



# Message from the Administration

Mr. Kal Russell  
Principal

Mr. David Mark  
Vice-Principal

The first week of school has been very busy. We are extremely pleased with the student's and staff's commitment to getting back into the learning process. We know that we are going to have an outstanding year.

This newsletter is designed to provide you with valuable information about NSMS to start the year off.

We are excited about the upcoming school year, and our school. We look forward to working with you and your children.

## Safe Arrival

Please remember to call the Safe Arrival number: **250 - 656 - 1211** at any time and leave a message regarding your child's absence or lateness due to sickness, medical appointments, etc. This service is provided by members of the PAC to give families peace of mind by helping to ensure your children are accounted for at school.

## School Goals 2013-2014

- Goal #1**—To improve student achievement in Mathematics.
- Goal #2**—To improve student social responsibility.

## Updated School Information for Parents

School information can be accessed in several ways:

- Brief monthly newsletters can be emailed to you,
- Our school website is regularly updated and contains information on upcoming school activities,

- Many of our teachers have homework pages that include school and classroom information,
- We are initiating a NSMS twitter account at @SD63NSaanich
- Our school sign is updated with current information and

events.

- Additionally, you can sign up on our webpage and have school updates sent to your email and phone.
- You are always welcome to phone the office to speak to someone directly.

### Dates to Remember in September

Dates to Remember in	September
Photo Day	13
Meet the Teacher @ 2:30 to 6:30	18
Early Dismissal @ 2:00	18
Early Dismissal @ 2:00	19
Terry Fox Run	26
Non Instructional Day	27

### Welcome to:

The following new staff members joining our North Saanich Middle School team:

- Mr. Cooper Div. 3 Grade 6/7
- Mr. Stewart Div. 4 Grade 6/7
- Ms. Mazzocchi Div. 8 Grade 6/7

# Procedures for Voicing Your Concerns

Parents will, on occasion, have questions regarding their child's education. The staff at North Saanich Middle School want you to contact the school when a problem or question arises.

To facilitate action on any concern regarding the schools policies, procedures or curriculum, we ask that you take the following steps:

- (a) Should the concern be the result of an action or decision of an employee, the complainant is encouraged to discuss the issue with that employee;
- (b) If not resolved by the em-

ployee the complainant should involve the appropriate principal or supervisor;

Lets work together to resolve concerns!



- (c) Should the principal or supervisor not resolve the concern then the complainant should involve either the Assistant Superintendent (Learning Services),

- the Assistant Superintendent (Instructional Services) or the Secretary-Treasurer;
- (d) Should the concern remain unresolved, the Superintendent of Schools may be contacted for assistance with process;
- (e) At any time the complainant may contact a trustee by phone or direct a letter to the Board Chair for assistance with process;
- (f) If concerns are still not addressed satisfactorily, a complainant may formally appeal a decision to the Board according to the Administrative Procedures outlined in Policy 1360.

## Band for 2013-2014

We have restructured our band timetable at NSMS to give more flexibility to our band students. The following schedule is when band classes will take place:

**Grade 6 Students** will receive band on **Tuesday** mornings from 8:30 until 9:38 and **Thursday** during Block 1 9:38 – 10:45.

**Grade 7 Students** will receive

band on **Thursday** mornings from 8:30 until 9:38 and **Tuesday** during Block 1 - 9:38 – 10:45.

**Grade 8 students** will receive band on **Wednesday** mornings from 8:30 until 9:38 and on **Thursdays** during block 2 or 3. These Blocks will alternate every week.

It is not too late to sign up for

band. Students who participate in this Band Flex Block will not miss any NEW instruction related to CORE subjects. Please contact the office if you would like your child to join band.

Educational research shows that learning music in school helps students academic performance and brain development.

## Athletics and Extra Curricular Activities

Educational research clearly shows that students who are involved in extra-curricular activities perform better academically and socially in school.

We want to encourage all students to get involved in school life. Middle school is the perfect time for students to try out new sports or a club. We offer a variety of athletic and extra-

curricular activities for students to get involved in during the school year. Students are reminded of up coming school sports and activities at Monday assemblies and in the school announcements.

Fall activities start right *Stay Active! Be Awesome!*

away. Our school Athletic Director is Mr. Pat Chambers.



Parents can find out about upcoming activities and events if they sign up for our school correspondence.

## Meet the Teacher—Wednesday, September 18th

We will be hosting a Parent/Teacher Meeting on Wednesday, September 18th from 2:30 PM to 6:30 PM.

Last year after our Meet the Teacher Night we had several suggestions from staff and parents on ways to make the evening more meaningful for everyone, consequently we have re-structured event.

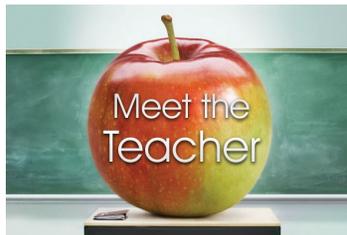
Parents will sign up for a 10-minute time slot to meet with their child's Advisory/Homeroom teacher.

