

ConnectED

FALL 2016

A Magazine for the Families of the Nanaimo Ladysmith School District



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Google Apps for Education

Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools is one of many school districts across the province now offering Google Apps for Education.

What is Google Apps for Education?

Google Apps for Education (GAFE) is a suite of tools designed for classroom collaboration, communication and creation. It is cloud-based and designed specifically for educational purposes with features not available to the public. Some of the apps within GAFE include Google docs, Google drive, Google slides, and Google Classroom. The ease of GAFE is that it can be accessed anywhere, anytime and on any device. Users in SD68 have a learn68.ca domain account. This domain allows students to work in a secure walled garden.

What is a walled garden?

The GAFE walled garden allows students security while learning and developing digital citizenship. GAFE, within learn68.ca, is managed by our district allowing greater filtering and application control. Visualize a home on a street, the walled garden incorporates security measures to keep our students safe within the home and neighbourhood. Our K-3 students will have access to GAFE within the "house" (their own classroom).

Our Grades 4-8 students will have access to GAFE within the house and yard. The yard allows them to share docu-

ments with other learn68.ca participants within the school. Our Grades 9-12 students will have access to the entire neighbourhood allowing them to share across the district. Elementary students will not be able to receive emails from outside the walled garden, secondary students can receive outside email.

Why GAFE?

There are many benefits to using GAFE. It is easy to navigate, wonderful for collaboration, and easy to share documents and files within the walled garden. It allows students more flexibility in their working environment, and provides greater access than traditional pen and paper assignments. GAFE tools save work automatically so assignments are never lost. It is quick, collaborative, and enhances delivery of learning and sharing. Students and teachers enjoy using GAFE. It's easy to access all the tools and information you need in one place.

Consent form to use GAFE at Learn68.ca

- Students in Grades 9-12 can sign up for GAFE online.
- Students in Grades 4-9 can sign up by completing a written consent form. This form will be sent home from your child's school.

Google Apps for Education is an effective, efficient and fun way for our students to learn, create and share in a safe environment. ⇐



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Passing along teaching and love to our children

by Aileen Tuck



In the fall of 2015 we were doing lessons on the impacts of colonization and the residential school era. A part of this work was introduced through the powerful art work of Christi Belcourt and her incredible work titled: GINIIGAANIIMENAANING (Looking Ahead) a stained glass project located in the Ottawa Parliament Building.

In the stained glass piece there is a beautiful image of a mother holding her child. This image inspired me to create a stained glass quilt/wall hanging that represented the teachings embedded in the stained glass project.

The teaching is that in our Aboriginal history our parents may not have been able to impart their love for their children due to the impacts of residential school. In this image however, we are in a place where we can pass along our teachings and love to our children.

I asked each student to create their own representation of this love and connection to their own children. As a group, the students cut out the material and shapes required to put the mother and child together. Once she was formed they worked on their own piece.

With the support of the Nanaimo Quilters guild, in particular Lori Hargreaves, we forged forward in the creation of a beautiful quilt.

“...was able to represent, in my piece, the gratitude I have for being a mother of a beautiful child...”

Each student created their own unique piece and had their own experience in creating it. One student stated that the quilt was a merging of her and her son. When asked about the process she said: “It helped me understand more about the impacts of the residential school system and how important it is for me to connect with my son. I was able to represent in my piece, the gratitude I have for being a mother of a beautiful child, a precious gift in my life.” (Tamara Milligan)

In our program we strive to encourage education through practical projects and experiential learning, and the creation of this quilt is a perfect representation of that.

We are extremely proud of our student’s ability to incorporate their children in the majority of their assignments here at Ravens Lelum. ↪

Lifesaving skills for students

by Shauna DeBodt

Imagine if all of our children are comfortable around the water and have basic lifesaving skills. Thanks to the Lifesaving Society, we are getting closer to that goal.

In June, Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools (NLPS) received a grant from the Lifesaving Society in the amount of \$41,564 to provide the Swim to Survive program lessons for Grades 3 and 7 students.

The program provides basic training for unexpected falls into deep water and teaches practical lifesaving skills.

Although this is the third consecutive year that Swim to Survive was delivered to Grade 3s, it is the first year the program was expanded to include Grade 7s.

In fact, NLPS is the first district in the province to provide drowning prevention lessons to both Grades 3 and 7 students. This year alone, over 2,000 students received the training.

Principal and Healthy Schools Coordinator, Jacquie Poulin said, "Research has shown that basic water survival skills can decrease drownings. We also know that talking openly with youth about risk-taking behaviour can reduce accidents. This program will focus on both of these things with all our Grade 7s."

A recent Canadian poll found that most parents are confident about their children being around water, yet only half of those youth have ever had swimming lessons, or they received the lessons more than five years ago.

This becomes increasingly concerning as children get older. They become more independent, spending more time with friends and less time with adult supervision.

Teenagers are also known to engage in more risk-taking and thrill-seeking behaviour. With this independence, they are at a greater risk for drowning.

Dale Miller, Executive Director of the Lifesaving Society – BC & Yukon Branch said, "The Swim to Survive program will provide thousands of children and youth with some basic awareness and lifesaving skills that will someday save a life – their own or that of a loved one. The Lifesaving Society's objective is to prevent drowning, and NLPS's leadership in providing Swim to Survive training to their students certainly help to decrease the number of water-related tragedies in BC."

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This year, Grade 3 students received classroom visits and lessons at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre (NAC), while Grade 7 students had lessons at the NAC and one at Westwood Lake.

Students were divided into groups of 12 – 15 students per lifeguard or instructor. They learned how to recognize signs of distress in the water; how to alert someone if they were in distress; and how to remain calm.

