



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

## Newsletter

#morethanschool

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

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

Follow us on twitter @LearningAltern1

Instagram learning\_alternatives

Facebook: L.A. Alternatives

Brett Hancock,  
District Principal of  
Learning Alternatives

May 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,

Just two months of learning left in the 2018-2019 school year! The beautiful weather has allowed our staff and students to engage in some rich land based learning. With nothing, but sun in the forecast over the next few weeks, we look forward to leading learning that ultimately supports the well-being of self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors.

Our graduating class of 2019 should now all have digital copies of their grad photos. If not, please see Lacey, Trevor or Chad with a thumb drive and they will download them for you. A huge thanks to all our staff, our PAC and John Barsby Photography classes for helping make this possible. We were able to provide each graduate with their photos free of charge, so they can share online or take them to a photo lab for cost friendly copies. This type of support shows we truly are more than school.

The past month saw both of our school-aged sites continue to grow in size. It also saw Learning Alternatives partner with the Take a Hike Foundation for the 2019-2020 school year. Take a Hike is a full-time alternate high school program that uses the outdoors and adventure to engage vulnerable youth in school, community and mental health supports. Take a Hike provides a full-time clinical counselor to help students overcome

barriers so they can achieve social and academic success, leading to high school graduation. We welcome Take a Hike to our Learning Alternatives family and look forward to the learning that will take place. We would also like to congratulate Breigh Huggins on becoming the new teacher for this program.

Take a Hike boasts a 97% graduation rate. They now have five partnerships with school districts across British Columbia. This is no ordinary classroom and we encourage you to visit their website at <https://www.takeahikefoundation.org/> for more information.



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

Sincerely,  
Brett Hancock

## IMPORTANT DATES

May 1	Grad Meeting
May 3	Ammonite Falls Hike
May 6	John Howard Speaker at Barsby
May 10	NO SCHOOL (Pro D)
May 13	Google Classroom Tutorial at Barsby
May 15-17	Grad Trip to Hornby
May 16	Sign Unveiling at Woodlands
May 17	Beach Volleyball at Bowen Park
May 20	NO SCHOOL (Victoria Day)
May 23	District Indigenous Grad at Barsby
May 24	Mount Benson Hike
May 31	Cable Bay Hike

## THE ALTERNATIVE GRIND

Learning Alternative students are now operating their own cafe. The shop is open from 9:30am-10:00am weekday mornings at Barsby. Students obtain valuable job-ready skills, such as working with money, taking orders, delivering drinks and barista training. Students work in pods of four to run the shop. Once students have completed their three-week elective, they have the opportunity to train the next pod and manage the shop. Any students who want to work at The Alternative Grind please see Breigh.

The Alternative Grind would like to thank COLD FRONT GELATO for donating coffee beans.



## 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, May 7 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.



## PAC FACEBOOK GROUP

Our PAC has developed a Facebook group and all parents and families are welcome to join. The name of the group is Learning Alternatives.



## LEARNING ALTERNATIVES WEBSITE

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

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



## TWITTER, INSTAGRAM AND NOW FACEBOOK

We are proud to offer a Twitter page, Instagram page and now even a Facebook Page to celebrate the innovative learning we lead and how we are #morethanschool.

Follow us on twitter: @LearningAltern1

Instagram: learning\_alternatives

Facebook: L.A. Alternatives



## GRAD CLASS OF 2019

The Learning Alternatives Graduation Ceremony will take place at Vancouver Island University Theatre on Tuesday, June 11 at 1:00pm. 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.

School will be closed on Graduation Day and all students are welcome to attend the celebration. School will be back in session the following day, but on June 11 we look to celebrate our graduating class of 2019. Congratulations to our valedictorians Olivia Croasdale and Carson Routley.



## LEARNING IN ACTION



Val Masterman leading our students through the Button Blanket Project with passion, wisdom and creativity.



Reading groups on the side steps at ABOUT.



Our classrooms are everywhere and we all enjoy what learning can look like in nature.