

**A GOOD SCHOOL
GETTING BETTER**

February 2007

PILOTING HEALTH INITIATIVES

To Mr. Lester who joins us from Australia. He and Mr. Miller have swapped jobs for a year and so both teachers have a great adventure ahead of them.

**LITERACY DAY, WRITERS FESTIVAL
READ for the TOP**

PAC MEETING

March 28th,

**6:30 business 7:00 p.m. guest speakers Brooks/OV counselors
(in the COMMONS)**

TRANSITIONING to Brooks

(especially for parents of grade 9 students)

BINGO If you can volunteer, please call Terry Tardiff at 485 6235.

BINGO —the OV PAC raises money for your kids through Bingo. Please support these initiatives by participating with a friend. The OV dates for bingo are March 3rd, April 20th, and May 27th.

WEBSITE INFO FOR FAMILIES:

Check out this site to help keep your kids safe:

<http://www.bewebaware.com>



Often we publish the names of students in our newsletters. On occasion we also publish pictures. If you do not want this information made public, please contact the school and indicate this to the secretary. You can email any staff member by using their first initial and last name as follows:

krothwell@sd47.bc.ca.

UVIC brings Science to life !!

The first week of March OV is hosting Anissa from the University of Victoria. She will be in the school days doing workshops for a number of students from across the District.

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DATES OF INTEREST

Jan. 17th PAC meeting

(business at 6:30)

Special presentation on

Cyberbullying at 7:00

Jan. 29th — Exam Week starts

See adjacent schedule

Feb 5th — LEAD/LEAF

Feb 12th — District Pro D

Feb 16th — 2nd report card

Feb 16th — Film Festival

**Feb 20th PAC meeting —
drugs and alcohol presentation**



HEALTHY SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

Starting this term, the staff, with the help of students and parents, will examine practices of the school regarding physical education and nutrition. OV is a member of the Provincial Healthy Schools Network and our first step will be to administer an assessment tool giving us direction regarding the health of our students. Within a very short time one of the differences we will see at OV is the addition of a healthy choices vending machine. This will offer, amongst other things, milk, veggies and dips, fruits, and yogurt to students. Mr. Cocksedge is the lead teacher for the healthy school's team.



GRADE 9 IMMUNIZATION

All grade 9 students were given immunization forms to return to the school. Please sign them and have your child return them ASAP. Immunization will be coming up in the next few weeks. If you would like more information please talk to Rosemay Moran at the public health office.

LEAD/ LEAF February 5th

As part of the Health and Career curriculum each year, all students at OV receive education about substance abuse and career possibilities.

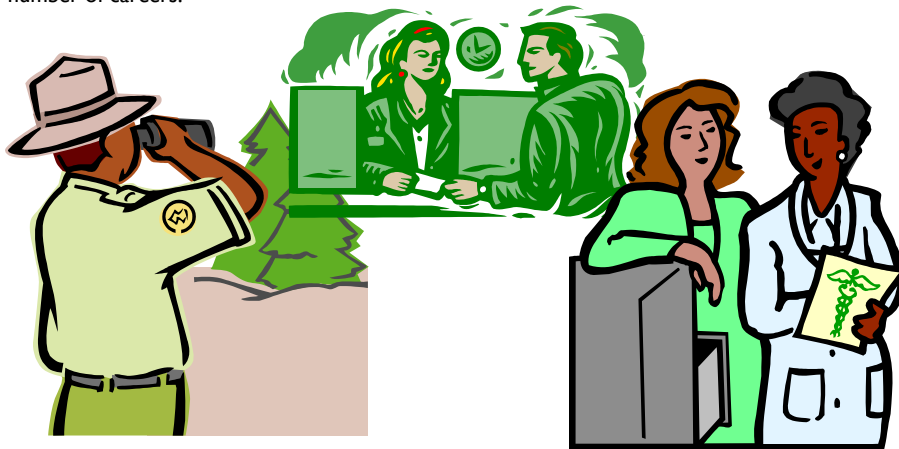
At the grade 8 level, all students take part in a Drug Education Fair (**Let's Educate About Drugs**) presented by the RCMP, New Life Counselling, and Public Health. These community sponsors make the day productive and educational for the kids. The format is fun and factual with a keynote speaker and several information booths. The students have always benefited from this day as well as enjoying it. Many thanks to Susan Hill, who is the coordinator of the activities and who puts in hours of hard work on the Fair.



