



# Brookwood Secondary School

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Mr. M. Gill

Mr. S. Shipley

Mr. M. Moino

Principal

Vice-Principal

Vice-Principal

October 2009

Dear Parents:

September has been an incredibly busy and productive month. We have balanced classes, held code of conduct assemblies for all grades, conducted school photos, held a Grade 12 Parent information evening, a meet the teacher night and had our first PAC meeting.

We are very excited about the implementation of the Grade 8 Success Watch Program this year. Tied with Success Watch is our Grade 8 Homework Website. Special thanks to Mr. Adrian for coordinating and a big thank you to our grade 12 tech support students, Nathan Smith and David Chadwick, for supporting our students and teachers through the website. See page 3 in this newsletter, for more information.

Our Grade 11/12 Study Policy is helping to support our culture of learning at Brookwood. We believe that students at Brookwood will continue to improve academically and, for those that choose, earn the responsibility of a study.

Our school Planning Council has already finalized our goals developed over the past 12 months. We will continue to focus to improve

our students' writing skills, across several disciplines, through increased

instruction of analytical writing and critical thinking. Our second goal, which we have included this year, is to improve elementary to secondary transition rates. Our PE Department helped to transition our grade 8's with a fun-filled indoor track meet. Thank you to Ms. Lochbaum and the entire PE department for their dedication to our students.

I would like to thank the Van Noort's for their generous donation of the plants for the planters and for their time in beautifying the front of the school.

In an attempt to decrease our environmental footprint, we will be placing our newsletters on the website rather than printing 1200 copies every month. If you are unable to access our website, a few copies will be available at the office.

Our building is open and busy from 7:00 am until late in the evening. This is your school and you are always welcome.

Sincerely,  
Mal Gill  
Principal

## STAY INFORMED WITH eNEWS

Keep informed about what is happening at Brookwood by signing up eNEWS today. Find out electronically about report cards, interims, newsletters, parent-teacher information, music and theatre presentations and lots of other important events at Brookwood.

## Dates on the Horizon

### **FRIDAY, October 9th**

Student Photo Retake Day

### **MONDAY, October 12th**

Thanksgiving Day  
School is closed for students.

### **WEDNESDAY, October 21st**

Interim reports with Interview Request Form will be distributed.

### **FRIDAY, October 23rd**

Professional Development Day  
School is closed for students.

### **MONDAY, October 26th**

Parent Advisory Council Meeting,  
7:00 p.m. in the library.

### **THURSDAY, October 29th**

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.  
See information below regarding  
procedures for booking interviews.

### **FRIDAY, October 30th**

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

### **WEDNESDAY, November 4th**

Take Our Kids to Work Day  
Collaborative Meeting from 1:15 to 2:37 p.m.  
1-4, 1-3, 1-2, 1-1 classes will be held until 1:15 pm

### **WEDNESDAY, November 11th**

Remembrance Day  
School is closed for students.

### **TUESDAY, November 17th**

Grade 12 Liaison Day in the afternoon.

### **FRIDAY, November 20th**

Design & Assessment Day/Report Card Prep  
School is closed for students.

### **MONDAY, November 30th**

Parent Advisory Council meeting,  
7:00 p.m. in the library.

### **FRIDAY, December 4th**

The first formal report card will be issued.

### **MONDAY, December 14th**

Parent Advisory Council meeting,  
7:00 p.m. in the library.

### **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. See page 5 in this newsletter  
for more information.

## Parent-Teacher Interviews

An Interview Request Form will be attached to each student's interim report. On this form you will be able to request the times and teachers you would like to see. The form is to be returned to the office. Once the appointments have been made, a list of scheduled interviews will be sent home with your child.

## Stay Informed With eNews From Brookwood

Have an e-mail address? Then you can sign up for eNews from Brookwood! Once you sign up, you will be kept informed via e-mail on what is happening here at Brookwood. Find out electronically when report cards, interims, and newsletters are going home, when parent-teacher interviews are happening and all the latest information on events at our school!

To be a successful school, we must maintain effective communication with our parents. Brookwood's eNews is another way in which we communicate, in addition to newsletters, report cards, parent-teacher interviews, our driveway sign and the Brookwood website ([bw.sd35.bc.ca](http://bw.sd35.bc.ca)). As many of our parents have access to the internet, we can utilize that network easily and improve our communication at almost no cost!

