

Successes – January 17, 2024 Board Meeting

Stelly's

- A presentation of "Survivors" by Victoria Holocaust Theatre Production was held and over 150 students attended. It was a huge success to have so many students engaging in a play, based on strong primary and secondary information about a historical event that connects to current events. The play also encouraged students to consider our world today and what they, as teenagers can do to address injustices and hate.
- Green Thumb Theatre presented a play for our grade 11 students entitled "Still Falling". This play was a powerful look at what depression and anxiety can look like in a teenager, and how one student copes with his own mental health struggles.
- Attendance Correspondence Focus – Administration have been focusing on sending out attendance emails to families. Our hope is that front loading the accountability of students to attend classes will mean improved attendance and improving learning down the road. We look forward to the time that School Messenger will automate this process.
- Students from Environmental Science and Indigenous Leadership visited the O.U.R. EcoVillage in Shawnigan Lake to learn about sustainable living and design. We helped to build a COBB wall out of clay, learned about permaculture techniques and worked in the greenhouse making plant cuttings, as well as eating a communal lunch of foods grown and raised on the property.



Claremont

- A group of 16 amazing Claremont Pursuit of Excellence students prepared 25 litres of soup for the Victoria Women's Transition House; this was just something they wanted to do together and not an official assignment of any kind.
- Our Robotics Team has won both of the tournaments they have participated in so far this year, collecting 8 of 18 available awards overall for both tournaments... more than any other school by far with nearly 40 teams competing at each event!
- Our year long drama program finished with 6 fantastic performances over two weeks for the play "Elsewhere", with over 50 cast and crew involved and many standing ovations throughout.

ILC

- Would like to acknowledge the support of Elaine Venables at Beacon Community Services and Paul McCormick from Horticulture Centre of the Pacific (HCP) Gardens who have helped to revitalize the ILC Rain Garden so that staff are able to use the space for student learning and support. The garden was created in 2020 and has since become overgrown with weeds and made unusable. In conjunction with HCP a plan was developed for garden rejuvenation. Students from Pacific Horticulture College began the process of clearing the overgrowth and did a wonderful job! The next step is to plan for overwintering and maintenance needs of the garden. In the spring, plans are to build a bridge in the garden through our District Skills Training Apprenticeship Carpentry (STAC) program and to develop learning spaces for ILC students and preschool students. The garden has already proven to be a place for resilience, connection, and hope and has inspired multiple ripples of goodness within our community.



Bayside

During the holiday season Bayside raised over \$7,000 to support local families through Santa's Anonymous. The Bayside community also provided over 80 boxes of food to donate to the Sidney Lions Foodbank to ensure that our local families were supported. As well, Bayside Sharks are immensely excited to be part of Hockey Day in Canada with the visit of NHL alumni, Sportsnet personalities and all things that represent hockey on January 19th. Hockey has been an integral part of the Bayside community with such alumni as Jordy and Jamie Benn, Matt Irwin, and Micah Zandee Hart, who have demonstrated the shark spirit by representing both their country and their community.

Brentwood

- The grade 4/5 Soccer Jamboree was a great way to celebrate with other Saanich schools. The Brentwood Eagles showed positive sportsmanship and good team spirit!
- Two very well attended winter concerts were held in December. The leadership by music teacher, Mr. Jung was commendable.
- Brentwood Eagles demonstrated generosity in campaigns that supported school families, the local food bank and Warm a Soul Campaign for the holiday season.
- Swim club has started practicing and we have 38 Grade 3, 4, 5 keen swimmers.

North Saanich

- NSMS has installed a Welcome Wall in the office and an updated rendition of our District's Every Child Matters Artwork at the front entrance. A projector has also been installed in the front entrance area that will enable images to be projected and information important to the NSMS school community. Images will include daily announcements, a multicultural calendar, and other information that celebrates the diversity in the learning community. This project expresses the dedication to making sure that all students, families, and staff feel welcomed, are treated respectfully, and have a sense of belonging at NSMS.
- This holiday season, our school NSMS community hosted a "Hawks Help for the Holidays," fundraiser to support our local food bank by collecting cash donations and essential household and hygiene items.

Lochside

- Music teacher, Lisa Alexander is excited to share her recent project with the Board, highlighting the impact of music education in schools. Lochside was registered to take part in the CBC Music Contest and the students in grade 2 & 3 received a national Honourable mention! A [slide deck](#) can be found here to learn more about this contest.

Sidney

- In early November, Sidney Elementary launched a breakfast program called the Healthy Hive. Using funding from the Feeding Futures fund, over 50 students receive a free nutritious breakfast every day. Breakfast is available beginning 25 minutes before the bell with options available for students arriving to school late. It is a drop-in program with some students arriving to school having not had breakfast while others are looking for something to top them up and set them up for success for the rest of the morning. Every day features a different menu including items such as freshly baked muffins, yogurt parfait, and breakfast sandwiches. This program has been a huge success with lots of different partners contributing to its success. Two EAs are hired for an hour before school to prep the food, parent volunteers come daily to assist with clean up, and much of the food is provided from the Peninsula Food Bank or donated by the Fickle Fig Farm Market. The team of staff, parents, and community partners, are excited to continue this program and look for other ways that we can strengthen food security for students and families in the community.