



Calendar Dates



December 7

- PAC Meeting
7:00 pm
School Library

December 9

- PAC Gift Emporium
- Report Cards go home (see info on page 3)

December 13 & 14

- Winter Celebration of Music
9:00 am & 7:00pm
School Gym

December 16

- Winter Spirit Day
- Last day of school before
Winter Break

January 3, Tuesday

- Students return to school
(Note there is no school on
Monday, January 2)

January 9

- LMPA Meeting

January 11

- PAC Meeting
7:00 pm
School Library

January 27

- Pro-D Day

Principal's Message: Of Awards, Gardens, and Report Cards

November was a particularly exciting month at Lansdowne. First, we were honoured with a **national award** presented at the November 21st meeting of School District's Board of Education. The Greater Victoria School District's Board of Education presented **Lansdowne teacher Kristy Kilpatrick** with the 2010-11 **Prime Minister's Award for Teaching Excellence**. A broad array of family, friends, colleagues, and community partners were there to cheer on Ms. Kilpatrick as she accepted this national award, which is presented annually to fifty teachers across Canada for their exemplary innovation, collaboration, and commitment! This moment not only recognized Ms. Kilpatrick's outstanding work as a teacher, but also (as Kristy will be the first to acknowledge) the professional collaboration of Lansdowne's faculty as a whole. On that note, following this presentation to Ms. Kilpatrick, I was pleased to accept, on behalf of the entire Lansdowne school community, a **related PM Award** presented to **Lansdowne Middle School for our "outstanding support of teaching excellence"**. I was so delighted to see Kristy receive this extraordinary and well-deserved honour as well as proud of Lansdowne's entire faculty for this recognition of our ongoing professional teamwork to further innovation and excellence.

Exemplifying just that kind of teamwork, a week after this awards presentation, we began turning into action a project which we've been planning together for over a year – that is, the **first planting of our new Naturescape (indigenous garden/naturalized play area)!** On Tuesday, November 29th, four classes of Lansdowne students, along with teachers and support staff, representatives from our Parent Advisory Council (PAC) and the school district's Facilities Department, and community partners from such places as Habitat Acquisition Trust (HAT) and University of Victoria's Environmental Studies Program, gathered for an Opening Ceremony that included aboriginal drumming as well as recognition of the traditional uses and symbolism of various indigenous plants, followed by planting a variety of trees and shrubs – from sword ferns, to wild raspberries, to maples, to much more. It was terrific to see our collective vision (staff, parents, students and partners from the district and community-at-large) becoming a reality, with great plants and enthusiastic planters. . . to have gone from talking about a good idea to gathering information and input to strategic planning to finally (literally and figuratively) getting our hands dirty to turn that vision into reality. My congratulations and thanks to everyone involved in this initiative. We will be adding to this project in the coming months and years, further enhancing our school grounds and enriching the educational experiences we offer our students.

Cont'd on page 3

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	Staff Contact
Student Leadership	Regular meetings Monday at 8:00 a.m. Throughout the school year, with numerous opportunities to participate	Melinda
Crafty Group	On occasions at lunch recess or after school	Mitchel
Eco Action Club	Wednesdays at lunch	Mitchel
Backpack Club	Thursday afternoons	Mark & Mitchel
CanSpell Spelling Bee	Coming Soon	Mr. Andrews
Caught You & Project X tickets	Ongoing throughout the school year	All
Dance Club	Starting in the new year	Ms. D'Angelo
Games and Chess Club	Tuesdays at lunch recess	Mitchel
Swim Team	Practices Fridays 3:15-4:00pm plus swim meets	Mr. Lienard-Bosijoli Mme. Aristou
Friendship Club—Grade 6	Starting up second week of January Referrals may be made by staff, students or parents	Melinda Budgell
Jazz Band	Monday lunch, Thursday after school	Mr. Lienard-Boisjoli
Concert Choir	Monday after school, Thursday lunch	Mr. Lienard-Boisjoli
R & B Band and Vocal Jazz	Tues & Wed. after school, Fridays lunch	Mr. Rawson
Seaquarium	Ongoing	Ms. Kilpatrick
Volleyball – Girls / Boys	Beginning in January	Mrs. Lidstone
Woodworking Club	Lunch hour at noon, by invitation (open to referrals).	Melinda
Breakfast Club	Tuesday mornings at 8:00am by invitation	Melinda
Grief Program	An 8-week Program delivered by the “Living and Learning Through Loss Society” Once per week, based on referrals (referrals may be made by students, staff or parents).	Melinda
Youth Creating Inclusion	Friday at lunch	Mitchel and Ms. Spies
Me to We	Ongoing activities	Mr. Leblond
Homework Club	In the Library (all students welcome), 2:50 to 3:30 Monday to Thursday	Ms. Logan

Principal's Message cont'd from page 1

Finally, on a completely unrelated note, I want to give you a heads-up that **report cards** will be distributed on December 9th, but they **will not contain grades and work habits nor comments** about your child's progress (just your child's attendance information and list of core courses and teachers). This distribution of report cards without grades and comments is occurring throughout the province and a letter from the Superintendent of Schools accompanying the report card will explain why such report cards must be distributed. In an effort to conserve paper, I ask that you do **have your child return the report card envelope to the office** so that it can be reused. (As an incentive, we'll draw a prize winner before winter break from the returned envelopes.) I hope that this provincial labour dispute will be resolved soon. In the meantime, while teachers are not participating in the compilation of formal report cards during the current labour dispute, they are continuing to instruct, assess, and evaluate their students, and you can contact individual teachers for more information about your child's progress.

