



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

September 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 Parents and Guardians,  
Nuwilim (Welcome) to the 2019-2020 school year! Last year Learning Alternatives students, staff and families had more success than ever before. We had a record number of graduates, won the Skills Canada Bridge Building Competition, sent students to provincial championships for athletics, built Learning Studio 2.0 and had two staff named finalists for the Premier's Awards for Excellence in Education. This year we are excited to celebrate even more success!

We will continue to use the Circle of Courage model to help guide the learning we lead. This model proposes that belonging, mastery, independence and generosity are the central values – the unifying theme – of positive cultures for education and youth work programs. We believe the philosophy embodied in the circle of courage is cultural birthright for all the world's children.

### Circle of Courage



The month of September is when we put a strong emphasis on the sense of belonging. This year we are learning about how we are all related and how one's actions impinge on the natural environment. Maintaining balanced ecological relationships is a way of ensuring balance in one's own life.

During September, we will also make sure that every student is enrolled in courses required to help them on their graduation path. Each student is connected to a cohort teacher. The cohort teacher will be the best point of contact for progress reports, attendance, graduation planning and any other questions that parents/guardians may have. As a staff, we are committed to providing dignity, purpose and options to all our students.

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 or concerns that you may have.

Sincerely,  
Brett Hancock

## IMPORTANT DATES

September 3 First Day (12:00pm-2:00pm)  
September 4 Staff Meeting @ Barsby @ 3pm  
September 9 Staff Committee @ Barsby @ 3pm  
September 10 SBT @ Woodlands @ 8:15am  
September 11 SBT @ Barsby @ 8:15am  
Learning Leader @ Barsby @ 3pm  
September 13 Hike the Abyss Field Trip  
September 17 SBT @ Woodlands @ 8:15am  
September 18 SBT @ Barsby @ 8:15am  
September 20 Driving Range Field Trip  
September 24 SBT @ Woodlands @ 8:15am  
PAC @ Woodlands @ 6pm  
September 25 SBT @ Barsby @ 8:15am  
Grad Meeting @ Barsby @ 11:30am  
September 26 Terry Fox Run/Lunch @ Woodlands  
September 26 Big Breakfast @ Both Sites  
September 30 Orange Shirt Day  
Photo Day @ Woodlands

## 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. This is a great chance to ask any questions that you may have about the school, graduation, educational plans, etc. We hope to see you at our first meeting of the school year on Tuesday, September 24 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.



## WRESTLING TEAM/CLUB

**Wrestling season is quickly approaching!** School District 68 has a district co-ed wrestling team/club. It is open to male and female students in grades 4 to 12 from all of our schools. The season starts on Monday, October 7, with practices being held on Mondays and Thursdays. Practices

are at Island ConnectEd K-12 (4355 Jingle Pot Road). For more information, please visit the club's website:  
<https://sites.google.com/view/nanaimowrestlingclub/>  
If interested in joining the club, a registration link is located on the website.



## FROM THE MATH CORNER

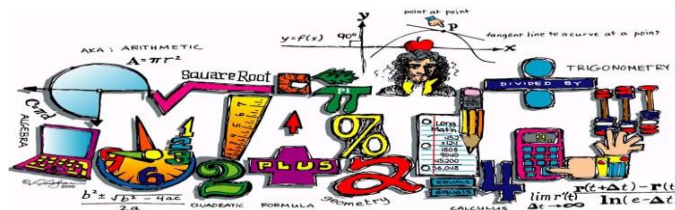
We are again offering Math Pre-Calculus 11 & 12 this year. A clear student commitment and no quitting attitude are needed to be successful in these courses! Any gaps in student's math background will be addressed as needed.

### Pre-Calculus 11

The concepts covered include powers, rational operations & expressions, radical/quadratic/linear-operations and equations, factoring, inequalities, trigonometry (non-right triangles) and angles in standard position, compound interest, investments and loans.

### Pre-Calculus 12

This is a must have course for University Math and Science programs. The concepts covered include transformations, exponential, logarithmic, and polynomial functions & equations, trigonometric functions, equations and identities, rational functions and geometric sequences & series.





## LEARNING ALTERNATIVES STAFF IN THE NEWS

This past summer, there were some news stories celebrating the amazing work that goes on at Learning Alternatives. Here are the links:

<https://nanaimonewsnow.com/2019/07/06/nanaimo-educators-honoured-for-bringing-alternative-approach-to-school/>

<https://nanaimonewsnow.com/2019/09/04/new-classroom-opens-to-help-vulnerable-nanaimo-students/>

<https://www.nanaimobulletin.com/news/nanaimo-principal-and-teacher-up-for-top-honours-for-roles-in-education/>



## DAD'S SOUP EVENT

The Men's Center is offering a weekly group for dads called The Dads Soup Event (likely Wednesday). It will be held at:  
Nanaimo Child Development Centre  
1135 Nelson Street, Nanaimo BC  
They will be offering a great meal, good conversation and it's free. All you have to do is RVSP to Glen at 250 716 1551 or [glen@themenscentre.ca](mailto:glen@themenscentre.ca)



## LEARNING STUDIO 3.0

Our Intro to Trades Program have already started their newest project for the 2019-2020 school year, Learning Studio 3.0. Last year's finished product, Learning Studio 2.0, can be found at Chase River Elementary. It has quickly become the most desired classroom at the site. This is an example of project based learning at its finest!



## ABOUT US

Mission Statement: *Improving the life chances of every student.*

School Vision Statement: *We develop programs to support youth to not only attend to school, but to be participants in their learning, school and community. Learning Alternatives is ever changing each year depending on the needs of the learners.*

Hashtag/Tagline: *#morethanschool/More than School*

Learning Leader Question: *How can we provide learning that ultimately supports the well-being of the self, the family, the community, the land, the spirits, and the ancestors?*

