



J. N. Burnett Newsletter



Newsletter #1

September 2009

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Principal: Mrs. D. Osipov

Vice Principal: Mr. J. Leslie

Vice Principal: Mrs. E. Schmidt/Mr. L. Banta

Dear Parents,

I hope you all enjoyed the summer break. The extra week and beautiful weather was a nice bonus! Our first month back has certainly been busy! As always, we had a large number of students requesting timetable changes and a large number of new registrants since June. On top of this, Burnett was assigned 35 new International Students.

Counsellors worked very hard over the last week of August and the first week of September to accommodate course change requests from students. Though our classes are very full, we were able to accommodate most students. Thank you all for your patience. If you have any questions or concerns with regard to this process or your son or daughter's timetable, I encourage you to phone me at the school so that we can discuss them.

On September 9 we held grade assemblies to go over school policies and expectations and to talk about the various student activities planned for the year. We emphasized the importance student leadership and participation in shaping the school year. We encourage all students to do their best in their classes but to make sure to balance this with leisure activities and time to relax.

September 11 was Photo Day. Student photo packages should be arriving at the school shortly. If your son or daughter was absent or somehow missed having their picture taken, there will be another opportunity on Photo Re-take Day which is scheduled for October 14.

We held a variety of activities between September 8 - 11 to encourage all students, particularly our new grade 8's, to become involved in school. Highlights included a welcome back barbecue, a scavenger hunt and of course preparation for our annual grade 8 retreat.

This year to support the Terry Fox Marathon of Hope, the entire school participated in the Terry Fox Run on Sept 18. The event was kicked off with all staff and students on the back field forming the word "hero". Thanks to Ms. Dell and her leadership class for once again organizing this important event. Demonstrating the true Burnett Spirit that we are proud of, our staff and students contributed generously. These funds will be donated on the Canadian Cancer Society.

Our Meet the Teacher night was held on Thursday, September 24 and was, as always, very well attended. It is always nice to see that so many of you are able to join us for this very important evening. We appreciate your support. I hope that you all found it a worthwhile evening and that you now have a good sense of what each course entails and each teachers' expectations.

On Friday, September 25, we held our first Professional Development day. At our Pro D days throughout the year staff work together to address our school goals: providing increased opportunities for students to develop skills for lifelong learning, promoting social responsibility and enhancing achievement for all students.

You all should have received our School Calendar in the mail. This calendar includes helpful hints, important information regarding school staff, policies, and a complete monthly overview of the year, with all important dates listed. I encourage all parents to have a look through the calendar, particularly those of you who are new to the school. If for some reason you did not receive a calendar we do have extras available at the main office.

I am looking forward to another great year and encourage you to continue to be part of your child's secondary school experience.



IMPORTANT UPCOMING EVENTS

Oct 1	PAC meeting - 7:30 pm
Oct 5-7	Grade 8 Retreat
Oct 12	Thanksgiving holiday - school not in session
Oct 14	Photo Retakes
Oct 15	Interim Report Day - Interims sent home with all students
Oct 23	Professional Development Day - classes not in session

WELCOME TO THE NEW STAFF

We are very pleased to welcome:

Catherine Bateman - Ms. Bateman comes to us from Richmond High where she was teaching PE and Socials. We are very pleased to have her join our staff, teaching PE and Humanities.



Stephanie Davis - Ms. Davis is not really new to our school. She has been a student teacher and TOC at Burnett and we are very fortunate to have her back, now teaching in the English and Business Ed departments.

Arsala Irshad - Ms. Irshad comes to us from Richmond High where she has been teaching Science, Physics and Math. We are pleased to have her join us in the Math department.

Nona Girardi - Ms. Girardi was with us most of last year on a temporary contract filling in for Ms. Sharkey. We are pleased to welcome her back to continue filling in for Ms. Sharkey in the Library until the new year.

Celine Jackson - Ms. Jackson is also not a new face to Burnett as she completed her teaching practicum here several years ago. She comes to us from Cambie and we are pleased to have her back to join the Home Ec department.

Sheila Lencoe - Mrs. Lencoe is a regular TOC at Burnett. We welcome her back to continue filling in for Mrs. Zuccolo who is on maternity leave until the new year.

