



## Calendar Dates

### January 11

- PAC Meeting 7 pm Library

### January 27

- Pro-D Day  
(Classes not in session)

### February 3

- Deadline for Programs of Choice Applications

### February 3

- Musical Desserts  
(More info on page 4)

### February 6

- LMPA Meeting

### February 8

- PAC Meeting 7 pm Library

### February 15

- Open House for Grade 5 Parents

### February 16

- Students are informed re Programs of Choice
- District Transfer Forms available

### February 16 to 24

- District Transfer Process  
(More info on page 3)

### February 17

- Pro-D Day  
(Classes not in session)

## Principal's Message:

### Teaching Social Responsibility and Making a Difference

Educating students to be socially responsible is not just about respectful behaviour in the classroom and hallways; it's also about making a *positive contribution* to the school and community. In that regard, it's been great to see our students and faculty *making a difference*.

First, our **United Way fundraising campaign** – which included school clothing and aboriginal jewelry sales as well as “cut your teacher's (or principal's) tie for a toonie” – **raised over \$1,250** for this very worthwhile charity. Thanks to **Ms. Fawcett** who took the lead in coordinating these fun and successful fundraising initiatives.

Second, we **exceeded our goal of collecting over 1,000 children's books to contribute to the District's 1,000 x 5** initiative which will be distributing these donated books to pre-schoolers and their families. Thanks to **Ms. MacDonald** for coordinating this success campaign, and to all the students and staff who brought in children's books to donate to the cause.

Finally, congratulations to our **“Youth Creating Inclusion”** crew of students, who focus their activities on making Lansdowne a welcoming environment for all students and families by increasing awareness, sharing knowledge and resources, and creating inclusion which in turn has the effect of decreasing racism, sexism, and homophobia as well as addressing other forms of discrimination. Thanks to their work with our **Youth & Family Counselor Mitchel** and our **Teacher-Librarian Ms. Spies**, they've been awarded the BCTF's Ed May **Social Responsibility Education Grant of \$2,000** to put toward projects that will further social justice in our school and community.

It's through activities such as the above - along with ongoing activities in our classrooms, our Student Leadership Program, our Eco-Action club, and much more - that we teach social responsibility, encouraging and providing opportunities for students to contribute to the school and community-at-large.

*Ken Andrews*, Principal

## *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.*

<b>Event/Activity</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>	<b>Staff Contact</b>
Student Leadership	Regular meetings Monday at 8:00 a.m. Throughout the school year, with numerous opportunities to participate. It's not too late to join!	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	School Bee on January 12	Mr. Andrews
Caught You & Project X tickets	Ongoing throughout the school year	All
Dance Class	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	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. See page 5 for details.	Mrs. Lidstone
Woodworking Club	Tuesday last block and after school (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

## Student Transfer Process

Next month's newsletter will provide detailed information about grade 8 pathway schools and transfer process information for grade 8's moving on to high school. The District Student Transfer Process will take place February 16 to 24. All grade 8 families should have received a District brochure and letter about the various high schools throughout the Greater Victoria School District. This brochure also includes the dates for each high school's open house. Please note the dates of the Open Houses of our pathway high schools:

- Victoria High School, Wednesday, January 11, 2012, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Reynolds Secondary School, Thursday, January 12, 2012, 7:00 - 8:30 pm
- Oak Bay High School, Thursday, January 26, 2012, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

## INCLEMENT WEATHER - SCHOOL CLOSURE INFORMATION

*We are now in 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.*



## Student Attendance

We wish to be sure that all our students are safely accounted for on a daily basis, so please contact the school office – (250) 598-3336 – if you know that your child will be absent or late. Regular and timely attendance are also key factors for educational success. If your child is frequently absent and/or late to school, we will be contacting you to discuss these matters. Working together, we hope to ensure that all of our students attend regularly and on-time so that they can fully reach their potential.



## **Coming soon... Musical Desserts**

**Friday, February 3**

**"Coffee House" at 6:30; Concert at 7:00  
at Fairfield United Church, 1303 Fairfield Road  
Tickets are \$10 each**

Enjoy refreshments and listen to great live music performed by Lansdowne students!

Tickets are \$10 each and may be purchased from Mrs. Fawcett in the school office.

