

Newsletter

Lansdowne Middle School and the Greater Victoria School District wish to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations, on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.



**Lansdowne
Middle
School**

1765 Lansdowne Road, Victoria, BC, V8P 1A7 Phone: 250-598-3336

January 14, 2014

Calendar Dates



January 20

- Late French Immersion Parent Info Evening 6:30 to 8:30pm SJ Willis

January 22

- PAC Meeting 7pm Library

January 27-31

- Late French Immersion Registration Week (More info page 4)

January 30

- Open House for Grade 5 Parents 7:00 to 8:30pm

January 31

- Pro-D Day (Classes not in session)

February 3

- LMPA Meeting

February 4

- Newsletter on website

February 10

- Family Day (no school)

February 13

- District Transfer Forms available

February 17 to 21

- District Transfer Process (More info on page 4)

February 19

- Curriculum Completion Day Regular 8:40 to 11:40, Curriculum Completion from 11:40 to 2:50

February 21

- Pro-D Day (Classes not in session)
- Musical Desserts (More info on page 5)

February 26

- Pink Shirt Day (More info on page 11)
- PAC Meeting 7 pm Library

If you know of any grade 5 parents considering Lansdowne for their child for next school year, please let them know about our upcoming INFORMATION NIGHT:

Attention Parents of Grade 5 Students:

**You are invited to our
PARENT INFORMATION NIGHT**

Lansdowne Middle School

1765 Lansdowne Road (corner of Lansdowne & Richmond)

Thursday, January 30th, 2014

7:00 pm to 8:30 p.m.

We'll begin presentations and guided tours at 7 pm

*Come and meet our teachers, our PAC,
and our principal,*

*find out more about our programs, talk to our
students, hear our band and choir,
and visit our classrooms!*

Principal: Ken Andrews

Vice-Principal: Paul Stevenson

Victoria is fortunate to have a relatively mild climate, so even in these winter months, we like to get our students outside for some play-time in the fresh air during their breaks. We only call an "inside recess" when the weather is particularly wet and/or cold, so please be sure your child dresses appropriately (warm clothing, rain jacket, etc.) to be comfortable spending most recesses outside 😊

Student Attendance

We wish to be sure that all our students are safely accounted for on a daily basis, so please contact the school office – (250) 598-3336 – if you know that your child will be absent or late. Regular and timely attendance are also key factors for educational success. If your child is frequently absent and/or late to school, we will be contacting you to discuss these matters. Working together, we hope to ensure that all of our students attend regularly and on-time so that they can fully reach their potential.

Lansdowne Middle School

ACTIVITIES & EVENTS

*A miscellany of co-curricular and extra-curricular activities and events taking place at LMS.
Please encourage your children to get involved! For more information contact the staff member listed.*

Event/Activity	Timeframe	Contact (Coordinators, Sponsors, Coaches, etc)
Student Leadership Me to We	Regular meetings Wednesday at 8:00 a.m. Numerous opportunities to participate	Melinda, Leblond & Gagne
Eco Action Club	Monday / Thursday at recess and as needed	Du Plessis
Backpack Club	Ongoing activities during the year	Albany & du Plessis
Caught You & Project X tickets	Ongoing throughout the school year	All Staff
Games Group (including chess)	Tuesday at lunch recess	Javorski & du Plessis
Jazz Band	Tuesday after school / Thursday lunch	Rawson
Concert Choir	Monday after school / Wednesday lunch	Georgeses
R & B Band and Vocal Jazz	Tuesday lunch / Thursday after school	Rawson & Georgeses
Seaquarium	Ongoing	Kilpatrick
Hip-Hop Dance Club	Wednesdays at lunch recess	D'Angelo
Swimming	Mid-October to early March	Stevenson, Edwards
Volleyball	End of January to early March	
Youth Creating Inclusion/ Connectedness	Friday at lunch	du Plessis
Homework Club	In the Library (all students welcome), 2:50 to 3:30 Monday to Thursday	Dusseault
Learning Over Lunch (LOL)	In the Library at Lunch recess Mon to Fri	Logan

We are seeking parent and community coaches for Rugby, Field Hockey and Track & Field taking place later this Spring. **If you are interested, please contact Mr. Stevenson at pstevenson@sd61.bc.ca.**

Good luck to our Lansdowne Competitive Swimmers
at their February 24th Swim Meet.