Peter Mak - Mr. Mak joins us from Palmer where he was teaching Physics and Math. We are pleased to have him as part of the Burnett staff, filling in for Ms. Lenahan in the Math department.

Mike McBurney - again, Mr. McBurney is not a new face to Burnett. He, too, did his practicum a while ago at Burnett and now comes to us from McRoberts. We are pleased to have him join our staff filling in for Mrs. Berry in the Resource/Socials departments.

Feyona McKenna - Ms. McKenna has been a TOC at our school in the past and was teaching at McNair last year. We are now fortunate to have her join us in the ESL department.

David Robinson - Mr. Robinson comes to us from Richmond High where he was teaching SS, English and ESL. We welcome him to our staff in the Bus Ed department, filling in for Mrs. Biln, teaching Psychology, Social Justice and Keyboarding.

Back From Leave Of Absence:

A big welcome back to **Leslie Dell, Tania Johal, Eva Kusec**, all of whom are returned from leaves last year - great to have you back!!

Congratulations to...

Ms. Biln and Mr. Lee who both had babies over the summer. Best wishes to the both of you and your families!

NEWS FROM OUR PARENT ADVISORY GROUP

Our meetings this year will be on Thursdays, generally the first Thursday of each month. All PAC meeting dates are marked on the Burnett calendar that was mailed to all homes in August. We begin at 7:30 p.m. and hold our meetings in the staffroom. If you have any suggestions for topics that you would like to see as part of our PAC discussions, please submit these to our PAC chair: Carol Wilson. There is a mailbox in the main office for PAC.

WE NEED YOU!!!

The PAC is a great way to stay involved in your child's school experience and remain up to date with all that happens in the school. It is also a very good way for parents to ask questions of the Principal and give valuable input to the many decisions that need to be made throughout the year. Our next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 1. **It is a very important one as we will be forming our new PAC executive.** We need parents to volunteer the following positions:

- Chairperson
- Vice Chair
- Treasurer
- Secretary
- School Planning Council representatives (2)

Please note that if we are unable to fill these positions, we cannot have a formal PAC. We would then not be eligible to receive any of the gaming funds from the government that enable us to support the various programs at the school. There are lots of parents on the PAC who have had these positions in the past and are very willing to help others learn the ropes!

We hope to see you all there!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING TEXTBOOKS

During the first weeks of school, your son or daughter has been issued textbooks. We have stressed with students that it is their responsibility to take good care of all textbooks that they are issued. At the time the textbook is issued, the number and condition are recorded. At the end of the semester, students are expected to return the textbook that they were issued, in the same condition that it was when issued, accepting that there may be normal wear and tear. Textbooks are very expensive and our supply is very limited. Parents should be aware that students will be required to pay for lost or damaged textbooks (beyond normal wear and tear) at the end of the semester. It is important to emphasize that students are required to hand in the textbook that has the number that they were issued, not simply a textbook that they may have ended up with. We do not wish to unfairly charge someone for a missing textbook that they are unable to return because someone else has it.

Congratulations

...to **J. N. Burnett graduates and staff.** Our Provincial Exam results continue to be very strong. We had a large number of our grade twelve students receive Provincial Scholarships (totalling \$37,500.00), based on their exam results. Hats off to a very dedicated and supportive staff and our hardworking students!

IMPORTANT NOTICE REGARDING INTERIM REPORTS

On Wednesday, October 15, **every student** will take an interim report form around to each of their classes. Each teacher will complete the form for each block and the student will bring it home at the end of the day. **All students** should bring home a one page interim report form that lists each of their courses and an assessment from each of their teachers. The main purpose of the interim report is to give parents a quick "snapshot" of their child's work habits and progress. If your son or daughter does not bring an interim report home, please call the school so that we can get a copy for you.

ATHLETICS



Welcome back everyone for another exciting year in athletics!! Organizational meetings have taken place for fall sports. Students are practicing with anticipation for the pending sports' seasons. Student participation levels in sports such as badminton, field hockey, soccer, and swimming continue to be remarkable. Equally inspiring is the dedication and commitment of the many staff and community members who eagerly volunteer their time to coach and sponsor the numerous athletics teams that J.N.Burnett fields in league competition. We would

like to extend our best wishes for a fun and rewarding season in all sports for the 2009/2010 school year!! Good Luck Breakers!!

