



Our central focus is to enable all learners to fulfill their potential

September 2018 'lixam (Wide Faced Moon)

<http://northislandsecondary.edublogs.org/>

NISS
NEWS

North Island
Secondary School
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Principal:

Mr. Jay Dixon

jdixon@sd85.bc.ca

Acting Vice-Principal:

Ms. Stacia Johnson

sjohnson@sd85.bc.ca

From the Principal

On behalf of the staff of North Island Secondary School, I would like to welcome everyone to the 2017 – 2018 school year. I hope that everyone has enjoyed their summer holiday and have quickly settled back into school routines.

During the first weeks of September, students should have brought home important information for their parents, including the student handbook, timetables, letters, permission forms, and any course information forms. We urge parents to review the student handbook and code of conduct with their children as it contains vital information about academics, extra-curricular opportunities, student safety, and expectations.

In the first weeks, students are also given course outlines which will provide you with much useful information about course content, assessment, and general expectations.

It is my pleasure to introduce the following staff members who are new or returning from to NISS this September: Ms. Stacia Johnson (Acting Vice Principal) Mr. Scott Craig (Math/Computers), Mr.

Barry Korven (Science/Math/PE), Ms. Bhearni McAleer (Learning Services), Ms. Meghan Harris (Education Assistant), Ms. Jodie Lukow (Education Assistant), Ms. Rebbecca McKenzie (Math/French), and Ms. Tamara Alfred (Connections Worker).

Other changes this year include Ms. Jennifer Marshal who will assume the role of Librarian and Ms. Nina Mitchell will be our Academic Advisor and Counsellor. We are all excited to embark into BC's new curriculum and the many learning opportunities that we have planned this school year.

Our teaching and support staff professionals of NISS are ready again this year to support students in their learning. Student success and student safety are always in the forefront of our agenda as we strive to maintain a caring, inclusive educational community. Our parents have a vital role to play in encouraging and supporting their children as they navigate the high school years. Parental involvement in a child's education does make a positive difference in student success; we value your input, suggestions, support, and we look forward to working with you

to provide the optimum school experience for your child.

Communication with and from parents is key. Monthly newsletters which are either emailed or mailed are also available on the NISS website. Please note the important school calendar dates listed in each newsletter. If you would like to find out more about school activities and become more closely involved with the school, you are welcome to attend the monthly PAC meetings held in the Learning Commons.

If you need to contact an administrator, counselor, or a teacher, please call the front office and one of our secretaries will forward your message. All teachers can be reached by telephone and email and will respond promptly to messages. If you have a problem contacting any of our staff, please let me know.

We look forward to seeing you at our "Meet the Teacher" night on September 21st.

Mr. J. Dixon, Principal

DATES TO REMEMBER

September 18
01:00 p.m. –3:30 p.m.
College Mini Fair

September 21
6:30 p.m. BBQ
7:30 p.m. Meetings
Meet the Teacher Night
Learning Commons

September 24
1:00 p.m.
Literacy Fair

September 25
9:05 a.m.
Tour de Rock

September 28
School Photos
Multi Purpose Room

September 29
11:05 a.m.
Back to School BBQ
Multi Purpose Room

New Teaching Staff



Ms. Stacia Johnson will be joining the NISS team as the Acting Vice-Principal. Ms. Johnson taught Japanese and ESL in Richmond for 10 years and then in 2003 moved to the North Island for the outdoor lifestyle. She has spent the last 14 years at Port Hardy Secondary teaching French, some Japanese and English. Recently, she facilitated the learning of Kwak'wala by working alongside elders and community members. Her passions include: learning languages, traveling, cycling, and doing yoga. She will now be teaching Planning 10 at NISS. She is looking forward to working at NISS and getting to know the local communities.



Ms. Rebecca MacKenzie is a member of the Namgis First Nation. Although she grew up in Chilliwack, she visited the North Island often to see family in Alert Bay. Her first teaching contract was at NISS in 2011/12 in the Learning Development program. For the last few years she has been teaching French, English, Special Education, and Aboriginal Education in middle and high schools in Victoria. Ms. MacKenzie is excited to be back living on the North Island close to family.



