



**A GOOD SCHOOL
GETTING BETTER**

October 2007

STAFFING NEWS

We will miss Mrs. Blaney, who has returned to university for the next two years, as well as Mrs. Rae who retired in June. Mr. Pimenta is currently at Edgheill and Mr. Reghelin is taking the year off to spend with his brand new twin boys and his older son. Ms. Halstead is now the Vice-Principal at Brooks and Mrs. Rothwell has assumed the position of Principal at Brooks. We are happy to welcome new staff members Ms. Bangham, Ms. Gustafson, Miss Hawkins, Mr. Hull, Mr. Leclair and Mr. Skinner, who is now our Vice-Principal. Mrs. Casparie, Mrs. Falls, and Ms. Yates are new SSA's at Oceanview this year.

SCHOOL GOALS

Oceanview School is unique in that it is a two year school. This means every year we lose 200 students and we gain another 200. This in itself creates special challenges. Not only is it difficult to learn two hundred new names every year but it also makes it more difficult for students to form a connection with their school. Research is telling us that the more connected a student feels with their school and their teacher, the more receptive they are going to be to new learning. For this reason we believe it is exceedingly important at Oceanview that we work hard to achieve this connectedness and it is one of our school goals. We are, of course, working on Strategies to improve Numeracy and Literacy. We'll talk more about these goals in future newsletters.

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



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:

fradcliffe@sd47.bc.ca.

Terry Fox

Students at Oceanview raised over \$2000 this year for Cancer Research. Mrs. Mastrodonato's class raised \$258 themselves and won the pizza party. Other classes who raised over \$150 received ice-cream.

PAC

Our first Meeting was held on Sept. 19th at 7:00 pm in the Oceanview Library. Our new PAC executive was elected at that time. PAC President this year will be shared by Terry Tardiff and Dina Windsor. Our Secretary is Ivette Woodward and our Treasurer is Mary Hicks. Our School Planning Council Members will be Mary Hicks, Dina Windsor and Terry Tardiff. The PAC is already looking into getting the Canteen up and running and ordering Oceanview Hoodies for students to purchase. I'd like to thank all those parents who attended our first meeting and I would like to encourage more parents to attend our next one which will be Thursday, October 18th in the Oceanview Library at 7:00 pm.

STUDENT INVOLVED CONFERENCES

October 16th

3:30 pm - 5:30 pm and

6:30 pm - 8:30 pm

Take advantage of this opportunity to meet with your child's teacher and discuss your child's progress. Try to bring your child with you as this discussion will be beneficial to him or her as well.

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DATES OF INTEREST

Oct. 4 - OV Dance 6-9pm

Oct. 8 - Thanksgiving

(Statutory Holiday)

Oct. 16 - Parent/Student/
Teacher Interviews .

Early dismissal at 2:15 pm

Oct. 17 - Early dismissal 2:15 pm

Oct. 18 - PAC Meeting

Oct. 19 - Provincial Pro-D
(students not in session)

Nov. 9 - Pro-D (Day in lieu)

Nov. 12 - Statutory Holiday



OCEANVIEW ATHLETICS

The cross country season is here. This year's strong cross country team consists of the following athletes:

Grade 9 Boys: Tyler Bartfai, Tom Willes, Jonah Gowans, Taylor Marshall, Mike Brinton, Enrique Rubio Lopez.

Grade 9 Girls: Anne-Marie Buchan, Julie Lance, Alyssa Stapleton, Amelia Gordon.

Grade 8 Boys: Brad Gamblin.

Grade 8 Girls: Larissa Hicks, Mattie Bakker, Maddy Hocking, Kayla Maslin, Jennifer Salisbury.

There will be four North Island races the team will be attending as well as two overnight trips to Victoria.

Keep watching for the athlete's results.

AGENDAS —

a valuable organizational tool for students, parents, and teachers. Please look at your child's often and sign it weekly. If you have an inquiry you can ask through the Agenda. Please emphasize to your child that he/she must show it to the teacher involved.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Parent volunteers are needed for:

- Canteen
- School Dances
- School Activities

Please contact one of the school PAC council members if you are able to volunteer.