News From the . . .

Lansdowne PAC

Lansdowne PAC Fundraising Reminders

Thrifty Foods Smile Cards

We are part of the Thrifty Foods community donation program. Thrifty Foods will donate 5% of every purchase made on a Lansdowne coded Smile Card to our school to a maximum of \$3,000. Remember to load up your Thrifty Foods smile card the next time you're getting groceries. Just make sure to load the card before your groceries are rung through. It is such an easy way to support our school!! If you do not have a Thrifty Foods Smile Card yet, please pick one up in the school office.

Other Fundraising Opportunities

Just mention Lansdowne School when you make a purchase at the following stores and a percentage of your purchases goes to Lansdowne!!



- Cobbs Bread (Oak Bay Avenue and Shelbourne locations)
- M&M Meat Shops
- The Soap Exchange



You can pick up a reminder card, listing these business, at the school office.

Reminder

The next PAC meeting is Wednesday, January 22 at 7:00 pm in the library.

A Big Thank You From Lansdowne School PAC !

Lansdowne PAC would like to thank all parent volunteers involved in the recent school Book Fair and Emporium held in December! These events are wonderful community builders for students, staff and families at our school, and are eagerly anticipated every year. Many happy, smiling students were witnessed with their purchases!

Emporium profits were \$733.70! This is an incredible amount, considering items were primarily 10 cents to one dollar, and the occasional item of two dollars. This money will be applied to the general PAC account, covering Naturescape, earthquake kiosks and other PAC projects.

The Book Fair raised \$800 for our library.

Thank you again everyone who was able to participate in these events.

Ruth Swinton (PAC Emporium Coordinator)

Student Transfer Process

Next month's newsletter will provide detailed information about grade 8 pathway schools and transfer process information for grade 8's moving on to high school. ***The District Student Transfer Process will take place February 13 to 21.*** All grade 8 families should have received a District brochure and letter about the various high schools throughout the Greater Victoria School District. This brochure also includes the dates for each high school's open house. Please note the dates of the Open Houses of our pathway high schools:

- Victoria High School, Done
- Reynolds Secondary School, Thursday, January 16, 2014, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Oak Bay High School, Thursday, January 23, 2014, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

- Mt. Doug Secondary School, Monday, January 20, 2014, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Challenge Info Night for Esquimalt & Mount Doug Challenge Programs, Done

Late French Immersion for 2014-2015

Please feel free to share the information below with any families in your community

Late French Immersion Information Meeting
Monday, January 20, 6:30 - 8:30pm
SJ Willis Auditorium, 923 Topaz Avenue

Late French Immersion Registration Week
Monday, January 27 to Friday, January 31

Go to your preferred Late Immersion School and complete a Late French Immersion Application Form indicating your preferred school and any other school(s) you would be willing to attend. There are no catchment for entry into Late Immersion.

Families who apply to register during District Immersion Registration Week have priority over later applicants for placement. Applications are accepted (and waitlisted, if necessary) on a first come, first served basis according to the following priorities:

1. in or out of District with a sibling at the school
2. in District
3. out of District

Families will be informed of placement as soon as possible after registration week and by the end of February at the latest.



Coming soon... Musical Desserts

Friday, February 21, 2014

"Coffee House" at 6:30pm; Student Concert at 7:00pm
at the Fairfield United Church, 1303 Fairfield Road

Tickets are \$10 each

Enjoy refreshments and listen to great live music performed by Lansdowne students!

Tickets can be purchased from Mrs. Fawcett in the school office. Tickets will go on sale soon.