Wishing you and your family a wonderful holiday season and a happy & healthy new year,

Ken Andrews, Principal

LMPA



Our Winter Concerts will take place in the gym on December 13 & 14 at 7 PM.

We will be holding a 50/50 draw, a bake sale and will have Ground Coffee & Fairway Gift Certificates for Purchase.

Hope to see you there!



News From the . . .

Lansdowne PAC



6th Annual Holiday Gift Emporium



Items Needed !!

Now is the time to send **gently used** items to stock up for this years' event! The Emporium is a great opportunity for students to buy gifts for their loved ones without breaking the bank. The Gift Emporium will be held during school hours on **Friday December 9th**, with all items for sale from 25 cents to \$2.

Include any items that would make nice gifts for siblings, parents, grandparents and friends. Books, CD's, toys, games, jewelry, small household items are a few ideas to get you thinking.

We also need all the saved gift bags, gift wrapping and gift cards we can get! Please bring your "regifts" to the office during November so we have plenty of time to sort before this fun event. Please nothing dirty or broken. Think of items you donate as gifts you might like to receive!

Questions? Call Linda at (250) 380-0356 or email linben@shaw.ca



Scholastic Book Fair in the Spring



We will be having the Book Fair in the spring this year, instead of during the upcoming Winter Concert, allowing us more time for ordering books. **The dates of the BOOK FAIR are March 5, 6, and 7.** Thank you to all of those parents who have said they will help out with the Book Fair this year. We will contact you closer to the dates with the schedule.

- Kathie Wagner, PAC

Counsellors Corner

Leadership Grief Workshop

We've all experienced losses, moving, losing a friend, divorce, death. Some losses may impact us or be more meaningful than others. It is a part of life no one can evade. On Monday, November 28, Leadership students hosted a presentation from the Learning Through Loss Centre concerning grief, and other emotions and thoughts provoked by losses. We talked about possible losses, possible reactions to those losses, as well as ways to cope with grief. It is not a subject one would generally choose to think about, but it is important to know how to handle this inevitable part of life.

By Amy



KEEPING SPIRITS BRIGHT



The holidays can be an exciting magical time for many families, for others it is filled with stress, financial burden, binge eating and drinking and family feuds. For many, it is a combination of the above.

Traditionally Christmas was about peace, the birth of a baby, Santa's joyful laugh and generosity. Hanukkah, celebrated around the same time, means 'dedication', Hanukkah celebrates the triumphs to maintain religious values and traditions.

Much of this is threatened by the commercialization of the season. Buying the right gift, the nightmare and expense of Technology, the pressure we feel from our children while their wish list grows.

So how do we guide our children into keeping the spirit of the holidays without disappointment, guilt or debt? There are many things we can do to encourage Christmas spirit that do not cost a lot of money and bring us together. I hope this list helps your family feel the true spirit of the holidays.

1. Turn the radio on to a channel playing **holiday music**.
2. Watch Christmas **movies** together and MUTE the commercial, I think they are louder than ever and encourage us to be filled with envy instead of thanksgiving.
3. Take a drive to see the **lights**, make hot chocolate at home for the drive and walk up the special streets.
4. Volunteer for those less fortunate than our own family. Nothing fosters appreciation more than **giving back** to your community.
5. Encourage your family to make a list of **1-2 gifts** they would like. Give older kids a spending limit on their wish list.
6. Talk openly and honestly about your financial situation and **brainstorm** together how Christmas can still be fun without spending lots of money.
7. Attend **free concerts**, Market Square host free concerts every Saturday in December; many local churches do the same.
8. **Make your own holiday cards and gifts**.
9. Encourage your children to **recycle** gifts they have outgrown.
10. **Read** stories; check out books from the library and read them together.

**WISHING YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!**



ECO ACTION

Lansdowne's Eco Action club has had a very exciting month! We have been busy meeting weekly to create artwork depicting our vision for a world with clean water and energy efficient ways. We are part of an artwork exchange; our artwork was taken to South Africa by Maia Green, executive director and founder of FUN- Friends Uniting for Nature. Maia is attending the World Climate Summit 2011 in Durban, South Africa along with thousands of other youth and world leaders and will be sharing our artwork there.

Recently we participated in a really cool Skype conversation with a group of high school students from various schools in South Africa to discuss our projects and ideas, awareness events, and fundraising activities, as well as our environmental concerns! The very articulate youth in South Africa we were speaking to are attending the World Climate Summit and will take our concerns and ideas to share with world leaders!

To keep in better contact with the South African FUN group, Mitchel has created an Eco Action facebook page... Check us out on Facebook at Ecoaction Lms

We have also been fundraising for our very own Native Plant Garden and outdoor classroom. This initiative is very exciting and we are happy to contribute in our own back yard!

We will be having a bake sale on **December 7** with the proceeds going to our school garden~ Bring your money and buy something yummy and support our local projects.

Stay tuned for our upcoming events and projects...and please, stop idling!

INCLEMENT WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION

We are now approaching the season when inclement weather may affect the safety and welfare of students. In particular, snowy weather has the potential to cause school closure or some School District 61 services to be suspended.

During inclement weather, information about schools will be updated continuously on the Greater Victoria School District 61 website at <http://www.sd61.bc.ca/>.



Within the Greater Victoria School District, the Superintendent of Schools will provide media outlets with information about the status of our facilities and transportation services by 6:30 a.m.