



The Grapevine

Alberni District Secondary School

April 8, 2009

Dear Parents and Guardians:

My apologies for having the Grapevine out a week later than expected but we were struck down by a computer virus for a couple of days and were reduced to pencil and paper! Actually, this is a serious problem when a secondary school is affected by computer difficulties to the point where the entire system needs to be shut down. In this day and age we have become so dependent upon this technology that when it's unavailable to us many of the programs that our students need for Graduation become unavailable to them which, of course, negatively impacts upon their education.

In spite of all the firewalls and anti-virus software there can still be problems. The question is: "How did this happen and what can we do about it?"

Somehow, possibly from a private laptop being connected to our system or through some sort of internet-based social network or email system, our system became infected with this computer virus. This has the potential to damage all of our computers and compromise our ability to do the work that we need to do. Our computer technicians are working on the problem but don't yet have a definitive answer to completely address the problem. For now, we are not permitting non-school district laptops to connect to our system and we are being vigilant about student access to the internet.

Congratulations

- to our wrestlers who headed to the Nationals last week in Fredericton, New Brunswick with their coach, James Messenger. The wrestlers are: Michael Cappus, Kyle Plaunt, Savannah Toth, Cullen Hines, Isaiah Taylor, and Daley Forbes
- to Erin Palmer who travelled to Ottawa and Washington, D.C., on a 4H leadership opportunity
- to Richard Charlie who is the winner of the Ilsaak (Respect) Art Competition at ADSS. His poster will be proudly displayed in every classroom in SD70
- to Spencer Christie, Bianca Charleson, Kays Vanderest, Jackie Pollard, Branden Chase, and Jonah Zyrd who participated in last week's YouthMADE anti-racism program
- to Toni Schutte and Rhys Hill who competed last weekend in Victoria at the 22nd Annual Vancouver Island Seniors Classic All-Star Game which pits the Island's best grade 12 basketball players South Island against the rest of the Island
- to Christina Wynans who has been chosen by A Channel and Save-On-Foods as an "amazing kid", and will be awarded a \$1000 scholarship. She will be presented this live during the A Channel News (about 5:40 pm) on April 30th
- to Clayton Hawkins, last year's graduate, who just been announced as a recipient of a \$1000 scholarship from Secondary Schools Apprenticeship program

Special Thanks

- To Trish and Ken Barlow for the donation of two exercise bikes to our fitness room. They will be used to help all interested students and staff to get into shape
- To the PAC for all of the special help that they offer our school with the Breakfast Program, help with asset-building for our students, and the many other special programs that they sponsor and deliver

SD70 Receives Additional Money

Friday, March 27, the Honorable Ron Cantelon, Minister of Agriculture, announced that "education and community services will be brought together in a single hub as the new Alberni District Secondary becomes part of the Neighbourhoods of Learning initiative."

"The Neighbourhoods of Learning program is an important part of the Province's vision for the future of education in B.C. The project...gives us the opportunity to build a school from the ground up with space designed specifically to accommodate community use.:

"Under the Neighbourhoods of Learning model, schools and community organizations are brought together where people can access educational and community services under one roof. Possible uses include early learning or child-care programs, space for non-profit organizations, health clinics, sports programs, family resource or seniors' centres, industry training, or branch libraries. The Alberni school district will consult with community and education partners to determine which services can be offered on site to benefit students and the community."

"The new Alberni District Secondary school will be positioned as a focal point of community pride," said Alberni Board of education chairperson Larry Ransom. "This state-of-the-art school will be well-suited to host a variety of community organizations and activities. The neighbourhoods of Learning project will build on partnerships developed, to provide the best possible educational and community facility for the students, residents and families of the Alberni Valley."

This funding adds up to an additional 10% to the previously announced money for the construction of the new ADSS.

North Island College Foundation Awards up for grabs!

The North Island College Foundation believes students deserve access to quality post-secondary education, and with more than \$175,000 available to be awarded this spring hundreds of North Island College students will receive a helping hand towards their education.

Generous people in our communities donate to the Foundation to help make North Island College more affordable for local residents. The North Island College Foundation puts these gifts to work in the form of scholarships, bursaries and entrance awards to support students who need assistance.

"North Island College boasts the lowest tuition rates (among post-secondary institutions in BC), and yet it has the highest number of students who need financial assistance," notes Foundation Vice-Chair Bert Heeringa.

Thanks to a growing number of individuals and organizations committed to education and to enabling student success, North Island College Foundation has effectively increased its giving power. In 2007, 240 students received more than \$150,000 in scholarships and bursaries; and in 2008, 275 students received over \$160,000 in financial assistance.