To sign up, send an e-mail to [bssnews@d35.bc.ca](mailto:bssnews@d35.bc.ca). Include your name and the names of your children who are attending Brookwood so we can know who we are reaching with eNews. There is no commitment needed. If at any time you wish to be removed from the mailing list, just let us know with an e-mail and your name will be removed.

Get informed by signing up eNews today!

## Counselling Department

Welcome back! We would like to thank all of the students who have helped us with a smooth start-up. To all of the students who received course changes while we balanced classes, thank you for your patience.

The Counselling Department provides students and parents with a variety of services to meet diverse needs. We encourage you to contact us should you have questions or concerns about your child(ren).

### Division of Counsellors' Duties

- **Mrs. Mary Krische**  
Grades 8 to 11 (last name A-I)
- **Mr. Ivan Adrian**  
Grade 12 and Grades 8 to 11 (last name J-L)
- **Mrs. Shelley Fritz**  
Grades 8 to 11 (last name M-Z)

Parents who wish to make an appointment to see their child's counsellor can contact the counselling secretary, Mrs. Brayfield, at 604-530-2141 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Students who wish to make an appointment can drop in the counselling office before school, at lunch or after school. We would enjoy meeting with each of our students at least once during the year.

### Request for Homework

If your child is sick for more than five school days, a homework package can be requested by calling Mrs. Brayfield.

Packages will be ready for pick up after school on the day following the request. For absences of less than five days, students can email their subject teachers for missed homework or see their learning "buddy" or colleague in class first and then confer with their teachers upon their return to school.

### Medical Alert Update

If you are new to Brookwood or if your child has a serious medical condition that may not be on record with Counselling, please forward this information as soon as possible to Mrs. Brayfield.

### Agenda Book

Every student received a new agenda book this year. We believe that it is a valuable tool for the success of your child. It contains important and useful information such as school policies, dates and events, curricular facts and math and science tables; it pro-

motes good work habits and organization skills (see Study Skills tips section); and it encourages communication between the school and the home.

Staff encourage students to use it daily as a record of homework assignments and as a hall pass to leave the classroom. We invite you to reinforce the use of the agenda by your child for all of these purposes.

## Grade 8 Homework Page

We believe that homework supplements and reinforces the concepts students are studying in the classroom. Our expectations are that students are doing at least 45 minutes of homework each night. This homework can be traditional assignments and worksheets or can involve studying for a quiz or exam, collecting research for a paper, organizing notebooks or even just reading a book to work on reading comprehension. Homework should be done in an environment where maximum benefit is achieved. Therefore, depending on the distractions a student may have in their bedroom, working at the kitchen table may be the best location. Setting a homework time that works for the family and student each night makes it easier to make a routine. So when you get the phrase "I don't have any homework" or "I did it at school" from your child in response to your question, get them to start reading a book, rewrite their notes from class, or give their notebooks the "shake" test.

To help you support us this year, we have started a Grade 8 homework site for parents and grade 8 students. On this site you can follow the homework assigned by your son or daughter's teachers. This can be helpful when students miss class due to illness or have forgotten to bring their homework home with them to complete.

Students will still need to see teachers when they miss class to collect handouts and discuss due dates for assignments. Some teachers have links to more comprehensive homework sites within the Brookwood website. To access this homework site go to [www.bw.sd35.bc.ca](http://www.bw.sd35.bc.ca) then click on the header "Parents" and then you will see "Grade 8 Homework Online", next go to the subject area and finally to the teacher's name for a listing of homework.

I would like to thank grade 12 students Nathan Smith and David Chadwick for their work to set up this website and to keep it up to date. If you have any questions, please contact me in the Counselling Office.

Ivan Adrian  
Counsellor

## Students' Council

The first dance will be on Thursday, October 15th. Students are required to provide their Go-Card along with their ticket when entering the dance. No guests are allowed and dress code is in effect. All outstanding fees and books must be paid or returned before a student can attend the school dance.

Don't forget that at lunch time on October 30th, we will have our annual costume parade; so, make sure you wear those costumes and support school spirit. There will be prizes given for best costumes.

Keep your eyes open in the next months for some great Students' Council/Leadership events.