Although the water at Westwood Lake was still pretty chilly in June, students were attentive while the instructors dove into the lessons.

Thanks to the partnerships with the Lifesaving Society, The City of Nanaimo and Town of Ladysmith, NLPS hopes to continue the program for many years to come. ⇨



[More photos here...](#)



From babies to seniors - something for everyone!

The Nanaimo Conservatory of Music is currently registering students for fall and winter music lessons. The Conservatory of Music has been providing high quality music instruction to students - from babies to seniors, since 1977.

Still time to register for fall and winter music lessons

Have you always wanted to play a musical instrument? Is your child showing promising signs of musical ability? There is still time to register for fall and winter music lessons at the Nanaimo Conservatory of Music.

The Conservatory is unique in the Central Vancouver Island area. It has provided in-

struction in both classical and jazz traditions, wind and string ensembles, orchestral and recorder groups, a band program, the adult chamber choir as well as the Nanaimo Youth Choir.

In 1977, there were only six teachers. Since then, it has grown to 29 teachers.

To explore all the options that are available at the Nanaimo Conservatory of Music call (250) 754-4611 or drop by the office in the Old City Quarter downtown at 375 Selby Street from 11 a.m. until 6 p.m.

From babies to seniors – there is something for everyone! Check out the new website www.ncmusic.ca to find the perfect fit for you.

Let's make beautiful music! ➔

You should know...

A spin-off from 68 Hoorays! from staff newsletter *Focus 68* (just a snip-it of accomplishments and accolades about staff and students)

Since 2010, Teacher Luc Begin has raised \$240,000 during his fundraising events for the Ride to Conquer Cancer event. The money raised goes towards research and programs for the B.C. Cancer Foundation.

[Nanaimo News Bulletin - Chris Bush](#)

Congratulations Grade 5/6 Teacher Isabelle Lavoie on becoming a Google innovator. To achieve this certification, you must pass four levels of certification with Google. The final hurdle is project-based.

Check out her successful [application video](#) and more details about the project.

Staff would like to give a shout out to Tony Elliott for always enriching our school district with Aboriginal ways of knowing and being!

Mountain View student Brooklyn Chalmers continues to pursue her acting career. To name just a few of her accomplishments, she has worked on several short films, been in two National commercials, as well as Beyond Control – a full-length film that has been submitted to the Toronto International and Vancouver International film festivals.

Brooklyn has been involved in hip hop; nominated for two Joey Awards; she won a silver award in 2015 for an actress in a supporting role for the film Mining Moon, and is very involved with the Mid Island Métis community.

Look forward to seeing Brooklyn's accomplishments in the future!

[Engaging in Energy Management](#)
- A School District Success Story

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Check out our [media page](#) throughout the year to see what else has been happening.

Send us your story ideas, comments or kudos to students and staff to communications@sd68.bc.ca. We'd love to hear from you!

Stock the Lockers fundraiser helps local students in need

by Marianne Van Toor



Because the cost of school supplies, new clothes and shoes is expensive, a new school year is often a challenging time for many local families - especially those with more than one child in school.

For the seventh year in a row, local community charity Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation (NLSF) held its annual Stock the Lockers fundraiser to help local students whose families can't afford the extra expense of school-related costs.

"Many children come to school without even the basic necessities - food, school supplies, clean clothes. For many, it's difficult to participate in such things as sports, band, field trips and grad ceremonies without some financial support," says Crystal Dennison, Executive Director of NLSF.

"Thanks to generous donors we're able to support these students in a variety of ways so they can have equal opportunities to thrive in school. Starting the school year off with the right supplies helps ensure that all students are able to come to school ready to learn," she adds.

BC has historically one of the highest child poverty rates in the country, and at Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools, one in five students is affected by poverty, according to the 2015 State of the Child Report produced by the Greater Nanaimo Early Years Partnership.

For many young families it is hard to make ends meet because many jobs are now part-time, and people are having

to work multiple jobs. Starting incomes haven't changed much but the cost of housing has increased four times compared to prices back in the 1970s, and many young parents are carrying heavy student debt loads because of the high cost of education. The region also has a high proportion of single-parent families - many of them women.

"Our community partners are making a big difference in the lives of many local students..."

Dennison works closely with principals and teachers, who know which children need support. "Despite issues of poverty, many students are successful in their academic achievements. Giving them a helping hand in the form of school supplies, adequate footwear for PE, clean clothes, breakfast, lunch, and other unmet basic needs allows them to focus on their education, and helps support them on the road to making a better future for themselves."

"Our community partners are making a big difference in the lives of many local students. They are helping them get an education, which is so important in today's society," she says.

The Schools Foundation partners with the Breakfast Club of Canada which supports eight Nanaimo schools where 5,500 meals are served monthly.

With the high cost of groceries, the Schools Foundation is seeing a sharp increase in requests from schools for funds to support food programs.

At the Stock the Lockers kick-off, DP World who operates the deep sea port at Duke Point, gave a \$10,000 donation that will provide 4,000 meals for students in need.

"Being able to start the day with a nutritious breakfast will help set students up for a successful day of learning, and we're so grateful for DP World's donation," says Dennison.

The three-week Stock the Lockers campaign raised more than \$45,000, and was supported by Staples, Coastal Community Credit Union branches, Ladysmith & District Credit Union, and Country Grocer stores. Media sponsors Nanaimo News Bulletin, CTV, Wave/Wolf radio stations, and Shaw TV helped spread the message.

"Stock the Lockers is about making an investment in our children's future, as well as an investment into our community."

"To quote the saying 'It takes a village to raise a child' - Stock the Lockers is a great example of communities coming together to help raise our children," says Dennison. ↪