

FRANK J. NEY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

5301 WILLIAMSON ROAD

NANAIMO, B.C. V9T 1L1

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Principal – Ms. S. Young

Secretary – Mrs. J. Buckland

Web Page: schoolsweb.sd68.bc.ca/fjney



NEWSLETTER

March 2, 2016

Principal's Message

February was a busy month with Jump Rope for Heart (thank you Mrs. Fraser for organizing), the district grade 4 visit to the Symphony, the Pink Shirt Assembly - raising awareness about anti-bullying and kind acts, words and thoughts (thank you grade 7 team), excellent Kerri Isham K – 7 Body Health and Safety sessions, and the start of Basketball season (thank you coaches: Mr. Ratzlaff, Mrs. Tuck and Mr. Clouthier).

Our school has been signed up to compete with 5 other elementary schools in the BC Hydro/NLPS Energy Cup. A keen team of grade 5/6 students from Mr. Ratzlaff's class has come up with a number of initiatives to help us conserve energy (and win points). So far we have lowered the school's heat by one degree, and we will have some "Lights Out Lunches", "Flashlight" Days and other events. The contest ends in April, and the winning school receives \$4000.

On Feb. 22nd it was a District Wide Professional Development day. The organizers bring speakers and presenters from various parts of the country and the world to present the latest in educational philosophy and change. This year's keynote speaker was Damian Cooper who spoke on instruction and assessment skills. He was a dynamic speaker and offered some wonderful suggestions for differentiating instruction to meet the varied needs of our students. Our school-based Professional Development day on the 23rd was also an excellent learning opportunity. Alex King (parent) and Kim Greenwood (master organic gardener and student teacher) presented on connecting our school garden project to the new science and social studies curriculum. We learned how to plant seeds in classrooms, outdoors, what to plant when, and we even made "guerrilla seed bombs"...☺

Our PAC had their elections in February as well, and I would like to extend my sincere thank you to the executive for their support and commitment to our school in the past year. We are very blessed to have such a dedicated group. The school really benefits from many parent hands, and we hope to have new parents check out the PAC or see how you can help out.

As we head towards our final term (report cards go out next week Wednesday), I want wish you all a wonderful spring and remind you that my office door is open if you have any questions or concerns I can help you with.

Susann Young

THIS MONTH'S VIRTUE **TRUSTWORTHINESS**

What is Trustworthiness?

Trustworthiness is being worthy of trust. People can count on you to do your best, to keep your word and to follow through on your commitments. Others can rely on you. They can trust that if it is at all possible, you will do what you said you would do, even if it becomes really hard. When you are trustworthy, others can be sure of you and your can be sure of yourself.

UPCOMING DATES:

Mar 7	Hot Lunch
Mar 9	Term 2 report cards out
Mar 11	Last Day of Classes before Spring Break
Mar 25	Good Friday
Mar 28	Easter Monday
Mar 29	Schools Re-Open (Tuesday)
Apr 4	Hot Lunch / Early dismissal PLC
Apr 5	April Newsletter out
Apr 11	Bake Sale – Early dismissal PLC
Apr 18	Hot Lunch / Early Dismissal PLC
Apr 18	Class Photos
Apr 19	PAC Meeting – 6:30 – 8:00 p.m.
Apr 25	PLC Early Dismissal
Apr 27	Welcome to Kindergarten night
Apr 28	School Track Meet – Rotary Bowl

GRADE 7 TRANSITION TO HIGH SCHOOL

Our grade 7 students are automatically "transitioned" to Dover Bay Secondary School, as we are one of their "feeder" schools. There is no need to apply as this is automatically taken care of for your child. In the event that you wish your son/daughter to attend a different school,

you are required to complete an Out-of-Catchment application form and submit it to the high school your child wishes to attend, as soon as possible. Thursday, March 31st is the deadline for Out-of-Catchment applications and they are accommodated on a first come, first served basis.

KINDERGARTEN AND OUT-OF-CATCHMENT REGISTRATION

Registration for September 2016 has begun. All children who will be 5 years of age before Jan. 1, 2017 are eligible for registration.



If you have not registered yet, we strongly recommend you do so, as we will soon be starting to look at class organization this month.

To obtain an assured space in your catchment school, you must register by Wednesday, June 15, 2016. If you know of any children of kindergarten age in the neighbourhood, we'd be pleased if you passed on the word.

Applications for children living out-of-catchment are also available at the school office. **Out-of-Catchment applications must be completed by Thursday March 31st, 2016 to be considered for enrollment at Frank J. Ney School for the fall.** Be sure to apply to your catchment school too, as we will not be able to let you know if we can accept your application until mid-June, or possible early September. Please note: when registering you will be asked to provide your child's original birth certificate and a document confirming residency in the community.

