

Neill Middle School

JANUARY 19, 2009

Virtue for Term 2—Trustworthiness
Principal - Mr. G. Mussato

Vice-Principal - Mr. S. Toal



Clubs' Day—January 28th

On Wednesday, January 30th, the students at Neill will be participating in a number of activities that promote healthy, active lifestyles. A number of our students will be heading to Mt. Washington to spend the day skiing, while others will be involved in activities such as hockey, gymnastics, and swimming. Students have received their club description sheet and have chosen their clubs. They will receive confirmation of their club early next week. Some activities have a nominal fee, while others are free of charge. While we try our best to give everyone their first choice, some students will be placed in their second or third choice. Please bring in any fees by Wednesday, January 23rd. Neill Middle school would like to thank all of the local businesses and recreation facilities that have donated their time to support our students.

Reporting Updates



Beginning with Term II report cards, we will be reporting on Social Responsibility, as required by the Ministry of Education. Social Responsibility is defined by the Ministry as "an overarching goal of education that is intended to be developed, practiced and reinforced in ALL activities throughout the school day, as well as in family life" (Ministry of Education, 2000). Student assessments will be based on age-appropriate rubrics and standards approved by the Ministry of Education which we have shared with our students. The assessments, in the form of comments on the report cards, will state how each child is progressing in the areas identified by the school.

We would like to inform our parents of a slight change in the way we are calculating our achievement rolls. Students will be eligible for the Good Effort Roll when they maintain all "G" (good) work habits and may also have no more than one "S" (satisfactory) work habit. Students who receive any "NI" (needs improvement) work habits do not qualify for the Good Effort Roll.

For Honour Roll calculations, we will continue to maintain the Principals' Roll category for students who achieve straight "A" letter grades (g.p.a. 5.0) in all subjects. The other category will be the Honour Roll category and is for all students who maintain at least a "B" letter grade (g.p.a. between 4.0 and 4.99) average in all their subjects, with no "I" (in progress) letter grades.

Upcoming Dates:

- Jan. 21st—Gr. 8's to ADSS for Cyber-bullying Presentation
- Jan. 22nd—Students vs. Teachers Basketball
- Jan. 28th—Clubs' Day
- Feb. 9th—PAC Meeting
- Feb. 2nd-26th—FSA for Grade 7 students
- Feb. 6th—Cultural Event
- February 12th—Gr. 8's to ADSS for electives fair
- Feb. 24th—Canadian National Math Contest
- Feb. 27th—Professional Day (no classes)

Rainbows for Children

Rainbows for Children is a support group for children aged 6-12 who have suffered a significant loss in their lives, either by death, divorce or any other painful transition. This program will run Thursday, January 22nd until Thursday March 26th. The program will be closed during Spring Break (March 19th) Please register at the Port Alberni Family Guidance Centre—(250) 724-0125.

FSA

The Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) will be administered to Grade 7 students during the month of February. During this time, students will complete the 4.5 hour assessment. If you require any information about this assessment, please feel free to contact the school or visit: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/>

Late Busses

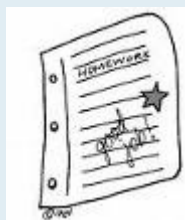


The bus garage is now offering late bus service for a number of our students. This service will give students the opportunity to work with their teachers after school to stay caught up with assignments. See bus schedule on side bar. Pick up time will be about 3:30 at Neill.

Late Bus Service:

- #3 bus—service to the end of Beaver Creek
- #4 bus—service to Saunders, Lemarque and Hills Road
- #9 bus—service to Josephine, Waddy's Hill, Stirling Arm and Faber Road
- No busses for other Sproat Lake Areas

Talkin' about Homework



Term 2 is usually a very productive time for Neill students in terms of their academic achievement. We encourage parents to have regular dialogue about assignments and homework with their child. If your child has overdue assignments or projects please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher to discuss the options and supports available as well as how you can best help your child get caught up. Many teachers offer lunchtime or after school tutorials for students to receive extra help with assignments.

Ski Trip



Attention to students attending the NMS trip to Mount Washington on our next Club Day on January 28th. It is SD 70 policy that all students who are boarding/skiing wear an approved skiing/boarding helmet. Students who are renting equipment automatically have access to the use of an approved helmet at no additional charge. Other requirements are:

- each student MUST also view a ski safe video.
- each student MUST take a lesson (beginners take their lesson in the a.m. and intermediate-advanced students get their lesson in the afternoon).
- NO students are permitted to ski/board on Black Diamond runs.
- every student MUST check in with an adult mid-day to ensure all is going well and that

he/she has someone to ski/board with.

Our aim is to bring back all students/staff in the same condition they left in! See Mr. Bill should you have any questions.



Please check our lost and found regularly as items are turned in regularly.

Virtue for Term 2—Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness is being worthy of trust. People can count on you to do your best, to keep your word. Others can rely on you. They can trust that you will do what you said you would do, even if it becomes really hard. When we practice trustworthiness, people don't have to check up on us to see if we are doing what we promised to do. When you are trustworthy, you have integrity. Trustworthiness is the key to success in anything we do.

School Concession

We have removed the vending machines at our school and have started a small concession at recess and lunch to make snacks and drinks available to students. Starting this year, the Ministry of Education has provided guidelines for schools to follow when selling food to students. As such, we have gone to great lengths to try and find snacks that are healthy, affordable and tasty. As well, every Tuesday, our

PAC makes popcorn available to students for \$0.50 a bag. Proceeds go to support a number of programs in our school such as our lunch program and extra-curricular activities. As always, we encourage parents to avoid packing lunches with sugary snacks and soda pop, but instead opt for fruit and milk or juice.

Our Fruit and Vegetable program will resume at the end of January.

Grade 6 Kindness

Congratulations to the following students who were recognized for showing kindness in term 1:

Megan Skodjal, Colin MacLead, Shellsea Steed, Carson Nicholson, Dana Williscroft, Cole Haider, Cody DeAdder

Basketball News



Congratulations to the Talons Girls' Basketball team who finished 2nd at a recent tournament in Nanaimo. The girls destroyed their opposition in the preliminary games by an average margin of 30 points! In the final, they faced perennial powerhouse from Nanaimo—Dover Bay. Dover is an 8-12 school with over 1500 students and our girls showed they can be competitive with anyone. Way to go, girls!

Special thanks to Mrs. Hudson and Mrs. Densmore for their coaching and support to this dedicated group of girls. The girls are hosting their own mini-tournament on Saturday, January 24th. Come out and support our girls and watch some entertaining basketball.

Our boys team is also having a successful season and has been very competitive. They have won the majority of their games and are improving each week. Last week they hosted EJ Dunn in what proved to be a fantastic battle. After 4 great quarters, EJ Dunn squeaked out a 2 point victory to even the series this year. Well done, boys! Thank-you to Mr. Bill for his coaching and dedication.



Neill Talons player Darion Alarie was chosen as a Player of the Game at the Cedar Spartans Basketball Tournament in Nanaimo. The girls next out of town tournament will be at Wellington Secondary in February.