## Brookwood Student Fees and Information Forms

A reminder to parents and students that student fees need to be paid in the office as soon as possible. Make cheques payable to Brookwood Secondary School. If you need a copy of an invoice, please contact Mrs. Ytsma in the office at 604-530-2141.

Student information forms were mailed home in August and need to be returned, with any corrections/additions, to the office. It is very important that we have up-to-date emergency information.

## Yearbooks

If you have not already done so, please submit \$55.00 to the office for purchase of a yearbook. After December 31, 2009, the cost will be \$60.00.

## Grade 12 Parents: Graduation Portfolio

The Grade 12 students will be continuing their work on their Graduation Portfolio this year. They will have several due dates to submit their portfolio entries. Students will not be able to graduate from high school without the completion of this portfolio.

It is very important that you discuss your child's progress with him/her to ensure timely and successful completion of the Graduation Portfolio. Parents, if you have any questions or concerns about the ongoing process of your child's portfolio, please contact the Portfolio Coordinator, Ms. A. McLeod, at 604-530-2141.

## Attention: 2010 Graduates

You can start applying to U.F.V. as of October 1st and Douglas College as of October 15th. Kwantlen Polytechnic University accepts applications starting on November 1st. University applications can be done anytime between October 1st and February 28th.

## Criteria for Graduates

Because we do not have final marks for provincial courses at the end of June, we use the following criteria to determine if a student participates in graduation: the student must have completed or be registered in courses for a total of 80 credits on March 31, 2010.

Students unsure of their credits should see Mr. Adrian now, to ensure that they are not left with fewer than the required number of credits.

## Post-Secondary Liaison Day

Brookwood's Liaison Day will take place on Tuesday, November 17th in the afternoon. This event provides our grade 12 students with the opportunity to meet representatives from post-secondary institutions and to gather information pertaining to future career decisions. Students will register for up to three sessions.

## Grade 12 Parent Meeting

The grade 12 parent meeting was a huge success as the library was jam-packed with parents. Ms. McLeod and Mr. Adrian gave a 2-hour presentation on Grad Transition course expectations, scholarship information, the graduation and post-secondary process as well as dates.

Grade 12 students are getting the same information in their English 12 classes. It is important that students check their school email weekly to keep up with grad and post-secondary information.

## Peer Mediation

This year we are excited to re-introduce a peer mediation team for Brookwood. A talented and enthusiastic team of grade 10 leaders are being trained through the Fraser Region Community Justice Initiatives Association and the Langley School District to help guide their peers through conflict resolution.

Peer mediation partners will be available to students wishing to work out a problem with the intention of understanding how all people have been affected by the situation. Watch for advertisements with times, places and contacts to get assistance from a mediation team.

## **Valuables**

Unfortunately, every year a few students have items of value go missing. Please leave cellular phones, jewellery and electronic items at home or ensure they are in locked lockers. Brookwood cannot be responsible for lost or stolen items.

Leaving items in unlocked or half locked lockers is similar to leaving the key in the ignition and the door unlocked while the car is parked. Sharing the lock combination with another student may mean that a new lock will have to be purchased, since experience has shown that those secret combinations are usually shared with others.

## **Career News**

### **Take Our Kids to Work**

#### **Wednesday, November 4th**

Permission forms for Take Our Kids to Work have been distributed in English classes. Students are asked to return the completed forms to Ms. McLeod or the office by Thursday, October 22nd. We hope that your work place has allowed your son or daughter to accompany you for the day.

“Take Our Kids to Work” offers an authentic learning opportunity for students. This program has helped grade 9 students connect school, the world of work, and their own futures for the past ten years. It has brought together parents, relatives, friends of families, teachers and people in work places to contribute to the career development of young people.

Workplace health and safety are vital facets of the program, and it is important to teach young people any necessary information prior to the workplace visit. Such information will also stand them in good stead for jobs they may hold now and in the future.

## **Theatre Trip To Ashland, Oregon**

For April 2009, Brookwood has planned our 3rd annual trip to the Oregon Theatre Festival in Ashland, Oregon. Mr. Moino and Ms. McLeod will be visiting classes with information. Please contact [mmoino@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:mmoino@sd35.bc.ca) or [amcleod@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:amcleod@sd35.bc.ca) for more information.

