



The High School

at Vancouver Island University

Quarter 2 Newsletter—2014

Principal's Corner

It is hard to believe that another quarter has come and gone! We have had a busy fall and winter and we are very proud of our students' achievements over the last few months. At this time, we are happy to share with you some of the highlights of our last two months. As you can see in this Newsletter, aside from their academic program, our students have been involved in all kinds of other activities. Fieldtrips and special events are an excellent way for our students to practice listening and speaking in English. Furthermore, they are discovering their new country and province through hands-on activities. We have much in store for the third quarter as well!

Please note that we are offering all of our students the opportunity to do some homework and get extra help at school after the regular school day. A teacher is available twice a week from 2:30 until 3:30 and is ready to supervise students as they complete assignments and homework. This means that our students have access to extra tuition and have a readily available teacher help them if they encounter any difficulties. You, as parents, have the option of making this a mandatory activity for your child. Please note that if this is indeed what you would like, you simply need to send me an email and we shall follow through and ensure your son or daughter attends every session. There is no extra cost for this activity!

Along the same vein, we are offering extra-curricular activities twice a week after school. These activities include a very popular cooking club, some arts related sessions as well as physical activities. Again, should you wish your child to participate and should you want it to be a mandatory activity for your son or daughter, simply let us know and we shall ensure that we do the follow-up. Again, there is no extra cost for your child to participate. We have scheduled both the extra-help/study sessions and the extra-curricular activities to occur on alternate days. This means that your child could be making good use of an extra hour of schooling every day except Friday.

I am very pleased to let you know that we now have an awards program well in place. I have included the list of awards recipients for our first term. We are not yet ready to publish the list of award recipients for the second quarter, but we will send you this information in the next few weeks.

At this time, I am busy recruiting students for next year and had a very productive time in Nigeria and Kenya. It is always a pleasure meeting with you as parents and agents when I am spending time in your country. I enjoy learning more about the different educational systems and how we fit within the different programs.

In the next few weeks, we will be in a position to share with you our summer programs and our new and exciting programs for the next academic year! Until then, please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions or suggestions.

Francine Frisson



Awards and Student Recognition

We have had our first Awards and Student Recognition Assembly for the First Quarter of the 2013-2014 School year. It is our pleasure to share with you the list of awards and recipients.

The purpose of THS's awards program is to recognize student achievement and celebrate successes with the additional purpose of giving students the opportunity to set goals and reach for their best. Such programs often contribute to improved student morale and higher performance. The program is intended to recognize students in a variety of ways and in a variety of areas. On a quarterly basis and during a school wide assembly, students receive certificates, pins, plaques and other items to commemorate their achievements.

The Faculty of International Education Dean's Award

The award was presented to the student(who has:

- Adapted well to his/her new school and country or is Canadian student who has been particularly welcoming and has adapted well to his/her new multicultural school setting.
- Demonstrated a keen interest in his/her international friends
- Shared with pride information about his/her own country
- Maintained good study habits

Teachers have nominated students for this award and the recipient is: **Mako Matsui**

The Principal's Awards for Academic Excellence

The award is based on the highest average and was presented to the top academic students:

Thu Trang Bui

Maria Pinheiro Liberal

Amanda Stevenson

Most Improved Student

This award was presented to a student who has demonstrated improved academic progress due to diligence and hard work. Teachers nominated students for this award and the recipient was:

Zi (Thunder) Yang



Most Dedicated Learner Award

Awarded to a student who has demonstrated outstanding work habits by completing assignments well and on time, by participating in class, communicating with their teachers and peers, helped others and had good attendance. Teachers nominated students for this award and the recipient was:

Yaroslava Kulikova

Honour Roll

This award was presented to all students who have maintained a B average of 73% or above, calculated on the basis of report card marks.