At the grade 9 level, students have the opportunity to experience the real world of work (**Let's Educate About Futures**). Through a national initiative called 'take your kids to work',



students get the chance to job-shadow parents, friends, or relatives to see the work place in action. This week all grade 9 students will be given information and forms to explain this activity. Pre-approval must be obtained from parents and employers for this to happen. Please ask your grade 9 child for the forms and contribute to their career education if you are able. When students observe work sites it starts them thinking about the many choices available to them after secondary school. For those who are unable to find work placement, research work at the school will provide an opportunity to explore any number of careers.



SCHOOL DISTRICT 47 DRUG POLICY

IN ORDER TO KEEP OUR SCHOOLS DRUG FREE the Board of Trustees has adopted a drug policy which is very stringent. This policy prohibits the use of any drugs on or around school property at all times. The consequences for violation of this rule are severe. Please access the district website at www.sd47.bc.ca to read the particulars or stop by the school where you will be able to pick up a copy of the policy. All students in the district and at OV will be made very aware of consequences of this type of behaviour in the first few days of school, and they will be given reminders often about this issue. Please help us keep all our kids drug free by monitoring your children.

If you would like any more information about either of these programs please contact Ms. Behan or Mr. Marciniak, our counsellors at the school.



Illness and Homework

This year we do not have the call-back service and so we really appreciate you calling when illness occurs. If the absence is short (a day or 2) we ask the student to contact a friend about work. Anything beyond that which requires medical attention, the teachers can provide work in the office. Please call the office should that occur. For students who are away on holidays, teachers may provide a minimal amount of work, but it is expected that students will take responsibility for this work when they return.



Basketball

Season
is in full swing. Our teams will be competing against the Island and the Peninsula under the coaching of Mr. Radcliffe, Mr. Curtis, Mr. Lester, Ms. Behan, Ms. Ouellette, Ms. Mastro. Good luck to all the players.

DID YOU KNOW ??

- Mrs. Edwards leaves us next week to return to Australia. Ms. Halstead returns from Australia to take over the Home Ec position as well as providing support in admin.
- OV is a closed campus.
- Electronic devices are not the responsibility of the school and are **subject to theft**. Please discourage your child from bringing these to school.
- Bus schedules are set with mandated passengers lists. Students cannot change routes or busses without authorization from the district office.
- OV students must show bus passes at all times. This helps keep your kids safe.
- All teachers are available through email. Check the Agenda for details.

TRANSITIONING

The move to secondary is a big step for most kids. In order to better prepare them for Brooks, we will start transitioning very soon. This will include such activities as visits from Brooks staff and students to OV to address the grade 9's and a parent meeting to familiarize you with the many changes. Students will also be introduced to the grade 10-12 graduation program and all the options available at Brooks and before long they will start course selection. The counsellors from both schools will walk them through it and they will be bringing home forms for you to look at.

Parents can help by familiarizing themselves with the 'graduation program' website at www.bced.gov.bc.ca

One of the biggest changes for students will be the more inclusive semester system but another is the increase in responsibility required as the students become 'seniors'. We continue to impress upon our 9's that they must take responsibility; the adults in their life cannot do it for them, we can only support them. One of the changes that grade 9's will see in their remaining time with us at OV is an emphasis on exactly that. **We continue to remind the grade 9's that they must pass all core courses in order to advance to grade 10. Any incomplete courses will have to be picked up at summer school or in alternate school next September.**

From the elementary schools, the students who enter OV also have big changes ahead and within a short time, teachers and counsellors will visit feeder schools to help the students adjust more successfully.

You can help by encouraging your child to take their studies seriously, do homework regularly, and by discussing your child's future. There are so many options but the groundwork must be in place for career development. If you need assistance or information please do not hesitate to give our counsellors a call.



UPCOMING EVENTS

| | |
|---|-------------------------|
| District Pro D (Feb 12th) | School Musical |
| Film Festival | Report Card (Feb 16th) |
| Read For the Top | Spring Break |
| Writer's Festival | District Music festival |
| Drug and alcohol info for parents (Feb 20th) | Literacy Day |

NEWSLETTERS are available by email. If we have your address we will send it to you online. Please forward your email to cbratseth@sd47.bc.ca

