



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

Newsletter

#morethanschool

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Brett Hancock,
District Principal of
Learning Alternatives

December 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.

BRETT'S COMMENTS

Dear Learning Alternatives Family,

It was great to see so many of you at our Parent/Teacher Night on November 20. We hope that the OCSL (Ongoing Communication of Student Learning) was a good indicator of the outstanding progress of your son and/or daughter so far this year. The month of November also saw our students release a music video, have their stories shared in the parliament building, honour veterans, teach drumming at Bayview Elementary School, continue the creation of Learning Studio 3.0 and complete a record number of courses.



December is hard month for many and please know that we want to offer as much support as possible. Christmas gifts, no connection to school, health

challenges and year-end bills leave many in a tough spot. Please know that there is nothing I won't do to support students and families. If there is anything I can assist with, please know that I can always be reached by email at bhancock@sd68.bc.ca or at 250-713-6240 to help answer any questions or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,
Brett Hancock

IMPORTANT DATES IN DECEMBER

- December 3 -Woodlands SBT @ 8:15am
-John Howard Group at Barsby
- December 4 -Barsby SBT @ 8:15am
-Staff Meeting @ Barsby @ 3pm
- December 5 - John Howard Group @ Woodlands
- December 6 -The Spirit of Giving
- December 10 -Woodlands SBT @ 8:15am
-Woodlands Fire Drill @ 10am
- December 11 -Barsby SBT @ 8:15am
- December 13 -Holiday Breakfast and Games Day
- December 17 -Woodlands SBT @ 8:15am
- December 18 -Barsby SBT @ 8:15am
- December 20 -Last Day Before Winter Break

PAC

Our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) had a great turnout for our first three meetings of the school year. PAC helps 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. This is a great chance to ask any questions that you may have about the school, graduation, educational plans, and help allocate funds to exciting initiatives. Our first meeting of the new year is on Tuesday, January 7 at 6:00pm at Woodlands Secondary School. Please use the fire lane off Strathmore Street to access our entrance. Look for the Learning Alternatives sign.

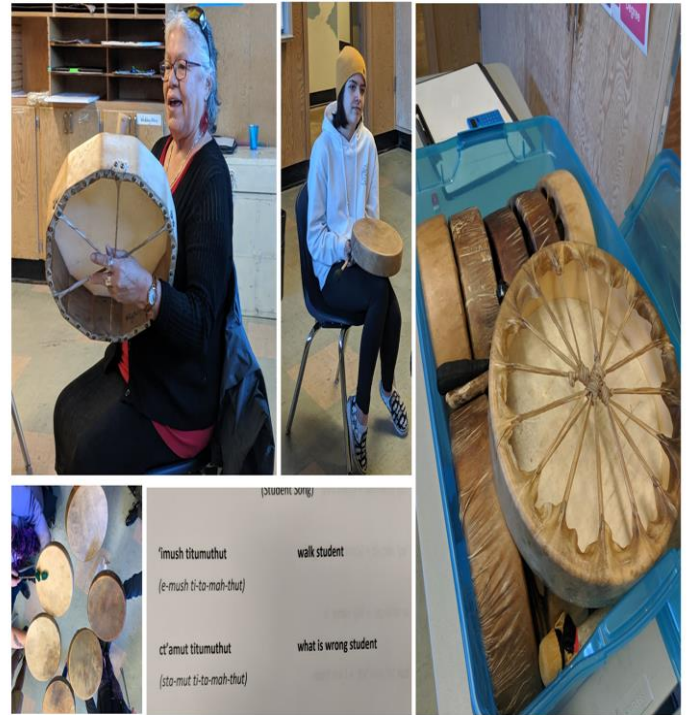


WHAT TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION LOOKS LIKE IN A LEARNING ALTERNATIVES CLASSROOM

By: Amelia Bieling

I am taking opportunities to engage in truth and reconciliation activities as a co-learner with my students. I have loved participating in weekly sessions with Elder Lolly, where we have been learning basics from the Hul'qumi'num language, drumming techniques, and both modern and traditional songs. As a language teacher, I am enjoying the opportunity to learn Hul'qumi'num. I believe that learning alongside my students encourages them to take risks and shows that language development is challenging for all, not just for them. I have worked to provide students with language booklets, encouraged the practice of greetings in Hul'qumi'num, and tried to provide students with phonetic spelling of words to support pronunciation and fluency with the language basics.

I am working to learn more about First Nations culture and tradition so I can weave it into my science teaching in authentic ways. I am currently pursuing how to make different traditional teas and salves in hopes that we can look into the biochemistry of these substances and make them ourselves.



TAKE A HIKE: LAND BASED LEARNING

By: Take a Hike Staff and Students



Minimum one day a week, often two, are spent out of the classroom. The photo above is an example of what our classroom looks like on Thursdays. Getting outdoors and engaging in nature, spending time learning from the land, slowing down and looking around, become the lessons for the day. We spend time talking about sustainability, we look for evidence of past societies, we discuss how we can impact the environment in both positive and negative ways. Space is important, we do not use our cell phone, we talk to the person beside us, we

engage in conversations with other trail users, we sit together and eat lunch.

These out days are so integral to our success in the classroom. Students overcome obstacles and meet new challenges head on, pushing their limits to get the best views. We believe in a solid view to hike ratio (see we even do math out here). The climb needs to be worth it, believe me the students are not hesitant to tell me if we have not reached the “Goldie Locks” of trail to view ratios. This week’s hike to Heart Lake was pushing the upper limits of the climb ratio, however, all students made it to the top, and once safely on flat ground reflected that the view was worth it. We have our second Benson attempt next week, I wonder if we will see snow?

LEARNING ACTION SHOTS



ABOUT student Jordan Mitchell leading a group of Kindergarten and Grade 1 students at Bayview.



ITT Team of Dakota Louis, Nick Hill and Zakk Holm take a quick photo opportunity while building a shed for NDSS.



Students and staff taking a moment to remember.



Matt aka Coach K explaining the week's podcast.



Our students and staff thanking the generosity from Loaves and Fishes and Nanaimo Ladysmith Schools Foundation for all their support.