Mr. Blair & Mr. Ghaug, Athletic Directors

A NOTICE TO PARENTS OF ATHLETES

We are required to register all participants on school sports teams with BC School Sports. There is an online team registration system which expedites this process. This requires us to release the following information: athlete's full name, gender, birthdate, grade level and year they entered grade 8. Parents are asked to contact Mr. Blair or Mr. Ghaug at the school if they do not give consent for this information to be forwarded.

PROLONGED STUDENT ABSENCES

Just a reminder to parents that prolonged absence from school affects a student's ability to keep up with his/her coursework, especially on a semester system. If your son or daughter will be absent for more than 2-3 days due to illness, please call the school so that we may inform the staff and gather homework.

STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS



Welcome back! Since school started, we have packed almost every day with fun filled events! Student Council coordinated an entire week of "welcome back" activities to greet our Breakers! These activities were, Welcome Back Day, Smiley Sticker Day, Free Hug Day, and Free Popcorn day. We feel that these small events were quite well-received because, believe it or not, we saw those reluctant little smiles hiding behind "smug" Breakers' faces!

While we were welcoming back our old Breakers, we also succeeded in welcoming our new Breakers to Burnett! The Grade 8 Orientation was a magnificent way for the new students to get familiar with our energetic Student Council team, and of course, each other-a great way to break the ice! Following this, we hosted the ever popular barbeque! Thanks to the efforts of our dedicated Student Council and the Burnett Grade 8 team, our new Breakers were provided with a very organized and entertaining first week back.



Also, we had an amazing "Last Day of Summer" spirit day on Monday, Sept. 21st to wave farewell to summer and yell "Hello!" to the fall. It was great to see so many Breakers in summer attire, earning the free freezies we handed out at lunch. To all the Grade 8's, hope you had fun at our annual Grade 8 Dance because we certainly did. Keep your eyes and ears open for the Lip Sync contest happening soon in October!

You might not have seen Student Council prancing around the hallways the last few days, but have no fear; we're ready for an amazing year. Listen to the announcements, check out those amazing posters in the hallways and don't miss out on this thrilling year!

GRADE 8 CAMP



We are very excited about our annual grade 8 retreat at Camp Stillwood. On October 5-7, over 200 grade 8 Breakers, the leadership class and 20 staff members will spend two days together team building, making new friends and, most importantly, having fun.

GRAD COMMITTEE

We had a grade 12 assembly on Sept 9 to give a brief overview of the year and to highlight important dates. On Sept 23 we had a 2nd another assembly with our grade 12's to review the requirements for their Transition plan, essential for graduation. At the same time, we received all upcoming important events, grad fees and timelines. If your son or daughter did not attend the assembly, please ask them to see Mrs. Osipov in the main office. This important information is also posted on the Burnett website. Our student grad committee will be formed by the end of September and a chairperson selected. All grade 12's interested in being part of the planning for grad this year are encouraged to sign up. We also have a large teacher committee working with our grads to help plan the year's events. We are looking forward to another great year!



DAILY PHYSICAL ACTIVITY

As of September 2008, all students in B.C. are required to participate in Daily Physical Activity (DPA) as a mandatory requirement. This will be reported on the student report cards. While the school provides many opportunities for healthy exercise at school, **COMPLETION AND RECORD KEEPING IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT!** We have included a page (p. 34) in the student agenda for this purpose. **Verification will be the responsibility of the parent.**

A verification form will be sent home with students each term for parents to confirm that their child is meeting their DPA requirement. Students will be expected to complete the form, outlining how they have met the DPA requirements for the term and have it signed by a parent to verify the information. Students must then return the signed form to the school in order to receive the "MR" (Meeting Requirements) on their report card.

Parents should expect to see the first verification form around the middle of October. This will provide ample time for students to make sure that all of their documentation is complete. Forms will be due back to the school during the first week of November to ensure that the school has the required information to be recorded on each student's report card.

Grades 8 and 9 - students must participate in 30 minutes per day of DPA. All students must track their daily activity in the semester that they do not take P. E.

