



550-7th 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

February 2020

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,

January brought us a little bit of everything. We were able to share our SMART Goals when we returned from our Winter Break. It wasn't long after our return that we were gifted a couple snow days. The following week saw many of our senior students completing literacy and numeracy assessments. Our last week of January was filled with celebrations of learning, front page articles in the local newspaper, lots of course completions on Report Cards, a beautiful Family Night and so much more.

We as a staff recently reflected upon our favourite day of the 2019-2020 school year. Family Night was the day both Judy and I selected. It was so beautiful to see siblings, parents, aunties, uncles, grandmas, grandpas and even pets turn up for family photos. Our talented music students entertained and impressed the audience in their newly renovated music studio. Our cooking classes showcased some of their tasty projects. There were a few heated games of air hockey and basketball. The STEM projects on display showed work that both staff and students are proud of. We even had our community partners from NARSF and Island Health join the celebrations. It was happiest report card pick up I have ever been a part of. I would like to thank acknowledge all the staff and families that made it possible.

February has been off to a great start. Trevor and Lacey took a team of eight students to Whistler for a three-day trip. They were provided with a learning experience that requires the exploration of one's identity. Under the support of Clay and Matt, two of our senior student have taken on coaching roles at Georgia Avenue and Chase River Elementary. Amelia led our junior STEM students through their first ever dissection. There is so much happening with Learning Alternatives it's impossible to try and cover it all in one newsletter.



I give you my word, that there is nothing I won't do to support students and families. If there is ever anything I can assist with, please know that I can be reached by email at bhancock@sd68.bc.ca or on my cell at 250-713-6240 to help answer any questions or concerns that you may have.

Your Friend,
Brett

IMPORTANT DATES IN JANUARY

February 4 -Woodlands SBT @ 8:15am
February 5 -Barsby SBT @ 8:15am
-Staff Meeting @ Woodlands @ 3pm
-PAC @ Woodlands @ 6pm
February 10 -Northern Games Meeting @ Barsby @ 1:30pm
February 11 -Woodlands SBT @ 8:15am
February 12 -Barsby SBT @ 8:15am
February 13 -Inclusive Support Series @ 12pm-3pm
February 18 -Woodlands SBT @ 8:15am
February 19 -Barsby SBT @ 8:15am
February 24 -Pro D/No Classes
February 25 -Pro D/No Classes

PAC

Our next meeting is on Wednesday, March 4 at 6pm. This will be a dinner meeting and will NOT be held one of our school sites. Please email or call Brett if you would like to attend.



A DAY OF LEARNING AT WOODLANDS

Amelia Bieling

If I had to sum up a Thursday at our Learning Alternatives Woodlands site in only a couple of words, it would be “chaotic bliss”. There are always visitors and presentations in addition to more traditional learning activities, which gives students various opportunities to engage in experiential learning, try new things, and look at our world through a new lens. Here is a snapshot of some of the highlights of learning that I was fortunate to engage our students with last Thursday.

Our Weight Room OPENS!

We have been working to establish a weight room at our school, involving securing funds for equipment and space. Staff and students worked throughout the week to assemble equipment. Today, I had the honour of using the fitness room for the first time with a group of students. We did a weight session as part of our daily physical activity, and it was so much fun!



Math for all!

Every morning, I work with our Junior students in a small group math lesson. My goal is to support the development of basic number sense, mathematical vocabulary, and their confidence in their own mathematical abilities. Today, students reviewed the concept of square and square roots to build a solid foundation for moving on to Pythagorean Theorem.



Heart Dissection!

Students have been studying the circulatory system and the structure/function of the heart. Today they dissected two cow and two pig hearts. This experiential learning helped students to better understand the concepts covered in class. It was also an opportunity to talk about the ethics and safety associated with dissections.



Energy Audit!

We are participating in the Energy Cup Challenge to promote awareness of energy waste and reduce our carbon footprint. Today, students conducted a Light Audit, looking at light usage throughout our school and reducing it whenever possible.



Fitness Club! (After School Sport Initiative)

Our school has been working with Pacific Sport to promote youth engagement in health and fitness. This afternoon, the wonderful Samantha lead students through a fitness circuit. She had them concentrate on developing essential form and body awareness.



John Howard Association also came by for their second session of their woman's empowerment group, "Real Talk". Some students have been apprehensive, but others have provided open and engaging opinions and experiences. I feel super lucky to be involved in this group and to have the opportunity to foster deeper connections with our students.

Throughout the day, my colleagues also supported a wealth of other amazing activities. From Steve rocking out with kids in the band room (his music program is awesome), to Chad helping kids navigate their courses and graduation plans. It is pretty amazing what can happen in just one day!