Mr. Craig has joined us from Victoria. Originally from Saskatchewan, he has lived in Victoria since 1992. This is his first year teaching high school, but he has instructed part-time at UVic and Malaspina for many years in Mathematics and Computer Science, and has been a long-time software developer. He brings industry and university experience to our program here at NISS.



Mr. Korven has arrived from the Cowichan Valley via Dawson Creek. He has taught elementary, high school, private and public school. He is enjoying teaching in high school again. He loves the outdoors and physical activity and is looking forward to exploring the beauty of the North Island.

North Island Secondary School Commitment

Parents and families, when you choose NISS, you can expect:

- ~To be warmly welcomed & to become a valued partner in learning.
- ~Professional & inspired educational services from all our staff.
- ~On-going communication about individualized student progress and achievement in relation to standards.
- ~A vibrant & energized learning environment for your students.

ITA Youth Work in Trades

ITA Youth WORK in Trades

The ITA Youth WORK in Trades previously known as Secondary School Apprenticeship program allows students to start their apprenticeship while still in high school. They earn graduation credit and log apprenticeship training hours at the same time. Students can be signed up anytime during the school year.

You might already be eligible to sign up as a Youth WORK in Trades apprentice. If you are a high school student with paid part-time employment in a trade, you may be a “hidden apprentice”. Talk to your school’s Youth WORK in Trades contact about the kind of work that qualifies, and about registering as a Youth WORK in Trades apprentice.

- earn 16 elective credits towards graduation
- equals 4 courses
- acquire skills employers want
- get a head start on your career
- 480 paid work hours towards your apprenticeship
- seamless transition from school to work
- eligible for a \$1000 Award!!!

Requirements

To be considered for the Youth WORK in Trades Apprenticeship Program, students must:

- have parent or guardian permission
- be 15 years of age or older
- be enrolled in grade 10, 11, or 12
- have paid work in an apprenticeable trade
- have a Certified Tradesperson as a sponsor
- provide your own transportation

Getting Started

- Research your trade(s) of interest @ www.itabc.ca (Industry Training Authority BC)
Click on “Apprenticeship & Red Seal Programs” for the list of trades
- Discuss this information with your school’s Career Education contact –Mr. Jay Dixon
- Find an employer who is a Certified Tradesperson and is committed to sponsoring your Youth WORK in Trades training
- Obtain & complete the Youth WORK in Trades application from your school’s Career Education contact

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NISS Information

SCHOOL PHOTOS

School photos will be taken on September 28 in the Multi-Purpose Room all day. All students will be called by grade to have their photo taken for their free student id.

If you wish to purchase portraits of your student, forms will be sent home soon with ordering information.

New PAC members needed for 2017/2018 school year

PAC is looking for parent volunteers. With the current school year ending, some PAC members will no longer be participating as their children graduate. Parent representation is encouraged and welcomed at NISS.

Follow this link to read more on what a PAC is and does:

http://www.sd85.bc.ca/?page_id=5866

If you are able or interested in volunteering time for a monthly meeting and/or school activities, please contact the school at (250) 956-3394 or a PAC member directly:

Trudy Lacasse
Treasurer
lacasset@hotmail.ca

Teresa MacKenzie
Secretary
tmackenzie@sd85.bc.ca

ADMINISTERING MEDICINES TO STUDENTS

In order to maintain a uniform, safe and efficient way of dispensing medication at school, if your child requires medication and you have not filled out the required form, **Medication and/or Treatment Data**, completed by your doctor, sign it yourself and return it to the school as soon as possible. This procedure complies with school board policy regarding medications to be taken at school.

This form refers to medication that must be taken on a regular or emergency basis. If you have any questions, please call the school principal.

Where applicable, the child should be encouraged to wear a Medical Alert Bracelet.

Link to form: <http://sd85-websrv2012.sd85.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2015/09/5-20-Oct-15.pdf>

ALLERGIES

We have some serious allergies to the following products:

PEANUTS
HAZELNUTS
MINT

Please do not send these items to school with students.

