

Springwood Middle School

450 Despard Avenue, Box 130, Parksville, BC V9P 2G3

Telephone (250) 248-2038 Fax (250) 954-1825

B. Nikula, Principal

J. Williams, Vice-Principal

PARENT NEWSLETTER #1

September 11, 2009

IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR CALENDAR

Mon., Sept. 14	PAC Meeting @ 7:00 pm
Tues., Sept. 15	Individual Photo Day (9:00 – 3:00)
Tues., Sept. 22	Meet The Teacher Night at 7:00 pm
Wed., Sept. 23	Grade 6 Band Instrument Rental Night (7:00 – 8:30)
Fri., Sept. 25	School Planning Day (no students in session)
Mon., Oct. 5	Grade 6 Immunization @ 9:00 am

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL WELCOME BACK!

Dear Parents, Caregivers, and the SMS Community:

The floors are waxed, the lawns are mowed, the classrooms are ready, the staff is rested and eager, so **“game on”**. To new members of the SMS community, welcome to a wonderful school. To those returning, welcome home. We are off to a great start.

Many thanks to parents for having your youngsters prepared for the first day and also helping us through the changes we encounter in transportation, pick-up, and drop-off of students. We are grateful for your patience.

We strongly encourage parents to maintain communication with teachers and other staff throughout the year. Our good relationships with parents are essential to student success and positive school climate. Please call, send an e-mail, correspond by planner, or arrange appointments with us as you feel the need. Please feel free to call me also.

We aspire to go completely electronic in the distribution of our newsletters by the end of December with paper copies available at the office. If we do not already have your e-mail address, please provide it to Ms. Webb at the SMS office and we will add you to our bank of recipients.

On behalf of my wife Jessica, our daughter Addie, and new baby to come, I would like to pass on a personal thank you to all who have made us feel so welcome in our new school. We look forward to long relationships with the students and families of SMS.

Sincerely and Respectfully,
Brian Nikula (Mr.Nik), Principal

SPRINGWOOD MIDDLE SCHOOL STAFF 2009/20010

Principal: **Mr. B. Nikula**

Vice-Principal: **Mr. John Williams**

Grade 6 Homeroom Teachers:

6-1 **Ms.M.Holman/Ms.C.Mattice**
6-2 **Ms. T. Olesen**
6-3 **Ms. K. Faa/Ms.C.Mattice**
6-4 **Mr. S. Vollmers**
6-7 **Ms. M. Morgan**
6-7F **Ms. M. Borelli**

Grade 7 Homeroom Teachers:

7-1 **Mr. T. Brown**
7-2 **Mr. B. Davidsen**
7-3 **Ms. L. Hockin-Grant**
7-4 **Mr. J. Ndiaye**
6-7 **Ms. Morgan**
6-7F **Ms. M. Borelli**

Grade 8 Homeroom Teachers:

8-1 **Ms. R. Pawliuk**
8-2 **Ms. B. Materi**
8-3 **Mr. D. Cousins**
8-4 **Mrs. S. Preston**

SPECIALIST TEACHERS:

<u>Librarian:</u>	Ms. E. Inouye	<u>Learning Resource Center:</u>	Ms. L. Henderson
<u>Physical Education:</u>	Ms. R. Crozier & Mr. B. Davidsen	<u>Art:</u>	Mr. T. Brown
<u>Home Economics:</u>	Ms. R. Pawliuk	<u>Computers:</u>	Mr. M. Woods
		<u>Counselor:</u>	Ms. M. Dawley
<u>Special Needs Program:</u>	Ms. T. Boquist	<u>Industrial Education:</u>	Mr. R. Burton
<u>Boost Program:</u>	Ms. G. Bertrand	<u>Drama:</u>	Ms. K. Faa/Ms. C. Mattice

Education Assistants/Noon Hour Supervisors:

M. F. Amos
Ms. S. Drake
Ms. J. Gresham
Ms. P. Roenicke
Ms. A. Russi
Ms. K. Tomlinson

Ms. C. Brownlee
Ms. M. Muir
Mrs. D. Dunagan
Ms. D. Tufts
Ms. G. Vulliamy

Office Secretaries:

Ms. B. Davis
Ms. C. Webb

Native Liaison Worker:
Ms. C. Manson

Child Care Worker:
Ms. S. Couture

Custodians:

Mr. F. Devito
Mr. J. Karn

Library Aide:
Ms. B. Lindsay

PAC MEETING MONDAY, SEPT. 14, 2009 – All parents are invited to the first PAC meeting of the year to be held at 7:00 p.m. in the library at Springwood Middle School. The administration is looking forward to working with you throughout the school year.

GRADE 6 BAND INSTRUMENT RENTAL NIGHT – On Wednesday evening, September 23rd between 7:00 pm and 8:30 pm the band students and their parents should come to the SMS band room to rent/purchase a band instrument from a Long & McQuade representative. Your child will be bringing home a letter during the first week of school explaining the process of selecting a band instrument and a price list and information about renting/purchasing a band instrument.



INDIVIDUAL PHOTO DAY – Tuesday, September 15, starting at 9:05 a.m. Pictures are being taken early so that student photos can be used for library cards with bar codes. Envelopes have been sent home and are to be given to the photographer complete with payment on photo day.

HEPATITIS B, MENINGOCOCCAL C, VARICELLA and HUMAN PAPILLOMAVIRUS IMMUNIZATIONS – Grade 6 students will receive the first of two Hepatitis B immunizations on the morning of Monday, October 5th, starting at 9:00 a.m., an immunization for Meningococcal C, Varicella (Chickenpox) and Human Papillomavirus for girls only. Immunization cards have been sent home with all students, 1 for boys and 2 for girls. Please return the **Consent forms**, to your child's teacher before Tuesday, September 22nd. If you have any questions, please call the school's public health nurse, **Christine Urquhart**, at 248-2044.

COMMUNICATION - Communication is the cornerstone of building a healthy and happy school and community. Should parents feel the need or desire to share a concern regarding their children, please call the teacher directly. The quickest way to resolve a potential problem is to address it immediately with the school. Remember, we have the same goal: to provide a quality education for your children in a happy, positive environment. To ensure that all communication from the school reaches parents the school will include a tear-off on all newsletters for parents to sign, give suggestions, provide feedback, and then return to the school. Your support to help this system work is greatly appreciated.

DROP OFF / PICK UP ZONE – Students are to be dropped off at the rear or side entrances of the school to avoid congestion. Please do not pick up students in the front parking lot of the school or anywhere along Despard where there are posted **NO PARKING** signs, especially near crosswalks. Please do not park in the turn-around at the front door or along yellow curbs as this is the bus pick up zone. Vehicles parked along yellow curbs will be towed away at owner's expense. Your assistance and cooperation to help make our parking lots and street safe for our students are appreciated.



STUDENT EARLY DISMISSAL - Parents are asked to report to the office to pick up students requiring early dismissals. Students will then be called from class to sign out of the school. If a student has to leave the school grounds at any time during school hours including lunch time, please have the student sign out at the office and bring written permission from a parent or guardian.

TEXTBOOKS - Students are expected to take care of library books and texts issued to them and will be expected to pay for damage to or loss of all textbooks and library books for which they are responsible. If you have found any texts or books from Springwood Middle School over the summer, please return them to the school. Money is refunded if "lost" books that have been paid for are found. All bar-coded textbooks must be kept covered throughout the school year.



LOST AND FOUND ITEMS - During the year, many expensive items of clothing are taken from our "Lost and Found" box to the S.O.S. because they have not been claimed by SMS students. When a name is found on an item of clothing it is returned to the student. To reduce the amount of clothing left unclaimed and sent to the S.O.S., please write your child's name on their clothing on the label or tag.

