



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

Newsletter

#morethanschool

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Brett Hancock,
District Principal of
Learning Alternatives

April 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,

We have just three months left to allow students to demonstrate their learning and to celebrate their success. Our goal is to make sure that each student and their family are clear about their short-term education goals and put supports in place to help them achieve each goal. On Friday, April 5, 2019 all students will be coming home with an Ongoing Communication of Student Learning (OCSL) that provides both teacher and student feedback on their progress. We are also currently creating student plans for September 2019 school year.

Our Learning Alternatives family is thrilled to have a record number of graduating students that are continuing their studies at university and college. Many of these students are currently working on scholarship applications and meeting with post-secondary staff. We are extremely proud of graduating student, Olivia Croasdale, who has been working in a local primary classroom, while carrying a full course load, as she prepares to enroll for her Bachelor of Education at Vancouver Island University (VIU).

Last month I shared how we continue to use the Circle of Courage to help provide four universal growth needs of all children: belonging, mastery, independence, and generosity. We are also proud to use the First Peoples Principles of Learning to guide the work that we lead.



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

Sincerely,
Brett Hancock

IMPORTANT DATES

April 1	First Day Back After Spring Break
April 3	Staff Meeting
April 5	OCSL Coming Home
April 8	Grad Photos @ Barsby
April 10	Grad Photos @ Barsby

ANOTHER SKILLS CANADA CHAMPION

Last month we celebrated ABOUT coach Chad and students Breanna, Nathan and Alex for their gold medal at the BC Regional Skills Canada Bridge Building Competition. This month we would like to congratulate Intro To Trades (ITT) graduate Nico Read on his gold medal in the carpentry competition at VIU Skills Canada Competition.



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. We hope to see you on Tuesday, April 9 at 5:00pm in room 124 at John Barsby Secondary School. This is a great chance to ask any questions that you may have about the school, graduation, educational plans, etc.



LEARNING ALTERNATIVES WEBSITE

Here is the link to our website that includes podcasts, schedules of what is 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 50 students that are on pace to graduate this school year! Each graduate will be allowed to bring five guests to the ceremony. Families that think they need more than five tickets, please contact Chad or Trevor.

Graduation photos will be taking place on April 8 and 10 at John Barsby. 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 affordable copies.



ITT LEARNING STUDIO 2.0

Our ITT Program has been working hard at their new school site at Woodlands Secondary. This semester's cohort is building a Learning Studio that will be delivered to one lucky school in Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools for next school year. Students and staff have worked through some extreme weather the past couple months to make sure that they will complete it by June 2019. We are all proud of the hard work ethic each one of you have displayed.



COACH MATT KUZ LEADS VIU TO NATIONAL TITLE

Did you know that Learning Alternatives ABOUT teacher Matt Kuzminski is also the head coach of VIU Men's Basketball Team? He is quickly becoming one of the best and most celebrated coaches in Canada. Over Spring Break, Matt led VIU to another National Title! Matt's ability to lead students in the classroom and on the court is beautiful thing to watch. His team approach to learning allows all learners to find a role and be a part of a winning team. Congrats Matt, your Learning Alternatives family is proud of you!



ARCHERY LEARNING EXPERIENCE

On March 5, students and staff had the opportunity to learn about one of North America's fastest growing sports, archery. Thanks to Julie for organizing this activity and to all the staff that assisted with transportation. It was a great day of learning had by all.