Each performer will have 2 reserved tickets. These may be purchased on Tuesday, January 24 and Wednesday, January 25 **only**, after which they will no longer be held in reserve. Performers do not need a ticket for entry, but they are required to have someone present to be responsible for them.

*General ticket sales begin on Thursday, January 26.*

### **SILENT AUCTION**

The evening also includes a Silent Auction. All funds raised go directly to the music department (band, choir and strings). Even if your child is not performing we still need your help. Do you have a contact at a business that would consider a donation? Will you consider donating an item? Items for the Silent Auction are now being collected. Please contact Ellen Kierulf at [ekierulf@shaw.ca](mailto:ekierulf@shaw.ca).

**Don't miss this fun event!**

## SafeTeen : Alternatives to Violence

On February 21st or the 28th, your child, with other Lansdowne grade 8 students, will be attending a workshop presented by SafeTeen which will teach them skills to deal with violent situations in a non-violent way. This internationally acclaimed program is being sponsored by the Lansdowne Middle School PAC. This is the seventh year that Safe Teen has been brought to Lansdowne for our grade 8's and the response has been overwhelmingly positive over the years.

SafeTeen is a Prevention Program, which gives youth skills to deal with verbal violence, emotional violence, sexual violence and threats of physical violence. SafeTeen is about teaching teens to stand up for themselves and what they believe in without violence. SafeTeen offers powerful alternatives to violence, working with issues that are relevant to the everyday lives of teens.

For more information contact Jennifer Hill c/o [lansdowne.pac@vcpac.ca](mailto:lansdowne.pac@vcpac.ca) or check out the SafeTeen website at [www.safeteen.ca](http://www.safeteen.ca).



The Victoria Junior Field Hockey Association offers a Spring Field Hockey League for players aged 4 to 18.

- 10 week season, starting March 31, 2012
- Divisions for boys and girls
- Come Try the Game Free Days! UVIC Turf Fields near McKinnon Gym
  - Sunday, February 5, 2012
  - Sunday, March 4, 2012

For more information, please visit [www.victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca](http://www.victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca) or email [info@victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca](mailto:info@victoriajuniorfieldhockey.ca). Registration opens January 12, 2012.

## Volleyball — Girls / Boys

	Timeframe	Timeframe	Staff Contact
Grade 6 Girls	Tuesday / Friday Practices	Tuesday Tournaments	Michelle Couture
Grade 7/8 Girls Competitive	Tuesday / Wednesday Practices	Wednesday Games	Todd Schroeder
Grade 7/8 Girls Recreational	Wednesday / Thursday Practices	Wednesday Tournaments	Darren Comer
Grade 6 Boys	Monday / Thursday Practices	Thursday Tournaments	Kerry Morin
Grade 7/8 Boys	Monday / Friday Practices	Monday Games	Marianne Lidstone

## Foundation Skills Assessment



During the latter half of January through to mid-February, grade 7 students throughout British Columbia will be completing the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA). This assessment provides a snapshot of each student's ability in reading comprehension, writing, and numeracy in relation to provincial performance standards—widely held expectations for grade 7 students in these core areas. Results will be mailed to parents later in the school year.

Along with feedback from your child's teachers, the FSA can provide you (and the school's faculty) with further information about your child's abilities in these core areas as well as providing information on more general trends at the provincial, district, and school level regarding overall progress and areas for further improvement. For further information on the FSA, you may wish to look at the following Ministry of Education link: <http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/assessment/fsa/info/facts.htm> and the link you'll find there to a "Questions & Answers" information page.

## Counsellors Corner

**Anti Bullying PINK Shirt Day** is fast approaching once again! T-shirts are 100% cotton. There is no date on them, so they can be re-used each year. The front says **PINK SHIRT DAY** and the back says **BULLYING STOPS HERE!**

T-shirts are \$4.00 each including HST.

Sizes are:

Youth (xsmall, small, medium, large, xlarge)

Adult (small, medium, large, xlarge, xxlarge)

If you would like to order shirts please see Melinda at Lansdowne no later **than Tuesday, January 31<sup>st</sup>**. T-shirts will be delivered on or before **Friday, Feb. 24th**.

For more information on **PINK Shirt Day** please visit [www.pinkshirtday.ca](http://www.pinkshirtday.ca)

**We hope you join us in promoting this very important anti-bullying awareness campaign!**