Performers do not need a ticket for entry, but they are required to have someone present to be responsible for them.

SILENT AUCTION

The evening also includes a Silent Auction. All funds go directly to the music department (band, choir and strings). Even if your child is not performing we still need your help. Do you have a contact at a business that would consider a donation, will you consider donating an item? Items for the Silent Auction are now being collected. Please contact Janice Hawkes at urbanmedusa@shaw.ca.

Don't miss this fun event!

INCLEMENT WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION

We are now in the season when inclement weather may affect the safety and welfare of students. In particular, snowy weather has the potential to cause school closure or some School District 61 services to be suspended.

During inclement weather, information about schools will be updated continuously on the Greater Victoria School District 61 website at <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/>.



Within the Greater Victoria School District, the Superintendent of Schools, John Gaipman, will provide media outlets with information about the status of our facilities and transportation services by 6:30 a.m.



Foundation Skills Assessment

During the latter half of January through to mid-February, grade 7 students throughout British Columbia will be completing the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). This assessment provides a snapshot of each student's ability in reading comprehension, writing, and numeracy in relation to provincial performance standards—widely held expectations for grade 7 students in these core areas. Results will be mailed to parents later in the school year.

Along with feedback from your child's teachers, the FSA can provide you (and the school's faculty) with further information about your child's abilities in these core areas as well as providing information on more general trends at the provincial, district, and school level regarding overall progress and areas for further improvement. For further information on the FSA, you may wish to look at the following Ministry of Education link: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/info/facts.htm> and the link you'll find there to a "Questions & Answers" information page.

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE

The Lansdowne FLL team "*The Forgotten Socks*" attended the FIRST LEGO League Regional Qualifying Tournament in Vancouver on Saturday, January 4.

Eleven teams were doing presentations (all about some aspects of natural disasters and possible innovative solutions), interviews and practice robot runs in the morning, and scored robot runs in the afternoon.

It was a fun day in Vancouver, and our team did very well. We started out with the Core Values interview, then did the project presentation right after. Our project was about wildfires, and the team performed a skit demonstrating a new fire detection method for the Victoria watershed area. They even had a Lego-and-Marble-Track – built model of their fire detection idea.

Later the team explained the robot and its design and programming to a panel of judges. During robot matches the robot did its part, too, with a scoring ability in the top third of all robots. Although it did not do all its top scoring in the same run, so we ended up having 153 as our best score instead of 217. Oh well, these things happen....

There were lots of interesting robots to see, neat team uniforms, great props, good energy, lots of laughter and cheering, and much photography and videotaping.

Congratulations to the team from Monterey School who won the Core Values award!

The tournament was a great team outing with family involved for everyone. Owen's family even provided free accommodation in Vancouver.

This ends our official FLL season, but the team may decide to continue meeting anyway. Maybe we'll start preparations for next year....!

Thanks, team, and everybody else who helped us along.



Handwashing Tips from HealthLinkBC



Handwashing is a simple and effective way to help prevent colds and the flu.

Washing your hands

often, especially during cold and flu season, can reduce your risk of catching or spreading a cold or the flu.

Wash your hands after:

- Touching parts of your body that are not clean.
- Using the bathroom.
- Coughing, sneezing, or using a handkerchief or disposable tissue.
- Eating or drinking
- Changing diapers, handling garbage, using the phone, shaking hands, or playing with pets.

Experts recommend the following steps for proper handwashing:

- Wash your hands with running water and soap.
- Rub your hands together for at least 20 seconds.
- Pay special attention to your wrists, the backs of your hands, between your fingers, and under your fingernails.
- Leave the water running while you dry your hands on a paper towel.
- Use the paper towel as a barrier between the faucet and your clean hands when you turn off the water.

If soap and water are not available, use gel hand sanitizers or alcohol-based hand wipes containing 60% to 90% ethyl alcohol or isopropanol. Most supermarkets and drugstores carry these products. Carry one or both with you when you travel, and keep them in your backpack or purse.