TUTORIAL SCHEDULE

All teachers are available at lunch time for any students requiring help. All that is needed is the request to the teacher so that a time can be set aside for that help. Besides this, there are several tutorial/catch-up sessions available as listed below:

| | | | | |
|---------------------|---------------|------|------|-----------|
| Tuesday lunch | Eng 9 | SS 8 | BOSS | Dube |
| Tuesday lunch | Math 8 | | | Anderson |
| Tuesday lunch | Math 9 | | | Simonetta |
| Tuesday 3:30 – 4:30 | general | | | Blaney |
| Tuesday/Thurs 3:30 | homework club | | | Pimenta |
| Wednesday lunch | French 8/9 | | | Chevalier |
| Wednesday lunch | Math 8 | | | Dupuis |
| Thursday lunch | English 8 | | | Rae |

Please encourage your kids to take advantage of these opportunities and to ask teachers for help at any time.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT WHAT HAPPENS AT SCHOOL ?

- Instead of asking questions that can be answered by a simple yes or no, try asking your child to describe one thing that he/she liked about the school day and say why.
- Look through the Agenda often. If it is not being used often, find out why and then encourage your child to use it.
- Communicate frequently with any teacher by email.
- If you don't get a monthly newsletter find out why, or register your email address with us, or stop into the office to pick one up.

ATTENDANCE Messaging — please register your child's absence on the answering machine at school should you not get **hold of us**. Phoning the school by 9:15 is very helpful. 604 485 2756

PRINCIPAL'S HONOUR ROLL

Grade 8

Bartfai, Tyler
Bowes, Charlotte
Cawley, Krista
Coe, Jordan
Eagle, Elanna
Ferreira, Nicole
Lance, Julie
Moore, Greg
Murphy Alexandra
Peckford, Ashley
Perrault, Ben
Roberts, Kirsten
Stapleton, Alyssa
Willes, Tom
Young, Hayley
Yungen, Cole

Grade 9

Boucher, Katherine
Byles, Jessica
Chambers, Annika
Ciarniello, Alex
Close, Ashley
Coomber, Amy
Csuk, Krista
Daly, Nathan
Du Plessis, Monique
Filewich, Jenna
Formosa, Stephanie
Fougere, Kayley
Gamborski, Morgan
Gasparovic, Claudia
Gaylard, Caylee
Griffiths, Sarah

Grade 9—cont'd

Hutchings, Kyle
Jones, Kierra
Kaytor, Kirstin
Likar, Nicholas
Little, Elizabeth
Little, Marie
Luff, Kyle
May, Graham
McLeod, Ciara
Potesta,, Katelyn
Rahier, Rachel
Romalis, Olivia
Romanyshyn, Anthony
Sparks, Melina
Wood, Marissa

WORK HABITS HONOUR ROLL

Grade 8

Anderson, Emily
Campbell, Justin
Cannell, Jennifer
Gowans, Jonah
Havekotte, Kim
McKenzie, Julie
Moore, Keisha
Needham, Jarret
Prencipe, Erica
Robertson, Drew
Rowbotham, Emily
Rowbotham, Kristy
Williams-Thompson, Chase

HONOUR ROLL

Grade 8

Best, Megan
Buchan, Ann-Marie
Clarke, Haley
Coles, Cecilia
Dobler, Kirsten
Fortin, Chelsea
Gable, Dylan
Gloslee, Stevie-Lynn
Gros, Hilary
Hill, Allyssa
Infanti, Samantha
Johnson, Kyra
Lanigan, Alley
Lehtimaki, Jake
Mann, Peter
McNicol, Alysha
Moore, Alison

Grade 8—cont'd

Muller, Meaghan
Nikirk, Carly
Palm, Jade
Panek, Brittany
Peters, Kendyl
Pitton, Carissa
Raimondo, Brian
Richards, Sapphire
Robertson, Dustin
Roemer, Ayla
Schroeder, Kalle
Slootweg-Langkjar, Sheena
Smart, James
Varma, Milan
Ward, Taylor
Westby, Tori
White, Patrick

Grade 9

Bowie, Amanda
Carlson, Lisa
Cramaro, Steven
De la Rey, Pieter
Emig, Michael
Gordon, Patricia
Jacques, Kiel
Kazakoff, Peter
Lambert, Quinn
Laureta, Kokua
Leung, Wicky
Lockyer, Brad
Martin, Blair
May, Elizabeth
Murray, Chelsea
Salisbury, Chase
Schiffner, Jason
Simmons, Sierra
Stride, Julia

Grade 9

Leibich, Taylor
Muma, Galen
Nickerson, Dakota
Perreault, Andrew
Schanke, Brittany
Thompson, Ross
Woewoda, Sergei

