



550-7th Street – Room 130
Nanaimo, BC V9R 3Z2

Newsletter

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Brett Hancock,
District Principal of
Learning Alternatives

February 2019

LEARNING ALTERNATIVES

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

PRINCIPAL COMMENTS:

Dear Parents and Guardians,

The month of January allowed each of us to reconnect after a two week rest. It gave us time to plan and set both educational and personal goals for 2019. It was also when Learning Alternatives staff and students hosted district leadership staff, teacher and student leaders from each secondary school, representatives from Snaw Naw As, Snuneymuxw, and Stz'uminus First Nation and staff from Tillicum Lelum Aboriginal Friendship Centre. Together we worked on Syeyutsus – Walking Together.

Syeyutsus, is a Hul'qumi'num expression for walking in two worlds; finding a balance between the traditional way of living and contemporary living. Together we listened to thoughts and beliefs on the top priorities to focus on as we develop a Reconciliation Policy and Framework that is culturally relevant, sensitive and significant. The Board of Education and Reconciliation Committee also reached out to the entire Nanaimo community for help, asking all to share their thoughts on what they believe are the top priorities to focus on as we walk together in two worlds. Everyone had the opportunity to participate by providing feedback and rating other's thoughts through Thought-Exchange.

The month of February will allow all students and parents to receive a report card. Report cards will

be released electronically through MyEdBC and Learning Alternatives will also be sending a paper copies home with students. If you do not receive a copy from your son or daughter, we can also print them at our office in room 130 at John Barsby.

Our JLA, SLA, RAVENS Lelum and ABOUT Programs operate on a linear model. This means that each course goes from September to June. Our ITT Program operates on a semester system from September to January and then February to June. We are all looking forward to an amazing February filled with lots of rich learning opportunities for all.

Please know that I can always be reached by email at bhancock@sd68.bc.ca to help answer any questions that you may have.

Kind Regards,
Brett Hancock



Syeyutsus Team of students and staff hosted by Chad Jobe and our amazing ABOUT Program.

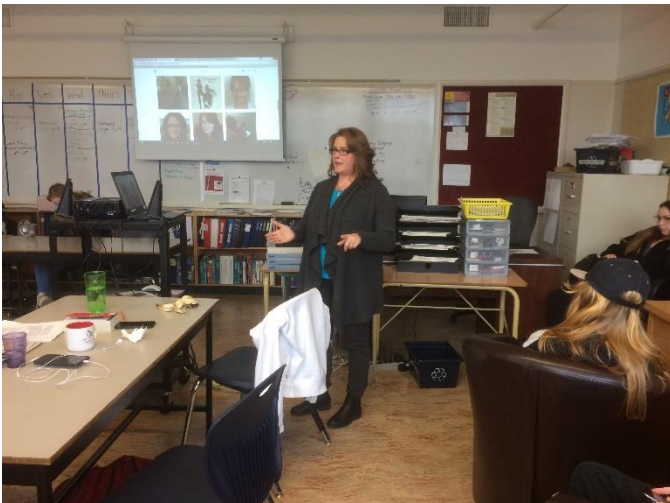
FILM & TELEVISION PRESENTATION BY LEAH FLAGG

Students in all of our programs had the opportunity to learn more about the film and television industry from Leah Flagg. Leah is a Script Supervisor and Production Coordinator for both Film and TV. She shared that her first love was storytelling.

Leah informed us that she was that weird kid who spent summer vacation researching topics that interested her. She would then write creative stories and stage plays for her friends that they would perform for their families. Now she says that she's the weird adult who pretty much does the same thing. Except now, Leah also helps other writers/directors to tell their stories the way they envisioned.

She grew up in a small northern BC town and although Leah didn't think of it much at the time, she grew up in poverty. Leah identified as being not white and not native. Her grandfather left the reservation when he fought in the Second World War. He handed down the few stories and teachings he could remember. This taught Leah and helped her develop the love of stories of many cultures.

