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Mrs. D. Arsene
Mr. M. Ashcroft
Mrs. W. Belzer
Ms. K. Bennett
Mr. B. Bobbett
Ms. D. Bohl
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Mr. J. Carlidge
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Ms. C. Whitrow
Mrs. C. Wright
Mrs. D. Ytsma
Mrs. L. Yun*



*Season's Greetings
from the staff of
Brookwood Secondary*

Dates on the Horizon

MONDAY, December 14th

Parent Advisory Council meeting 7 p.m. in library.

MONDAY & TUESDAY December 14th & 15th

Grad photo retake day.

FRIDAY, December 18th

Last school day prior to Christmas vacation.

MONDAY, January 4th

First school day after Christmas vacation.

JANUARY 13th to 23rd, 2010

Brookwood presents GREASE, the musical, in the theatre.

WEDNESDAY, January 13th

Collaborative Meeting from 1:15 to 2:37 p.m.
1-3, 1-4, 1-1, 1-2 classes will be held until 1:15 p.m.

TUESDAY, January 19th

Interim report cards will be distributed.

MONDAY, January 25th

PAC Meeting, 7:00 p.m. in the library

THURSDAY, January 28th

Parent-Teacher Interviews
2:00 to 5:00 and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Students will be dismissed at 1:15 p.m.
the Brookwood Music Department's
Pops Concert at 7:00 p.m. in the small gym.

FRIDAY, January 29th

Students will be dismissed at 1:15 p.m.

Math Tutors

The student tutor list has been updated to include tutors for PMA 11 and PMA 12. There are also a few other names added. The list is on the bulletin board outside room 223 and each math teacher and counselor has a list. It is up to parents to contact the tutors and make arrangements. Math teachers are also available for help regularly.

Snow Closure Process

By 6:30 a.m. or earlier, information about the status of Langley Schools is posted on the district web site at www.sd35.bc.ca (click on the "School Status" link under the Quick Links heading).

The status of schools is also posted on the district's Information Hotline at 604-532-1453, and called in to radio stations CKNW (980 AM) and CKWX (1130 AM). A receptionist is on duty at the Board Office by 7:00 a.m. during periods when schools might be closed.

If the district can offer its programs and services safely, it will do so. However, even when schools are opened parents should consider the conditions in their own streets and neighbourhoods and decide

whether or not they want to send their children to school. Langley School District understands that there may be situations where individual students cannot attend due to circumstances in their areas.

If you have any questions about the school closure procedure, please contact Craig Spence, Communications Manager at Langley School District. He can be reached at cspence@sd35.bc.ca or 604-534-7891.

Langley School District appreciates your patience and understanding during periods of inclement weather.

Music Department

The Music Department had their Fall Concert in November and it went extremely well. Who knew kazoo went so well with Concert Band? Congratulations to all who performed that night. The Music Department has been busy rehearsing the music for Grease and is looking forward to the run of the show in January.

Some of the upcoming Music Department events are as follows. In January, we are once again hosting the Langley District Jazz Festival. Also, on Thursday, January 28th the Brookwood Music Department's Pops Concert will be performing at 7:00 p.m. in the small gym. Come support our dedicated musicians!

Fine Arts Department

The Fine Arts Department presents:

GREASE! - The Musical
Tuesday, January 13th to
Saturday, January 23rd, 2010
Curtain Time: 7:00 p.m.
Tickets: \$12.00 per person
(all reserved seats)

GREASE tickets go on sale on Wednesday, December 9th. All tickets are \$12.00 per seat. Cash or cheque made out to Brookwood Secondary School.

Please e-mail Sharon Conrad at sconrad@sd35.bc.ca or call 604-530-2141, ext. 241, to make your reservations. There are no refunds or exchanges on purchased tickets.

Performance dates are as follows:

Week 1

Wednesday, January 13th	7:00 p.m.
Thursday, January 14th	7:00 p.m.
Friday, January 15th	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 16th	7:00 p.m.

Week 2

Wednesday, January 20th	time TBA
Matinee exclusively for our elementary feeder schools	
Thursday, January 21st	7:00 p.m.
Friday, January 22nd	7:00 p.m.
Saturday, January 23rd	7:00 p.m.

Aboriginal Program

Community Events

“Family Gathering” is a Christmas celebration and pot luck dinner for families with Aboriginal Ancestry within the Langley community. The catered dinner will be on Friday, December 11th at Langley Secondary School from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m. A canned food donation for the food bank would be greatly appreciated.

Program Events

During the first week of November, three students and myself, attended the Eleventh Annual Strengthening the Circle Leadership Conference at Newlands. This conference is organized by the Siya:ye Yoyes, a society of schools personnel representing school districts, band schools and communities within the Sto:lo territory. The Brookwood students who attended this year were Gabrielle Ricci, Caitlin Schneider and Colton Landry.

The students attended workshops on relationships, and skill building. They had many opportunities to learn a lot about themselves. At the end of the conference, the students all said they had learned so much culturally and came away with tools to help them make healthy decisions and encourage their friends to do so too.

Happy Holidays From The Counselling Staff

As we celebrate the holidays--here is something to ponder from teenshealth.org

Lots of people feel stressed out about buying and giving gifts around the holidays. Even before the economy took a nosedive, lots of teens thought the holidays were too materialistic and more about the gifts than the feelings behind them.