SUPERVISION - Safety Reminder: Teacher supervision of students begins in the morning at 8:30 a.m. There is no supervision before 8:30 a.m. Students are asked not to arrive earlier in the morning unless they are involved in some organized activity or they have been requested to come for some other reason. Supervision of students is also provided during recess and during the lunch break. After the 3:00 p.m. dismissal, students are expected to be in the bus line-up or on their way home. After school, a teacher is on supervision at the bus line-up until the last bus leaves. There is no supervision after this time on regular school days.

STUDENT/PARENT HANDBOOK - All students are required to purchase a student handbook from the school as part of their supplies. Cost of the handbook is \$6.00. The handbook can be used as a reference for such topics as: the school calendar, code of conduct, homework policy, school district policies, and student timetable. This handbook contains valuable information for parents as well.

VERIFICATION SHEETS - Students will be bringing home this sheet to gather information. Please update/complete, sign the sheet and return it to the school as soon as possible to help us update our records. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated. Thank you!

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS - All grade 6 students and students new to the school should pay their \$3.00 for Emergency Preparedness supplies to their homeroom teacher as soon as possible. If you would like to update your child's form, please pick up an Emergency Preparedness Form at the office.

STUDENTS WITH MEDICAL PROBLEMS/ALERTS

Please note it is the responsibility of parents/guardians to make the child's school aware of any **life threatening** medical problem(s) your child(ren) may have. This includes any **changes** in condition for those students already on our Medical Alert file.

Parents are to provide medication in its original container clearly marked with the student's name. Please check the expiration date of the medication. The school cannot administer any medication unless the required form, "Request for Administration of Physician Prescribed Medication" has been completed. If the medication requires administration (e.g., injection), it is important that those charged with the procedure have the proper training. Please call the Health Unit at 248-2044 for assistance.

Please advise the school office and we will determine the specific medical questionnaire for you to fill out, e.g., asthma care plan, insect allergy, seizure follow-up, food allergy, diabetes care plan, or request for administration of physician prescribed medication. Our public health nurse will contact you if further information is required.

PERSONAL PLANNING/CAREER AND PERSONAL PLANNING - As required, we are publishing Policy No. 5095 in its entirety: "The Board of School Trustees recognizes that for a number of reasons parents may wish to have their child(ren) **exempted** from certain components of the Personal Planning and Career and Personal Planning Curriculums. The Board supports the rights of these parents and, subject to the following regulations, students may be **exempted** from instructional sessions on those topics the parent specifies.

BICYCLES AND SAFETY – Wearing a helmet is the law. Please ensure that helmets are worn. The RCMP will be making patrols at Springwood, and students will be fined for failing to wear a helmet. The school can assume no responsibility for bicycles which are lost or damaged during school hours. Bicycles are not to be ridden on school grounds or in the parking lot and should be parked in the bike racks provided. Bicycles must be locked. Pedestrians are encouraged to use sidewalks and crosswalks. Respect for people and property should be stressed at all times.



CRIMINAL RECORD CHECKS – All **new** volunteers at Springwood Middle School must fill out a Consent for Disclosure of Criminal Record Information at the Parksville RCMP detachment. If you will be doing any kind of volunteering in the school or driving, please fill one out as soon as possible in order to allow for the RCMP to have completed their record checks in good time for our activities. If you have previously had a check completed while your child attended our school, a copy of your Criminal Record Check may already be on file in the office. It is not necessary to have it redone. At present, the RCMP does NOT require that criminal record checks be done annually.

ATTENDANCE PROCEDURES – Please phone the school in the morning if your child will be late or absent.

SAFETY AND SECURITY – Just a reminder that parents are to **check in at the office** when arriving at school. **Please do not go to your child's classroom. We will call your child to the office** so that you can meet with him or her. If you are waiting for your child after school, **please wait in the foyer** until the 3:00 p.m. bell rings, before picking up your child. This practice eliminates the possibility of strangers wandering the school during school time and the interruption of instructional time. Your cooperation on this practice is for the **safety of students and staff**.