President Lou Dryden attributes the contributions of local organizations and individuals in enabling the Foundation to grow. "Our community has been very supportive of our students. We continue to meet our donation targets, thanks in great part to the generosity of organizations like Marine Harvest, Comox Valley Tourism and the Canadian Daughters."

While scholarships and bursaries provide tremendous support in helping students overcome financial barriers they also offer recipients something more than monetary aid.

"Receiving the Retired Teachers' Association Bursary was the greatest vote of confidence I could ask for," said recent North Island College graduate, Travis Webber. "It has given me the opportunity to accomplish my goal and I am truly appreciative of the amazing level of generosity and willingness of the Retired Teachers' Association and its members to invest in students."

North Island College Foundation awards are available to new students applying to North Island College, as well as continuing and graduating students. Scholarships are awarded based on high academic standing while bursaries are available to students who demonstrate financial need.

North Island College [Awards booklets](#) and application forms are available at any NIC campus, online at www.nic.bc.ca, or from high school guidance offices. The deadline for applications is April 30, 2009. Completed forms can be submitted to the North Island College-Financial Aid office at the Comox Valley campus.

For more information about NIC Awards, or the North Island College Foundation, call 250-334-5000 ext 4267 or email foundation@nic.bc.ca.

Alberni Armada Wrestlers Finish Their Season On A Strong Note

- Both the ADSS Boys and the ADSS Girls teams won the Vancouver Island Secondary Schools Wrestling Championships. For the ADSS Boys they have won 19 Island titles in 27 years and this was their 8th Island title in a row. For the ADSS Girls they have won 7 team titles in the 16 years since Girls wrestling started and this was their third Island title in a row.
- The ADSS Boys Wrestling team placed fourth in BC just over a week ago. The ADSS Boys team has been in the top ten 23 of the past 25 years and in the top five schools in 15 of those 25 years. ADSS has won the Boys BC title 5 times and the Girls have won the Girls title twice. Few other programs in BC can match these records.
- Michael Cappus won his second individual BC High School title and is currently the most highly touted graduating high school wrestler in the province by university programs.
- Also at this year's BC's Kyle Plaunt (gr 12) and Daley Forbes (gr 9) took silvers and Cody McEvay (gr 11) and Isaiah Taylor (gr 10) captured bronze medals. Austin Evans (gr 10) was 4th and Kraig Duskotch (gr 11) was 6th.
- John McDonald has been the Head Coach of the ADSS wrestling program for 20 years and is widely considered one of the top wrestling coaches in BC. John is

assisted by coaches Ryan Dvorak, Richelle McKenzie, and James Messenger from Dunn.

Wrestling results

- Daley Forbes – took the silver medal at 70 kg Cadet girls. Narrowly lost the final. Congratulations Daley – second in Canada and only a first year Cadet!
- Michael Cappus – took the bronze medal at 69 kg Juvenile. Lost a heartbreaker in the semis 2-2 and 2-2 but dominated on the back side to take third.
- Savannah Toth – took 5th as a first year Juvenile at 65 kg but was real close to winning her semis to make the final
- Isaiah Taylor – undefeated all the way at 76 Cadet and won the GOLD today in dominant fashion. NATIONAL CHAMPION!
- Kyle Plaunt – went 2 and 2 and finished out of the medals at 58 kg Juvenile boys
- Cullen Hines – wrestled well but has been eliminated at 69 kg Cadet boys

Special Request to Parents

Please contact Vice-principal Ms. Laurie Morphet if your child has any medical alerts that have not been reported. We are updating our data base and want to make sure that the information in it is accurate and current.

Important Upcoming Dates

- April 7 – Euclid Contest (gr. 12), math contest
- April 8 – PAC meeting, 7:00 pm, staffroom
- April 9 – Term 3 ends
- April 10 – Good Friday, no school
- April 13 – Easter Monday, no school
- April 13 – Term 4 begins
- April 16,17 – Provincial Exams (for selected students)
- April 20 – Professional Day, no school
- April 21 – Term 3 Report Cards Issued
- April 29 – North Island College Career Fair, grade 11 students in attendance (pm)
- April 30 – Parent/Teacher Conferences, 4-7 pm, by invitation
- May 1 – Parent/Teacher Conferences, 9-noon,

Please contact me at 723-6251, extension 222, if you have questions or concerns about this newsletter.

Mike Ruttan,
Principal