

Newsletter



**Lansdowne
Middle
School**

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.

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

February 4, 2014

Calendar Dates



February 10

- Family Day (no school)

February 13

- District Transfer Forms available

February 17 to 21

- District Transfer Process
(More info on page 6)

February 19

- Curriculum Completion Day Regular
8:40 to 11:40, Curriculum Completion
from 11:40 to 2:50
(More info on page 5)

February 21

- Pro-D Day (Classes not in session)
- Musical Desserts
(More info on page 4)

February 26

- Pink Shirt Day
- PAC Meeting 7 pm Library

March 4

- Newsletter on website

March 5 & 6

- Sounds of Spring Concert 9am & 7pm
School Gym

March 7

- Spirit Afternoon
- Report Cards Go Home
- Last day of School Before Spring
Break

March 9

- Daylight Savings Begins

March 24

- Students return to school

At Lansdowne Middle School, we pride ourselves on being proactive in fostering a positive school culture. Along with a variety of day-to-day structures in place to create a respectful and inclusive environment, we also involve our students in a wide range of related special events, including this month's Pink Shirt Day, described below by our school counselor. By celebrating our differences and standing together against discrimination and harassment – on Pink Shirt Day and every day – we make a difference at school and beyond.

Ken Andrews, Principal



Pink Shirt Day Increases Awareness and Media Attention on Bullying and what we can all do to help eradicate it.

Wednesday, February 26, 2014 is Pink Shirt Day - an innovative, widespread campaign to increase awareness and attention on the issue of bullying, in schools and in society at large.

At Lansdowne our focus is on being an ally, empowering students to stand up and speak out against put downs, teasing, aggressive language, homophobia, racism, and other forms of unkindness and bullying. Students had the opportunity to order shirts through the school but if they missed out, they can simply wear something pink that day!

In 2014, Pink Shirt Day is in its seventh year in Canada. Though the idea originated in a small town in Eastern Canada, the concept spread across North America and around the globe.

Pink Shirt Day History in Canada

The idea was the brain child of two teenage students in Nova Scotia who took a stand against bullies in their school. *CBC News*, September 19, 2007, reported that David Shepherd and Travis Price, after hearing a student was called a homosexual and threatened for wearing pink, "went to a nearby discount store and bought 50 pink shirts, including tank tops, to wear to school the next day."

They got the word out online about their idea to wear pink in support of the student and to take a stand against the bullies. "I just figured enough was enough," Shepherd was quoted as saying. The next day hundreds of students showed up in pink clothing and little was heard from the bullies again.

Melinda Budgell, School Counselor

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	Georgesesen
R & B Band and Vocal Jazz	Tuesday lunch / Thursday after school	Rawson & Georgesesen
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	Racansky, West, Noseworthy, Baker, Cummings, Coomber, Lutes, Bailey, Schroeder
Rugby	End of March to end of May	
Cycling	End of March to early June	
Field Hockey	Early April to mid-May	S. Andrews
Badminton	Early April to end of May	
Track & Field	End of April to early June	
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 and Track & Field taking place later this Spring. **If you are interested, please contact Mr. Stevenson at pstevenson@sd61.bc.ca.**

News From the . . .

Lansdowne PAC

Reminder

The next PAC meeting will be Wednesday, February 26 at 7:00 pm in the library. All parents and guardians are encouraged to attend.



Earthquake Container: Request for Hands and Tools

This is a call for help with installing shelving in the large earthquake bin that the school purchased last year with PAC funds. Do you enjoy working with your hands? Do you have power tools that you could bring along? Please contact parent Neil McDonald who will work with interested parents to set a date and time to get this work done. Thanks to generous parent support, we have funds in our budget this year to stock up those shelves with emergency supplies.



You can reach Neil at neil@ecobean.ca or 250-888-7656

Lansdowne Rd. Bus Stop



In the fall, the PAC raised several traffic safety issues with staff at the Municipality of Saanich. We were very pleased to learn that Saanich staff have already designed a new configuration for the bus stop on Lansdowne Road to improve safety for our bus riding students. Work will take place this year. In addition, planning is underway for bike paths along Lansdowne Rd. The PAC will be following up on other traffic safety issues and will keep parents informed.

If you have questions or comments for the Lansdowne PAC executive, please send a note

Elementary and Middle School Swim Meet



Calling all swimmers! A Victoria wide swim meet between all schools is being held Sunday, March 2. Novice swimmers must qualify first on Monday, February 24. Swimmers who already swim competitively can register directly for the Championship Meet. Further details available through Paul Stevenson at Lansdowne or contact Kelly Edwards, kagellagy@gmail.com. Deadline for registration is 3pm on February 11 for novice swimmers and 3pm on February 24 for competitive swimmers.