## **Brookwood Photography**

We are in need of 35mm SLR cameras for students to use in the grade 11 photography course. These are rapidly becoming obsolete, but we can still use

them at Brookwood. The more manual the camera, the better it is for students to learn on. If you have one that you'd like to donate to the school, it would be greatly appreciated. For more information, please contact Mr. Ashcroft at 604-530-2141

## **Your Kids Online: Everything You Ever Wanted to Know Presenting..**

a 2-hour comprehensive workshop at Brookwood Secondary for parents and guardians on all things “web,” including tutorials on current youth favorites, such as Facebook, YouTube, Twitter, Music & Movie Downloading, MSN Messenger and more. Choose the date and time that works for you!

### **Workshop Dates & Times:**

- Wednesday, October 7th from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m.  
or from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- Thursday, October 8th from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Please contact the school at 604-530-2141 or email [mransom@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:mransom@sd35.bc.ca) to register.

## **Grease**

Auditions for the musical GREASE have just finished and the show will be cast within the next few days. Approximately 40 actors, 20 technicians, a live orchestra of 15 musicians, and 20 front of house staff will be participating in this production! Not to mention all of the support that we receive from our Brookwood parents and staff.

If your son or daughter is cast in this show, the rehearsals will be five days a week, Monday to Friday, from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

The show will be running for eight performances between January 13th to 23rd, 2010. Tickets are \$10.00 for everyone and will go on sale in December.

## **BC-Quebec Six Month Exchange**

This reciprocal exchange is available to French Immersion students in Grade 10. Four Francophone students from Quebec arrived on September 12th to attend school at Brookwood for the next three months.

A total of 31 students were placed in Immersion schools across B.C. This year's Quebec and Brookswood participants are Laura Breton-Gagnon and Meghan Crombie, Emilie Nadeau and Mary

Dedrick, Florent Pepin-Proulx and Jeremy Lillies, Stephanie Paquet-Marceau and Tattina Tedaka-Slavik.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Legentil.

## Math Help and Tutors

Course changes have finished and students should be nearing their first test. If your son /daughter is having trouble in math, they should approach their math teacher for help. The Math Department is very good at making itself available. Some teachers do morning, others do lunch or after school. Check for your teachers availability.

Sometimes it benefits students to have a regular one-on-one and this is when tutors might be considered.

The Math Department is compiling a list of names of strong math students who would like to be hired as tutors. It will be posted soon on a bulletin board outside Room 223, near the library.

The going rate for a student tutor is \$10.00 to \$15.00 per hour. It is up to the family and the tutor to arrange location, time and payment.

## Carpentry 11/12

## Construction Projects

Do you need a garden shed, green house or gazebo? We will build to your specifications. Please contact Mr. Laurence Fraser at 604-530-2141 for more information.

## Aboriginal Program

The Aboriginal Program at Brookswood has over 100 students who have identified themselves as having Aboriginal ancestry. To participate in the program any students or families with Aboriginal ancestry only have to self identify as having aboriginal ancestry to the school. There is no need to have a card or show a card and there is no set amount of ancestry required.

Once again the Aboriginal Program is sponsoring an Aboriginal Carving class. This program is open to any grade 10 to 12 student in the Langley School District's Aboriginal Program. It is a ministry recognized course and all students who successfully complete it will receive four grade 12 credits. It is held on Thursdays, from 5:00 to 8:00 p.m., at

Brookswood Secondary School. The first class starts October 8th. There are a few spots left so any students interested in this course can contact either Mrs. Goldsack in the counselling area or Mr. Causton in Room 183.

If there are any new families to the Langley area that would like the Aboriginal Welcome Wagon to come by with a few small gifts and loads of local information, please let me know here at the school and I will forward this information to the Aboriginal Community Greeters.

Here are a few community events for families. The Aboriginal Program will be hosting "Family Gatherings" again this year. These are catered dinners (desserts welcome), with a little entertainment, open to any families with Aboriginal ancestry. The dates are December 11th and June 21st. These events are held in the gym at Nicomekl Elementary School from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Finally, in November a few students from each secondary school in Langley will be invited to participate in a Leadership Conference at Newland's Golf & Country Club. Details on this event are to follow.