This love of people and their stories brought her to her work today. Leah encourages all that are interested to learn how they can write their own story and find their own path to success. She gave out her contact info and let all students know she would love to chat with them!



Leah engaging our SLA and JLA Programs through the magic of story.

IMPORTANT DATES

February 4	First Aid Training at Barsby Site
February 5	PAC 4:30pm at Barsby Room 124
February 6	Staff Meeting & Smudging @3:00pm
February 6-8	SLA Outdoor Ed Whistler Trip
February 7	Report Cards
February 8	Documentary
February 11	Guest Speaker
February 15	Westwood Lake Trip
February 18	Family Day – NO SCHOOL
February 20	Grad 2019 Meeting
February 22	Bowling
February 25	District Non Instructional Day
February 26	School Non Instructional Day
February 28	Pink Shirt Day

PAC

Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) support a wide range of educational opportunities for Learning Alternatives students. All parents and guardians are welcome to attend meetings. Please know that no commitment is required. Hope to see you on Tuesday, February 5 at 4:30pm in room 124 at John Barsby Secondary School. Snacks will be provided.



LEARNING ALTERNATIVES WEBSITE

Here's the link to our website that includes podcasts, schedules of what's happening at each site, graduation information, program descriptions and much more:

<https://la.schools.sd68.bc.ca/>

GRAD CLASS OF 2019

The Learning Alternatives Graduation Ceremony will take place at Vancouver Island University Theatre on Tuesday, June 11 at 1:00pm. Right now, we have 60 students that are on pace to graduate this school year! Each graduate will be allowed to bring 5 guests to the ceremony. Families that think they need more than 5 tickets, please contact Chad or Trevor.

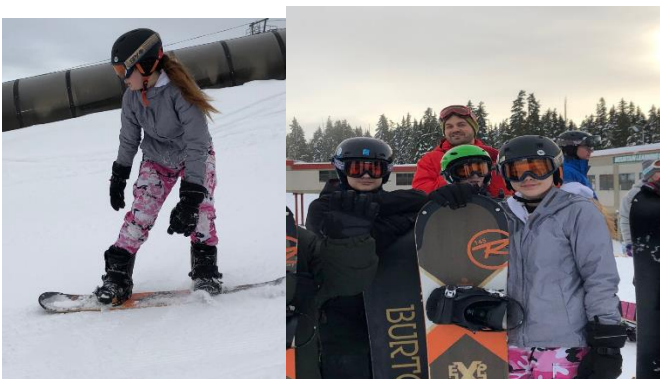
Graduation photos will be taking place in April. Students that are in a position to graduate will have the cost of the photo shoot covered. This will give them access to two digital copies that can be used to share with friends and families online or be taken into a photo center for copies. More information will be provided at the Grad 2019 Meeting on February 20.



Learning Alternatives Grad Class of 2018.

JLA SNOWBOARD TEAM AT MT WASHINGTON

Our Junior Learning Alternatives staff and students had the opportunity to showcase their snowboard skills at Mount Washington this past month. This was the first time on a snowboard for every student and staff were delighted with the resiliency and grit they demonstrated. This was definitely a day all will cherish forever.



GEORGIA AVENUE ELEMENTARY PARTNERSHIP

Our SLA students have been walking up to Georgia Avenue Elementary to help work with a grade 4/5 class. This was planned to be a one-time activity, but was so well received by all, we are working together weekly. We are very proud of the generosity shown by our senior students. This partnership helps enrich learning for both schools and staffs.



Vancouver Island University Planning

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

How to connect with VIU:

- General inquiries connect with a Recruitment Officer at 250.740-6672 or viuconnect@viu.ca
- 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
- Students ready to plan for September 2019 connect with Advising at 250-740-6410 or advising@viu.ca
- Application status and documentation questions connect with the Registration Centre at 250.740.6400 or registration@viu.ca