Hesham Alaboodi

Mariia Burovska

Andres Clavijo Bolanos

Ida Harst

Xingyu Iris Li

Cuong Anderson Ngo

Diana Shtytcer

Chun Hoi Raymond Yeung

Koffi Rene Douvon

Robyn Bartle

Sifei Sophie Chen

Ha Ngan Ngoc Sophie Dao

Yaroslava Kulikova

Mako Matsui

Pengfei Pei

Leticia Souza Nunes

Chunjing Vivian Zhang

Amanda Stevenson

Thu Trang Bui

Siru Vicky Chen

Lea Dittmar

Caleb Lewis

Maria Nakiyingi

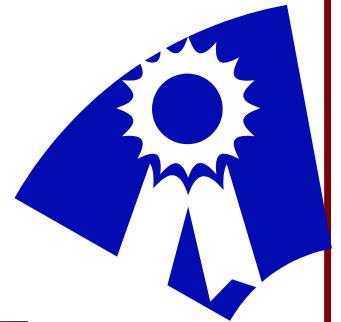
Maria Pinheiro Liberal

Mary Taker

Minting Abby Zheng

Cheuk Hang Andrew Li

**We would like to extend our most sincere congratulations
to all the award recipients!**



Academic News

Vancouver Island University is now a testing location for IELTS exams. The International English Language Testing System (IELTS) is the world's leading English language proficiency test, with over 2 million tests taken last year for education, career and immigration purposes. The IELTS test score is recognized by thousands of organizations in 135 countries as a trusted and valid indicator of the ability to communicate in English.

Students at The High School will be assisted in their IELTS test preparation. Study sessions after school, study guides, and teacher assistance are part of our new initiatives to help students who plan on writing this exam to assist them with their post-secondary plans.

The next IELTS exam at Vancouver Island University is scheduled for April 5th and students who are interested should see Mr. Yaremchuk for registration and assistance.

Activities

This past quarter has been full of special events and activities at THS! We have included a number of pictures to illustrate some of these events. As you will see, lots of fun through cultural experiences, has been had by all.

Here is a sampling of activities which have taken part so far this year:



Museum Trip—January 14th

Mr. Muir's Social Studies 10 class took a trip to the Nanaimo Museum to see and touch some of the history they were learning about in the classroom. One of the highlights was the visit to Nanaimo's Bastion, an original Hudson's Bay Company fortification that was built in 1853.



Christmas Dinner—December 20th

The students were treated to a traditional Christmas dinner on the final day before the holidays. The meal was delicious! We particularly enjoyed the snow falling





Fine Dining Experience—January 7th

Mrs. Kubota's Foods and Nutrition 12 class went to VIU's Discovery Room restaurant for table manner practice in a fine dining setting. The meal and view from their table were both excellent! They also visited VIU's Culinary Arts and Professional Baking and Pastry Arts programs the following week.



Ice Hockey Game—January 17th

A group of students enjoyed a Canadian tradition by attending an ice hockey game. The Nanaimo Clippers did not win, but the group still had a great time!

**Sturgeon Centre Trip—
January 22nd**

Mrs. MacDonald's Biology 11 class took a trip to VIU's International Centre for Sturgeon Studies (ICSS). The ICSS conducts field and laboratory research projects as well as teaches students and the general public about these amazing fish.



**Christmas Trip to Victoria
and Butchart Gardens—
December 19th**

Just before the Winter Break, THS took a trip to Victoria, British Columbia's capital city. Highlights included a visit to the Royal British Columbia Museum, walking around historic downtown Victoria, and a delightful evening walk through the light display at the gardens.

Whistler Trip

A large group of students from The High School travelled to Whistler Mountain to enjoy skiing and snowboarding in mid-December.

This popular annual trip is a great opportunity for students to discover one of the most famous tourist destinations in Canada and the world.

The site of the 2010 Winter Olympic Games was Whistler-Vancouver and our students enjoyed the stunning mountain scenery and the fantastic winter sports that Whistler has to offer.



Hike Around Westwood Lake

On December 6th, a group of our students ventured out for a hike around Westwood Lake. This popular trail is located in a beautiful area of Nanaimo and allowed the students to experience one of Nanaimo's many parks.

Mr. Muir and Ms. MacDonald braved the cold weather with our students to enjoy the fresh air and get some fitness.

Physical activity is an important part of our program here at The High School and we regularly plan hikes, skating trips, bowling, and other fun events.

Nanaimo has a diverse and beautiful natural environment for residents and visitors to enjoy!



CALENDAR 2014

Third Quarter

February 3	New Student Orientation and Assessment
February 4	First Day of classes for all Students
February 10	Family Day – No Classes
March 14	Last Day of Classes before Spring Break
March 24	First Day of Classes after Spring Break
April 10-11	Provincial Examinations
April 16-17	In-school Examinations in morning only
April 18	Good Friday – No Classes
April 21	Easter Monday- No Classes



Fourth Quarter

April 22	New Student Orientation/Assessment
April 23	First Day of Classes for all Students
May 19	Victoria Day – No Classes
June 18-26	Provincial Examinations
June 25-26	In-School Examinations in morning only
June 27	Administration Day – No Classes





Happy students who enjoyed a day of curling in Nanaimo

Please contact us with your enquiries about
The High School at Vancouver Island University.

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