



550-7<sup>th</sup> Street – Room 130  
Nanaimo, BC V9R 3Z2

## Newsletter

Telephone: (250) 753-6331 / Fax: (250) 753-8502

Website: Being launched next month

Follow us on twitter @LearningAltern1

Brett Hancock,  
District Principal of  
Learning Alternatives

November 1, 2018

LEARNING ALTERNATIVES

The School Newsletter will be available to students and parents on-line. It will be posted on the Learning Alternatives website when it is up and running. If you do not have access to a computer, there will be paper copies available at both school sites for you or your child to pick up.

### PRINCIPAL'S COMMENTS:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

It is with great honour that I welcome you all to the 2018-2019 school year. For those of you that are returning to Learning Alternatives we look forward to another great year. For those of you that are new to Learning Alternatives, welcome to the best team of educators that you will ever meet! During these first months of classes, your son or daughter should be enrolled in their classes and connected to their subject area teachers, cohort teacher, educational assistants and child youth and family support workers.

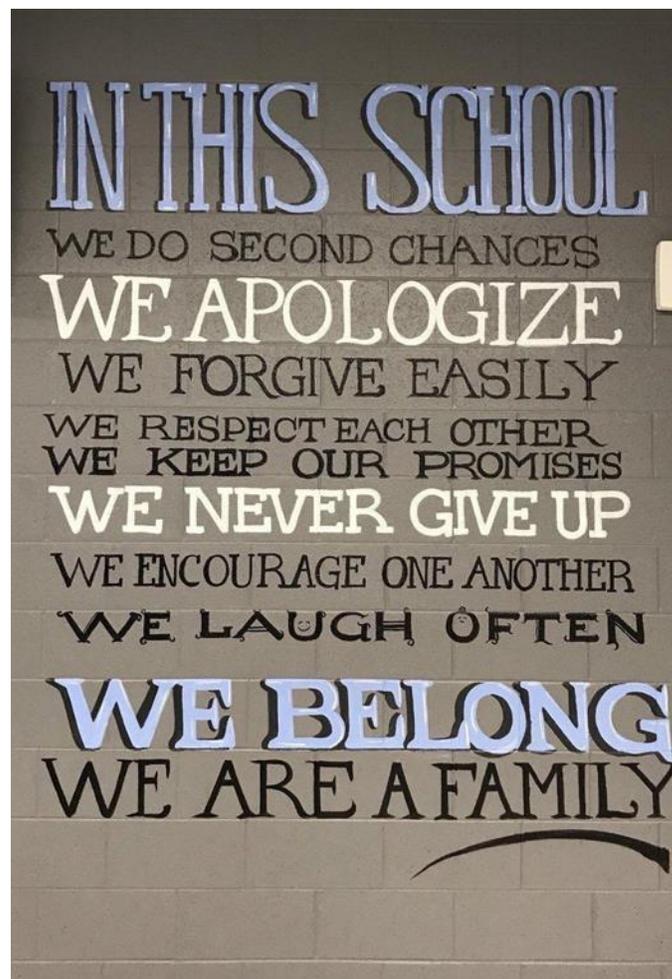
Our school is a dynamic blend of forward thinking education and personalized programming. We pride ourselves on individualized academic plans that focus on the students strengths and use innovated strategies to help progress in areas that need improvement. Our goal is to guide our students to discover personal success and help them become productive members of our community. We believe in authentic, meaningful experiences that connect our students to the natural world and inspire sustainable values and behaviours.

I look forward to meeting you and learning more about your hopes and wishes for your son or daughter's educational opportunities, both now, and in the future.

I welcome any questions or comments and can

always be reached by email at  
[bhancock@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:bhancock@sd68.bc.ca)

Kind Regards,  
Brett Hancock



## OUR PROGRAMS

### Sr. Learning Alternatives

Sr. Learning Alternatives (grades 10-12) inspires students to create a vision for their future while our teachers offer supports to help translate that vision into reality. At our core we believe in building trusting student-teacher relationships that are built on mutual respect. We value diversity and positive self-expression. A variety of academic and elective course options are offered as we incorporate flexibility within a structured timetable. Work experience and volunteer opportunities are highly encouraged as our team is dedicated to helping them reach their full potential. This program is located at John Barsby Secondary School.