LMPA



Our Sounds of Spring Concerts will take place in the gym
on March 5 & 6 at 7 PM.

We will be holding a 50/50 draw,
a bake sale and will have Fernwood Coffee
& Fairway Gift Certificates for Purchase.

Hope to see you there!



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.

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!



A Great Big Thank you for the amazing generosity of the Optimist Club of Victoria- Jot Holmes and your amazing cohort for the Fabulous Food Hampers!



Your kindness is greatly appreciated

As well, thank you to several kind folks who generously donated their time (and another full hamper) as well as helping deliver the hampers*

The world is better with you in it!!!

With gratitude~ Mitchel and the Lansdowne school community

Curriculum Completion Days

All ten middle schools in the Greater Victoria School District schedule 1.4 Curriculum Completion Days during each school year. These days are intended to provide additional time and opportunity for students with overdue or unsatisfactory school assignments to successfully complete their school work prior to each report card.

Lansdowne's Curriculum Completion sessions will run from **11:40 a.m. to 2:50 p.m.** on:

Thursday, November 14
Wednesday, February 19
Monday, June 9

Please mark these dates on your calendar. A letter will be sent home with each student in advance of these curriculum completion sessions. For the February 19th session, advisory teachers will be **sending home a letter on Friday, February 14th** informing families whether a child is required or *not* required to attend the CC session. Should this requirement change prior to February 19th, you will receive a phone call from your child's advisory teacher.

On these CC days, all students are expected to come to school in the morning as usual. Beginning at 11:40 a.m., students required to attend will be organized into various locations to complete overdue or unsatisfactory assignments under the supervision of teachers and educational assistants. Students who are *not* required to stay for the CC session will be dismissed at 11:40 a.m. unless we hear from you that you would like your child to stay at school even though current requirements are being met; in that case, s/he will be provided with a quiet and supervised location to read and/or work quietly. More detailed information will be provided in the letter sent home in advance of each CC session.



District Student Transfer Process:

Students in the Greater Victoria School District follow a pathway from elementary school to middle school to secondary school. Students at all grade levels (K-12) wishing to change their pathway school will need to complete a District Student Transfer Application Form. A change from French Immersion to English Track also requires application for student transfer (even if you are going to the same school). Our school's pathways are:

- Quadra → Lansdowne → Reynolds (both English & Early French Immersion)
- Oaklands → Lansdowne → Vic High (English Program)
- English Program students from any other school → Lansdowne → Vic High
- Willows → Lansdowne → Oak Bay High (Early French Immersion Program)
- Early French Immersion students from any other school → Lansdowne → Reynolds
- All Late French Immersion at Lansdowne → Oak Bay High

NOTE: If you have remained in your pathway and wish to continue in your pathway, (including staying in the same language track program) you do NOT need to complete a Transfer Application Form.

Student Transfer Application Week: February 17 to 21, 2014

Student Transfer Application Forms will be available at any school from February 13 to 21. The transfer form will also be available on the District website - www.sd61.bc.ca. Parent/Guardian completes a Student Transfer Application Form between February 13 – 21, 2014. Forms must be submitted to the Board Office, by Friday, February 21.

Parents requesting a student transfer must phone the pathway school to request an appointment with the secondary principal between February 17 – 21, 2014. Students applying during the transfer application week will receive written confirmation by the end of March, 2014. All attempts will be made to accommodate students at their preferred school, space permitting.

After February 21, **elementary** and **middle school students** wishing to attend a school other than their designated school are asked to go to the school they wish to attend to have their name placed on a wait list. A Late Student Transfer Process for **secondary students only** will take place between March 24 - April 1, 2014.

The Student Transfer Application should NOT be completed when applying for a District Program such as Career Preparation, Co-op Programs, Challenge, Flex Studies, Grade 6 Late French Immersion, Sports Academies, Home Learners' Link, Cloverdale Traditional School, South Park and Sundance Schools and District Special Education programs. Students will contact the program or school directly.



Student Leadership



Our Candy Gram Fund raiser is happening again this year. Proceeds go to Our Place Shelter. From February 5-12 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 \$.050 each.

Our Visit to Government House

By Bart Wong

Imagine receiving an award for caring, for being nice and helping others. That is exactly what happened last Friday at Government House, and the awards were given by the Lieutenant Governor Judith Guichon! Six student leaders got to attend the Caring Ceremony and witness ordinary citizens who did extraordinary acts of kindness receive an award. Some helped new immigrants, others helped the environment, and others helped aboriginal youth.