The objective is twofold:

1. We want the parents and the teachers to have a few minutes to get to know each other. We hope this will help

parents and teachers feel comfortable contacting each other in person, by phone or by e-mail regularly throughout the school year.

2. We want to get to know more about your child. Parents understand their children better than anyone and we want to use this knowledge to help us im-



*Contact your teacher directly to book your parent/teacher meeting*

prove your child's success at school. This information that you share with us about your child will help us interact and teach your child more effectively.

Please note that this evening is *designed for individual parent-teacher conferences at designated time slots.* Our staff wants to use this night as a way to improve our knowledge of your child and help determine how the home and school can work together to support student learning. We look forward to meeting all our parents and getting to a chance to talk about your children at our Meet the Teacher Event.

## Medications at School

It is most important that you inform the school about serious medical conditions or allergies that may affect your child. For your child's safety, please don't assume we've already been told about your child's medical condition. Remember you must:

1. Complete and return a signed consent card (*Request to Administer Medication Card*) to the school

when medication is to start or whenever medication or dosage is changed. **The card is available at the office and must be signed both by the parents and the doctor.**

2. Provide the medication in the original pharmacy container clearly labeled with:
  - a) child's name
  - b) medication name

- c) medication dosage
- d) medication expiry date

\* This includes prescription as well as "over the counter" medications. Only those medications provided by a parent for a particular child are kept at the school. We are not permitted to carry a supply of pain pills, antihistamines or salves, etc.

## Canteen & Snack Shack

Our Canteen is open Monday to Thursday during lunch to serve a variety of healthy lunch choices. This year we will have gluten free lunches available to choose from, but orders must be placed at the Canteen the day before. We encourage the use of Canteen Punch

cards as it eliminates the need to send cash to school with your child. Punch cards can be purchased at the office in \$25 or \$50 amounts. There is also a \$30 Thursday Mac Special Punch Card available. Students may also use cash. The Snack Shack is open at lunch

and recess to sell snacks only. Fridays are Pizza Day at lunch. Pizza is \$2 a slice. Cash only! I love Pizza Fridays! Punch cards cannot be used for Pizza Day or at the Snack Shack.



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***Www.northsaanich.ca***

## **Bicycles, Scooters, Skateboards**

For the safety of everyone, we ask students to get off their bicycles, scooters and skateboards at the edge of the school property. This includes the sidewalks and driveways on and adjacent to the property. We ask students to do this immediately upon arrival and until the last bus of the day leaves. This will help to ensure that no one gets injured by a bike, scooter or skateboard. Thank you for promoting this safety rule with your children.



## **PAC Message**

Your PAC is urgently looking for a **Secretary!** This job can easily be shared between two people. Meetings are once a month on every second Tuesday( for about 1 or 1 1/2 hours). If you are able to help us, please email kelly glover at [tandkglover@shaw.ca](mailto:tandkglover@shaw.ca), or leave a note at the office in our PAC drawer. Next meeting is on Tuesday October 8th at 7 pm in the NSMS library.

## **Terry Fox Run**



Our school will be hosting a Terry Fox Run on Sept. 26, 2013.

During September we will be raising money for the Terry Fox Foundation and Cancer Research.

Parents are welcome to join us for the run and or drop off donations at the school office.

## **Criminal Record Checks**

If you think you might be volunteering for your child's class, by driving or chaperoning for field trips or sporting events, we encourage you to get your **Criminal Record Check done NOW**.

Because it takes a number of weeks to complete the entire process of requesting a CRC and processing it through our School District Office sometimes its too close to the date of the field trip to even be possible.

Stop by the school office and pick up the letter you need to waive the CRC processing fee and go to your local law enforcement office now.

We appreciate your help.

## **Grade 6 Innoculations**

*Just a reminder that our Grade 6 immunizations will be taking place in the Multi Purpose Room on the morning of September 24th. BCCDC offers Hepatitis B, Meng-C, HPV for girls and Chicken Pox vaccine to eligible students.*

*If you have any questions or concerns do not hesitate to call our Public Health Nurse Lois Woolley at 250-544-2400. Please return any consent forms*

## **Bell Schedule 2013 - 2014**

<b>Warning Bell</b>	<b>*9:00</b>	<b>Minutes</b>
<b>Advisory</b>	*9:05—9:38	33
<b>Block 1</b>	*9:38—10:45	67
<b>Block 2</b>	*10:45—11:52	67
<b>Lunch Eating</b>	*11:52—12:07	15
<b>Lunch Activity</b>	12:07—12:34	27
<b>Travel Time</b>	12:34—12:39	5
<b>Block 3</b>	12:39—1:46	67
<b>Recess</b>	*1:46—1:59	13
<b>Travel Time</b>	1:59—2:01	2
<b>Block 4</b>	2:01—*3:08	67