VISITOR SIGN-IN – For the safety of our students and staff, please **check in** at the office on arrival and **check out** at the office upon leaving. Thank you for helping us to eliminate the possibility of strangers wandering throughout the school and for helping reduce some of the class time interruptions. The Fire Marshall also requires us to know who is in the building during school hours.

PARENT/TEACHER MEETINGS – If you would like to talk to or meet with a teacher, please call the school office. Also, if you have a meeting with a teacher, please report to the office so the teacher can be called to let them know you have arrived for your appointment. Please do not go directly to classrooms as it may interrupt the class, the class may be in another part of the school, and the teacher may not have the time to address your concern adequately while responsible for a class. Communication is vital in the parent/school relationship. Through the school office we attempt to facilitate the process for everyone.

PHONE CALL REMINDERS – To reduce the number of classroom interruptions during class time, the following reminders are timely: **Students** are strongly encouraged to make their after-school arrangements (after-practice pick-ups, studying together, visiting a friend, etc.) at home in the evening. The office phone is **not** for students to use except in emergencies. **Please bring 25 cents** to use the lobby phone for non-emergency calls. **Parents**, we are glad to pass along messages to students in an emergency or if something comes up during the day such as a medical appointment, but in most cases, when you can, please arrange pick-ups at home and send a note to school. Students may not usually receive phone calls at school from other students.



HOMEWORK POLICY – Please note that if your child is absent because of illness, parents may request homework on the **third day** of their child's absence, for pick up at 3:00 p.m. on the fourth day of absence. Teachers need **24 to 36 hours notice** to make a homework package, as there often is very little extra time in a school day. For absences of one, two, or three days, most students obtain their work on their return.

STUDENT ACCIDENT INSURANCE – Please be advised that the Qualicum School District does not insure expenses for student injuries that occur on school grounds or during school activities. Those expenses are the responsibility of the parent/guardian unless the Board of Education is proven liable for an injury. The Board of Education is providing the opportunity for families to voluntarily purchase private accident insurance through the IAP Kids Plus™ accident program underwritten by Industrial-Alliance Pacific Life Insurance. An application is attached for your information. The Board of Education encourages all parents to have Student Accident Insurance, either through their own insurance agent or through a Student Accident Insurance Policy. *Board of Education, School District No. 69 (Qualicum)*

H1N1 INFLUENZA INFORMATION FOR CAREGIVERS & PARENTS - How H1N1 influenza is transmitted: The H1N1 flu virus, like other influenza viruses, spreads mainly through the coughing or sneezing of a sick person. It may also be spread when a person touches something that is contaminated with the virus and then touches his or her eyes, nose, or mouth. Young children, pregnant women, and people with chronic diseases such as asthma, diabetes, or heart disease may be at higher risk for complications from this infection.

Symptoms: In most children, the symptoms of the H1N1 flu virus are similar to the symptoms of regular flu. They include: fever, cough, sore throat, body aches, headache, chills and fatigue, occasionally vomiting and diarrhea.

Preventative measures: There are everyday actions that can help prevent the spread of germs that can cause respiratory illnesses like the H1N1 flu virus:

- Teach your children to wash their hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to cough and sneeze into a tissue or into the inside of their elbow. Be sure to set a good example by doing this yourself.
- Teach your children to stay at least two metres (six feet) away from people who are sick.
- Children who are sick should stay home from school and daycare and stay away from other people until they are feeling better and able to fully participate in normal activities.

Medically fragile child - For this guidance, a medically fragile child is a child who needs intensive, life sustaining medical assistance or therapy, and needs assistance with daily living (for example, a child who uses an oxygen tank, has trouble moving, is fed through a tube, needs suctioning, or is on a ventilator). Many of these children need skilled nursing care and special medical equipment. These medically fragile children may have chronic lung disease, severe cerebral palsy, muscular dystrophy, immunodeficiency, or problems with their metabolism.