If using the gel sanitizer, rub your hands until the gel is dry. You don't need to use water. The alcohol in the gel kills the germs on your hands.

Volleyball — Girls / Boys

		Coach
Grade 6/7 Girls	Recreational	Ms. Racansky
Grade 6/7 Girls	Recreational	Ms. West
Grade 6/7 Girls	Competitive	Ms. Noseworthy
Grade 7/8 Girls	Competitive	Mr. Baker
Grade 7/8 Girls	Competitive	Ms. Cummings
Grade 6/7 Boys	Recreational	Mr. Coomber & Ms. Lutes
Grade 6/7 Boys	Competitive	Mr. Bailey
Grade 7/8 Boys	Competitive	Mr. Schroeder



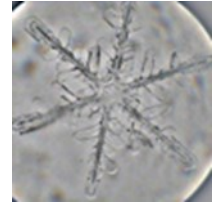
Eco-Action Report!



Eco Action meets weekly on Mondays at lunch. **Everyone is welcome!** We are currently focusing on water consumption, personally and school wide. Stay tuned for some more facts during the morning announcements.

DID YOU KNOW?

An average snowflake is made up of 180 billion molecules of water. And all of those molecules form completely different shapes for each snowflake! On a typical winter day, snowflakes will fall at a speed of 5 kilometres an hour.



As we work on putting all of our recycling materials in the right bins, often the following question arises **“If we don’t have any place to wash out our items, what is the alternative?”**

ANSWER: If you are unable to wash out your containers, take them back home and wash them there. If you can, try to bring reusable containers so that there is no recycling needed at all. We try to promote waste-free lunches, let’s see how you do! According to research, a family that packs pre-packaged lunches will spend an average of \$4 a day per lunch or \$724 per school year, **while a family that packs waste-free lunches will spend \$2.65 a day per lunch or \$477 per school year.**

Stay tuned for some exciting Eco Action School Challenges



YOUTH CREATING INCLUSION CREW

Our Youth Creating Inclusion Crew (YCI) aims to **increase awareness, share knowledge and create inclusion** with the goal of eliminating all forms of discrimination. This open group (we are always happy to have more voices) meets weekly to explore issues that arise in our school and in our communities as well as create activities and actions to share with students, staff, families and our community. Presently, we are focused on understanding identity, especially gender identity, gender stereotypes, gender fluidity and other forms of gender identity. We attend the monthly school district 61 Gay Straight Alliance Advisory Committee meetings and speak on our school’s initiatives and ways in which we demonstrate addressing discrimination in our school. Last week we attended a meeting to discuss upcoming ventures including a district dance, a youth forum, a movie night and revisiting the district regulation around discrimination to include gender inclusive bathrooms in schools. If you are interested in learning more about who we are and what we do, please feel free to contact Mitchel at 250-598-3336 or drop in on a Friday at lunch to participate in a meeting.

Mitchel ~ Youth and Family Counsellor

From Christina, practicum student from Denmark



Observations from my time at Lansdowne Middle School

I have been participating in the Eco-Action club, where we have been focusing on water. It has been really interesting to participate in these meetings, and get some info about water use. It has definitely made me more aware of how we use our water and how much water we actually are wasting.

We have also been focusing on Recycling, because Lansdowne is a green school, so it has been really great to see how everyone is recycling their garbage, especially because Denmark isn't recycling as much as here. I think we should be doing that, so that is definitely something that I will bring back to Denmark. I find it very important to take care of our environment!

I have also been a part of the YCI, where we have been watching some great movies about gender, and been talking about how we can create a more inclusive and positive space at our school. I must say that I am really impressed by the students and all the amazing ideas they came up with.