Government house was very cool and really big. Inside there were lots of people, getting awards while their families, friends and students watched. Also Louis Rose was playing the piano. And I saw her a few days later at u-jam, she was our mentor. We saw lots of people who got their awards for community service and for raising money for charities. It was really inspiring and afterwards there was a lot of food and desserts. There were even salmon cookies! I have never seen that. In addition to the Caring Award Ceremony we got to tour a traveling display called; It's An Honour! Here we had our Canadian facts tested and got to review displays of many people who have been honoured across Canada. It was great. So in conclusion I thought everything was amazing!



Getting TO and FROM Lansdowne: Transport, Drop Zones, and Parking Info



Whenever possible, we encourage students to walk, cycle, or bus to school, both for the fresh air and exercise as well as to reduce our carbon footprint on the environment. Nevertheless, we know that, for some families, using a car to drop off and pick up your child is a necessity. To help reduce traffic congestion, Lansdowne Middle School has two drop off and pick up locations – the Lansdowne Road parking lot and the Richmond Road pull off drop off/pick up zone.

The Lansdowne Road parking lot is designed for parents/guardians to move smoothly through the parking lot while allowing some vehicles to park and wait. This parking lot has two lanes; one is a drive thru lane and the other is a drop off lane. The inside/drop off lane allows parents the ability to drive to the front of the lane, stop, and drop off students toward the field side so they do not walk in front of moving vehicles. The outside/thru lane is for vehicles to drive thru and out of the parking lot to reduce congestion. Once parents have dropped off their children, they can either continue out the drop off lane if traffic permits or pull into the drive thru lane to exit the parking lot. There are also parking stalls available for staff and guests to park, and to drop off and pick up students at the end of the day. If you usually come to the school to pick up your children, please pull into the parking stalls and turn off your engines while you wait for your children. This will allow less congestion and more vehicle movement.

The Richmond Road drop off/pick up/pull off zone is there for that purpose only. Please pull off to the side of Richmond Road in the marked locations, ensure your children exit the vehicle to the curb side for safety reasons, and then exit the drop zone yielding to traffic. This zone can also be used as additional parking from 9:00am – 2:00pm or after 3:30pm; however, at the start and end of the school day, there is no parking along this stretch of Richmond Road and Saanich Police are monitoring this zone to ensure its availability to our parents during the drop off and pick up times.



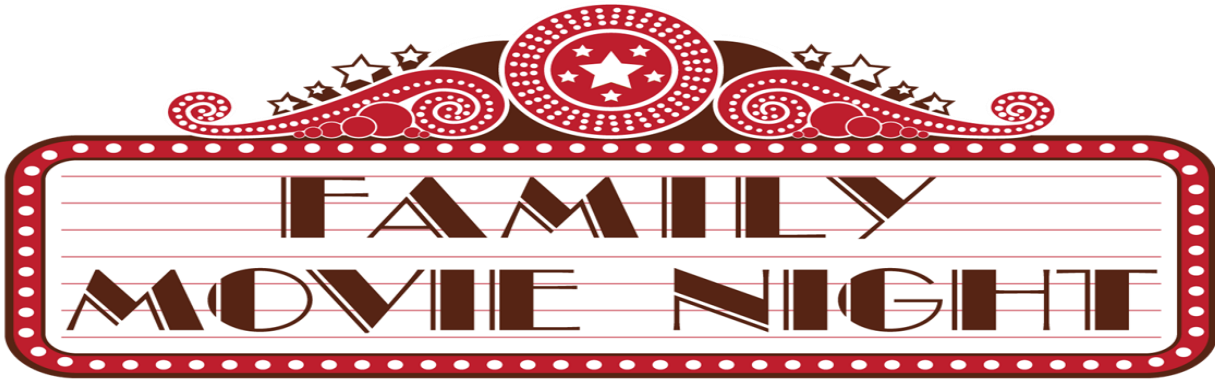
Please note that the Richmond Parking Lot (by the band annex) is for staff parking only. It is **not** a pick-up/drop-off zone. Also, please do **not** park in the parking lots of neighbouring organizations (such as GAP or Knox Church) as they use their lots for their own purposes.

Thank you for your cooperation in making our school grounds as safe and convenient as possible.

Bike and Road Safety

Parents/Guardians Please review the following Bike and Road Safety precautions with your daughter(s) or son(s).