If your child is sick - While the majority of H1N1 cases in B.C. have been relatively mild, it is important to take proper precautions:

- Unless they need medical attention, keep children who are sick at home. Do not send them to school or daycare until they are feeling better and able to fully participate in normal activities.
- If your child needs to see a doctor or health-care provider, call ahead and report your child's symptoms.
- Have them drink a lot of liquid (juice, soups, Pedialyte®).
- Keep the sick child comfortable. Rest is important.
- For fever, sore throat, and muscle aches, you can use fever-reducing medicines that your doctor recommends based on your child's age. Do not use aspirin with children or teenagers.
- If someone in your home is sick, keep them away from those who are not sick.
- Keep tissues close to the sick person and have a trash bag within reach for disposing used tissues.
- Please inform your child's school that they are home sick with flu like symptoms

School closure policy - Based on the experience to date about the current H1N1 situation, public health officials in B.C. do not anticipate that closures of individual schools, community-wide closures, or province wide closures will be useful for controlling the transmission and impact of H1N1.

Vaccine - Canada is working on an H1N1 vaccine, which will be made available as per national guidelines when it is ready. Once the vaccine arrives in British Columbia (expected in November), people will be able to get immunized at their doctor's office or at an immunization clinic set up especially to deliver the vaccine. Consultations are underway that would allow pharmacists to deliver vaccinations as well.

Antiviral medication - Those in high-risk categories (pregnant women, young children and people with underlying health conditions such as asthma, diabetes and morbid obesity) should visit their doctor prior to the fall to determine whether they should be prescribed antivirals in advance, for use in the event they show H1N1 flu symptoms.

You can call HealthLink BC at 8-1-1, 24 hours a day/seven days a week to speak to a nurse if you have more questions or are concerned about any illness/symptoms experienced by you or your children. For the latest facts on the H1N1 flu virus, including back-to-school information, visit www.gov.bc.ca/h1n1.

SMS WEBSITE - Please visit our website www.sms.sd69.bc.ca to read about upcoming school events and **subscribe to our newsletter mailing list.**

COMMUNITY NEWS (THIS SECTION WILL INCLUDE ONLY NON-PROFIT AND VOLUNTEER ADVERTISING)



ELEVATE DANCE STUDIO – Registration is Sept. 12/09 @ Christian Fellowship Church, 825 Village Way, Qualicum Beach from 10:00 am – 1:00 pm. Boy & girls, ages 6 – 17 years. For more information go to www.cfcchurch.com or call Rene @ 250-821-1088.

MUSICAL and DRAMATIC THEATRE – Classes for ages 7 to 13 will be held Wednesdays from 4:00 to 5:30 pm beginning on October 7th. For information contact tstavroff@shaw.ca or 250-752-9867.

PARKSVILLE BALLET SCHOOL – at Parksville Centre for the Performing Arts, 425 E. Stanford Street, Registration on now. Fall season begins September 14th. Phone 250-248-9522 for more information. Dance classes for all ages (18 months to adult). Ballet, Jazz, Modern, Kinder Classes, Hip-Hop, Musical Theatre, Tap, National Dance & Fusion.

AWANA – Oceanside Community Church in Parksville are running the Awana Program this school year for children ages 5 – 11 years. It is a fun packed program that children love – call 250-248-5333 if you have questions or require further information. An information BBQ is planned for Wednesday, September 16th at 5:30 pm at 1420 Alberni Hwy. RSVP.

OCEANSIDE MINOR HOCKEY – It's not too late to register for hockey for the 2009-2010 season. Registration packages can be picked up at Sports Traders or Oceanside Place. For more information, please visit our website at www.oceansidehockey.com or e-mail leslieklassen@shaw.ca.



ROYAL CANADIAN AIR CADETS – Ongoing registration every Tuesday beginning September 15, 2009 at Oceanside Middle School from 6:15 pm to 9:00 pm. For more information contact: CO Capt. J. Cloke 250-716-9149 or Capt. E. Reid 250-752-5382 or CI L. Farrell 250-468-1448.

VISIT: www.sms.sd69.bc.ca