I also went to Vancouver to witness and participate in the Truth and Reconciliation with Mitchel and some students. I had never heard about Residential schools before, so I was very excited to go to the workshop and get some more knowledge about it. I quickly learned about all the terrible things that had happened at some of the residential schools, and how the trauma that they had experienced at the residential schools had affected the lives of many of First Nations people. I was and still am very surprised that I had never heard about it before. I am really interested in learning more about Indigenous history and culture. I have been collecting lots of material and resources about what happened historically the residential schools and the aftermath, so I can create more awareness about it in Denmark. I feel like it is very important for people to know what happened to the First Nations People, not that many years ago.

At the workshop in Vancouver we were introduced to two projects. Project of Heart and The Blanket Exercise. Both exercises' related to Canadian history and residential schools. Project of heart was to honor the children who died or survived residential schools. The blanket exercise was to create awareness of Canadian history and to show how the land was taken away from the indigenous people by the Europeans. It was incredibly powerful to be a part of this event, and to hear the survivors telling their stories. I feel really fortunate to have been a part of this.

So, my last 5 months at Lansdowne Middle School have been very interesting, and it has opened my eyes to a lot of new things. I feel like I learned a lot from my time here, and I am very excited to bring the things I learned in my practicum back to Denmark in February. Thank you to everyone whom I have connected with here at Lansdowne. It has been GREAT!!!



Bicycle Safety



We are pleased to see an increasing number of students cycling to and from school. It is both a healthy and environmentally friendly mode of transportation that we strongly support. At the same time, please remind your children of the importance of bicycle safety, including:

- Wear a bike helmet (that fits properly)
- Cycle on the road or cycle paths (do *not* weave on and off the sidewalk)
- Adhere to all rules of the road, which include:
 - ◊ Cycle on the right side of the road
 - ◊ Obey all stop signs and traffic signals
 - ◊ Obey the “right of way” at intersections
(when in doubt, giving “right” of way to the motor vehicle is good common sense)
 - ◊ Signal your turns
 - ◊ And much more...
- Wear bright or reflective clothing and/or a cycling vest
- If cycling near or during dark hours, use front and rear lights

Once again, we want to encourage students to cycle to and from school, and to do so in as safe a manner as possible. ☺



Grade 7 Parent Satisfaction Surveys

At this time of year, grade 7 students and their parents throughout the Province of British Columbia will be participating in the Ministry of Education’s Satisfaction Survey. **The Satisfaction Survey can be completed in just 5 to 10 minutes by grade 7 parents online via *the internet***, providing immediate results to the school and the district.

A letter will be mailed to parents of grade 7 students sometime soon with step-by-step instructions as well as an individualized password. When you receive this letter, please take a moment to complete this anonymous, online survey.

Note that this survey is for the parent/guardian *only*; grade 7 students and staff will be completing separate satisfaction surveys at the school. To those parents who already completed the survey, thank you for providing us with your perspectives. Satisfaction Survey information is used as part of our planning processes as we strive for ongoing improvement to our school.

Counsellors Corner

Student Leadership

Our Candy Gram Fund raiser is happening again this year. Proceeds go to Our Place Shelter. From February 3-12 at lunch recess, student leaders will be selling candy grams. Students and staff will have an opportunity to buy a valentine, write a personal message and have a candy attached to be delivered on Valentine's Day. Parents, you can get in on the fun too. Stop by the office and see Mrs. Upshall to buy your son or daughter a Candy gram! Candy grams are \$.50 each.



Anti Bullying PINK Shirt Day is fast approaching once again! T-shirts are 100% cotton. There is no date on them, so they can be re-used each year. The front says **PINK SHIRT DAY** and the back says **BULLYING STOPS HERE!**

T-shirts are \$4.00 each including GST.

Sizes are:

Youth (medium, large, xlarge)

Adult (small, medium, large, xlarge)



If you would like to order shirts please see come to the office at Lansdowne no later **than Thursday, January 30th**. T-shirts will be delivered on or before **Monday, Feb. 24th**.

For more information on **PINK Shirt Day** please visit www.pinkshirtday.ca

We hope you join us in promoting this very important anti-bullying awareness campaign!

