

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

May 6, 2014



May 7

- Celebration of Learning Evening, 4:30 to 7:30pm
Note date change from May 1

May 15

- District Transition Afternoon (see page 4)

May 16

- Pro-D Day (Classes not in session)

May 19

- Victoria Day (No School)

May 28

- PAC AGM 7pm Library (see page 3)

June 3

- Newsletter sent out

June 9

- Curriculum Completion Day
Regular 8:40 to 11:40,
Curriculum Completion from 11:40 to 2:50
- LMPA Meeting 7pm in the music portable

June 11 & 12

- Jubilation in June Music Concerts 9 am & 7pm

Lansdowne Principal Announcement

At our most recent PAC meeting I informed parents that, at the end of the 2013-14 school year, I will be moving on from Lansdowne Middle School - a more emotional announcement than I had anticipated! I have so enjoyed working with this remarkable community, yet after six years as the principal of Lansdowne Middle I'm excited for the new experiences that lay ahead for me as principal of Monterey Middle.

With two months remaining in the school year, it's too early yet to say "farewell"; rather, I just wanted to let our wider parent community know of my upcoming departure and announce that **Lansdowne's next principal will be Mrs. Louise Sheffer**. Mrs. Sheffer has a great deal of middle school experience both as a teacher and school administrator during the school district's transition years to the middle school model. For the past six years she has been principal of Strawberry Vale Elementary, and she is now excited to be returning to middle school where she'll be bringing a wealth of energy and experience to Lansdowne.

In the final months ahead, I look forward to welcoming Louise as well as saying "farewell" to the many members of the Lansdowne community who have somehow touched my life. In the shorter term, I hope to see many of you at the **upcoming Celebration of Learning Evening tomorrow evening (see below for details)**.

-Ken Andrews, Principal

Celebration of Learning and Student-Led Conferences

Open House
Format

Wednesday, May 7th, 2014
4:30 to 7:30pm

Plan to come for approximately 1 hour or so
with your child, who will show you examples of his/her
Academic and Exploratory learning activities.

Hot dogs and soft drinks

will be available for purchase for dinner (along with informal music performances) in our outdoor Naturescape & Stage area.

*Join us as we showcase student learning
in our academic and exploratory programs!*

Please note: - date change from our original school calendar
- classes will be dismissed at lunch

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
Rugby	End of March to end of May	Stevenson
Field Hockey	Early April to mid-May	S. Andrews
Badminton	Early April to end of May	Lindseth
Track & Field	End of April to Early June	West
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

Brought Together in Song 2014

The Lansdowne Concert Choir will perform on Wednesday, June 4th at 7:00PM at Alix Goolden Hall. This concert will showcase the choirs from Lansdowne and Reynolds as well as the orchestras from Lansdowne and Reynolds. The amazing acoustic in Alix Goolden Hall will be a wonderful venue to showcase the sounds of our musicians. Mark your calendars today!

Tickets are \$5/individual and \$15/family and are available from Mr. G. anytime. See you on June 4th!

News From the . . .

Lansdowne PAC

MAY 28 PARENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (PAC) ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Lansdowne PAC's Annual General Meeting will be held Wednesday, May 28 at 7:00PM in the school library. Please plan to attend. You'll have the opportunity to participate in the election of the incoming PAC executive, and to have your say in the PAC's proposed budget for 2014-2015.

Call for Nominations

All positions on the PAC executive are one year positions, and are up for election at the May 28 AGM. Participating on the PAC Executive is a great way to get involved in your child's school, learn about the education system in our school district, work with a group of fun and committed parents, and share your enthusiasm and ideas. It's not onerous, but it's well worth your time.

Positions are:

President	Vice-President
Secretary	Treasurer
and up to five Executive Members at Large	

If interested or you have any questions about the work of the PAC executive, please write to us at Lansdowne.pac@vcpac.ca

May 30 Teacher & Staff Thank You Lunch: Call For Delicious Donations

The PAC is organizing the annual luncheon to thank the teachers and staff at Lansdowne for the energy, heart, expertise and commitment they bring to our kids each and every day. All food will be provided by parent donations. Please watch for a food donation and volunteer form that will be sent home with your child. We'll need help with set up and clean up, and if you've got an hour on May 30 (just before, during, or right after lunch) please contact Corinne Groneberg at hugbigmamag@gmail.com or at 250-886-8776. You can also sign up during the school's May 7 Celebration of Learning Event -- watch for the sign-up sheet on the PAC table. Food donations can be brought to Room 109 on the morning of the event (there is a fridge there). If you are bringing food closer to lunch time, please take it directly to the Foods Room (2nd floor). Ovens will be available for warming food. Thank you!