- Always obey all traffic laws, be courteous to cars, and use arm signals to alert cars of your intentions
- Equip your bike with a mirror, reflectors, and bright front and rear flashing lights
- Use your front and rear flashing lights even in daylight
- Dress to be seen in all light conditions, but assume you are invisible and bicycle accordingly.
- Become a student of the roads and if possible avoid dangerous roads. Does the road have shoulders, is traffic heavy, are there dangerous curves and hills
- Be aware of the traffic situation and if it is dangerous, slow down or pull over and stop and wait for it to clear
- Don't enter a blind hill or curve until you are sure traffic has cleared, especially if someone is approaching you from the rear
- Assume vehicles turning into side streets or exiting side streets do not necessarily see you
- Be extra cautious around parked cars and assume a door could open anytime
- Assume quick stops or turns from vehicles in urban settings and be prepared to slow down or stop
- Walk your bike across crosswalks as indicated by appropriate signals and lights, but always double check left and right before crossing
- Slow down when needed and obey traffic signals



FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT

When? Thursday, February 13th 6pm to 8:30 pm

Where? The Fitness studio, Lansdowne Middle School

Why? To raise money for the trip to France

Which movie? Monsters University

How much? \$3 for the movie



Hot dogs and drinks will also be sold:

\$3 for a hotdog and \$1 for juice

Buy your ticket in advance from

Ms. Fawcett for the movie

and for the hotdog and drink.

Register your 11-15 yr. old in our Red Cross certified Babysitters Course

In this course your child will learn:

- The basics of babysitting
- Safety procedures
- Activities for young children
- Steps to handle emergencies

SATURDAY, FEB 15TH

9AM – 4PM

OAKLANDS

NEIGHBOURHOOD

HOUSE

2629 Victor ST.

Call to Register Now



Phone: 250.370.9101

For more info visit:
Oaklandscommunitycentre.com/program-guide





Teen Programs at the Greater Victoria Public Library Winter/Spring 2014

Call your local branch or register online at gvpl.ca. For more information, check gvpl.ca, call your local branch or email teens@gvpl.ca. All library programs are free. For a full list of library programs, see gvpl.ca.

Teen Volunteers

Reading Buddies: Teen Volunteers

For ages 13-18. If you like working with children, enjoy reading, are a fluent English speaker and want to help emerging readers, we need you! Reading Buddies teen volunteers mentor children in Grades 1-4 with reading practice, literacy-based activities and fun. We provide training and, upon completion, a reference letter outlining your volunteer hours.

Saturdays, February 22-April 12 (8 weeks)

1:45-3:00 pm Central Branch, Esquimalt Branch, Saanich Centennial Branch

3:15-4:30 pm Central Branch, Saanich Centennial Branch

French Reading Buddies: Teen Volunteers

For ages 13-18. Si vous aimez lire, travailler avec les enfants et aider, on a besoin de vous! French Reading Buddies teen volunteers mentor children in Grades 1-4 with reading practice, literacy-based activities and fun. We provide training and, upon completion, a reference letter outlining your volunteer hours.

Saturdays, February 22-April 12 (8 weeks), 3:15-4:30 pm, Esquimalt Branch

Big Buddy Training Session

For ages 13-18. Have you registered to be a Big Buddy in the Reading Buddies program? Is this the first time you have volunteered as a Big Buddy? If so, you must attend a Big Buddy Training Session.

Saturday, February 15

10:00-11:15 am Central Branch; 1:00-2:15 pm Esquimalt Branch; 4:00-5:15 pm Saanich Centennial Branch

Tech Buddies: Teen Volunteers

For ages 13-18. Volunteer using your skills with computers and other new technologies, and connect with someone in your community. Teens earn volunteer hours and help adults with their questions about computers and gadgets.

Fridays, February 14-28 (3 weeks)

3:15-4:45 pm, Nellie McClung Branch

Fridays, April 25-May 9 (3 weeks)

3:15-4:45 pm, Oak Bay Branch

Tech Buddies: Teen Tech Buddy Training

For ages 13-18. Have you registered to be a teen volunteer in the Tech Buddies program? Is this the first time you have volunteered as a Tech Buddy? If so, you must attend a Teen Tech Buddy Training Session.

Friday, February 7

3:15-4:45 pm, Nellie McClung Branch

Friday, April 11

3:15-4:45 pm, Oak Bay Branch

Readers & Writers

Spring Teen Writing Contest

For ages 12-18. Enter your original poem, short story or essay – comedic or dramatic! Create something new or polish up something written for a school assignment. If your entry is selected by the judging panel, you will win a gift certificate for the store of your choice, up to \$100 for first prize! For details, contest rules, and online entry form, see <http://www.gvpl.ca/audiences/teens/teen-writing-contest>. For more information, email teens@gvpl.ca. Contest runs January 31 – March 28.

Teen-Parent Book Club: The Fault in Our Stars

For ages 13-18 and accompanying adult. Celebrate family literacy by reading the same book! Fans of John Green won't want to miss this book discussion dedicated to The Fault In Our Stars. Nerdfighters welcome.