Day". Every Child Matters remembers the experiences of former students of Indian Residential Schools and is a commitment to ongoing truth and reconciliation across Canada. Originating in British Columbia, this is the third year the campaign will be running in BC and other parts of Canada. Wearing an orange shirt that day



Orange shirt day is a movement that officially began in 2013 but in reality it began in 1973 when six year old Phyllis Webstad entered the St. Joseph Mission Residential School, outside of Williams Lake, BC. Young Phyllis was wearing a brand new orange shirt for her first day of school – new clothes being a rare and wonderful thing for a First Nation girl growing up in her grandmother's care - but the Mission Oblates quickly stripped her of her new shirt and replaced it with the school's institutional uniform. More information is available at <http://www.orangeshirtday.org>