Final push for Thrifty Smile Cards!

Help us meet our fundraising goal with Thrifty Smile Cards. It's simple! Just ask the cashier to load funds onto your card before your groceries are rung through, and the Lansdowne PAC receives 5%. No cost to you, no paperwork required. If you don't have a Smile Card, please ask at the school office. Keep your card over the summer months and then use it again in September to continue raising money for programs that support our kids.

Please remember that the Soap Exchange, COBS Bread and M&M Meat Shops also donate money to Lansdowne PAC. Just mention Lansdowne Middle School at the time of purchase, and these businesses will direct a percentage of the purchase price to the PAC.

School Supplies for 2014/15!

This spring, the PAC will be offering Lansdowne parents the option of ordering packages of school supplies for the 2014/15 school year, through locally owned Monk Office Supply. Ordering will commence on June 2nd and supplies will be delivered to school the first week back in September. Please watch for further information.



Lansdowne PAC Seeking Parent Volunteers for Summer Naturescape Watering

Over the past few years, a major initiative of Lansdowne's PAC has been the installation of a Naturescape in the back of the school, featuring an outdoor stage, cedar benches, pathways, and garden beds of indigenous plants and trees. Lansdowne's students and staff have been involved in creating the vision and planting the garden beds. Teachers and students will be caring for these beds over the final months of the school year and again in the Fall. Meanwhile, **we are looking for parent volunteers to take a summer shift - e.g. volunteer to hand-water the Naturescape using the hose already in place during one week of the summer (likely twice during your week).** No gardening expertise is needed; it's not onerous and we will provide you with the watering instructions you need as well as a contact person should any questions or concerns arise.

If you would consider volunteering to water Lansdowne's Naturescape during one week (or more) this summer, please contact PAC President Donna Sanford at LSDonna99@gmail.com or 250-592-2516.

Grade 8 Transition Afternoon

Thursday, May 15 is District Transition afternoon. All current grade 8 students will be going to their high school for an orientation assembly and tour of the school. Students will attend presentations, be led on a tour and have an opportunity to learn more about the school and its programs.

Grade 8 students will be **dismissed early (at 12:11)** to allow students time to travel to their 2014-15 high school. All grade 8's are expected to visit their intended 2014-15 high school for the afternoon. Students attending other high schools are expected to check in with the school counselor when they arrive. At the end of the afternoon, students will be dismissed directly from the high school they are visiting around 2:45pm and they are not expected to return to Lansdowne.

Students are responsible for making their own way to their respective high schools after our 12:11 dismissal as well as making their own way home from the high school after they are dismissed - please discuss with your child how they will return home (i.e. Parent pick up, bus, walk, etc.).

Please remind your child that he/she is making a first impression at high school. We trust that he/she will have a responsible and respectful attitude at all times during the visit.

Paul Stevenson
Vice Principal

LMPA

Attention Lansdowne Music Parents – re: Student Accounts

Any money remaining in the individual account of returning students will automatically carry over to the following school year.

If students are leaving the school, or if they are no longer in the music program (as of the end of this school year), and if they have money left in their individual account, this balance may be

- a) kept in trust for future siblings;
- b) reimbursed for music costs related to Lansdowne Middle School (may include rental or purchase of an instrument used for school) or private music lessons (**receipts must be provided for reimbursement**); or
- c) donated to the general music account.

If you wish to leave the money in trust for a future sibling, or if you wish to be reimbursed, contact the LMPA treasurer, Ruth-Ann Webster (krwebster@shaw.ca) or 250-598-2669.

She will need the following:

- a) student's name and grade
- b) name of sibling (if applicable)
- c) receipts for eligible costs
- d) name the cheque is to be made out to, and current mailing address.

All requests must be received by June 15, 2014, no exceptions.

Any money remaining and not kept in trust will be used for the enhancement and enrichment of the music program.