If you would like further information about the Aboriginal Program or the above events, please contact Pam Goldsack, Aboriginal Support Worker, at the school or by email [pgoldsack@sd35.bc.ca](mailto:pgoldsack@sd35.bc.ca)

## Internet Safety Tips on Cyber-Bullying Awareness

### Cyber-bullying Awareness Tip #1

Nearly one in five Canadian students surveyed reported having been bullied online in the past three months, (University of Toronto). Because most incidents of bullying occur off adults' radar screens, it's important that young people learn to protect themselves online and respond to cyber-bullying among peers when they encounter it.

Children need to guard against bullying by:

- Safeguarding contact information. Don't give people you don't know your cell phone number, instant messaging name or e-mail address.
- NEVER share your passwords with anyone but a trusted adult.

### Cyber-bullying Awareness Tip #2

Many children do not tell an adult about cyber-bullying experiences as they are embarrassed, or fearful that the Internet will be taken away, or that their parents won't know what to do.

Talk to your child about the following actions that should be taken if they are cyber-bullied:

1. Tell an adult you trust---a teacher, parent, older sibling or grandparent.
2. Leave the area or stop the activity (i.e. chat room, news group, online gaming area, instant messaging, etc.).
3. Block the sender's messages. Never reply to harassing messages.
4. Save any harassing messages and forward them to your Internet Service Provider (i.e. Hotmail or Yahoo). Most service providers have appropriate use policies that restrict users from harassing others over the Internet - and that includes kids!
5. If the bullying includes physical threats, tell the police as well.

## PAC Welcomes You to Brookwood

Welcome back to a new school year and a special welcome to those who are new to the Brookwood Secondary community! The Brookwood School and parent community strive to provide a positive school experience for students in academic development, scholastics, athletics and performing and practical arts.

As a parent, you are a member of the Parent Advisory Council and as such have a voice and a vote on all PAC related matters. Recognizing that all our lives are full and busy, we ask that you continue to support your children and Brookwood Secondary, whether you are able to attend PAC meetings, volunteer at dances, student breakfasts or other school events. We invite you to come to Brookwood's Parent Advisory Council meetings in the library from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. on the last Monday of every month.

Being involved with the PAC gives you insight into what takes place in the school, and what plans and initiatives the administration and the teaching staff are implementing; all in efforts to enrich student development. In the 2008/2009 school year, with your help and a \$10.00 PAC donation, we allocated funds to support the school musical, "Oliver", school scholarships, guest speakers, Challenge Day (Grade

10 Anti-Bullying retreat), an intramural sports program, a school courtyard enhancement, the Backstreet Studio Film Club and recycling bins for the school hallways.

We are currently recruiting for parent representatives to participate in active roles on the PAC executive, School Planning Council (SPC), President, Secretary, and District PAC Rep. Your Brookwood Secondary School needs more support, visible presence and energy from their parent community--no experience necessary!

Let us continue to work towards providing our young people with a school and learning environment where they can experience great growth, success and be proud to belong!

See you at our next meeting on Monday, October 26th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. in the school library.

## Brookwood PAC Executive

Past President: Toni Murray

Vice President: Shirley Van Noort

Treasurer: Bev Edwards

Directors: Michelle Almasi, Dean Barkley

Adrianna de la Garza, Diana Fournier

Cathy Norris, Mariann Northeast

## Dry Grad Information

Dry Grad had its first meeting on Wednesday, September 30th. Thanks to all who attended. The event will be held on the night of Friday, June 25th at Walnut Grove Community Centre, after the diner/dance.

Plans are now underway and therefore money is needed for deposits for the various activities of the night. At this point the cost of the tickets is still unknown. We hope to make it as low as possible.

However, to be able to book all the activities we are asking at this time for a \$75.00 ticket deposit from everyone so we have money available to us. We may or may not need to up this cost as donation and fundraising will dictate this. Anyone bringing their \$75.00 deposit to the office by December 15th, will have their name put in a draw and will be eligible to win \$100.00. Please make cheque payable to Brookwood Dry Grad 2010.

Some fundraising is planned, if you have any ideas let us know. As always, volunteers are needed to help get donations and fundraising. More help, less work for all.

Next dry grad meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 28th at 7:00 p.m. in the library. If you have any questions, please contact Marianne Jeffery at 604-856-7766 or Wendy Browne at 604-534-3842.