



NEILL MIDDLE SCHOOL

<http://nmsweb.sd70.bc.ca>



Newsletter

February 11, 2009

Important Dates:

Valentine's Dance	Feb. 13
"I" Letters home	Feb. 25
Pro-D Day	Feb. 27
PAC Meeting	Mar. 2
Term 2 Ends	Mar. 13
Medieval Fair	Mar. 13
Spring Break	March 16-20

Special points of interest:

- *Parents of Grade 8 students should be aware to the Electives Fair at ADSS on the 12th of February.*
- *Attachment Theory Workshop at Vast - February 27th from 8:30-3:00. This workshop is free for parents in SD 70. Please contact Barb Witte at 720-2770.*
- *Canadian Tire Jump Start 2009 is now available to SD70 students - please contact the office for more information and relevant forms.*

Grade 6 Vow of Silence

Did you know?

- 121 million children around the world between the ages of six and eleven are denied the opportunity to attend school; two-thirds of these children are girls
- 1 billion children are living in poverty - one out of every two children
- 218 million children worldwide work as child labourers

On March 4th, 2009, Grade 6 students at Neill Middle School will be giving up their ability to communicate for 12 hours as a pledge to make a difference for those children who have no voice. Students will be raising awareness and raising funds to help a worthwhile cause.

The funds they raise will go toward Free the Children projects to build schools, provide alternative sources of income and implement clean water and sanitation projects

for poor children in developing countries. By supporting these development projects, They are helping to promote the right that all children have to be free from abuse and exploitation, to receive an education and to have the chance to realize their full potential.

If you have any questions, please contact grade 6 teachers at NMS at 723-8151 (Heidi Homan, Neelam Parmar, Lisa Laslo, Jackie Zydyk).

Athletics Update

Wrestling

Our wrestlers were in action at the Alberni Invitational last weekend at the Multiplex with the Girls' Team finishing 6th overall and the Boys' finishing 5th! There were also some excellent individual results with Jacob Arcus, Graham Villette, Vanessa Beckett, and Jordan Wagner all placing in their groups. Congratulation to the following students who took home medals: Hailee Beckett (3rd), Rhea Wing (2nd), Jesse Wagner (2nd) and Austin Jaworski (1st). Thank-you to Mrs. Anker for her dedication and support for our wrestlers. Way to go, everyone!

Basketball



On January 24th, our Girls' Basketball team hosted a play day and won all 3 of their games. In the first game, they defeated EJ Dunn by a score of 37-26. In the second, they defeated Springwood, 31-20, and in their final game, they defeated Wellington, 33-28. Well done, girls!

The Grade 6/7 boys team hosted EJ Dunn last week and won a close game in overtime. Tristan Jeffery and Eric Newton turned in strong performances for the Talons. Prac-

tices continue for the boys on Tuesday and Friday mornings. The grade 8 boys continue after school on Tuesday and Thursdays. They will be travelling to Parksville for a tournament on Friday and have been honing their skills against the girls.

Free Throw Contest

Neill students will be participating in the annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition this week. The top 4 boys and girls in each age group will compete in the district shoot-out at Neill on the 18th of February. The winners of the district competition will represent the district on the 28th in Parksville.



Neill Talons Soar

At Neill we are

Safe

Organized and on time

Active Learners

Respectful

Electronic Devices

A number of students have lost or misplaced their MP3 players or cell phones lately. We wish to remind students to leave these devices at home or at the minimum, stored safely in their locker. Parents and students are reminded that these devices are not allowed in class! We would also like to remind students that taking photos of other students is not permitted at school.



School Concession

As many of you know, our school has removed the vending machines. We have been running a school concession for students to purchase healthy snacks as per the BC Healthy Schools Guidelines. We are pleased to say that students are able to purchase a variety of snacks for a reasonable price. Most items cost between \$0.50 and \$1.00. The concession is open at recess and for



the first 10 minutes of lunch in room 101. We sell items such as goldfish crackers, bits and bites, assorted fruit juices and water. We are also continuing with Pizza Day every Thursday.

Every Tuesday at recess, our PAC makes popcorn available to students for \$0.50 per bag.

No Classes for Students

On

Friday, February 27th

District Professional

Development Day

Leadership Events

Our Leadership class has been busy organizing 2 major events at our school. On Friday the 13th, we will have our annual Valentine's Day Sock Hop for students at lunch time. Students have been working hard to promote this event to ensure that everyone has a good



time. These same students are also busy with organizing the Variety Club Coin Drive. The Leadership Team has set a target of \$1000 to donate to the Variety Club and has set up a grade challenge to see which grade can fund-raise the most money. The winning grade will have the choice to give Mr. Mussato or Mr. Toal a pie

in the face. Keep bringing in your spare change!



Misc.

Lacrosse

Alberni Valley Minor Lacrosse Registration has begun! See Sherri Cook in Room 101 for your Registration Forms. Pee-Wee Division \$150 and Bantam Division \$175. KidSport Applications Available if needed for financial assistance...Registration Dates: February 21st 5:00pm- 8:30pm @ AV Multiplex. New Players

and Returning Players Welcome.

Youth Focus Group

Katie Shaw, the Vancouver Island coordinator for BC Healthy Communities, will be facilitating and co-hosting a "Youth Focus Group" on Wednesday, February 11th, from 5 pm -7 pm at Echo Park Field House (up the hill from

Wood School), with AV SafetyNet. Katie visited our community and offered a "Youth and Community Engagement" workshop in October at the "Making Connections" event. Pizza and drinks will be provided for those who attend. Students can also access a survey to provide input.