Grades 10-12 - students must participate in 150 minutes per week. Grade 10 students must track their daily activity in the semester that they do not take PE grades 11 and 12 must track their daily activity if they do not take P. E.

Notify School of Absences

"EARLY WARNING"

When a student will be absent from school due to illness, vacation, etc., or will be late, please call and let the school know. If a student comes in late or has to leave the school for any reason, he/she must sign in or out at the front office.

Please call--

**Early Warning Line:
604-718-4007**



LANGUAGE CHALLENGE EXAMS

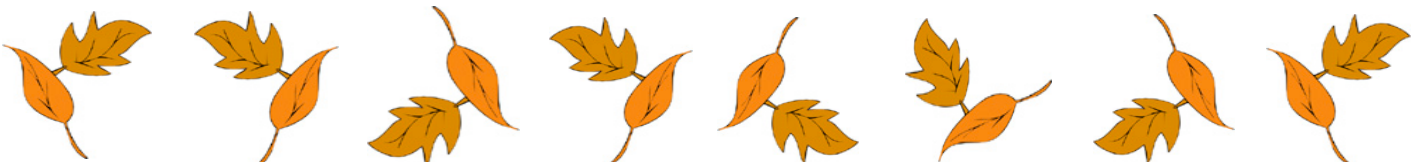
Are you fluent in a language? Get full credit and a percentage grade by successfully completing the challenge exam. Contact your counselling department. The deadline for applications is November 9, 2007 and the exams are written in February. (Students writing a 12 level language exam should also write the provincial exam in June).

French 11 and 12
German 11 and 12
Japanese 11 and 12
Korean 11 and 12

Mandarin 11 and 12
Punjabi 11 and 12
Spanish 11 and 12

Address and Phone Changes

Please notify the office if you have moved over the summer so that we can update our records. Thank you!



ATTENTION GRADE 12'S!

"PREPARING FOR POST SECONDARY"

Attention Grade 12 Students and their Parents.

On the Burnett website:

<http://www2.sd38.bc.ca/burnett-web/> be sure to visit the Counselling Centre page for this very important information for your graduating year. "Preparing for Post Secondary", details month by month the important things that students need to be doing in their grade 12 year. You are advised to refer to this calendar so that you can stay on track with the deadlines that face you in your graduating year. This calendar can also be found on-line in the Career Centre News.

Grade 12 students are reminded to give their email addresses to their counsellors so that they may be informed of any upcoming post secondary events/deadlines.

CAREER CENTRE NEWS

Senior students are urged to visit the Career Centre website. on <http://public.sd38.bc.ca/~ccnews> for updated information on post-secondary education information sessions, applications for admission, careers, employment, volunteerism, scholarships, entrance tests, etc. We suggest that students check the "Hot News" section of the Newsletter found on this website., weekly, so that they do not miss out on any important information. Students look for "Burnett Hot News" posted on Career Centre Bulletin Boards.

CAREER CENTRE

Undecided about your future? Schedule an appointment with Mrs. Watson in the Counselling Career Centre so that you can explore career and post secondary options. Mrs. Watson is available Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 8:30 am - 4 pm.

COLLEGE APPLICATIONS

- | | |
|------------------|--|
| Langara College | • first day of Application:
October 1, 2009, 12:00 am |
| Kwantlen College | • first day of Application:
November 1, 2009 |
| Douglas College | • first day of Application:
October 15, 2009 |

Applications for University Transfer Programs should be made on the first day that the college accepts applications, as it is **first come, first serve** for these programs. It is recommended to apply on-line, to pay for the application with your VISA or Mastercard, and to print a copy of the confirmation page (as proof of application). The earlier the application is submitted, the better chance you have of getting the courses that you want. Visit www.pasbc.ca to sign up. You will need your PEN to do so.

Career Programs and Limited Enrollment Programs (such as Nursing, Theatre, etc.) have extra requirements that students need to look up on the college website. before they apply. Early application is usually recommended for these programs also.

POST SECONDARY EVENING

Friday, December 4

7:00 - 9:00 pm

Burnett Secondary School, Periods 2 & 1

Representatives from several college universities will be visiting to provide students and their parents with information on their respective institutions. **Mark this important date on your calendar.**