The Tradition of Holiday Gifts

Why do people give gifts in the first place? Throughout the world, many cultures mark special holidays with gifts and food. Holiday traditions bring people together and allow us to feel a part of family and community. The gifts and food that we share are all about expressing a sense of gratitude, joy, and abundance.

The gifts of a few generations ago were probably more humble and homemade. Even the people who could afford extravagant presents probably didn't do as much buying and spending as we do today. Our culture has grown more commercial, and gift giving has become a booming industry. Sometimes the original meaning behind the tradition gets lost, and the gift giving takes on a life of its own.

Not only is the pressure on to spend money on the right present, but many people also find that when gifts become the focal point of a holiday, it puts too much emphasis on receiving, too. It's all too easy to have high expectations of what's in that beautifully wrapped box — and that can set anyone up for disappointment.

When the materialistic aspects of the holiday overshadow its meaning, that can leave people feeling empty and wishing for something more. It's no wonder that we often hear about people having the "holiday blues" — feeling sad or empty instead of happy and fulfilled.

The advertisements we see around the holidays also can help foster unrealistic expectations. With all the pressure to buy the perfect gifts, get the perfect outfit, have the perfect party, and get along perfectly with our perfect families and friends, it's hard for reality to measure up.

Not all people think the holidays are too materialistic, of course. Most appreciate the traditional aspects of the holidays, like getting together and celebrating with friends and family. And some love shopping and are just fine with all the giving and receiving.

But if you're feeling a little hollow about the holidays, what can you do? One way to take back the holiday spirit is to focus on traditions and service — and on putting real meaning into your giving.

The Gift of Holiday Tradition

Traditions that center on family or friends can be a great way to knock those presents out of their starring role and put meaning back into the holidays. Here are a couple of ideas:

Decide which family traditions you love the most.

What can you do to put more emphasis on them? If you love the tradition of lighting the menorah, get together as a group to make your own candles. If you enjoy the family trip to pick out a tree, make it an all-day event where you head to a tree farm to choose your own.

Find out what the holidays mean to others.

Talk to a grandparent, parent, uncle, or aunt about how they spent the holidays growing up. Some holiday traditions that used to be strong — such as neighborhood caroling — are all but lost today. Maybe you'd like to revive some of these as a way to share some holiday spirit with your family, friends, or community.

Build some new traditions.

If you don't have any family traditions, it's never too late to start. Get together around activities that you all enjoy, such as cooking or ice skating.

Serving Others

It may sound trite until you try it, but doing something for charity can really help you feel better about the whole experience of giving. That's because it benefits for the giver as well as the recipient: You're left with a feeling of belonging and being connected.

Choose to help an organization or group that fits with your values and the things you believe in. If you love children, buy a present for a child in need. If animals are your thing, talk to your local animal shelter — many distribute staples like pet food to low-income pet owners over the holidays and need volunteers to help.

If you miss a grandparent and would like to spend time with the elderly, help out at a nursing home over the holidays. Or share a special skill. If you're good with your hands, you can help build or refurbish housing for people in need.

Gifts With Meaning

Here are some ideas for putting meaning back into giving:

Get creative.

It's a great way to express yourself and feel fulfilled. Design your own holiday cards (or your family's cards), decorate your home, or bake something delicious to share (baked goods make great gifts, too). Make a pact to give homemade gifts and create original presents. Not feeling too creative? These days, a gift of time is often more precious and meaningful

than a store-bought item: coupons for babysitting or car washing can be big hits with parents.

Shop at an alternative gift fair.

Lots of communities hold fairs where you can buy gifts of a donation to causes your family and friends care about. Others offer actual gifts that are made by people with special needs

Give gifts that have special significance.

Your dad may be thrilled when you present him with a carefully researched and beautifully drawn family tree. Your grandmother may really welcome the gift of your time to help her learn how to use a computer. Or your little sister may really want to learn how to knit. These days, when everyone's so stretched, a gift of time can actually be more meaningful than one that costs big bucks.

One key to a relaxing and meaningful holiday is finding what works best for you, both in terms of gift giving and other holiday traditions. Putting some thought into what the holidays mean to you and then focusing your energies on those aspects that leave you feeling most fulfilled can help you let go of the stuff that may be stressing you out.

Living Gifts 2009

This year we are proud to present six wonderful projects:

Give Green

\$20 helps provide tools, vegetable seeds, organic fertilizer and training for one farmer in Guatemala.

Give Education

\$26 gives a student the required school uniform and helps buy workbooks for math, science, history and language courses.

Give Care

\$49 is the cost of a goat and its care in places like Bangladesh, Palestine and Kenya.

Give Comfort

\$51 helps cover the cost of three months of antiretroviral treatment for one person in Nigeria.

Give Education (Global Family)

\$300 is the cost of a one year Global Family sponsorship to provide creative, community-based education for children and young adults.

Give Care (Barnyard)

\$398 helps fill a 'barnyard' with animals and assists farm families to develop flocks and birds.

Living Gifts will be on sale in the front foyer at lunch on Monday, December 7th and Friday, December 8th. Also, we will have our third fair trade sale at lunch from December 14th to December 18th. Buy a gift to change the world.