Timetable Changes

Unfortunately, the timetable we crafted for this year, which seemed to work so well, was stressed beyond its capabilities when twelve extra grade eight students showed up for school this year. We tried unsuccessfully to make minor changes in order to avoid making wholesale changes to student timetables. In the end this was not possible and on the weekend of the 22nd we had to change about 50 schedules. Most schedules had minor changes but some had major ones. We ended up creating a new Social Studies block in first term and a new Science block in last term. We also created some new Shops, Art and Health and Careers blocks.

We understand that this has been a tremendous hardship on some students who find themselves, through no fault of their own, behind in class. I've had discussions with teachers and we all agree that we will do everything to ensure that their grades and learning are minimally affected. With this change to the timetable we were able to get the number of oversized classes down from 47 classes to three. We believe, in the long run, all students will benefit from these changes.



Read for the Top

"Show me the Money" Students at Oceanview can win up to \$100 if their Read for the Top Team can answer more questions about the novels they have read from their Grade 8 or 9 Reading List. The Read for the Top Event is fun way to showcase reading. It can be lucrative as well. The Reading lists are included in the newsletter. Please encourage your child to read them.

SCHOOL DISTRICT 47 NEW DRUG POLICY

IN ORDER TO KEEP OUR SCHOOLS DRUG FREE the Board of Trustees has adopted a new drug policy which goes into effect immediately. 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.

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.



COUNSELLING SERVICES AT OCEANVIEW MIDDLE SCHOOL

Ms. Shannon Behan sbehan@sd47.bc.ca 604-485-2756



ACADEMIC

The job of the school counselor is to support students develop skills which contribute to academic success. Having many teachers and many courses requires solid organizational skills. Knowing which courses are required for graduation, as well as the new graduation requirements is also important. Counselling can help with the following:

- * study skills
- * post secondary school planning
- * timetable concerns
- * time management

PERSONAL

The school Counsellor can help students make good choices and set positive goals. I am also here to talk about any issues which are getting in the way of your success and / or happiness at Oceanview Secondary School. This is your school; you are an important part of this community. We want you to be safe and happy. I can help with the following:

- * anger management
- * bullying concerns
- * communication skills
- * conflict resolution
- * self esteem issues
- * healthy friendships
- * self understanding



and much more!



GROUPS

The Counsellors are here for everyone. I will meet with small groups to discuss many relevant issues. Your Counsellors are also teachers; we meet with students to provide information on a variety of subjects.

REFERRALS

We may also make referrals to other appropriate agencies in the Powell River community.

Our door is open. Students can access the Counsellors at Oceanview by dropping in or leaving an appointment request slip at the main office.

WEB RESOURCES

<http://www.oceanview.sd47.bc.ca/counselling>

-a great resource created by Iris Kramer Clarke

<http://www.oceanview.sd47.bc.ca/counselling/Links.html>



ATTENDANCE MAILBOX — please feel free to register your child's absence on this phone service at the school should you not get hold of us.



BUS RIDING IS A PRIVILEGE

Students must carry and show their bus passes at all times. Bus students may not change routes at any time. Non-bus students will not be allowed to travel on busses at any time.

WHAT EVERY BABYSITTER SHOULD KNOW

Every year St. John Ambulance offers babysitting courses for young people ages 11 years and older.

The course covers:

1. Becoming a babysitter
2. Caring for Kids
3. Kids and Food
4. Getting along with kids
5. Kids and Play
6. Keeping Kids Safe
7. Handling Emergencies
8. First Aid

There is a multiple Choice Question Exam and students who successfully complete will be issued a Certificate of Completion.

The First session begins **October 20th** and the cost is \$46 + GST. Please call (604) 483-2250 for more information and registration.



TUTORING

Tutoring is available in Siammon:

Ahms Taw

Mondays and Thursdays

4:00 p.m.