### Jr. Learning Alternatives

Jr. Learning Alternatives (grade 7-9) fosters a sense of belonging through a variety of creative projects and hands-on learning experiences. This program is aimed at building the students self-confidence and self-worth while instilling responsibly and independence. A big emphasis is placed on a consistent academic routine that includes a variety of self-regulation opportunities. This program is located at John Barsby Secondary School.

### Ravens Lelum – Young Parent Program

Ravens Lelum offers a specialized program that believes in prioritizing overall student wellness alongside their course work. This program empowers young parents to achieve positive academic performance in conjunction with effective parenting abilities. Our course work focuses on financial stability, healthy relationships and raising children. Ravens students can expect one-on-one coaching, mentorship as well as group support. We offer a safe and welcoming environment for young parents to work towards graduation while their child is being taken care of off site. This program is located at John Barsby Secondary School.

### ABOUT - Alternative Based Opportunities United by Teamwork

ABOUT is a vibrant program that incorporates unique learning opportunities and indigenous

cultural education as the foundation to core academics. Students can expect flexible scheduling and individualized supports as they work towards completing requirements for graduation. This program is a welcoming place for learning, gathering and sharing of talents. This program is located at Woodlands Secondary School.

### IMPORTANT DATES

November 2	Photo Retakes @ ABOUT
November 5	English 12 and Communications 12 Provincial Exams @ Barsby
November 5	Lockdown Drill @ Barsby 12:15pm
November 7	PAC @ 4:30pm @ Barsby Room 130
November 9	Remembrance Day Assembly @ Barsby
November 12	Remembrance Day Observed (No School)
November 13	Ongoing Communication of Student Learning
November 15	Parent Teacher Night @ Barsby and @ Woodlands 4:00-6:00pm

### PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

On November 15 from 4:00pm to 6:00pm we will be hosting parent teacher conferences. All our teaching staff will be in attendance at both of our school sites. We encourage all parents to keep up regular communication with their child's teachers and this night provides an opportunity to meet each of them.



## ISLAND CONNECT EDUCATION - ICE

### Gr. 11 & 12 Curriculum Change and Online Courses

As a result of the upcoming curriculum change for grade 11 and 12 courses, all Island ConnectEd grade 11 and 12 courses will end at marks cut-off in June 2019. We want to ensure students are not surprised by this firm deadline for Grade 11 and 12 course completions. It does mean that any grade 11 or 12 courses that are not completed by marks cut-off in June will be given a final grade of "Withdrawn". Students requiring their courses for graduation should make certain that their courses are completed on time. Any student still requiring the course, may enroll in the new version of the course the following year."

Patrick Young  
*Principal (ICE)*

## ABORIGINAL EDUCATION

'Uy'skweyul' (Good Day)

The Aboriginal Education team is very excited about this school year and look forward to supporting our aboriginal learners and providing cultural activities for all students. We invite all students to come to work with Val and Julie in planning cultural activities, field trips, graduation and post secondary planning. If you have any questions please contact Val or Julie at:

[Valerie.Masterman@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Valerie.Masterman@sd68.bc.ca)

[Julie.Ludwinowski@sd68.bc.ca](mailto:Julie.Ludwinowski@sd68.bc.ca)

Huy ch q'u (Thank you)

Val and Julie

## PAC

We have small group of parents that have helped form our Learning Alternatives PAC. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend a meeting with no commitment required. Hope to see you November 7 at 4:30pm in room 130 at John Barsby Secondary School.

## Vancouver Island University Planning

<https://connect.viu.ca/future-students/webinars>

### How to connect with VIU:

- a. General inquiries connect with a Recruitment Officer at 250.740-6672 or [viuconnect@viu.ca](mailto:viuconnect@viu.ca)
- b. Visit our campus and take a tour to get a current student prospective on why VIU is for you. For registration and options: [viu.ca/visit](http://viu.ca/visit)
- b. Students ready to plan for September 2019 connect with Advising at 250-740-6410 or [advising@viu.ca](mailto:advising@viu.ca)
- c. Application status and documentation questions connect with the Registration Centre at 250.740.6400 or [registration@viu.ca](mailto:registration@viu.ca)