If your child has allergies, or medical information, please ensure that you advise the school.

SCENT FREE ZONE

A reminder that NISS is a scent free zone. Students and visitors to the school, please refrain from using scented products while on NISS property.

IDLE FREE ZONE

A reminder to all student and parent drivers to follow the idle free zone rules while on NISS property.

SCHOOL ABSENCES

If your child is going to be away from school, please ensure you phone or email the school at (250) 956-3394 or niss@sd85.bc.ca. Students leaving the school for appointments or leaving to go home sick, must have a parent call or email the school to allow us to release the student. This is for the safety of students.

2017/18 SCHOOL CALENDAR

2017

September - 18 days

School-based In-service Tuesday, Sept. 5
Schools Open Wednesday, Sept. 6

October - 20 days

Thanksgiving Monday, Oct. 9
Provincial Pro-D Friday, Oct. 20

November - 20 days

Remembrance Day Monday, Nov. 13
School-based Pro-D Friday, Nov. 24

December - 16 days

Christmas Break Monday, Dec. 25
to Friday, Jan. 5

2018

January - 17 days

School-based In-service Monday, Jan. 8
Schools Re-open Tuesday, Jan. 9

February - 18 days

Family Day Monday, Feb. 12
District Pro-D/In-service Friday, Feb. 23

March - 16 days

Spring Break Monday, Mar. 19
to Friday, Mar. 23
Schools Re-open Monday, Mar. 26
Good Friday Friday, Mar. 30

April - 19 days

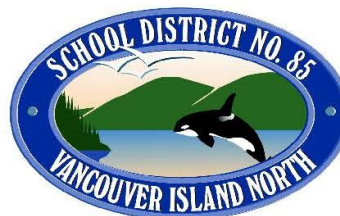
Easter Monday Monday, Apr. 2
Non-Instructional Day *Tuesday, Apr. 3*

May - 21 days

School-based Pro-D Friday, May 4
Victoria Day Monday, May 21

June - 20 days

Administrative Day Friday, June 29
Schools Close Friday, June 29



"Bringing Learning to Life"

www.sd85.bc.ca

Summary of 2017-2018 School Calendar

Instructional Days	185 days
Professional Development Days	3.75
In-service Days	2.25
Administrative Day	1
<i>*Additional Non-Instructional Days</i>	<i>1</i>

Total Days in Session 193 days

Days of instruction are different than "days in session". Days in session are days that school is "open" but the students are not necessarily in attendance. On a "day of instruction", students are to be in attendance and under supervision for the purposes of receiving instruction in an educational program.

Prescribed Minimum Hours of Instruction

In accordance with the School Act, a Board of Education must offer not less than the following hours of instruction in a school year to students enrolled in the schools in its district:

848 hours of instruction for students in Kindergarten
873 hours of instruction for students in grades 1 to 7
947 hours of instruction for students in grades 8 to 12

** The Ministry of Education has mandated the addition of one non-instructional day to support new curriculum implementation.*

Board Approved: February 15, 2016



Port McNeill Literacy Fair

Saturday, Sept. 23, 2017 1-4 p.m.
at North Island Secondary School

Featuring information on LOCAL programs related to reading, digital, health, mental health, art, music, cultural, and financial literacy, and more!



Saturday, Sept. 23

*Join local schools, non-profit organizations,
and businesses for a free afternoon of:*

Mother Goose storytelling

Literacy Bus on site

Games & Activities

Literacy Program Information

Door Prizes & Snacks

Everyone welcome!

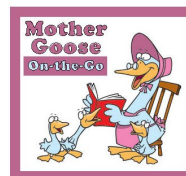
Adults, children, seniors, & teens.



*Each child
takes home
**2 FREE
Books!***

FREE Admission!

Mount Waddington
Family Literacy Society



Decoda
LITERACY SOLUTIONS

For more information, visit www.mwliteracynow.wordpress.com or contact TrishLiteracyNow@gmail.com