(Source - LMPA Constitution and Bylaws, Section 10.9)

**Our Jubilation in June Concerts will take place in the gym
on June 11 & 12 at 7 PM.**



**We will be holding a 50/50 draw,
have a bake sale and a silent auction.**



**We will also have Fernwood Coffee &
Fairway Gift Certificates for Purchase.**

Hope to see you there!

Volunteer Drivers - Criminal Record Check will be Required by September, 2014

Volunteers are an important part of our school community. By generously donating time and expertise to our school, volunteer drivers support the learning environment for our students, especially transporting students for class fieldtrips and extracurricular sports.

Our school district is committed to ensuring student safety. **With this in mind, drivers who are volunteering to drive any child other than their own will be required to complete a Criminal Record Check (CRC) and Driver's Abstract beginning in the fall of 2014.**

If you can help:

- Complete our school's "Volunteer Driver Form" and provide a copy of your Driver's License and insurance.
- Phone ICBC to get a copy of your Driver's Abstract. Go to the following link to get the phone number for the ICBC office near you: <http://icbc.com/driver-licensing/driving-record>. Once you receive your Driver's Abstract in the mail, please bring it to the school office.
- Apply online for a Criminal Record Check at <https://justice.gov.bc.ca/eCRC/home.html>. Use our school's access code: **MLCHHTWT8Z**.* Your Criminal Record Check will be sent directly to the school.

Criminal Record Check applicants who do not have a credit history of at least six months or have not been living in Canada for at least two years will need to get a Volunteer Driver Letter from the school office to take it to your municipal police department.

If you will possibly be volunteering as a driver for school fieldtrips, extracurricular sports, or other school-related activities next year, we strongly encourage you to complete this process now so you are able to be a driver for our students by this fall. We greatly appreciate all of our volunteer drivers taking the time to complete this process. For further information, please contact the school office.

* The Criminal Record Review Program verifies identities through an Electronic Identity Verification (EIV) process. It is important to know that the Criminal Records Review Program is not running a credit report; it is only using the EIV to verify the applicant's identity and to make sure the personal information contained in the criminal record check form is accurate. No information from this process is retained or stored by the Criminal Record Check Program.



Counsellor's Corner
By Melinda: School Counsellor

PARENTING 101

COME AND HEAR.....



DR ALLISON REES

Speaking on

Sidestepping the Power Struggle

**DR LISA
GUNDERSON**

on

Don't Believe the Hype

**Combating the commercialization
of childhood**



PENNY FENSKE, MA, RCC

on

Setting Them Up For Life: Resiliency

AND A PANEL DISCUSSION ON 'LETTING GO'

SATURDAY JUNE 7TH 8.30 -12.30 VICTORIA CONFERENCE CENTRE \$35.00 PER TICKET

TO RSVP CALL JENNIFER AT 250-389-6755 OR TEXT 778-922-2826 OR PURCHASE AT THE DOOR

Want to go to New York City?



Lansdowne Middle School's trip to France was a wonderful success this past Spring Break. Five students from grade 7 and 8 had an opportunity to travel to a different country, learn from a different culture and language, eat local food, visit monuments and sites that they have only before seen in pictures and make memories together that will last a lifetime.

This year's school trip destination is New York City!!!

Expected departure and return March 9th to March 12th 2015 (Spring Break)

An information meeting will be held on Wednesday May 21st in the Lansdowne school library at 7pm. Registration will open May 21st at 9pm and will be on a first come first serve basis. This opportunity is open only to students who consistently demonstrate high levels of social responsibility and adherence to Lansdowne's Code of Conduct

Explore the very best of the Big Apple, from the bustle of Times Square to the stunning skyline view from the Empire State Building. Get back in touch with nature in Central park and also visit the National September 11 Memorial. See a Broadway show as well as the Statue of Liberty up close and learn the rich history behind one of the world's most exciting cities! Price of the trip is \$2,399 and it includes the following: Round-trip flights, breakfast and dinner daily, 3 overnight stays in hotels with private bathrooms, Tour Director with you 24 hours a day, customary gratuities and entrance to: Empire State Building; National September 11 Memorial & Museum; Metropolitan Museum of Art; 2 Broadway shows; Ferry to the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island.

**If you are unable to attend the meeting please contact Mme Beaulac
for more information cbeaulac@sd61.bc.ca**