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www.phss.ca

# NEWS

## Port Hardy Secondary School

*Home Of The Whalers*

April 2017

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### Upcoming Events

#### May

- 5 School-based Professional-Development Day
- 18 PAC meeting
- 19 Interim reports mailed home
- 22 Victoria Day

#### June

- 10 Convocation ceremony
- 16 I-reports mailed home
- TBD Year-end awards ceremony @ 4:30
- 23-28 Provincial exams
- 27 Last day of classes
- 28-29 In-class exams
- 30 School closed

#### July

- 5 Final report cards mailed

### PHSS PAC News

The PHSS Parent Advisory Council is always looking for parents to participate in meetings and other activities around the school. If you are interested in coming to a PAC meeting, please feel free to join us. No commitment necessary.

**Next Meeting:**

**May 18 @ 7:00 pm in the Library**

### Principal's Message

Gilakas'la! We are now at the halfway point of the semester, and the good habits with which students started the semester are paying off. Students are encouraged to continue making their best effort as we get into the busy spring season. This includes punctual, regular attendance in all of their classes. In particular, students in grade 12 are reminded that despite the excitement of Grad planning, they will need to remain focussed on their learning and ensure that they are giving themselves the best chances for success as they finish their time at secondary school.

Student in grades 8 and 9 will be taking part in an exciting learning activity this week when they travel to North Island Secondary on April 27 for the Youth Engagement Summit. We are looking forward to this opportunity to connect with other students in our district and local RCMP officers. If you have a child in grade 8 or 9, please ensure that they have returned their signed permission form to the office.

Grade seven students will be visiting Port Hardy Secondary more frequently as their elementary schools work with us on transition planning for next year. We are proud of the excellent leadership skills our current students are demonstrating as they introduce these younger students to our PHSS family.

All students should now have completed their course selection and we are able to begin our next steps in building the timetable for next year. Your child is able to show you online the courses that he or she has selected. If they are one of the few who have not yet completed this, they can see me in the office.

As always, please feel free to contact me or Mr. Pendergast if you have any questions or concerns. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to ensure that your child's educational needs are being met.

**Rena Sweeney, Principal**

[rsweeney@sd85.bc.ca](mailto:rsweeney@sd85.bc.ca)

### Girls Group

The girls were learning how to make soap in girls group.



## Beach Glass and Pottery Frame

Last spring I was invited by the G&N school to go on a trip up the coast with some of their students, teachers, and elders. On this trip I spent time listening to some stories about the elders playing on the beach, rowing in the bay, fishing for supper, and sad tails of relocation, residential school and heartbreak.

Lots of us spent time beach combing with the top prize of finding glass trade beads. I looked for them for a bit and then noticed all the old broken glass and pottery. With careful inspection I was able to find some old pieces with dates ranging into the 1800's and imagined what story each shard had to tell in the attempted pre-meditated destruction of local first nations cultures.

I started collecting some of these pieces and had in mind some sort of artistic thank you for the meaningful experience. I knew that my spot on the boat trip came at the expense of someone else missing the adventure. I built a few picture frames and cut some glass to capture the reflective nature of the beach glass and pottery. I did an experiment with Jin di sugi Japanese finish which involves burning the wood and

then using a wire brush to remove the charred exterior. I felt that this burnt frame connected with the governments burning of Takush after they took all the villagers to Tsulquate. I was able to place some of my beach collectables in the wooden picture frame with the help of Caroline Walkus and Alex Hedrick. The beauty of the glass and pottery in the charred frame gave me an appreciation for the beauty and resilience of the people that survived this horrific ordeal, and many others.

It is a small token of appreciation to a people that continue to invite me to learn about their culture through the act of sharing adventures, stories, food and friendship.

Sincerely  
Joel Dyck, PHSS



## Jr. Girls Soccer 2017



## Satisfaction Survey

Students in grades 10 and 12 and their parents are invited to take part in the Ministry of Education's 2017 Satisfaction Survey. The survey provides information useful in our school planning and helps us to identify our areas of strength and need. Students will have the opportunity to complete this survey at school. Attached is a letter with your unique login code. Please note that the log-in codes provide access only, and your responses will be confidential. Thank you for providing us with this feedback.