CALENDAR CONSULTATION

The Ministry of Education recently mandated a curriculum redesign and provided two days of curriculum in-service during the 2015-16 school year. The local school calendar was readjusted to include the following days:

- Friday, January 29, 2016
- Monday, May 16, 2016

In addition, the Ministry has provided one more curriculum in-service day each for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school year. As a result, the revised local school calendars for 2016-17 and 2017-18 will also need to be amended to reflect the Ministry's adjustment in the number of instructional hours (5 hours less for each school year), and its adjustment to the minimum hours of instruction. On January 27, 2016, the Board approved that the current local school calendar be amended by adding non-instructional days for the purpose of curriculum in-service for the 2016-17 and 2017-18 school years. Until Thursday, March 10, 2016, you can provide feedback on the amendments to the local school calendars by emailing: communications@sd68.bc.ca.

“Water Day” – Sunday March 20th in Nanaimo and Sunday April 3 in Qualicum

Every spring the Regional District of Nanaimo's Team WaterSmart hosts a series of workshops across the region on water conservation and protection, including rainwater harvesting, efficient irrigation and living soil. This year we are taking a new approach to these workshops, compiling them into full day (10:00am until 5:00pm) free community events that will branch out to include all the many values of water. To try and reach residents from across the RDN Team WaterSmart is working with a range of partners to organize these events at two locations, Bowen Park Complex March 20th and Qualicum Beach Commons April 3rd. Both events will celebrate Canada Water Week with speakers, workshops, interactive booths, displays, kids' activities, food concession and live music all honoring our precious resource – water! Workshop and speaker details can be found at www.teamwatersmart.ca.

We also have two Facebook event pages that can be shared: RDN Water Day – Nanaimo → <https://www.facebook.com/events/1566521820334586/> and RDN Water Day – Qualicum Beach → <https://www.facebook.com/events/511273555713232/>. If you have any upcoming events you would like us to promote at Water Day let me know.

Thank you,

Lauren Fegan

*Regional District of Nanaimo - Drinking Water & Watershed Protection
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Christy Wilson

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FREE EVENT – SYMPHONY COMMUNITY DAYS

Saturday, April 2nd, 2016 at the Port Theatre for ages 6-96. Come and enjoy 3 free musical activities organized by the Vancouver Island Symphony for YOU!
11:00am to 12 noon – Try the instruments of the Orchestra at the Musical Instrument Zoo
11:45am to 12:15pm – Meet the Conductor and Composer
12:30pm to 1:30pm – Enjoy the Symphony in rehearsal. Book your complementary ticket for the rehearsal through the Port Theatre Ticket Centre: 250-754-8550

LOST AND FOUND

On Friday, March 11th (last day of classes before Spring Break), any unclaimed items will be donated. Please take the time to look in the lost and found and claim any items that belongs to you before they are removed.

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME

Next weekend on Saturday, March 12th is Daylight Savings Time (officially 2:00 a.m. Sunday, March 13th) and we spring ahead one hour. Remember to set your clocks ahead one hour on Saturday night, March 12th.

STUDENT INFORMATION CHANGES

Keeping student information accurate and updated is very important. If a child becomes ill during school hours, or in case of an emergency, it is imperative that we have correct phone numbers in order to make contact. Please advise the school of new contact information, or an alternative number that can be called.



PAC News for March

February Elections & AGM

February was the FJN PAC Annual General meeting where all the Executive Positions on the PAC were voted for:

- Chair- Kelly Marcan
- Secretary – Malena Acosta
- Treasurer – Charlene McKay
- Director of Fundraising – currently empty, but will be filled at April meeting
- Members at Large: Erin Lutz, Shelley-Anny Toop, Jayne Heys, Karla Tompkins

****We are still looking for a DPAC rep for Frank J Ney.** If you are interested, please contact Kelly Marcan or Charlene McKay

It takes more than the Executive Team to keep the PAC running. We always welcome returning people and new people to help where and when they can. If you want to help but don't know how, or have any questions please don't hesitate to contact Kelly Marcan at fjnpacchair@gmail.com

Upcoming Fundraisers:

- Popcorn Days: Tuesdays, \$1 per bag
- Hot lunch Days: March 7 – Subway
- Hot lunch orders can be submitted up to 11 days prior to the actual day.

☐ To order, visit www.fjnpac.com. If you'd like to help with hot lunches you can sign up through the Munch A Lunch ordering system.

☐ The PAC has made some changes in the way we process payments for the hot lunches. The notice was posted on Facebook as well as emailed to the PAC email distribution list. If you haven't seen it and would like it, please contact me.

It's Fun Fair Year!! This is one of our biggest fundraisers. It's a lot of fun, but it requires a lot of work. If you are interested in helping before, during or after the event please contact Shayne Todd through Facebook or myself at fjnpacchair@gmail.com

Have a great Spring Break and we'll see you at the end of March!

The next PAC meeting is Tuesday, April 19, 2016 at 6:30 in the library. Childcare is available. Hope to see you then!

Kelly Marcan
PAC Chair
fjnpacchair@gmail.com
www.fjnpac.com