



What's Happening This Week

LBA Weather Station

At

Home of the Lightning



Leo Burke Academy

Volume 3, Issue 9

January 29, 2012

Welcome

The month of January will soon be behind us. High school students have written midterm exams and we are all moving into the second half of the school year. Parents/Guardians should note parent-teacher conferences are coming up soon on **Thursday, February 9, 2012**. We hope to see you there!

With mid terms behind us it is important that students and their parents look at progress to this point in the year. We want all students to experience success and move from one grade or level to the next. We do not want to see the high school graduation interfered with, due to credits missed unnecessarily. When students work to their potential and seek assistance when needed, success is usually achieved. With five months left in the school year this is great time to be proactive!

On a personal note: during the past week I was honored to be the recipient of a **Canada's Outstanding Principals Award for 2012** sponsored by **The Learning Partnership**. In late February I will be in Toronto with 40 other recipients from across Canada to receive the award and participate in leadership sessions at the Joseph L. Rotman School of Management at the University of Toronto. It is indeed an honor and one I deeply appreciate. While I will accept the award, I will be doing so on behalf of all the stakeholders at Leo Burke Academy. This award is reflective of the success we have experienced at the school. Teachers, support staff, parents and the entire community have played a part in that success. You have all been integral in our growth and will continue to be so. *"It takes an entire community to educate a child"* (African Proverb) and that is so very true. The great thing is that when a school experiences success the crucial measure is the success of students. The fact that students at Leo Burke Academy are experiencing success and achieving as well or better than their counterparts in the province and nationwide is something we can all take pride in. As the school motto says, **"nulli secundus" (second to none)**. This is what we want our students believing as they prepare to participate in the global society of the 21st century. Once again thanks for the support and please share in the award – it is something we all played a role in.

Next 2 Weeks at a Glance

Monday, January 30th, Day 12
Tuesday, January 31st, Day 13
Wednesday, February 1st, Day 14
Thursday, February 2nd, Day 1
Friday, February 3rd, Day 2
Monday, February 6th, Day 3
Tuesday, February 7th, Day 4
Wednesday, February 8th, Day 5
Thursday, February 9th, Day 6
Friday, February 10th, Day 7
Monday, February 13th, Day 8

Tickets on \$500 of Gas

The Senior Boys Hockey Team is currently selling tickets on **\$500 of gas from Ultramar**. The team is selling these to raise funds for participation in the Confederation Cup in St. John's during February. Tickets are \$1 each and are available at the school, at selected businesses around town and from any member of the Senior Hockey Team. **The drawing will take place at the school on Valentine's Day, Tuesday, February 14, 2012.**

PBIS

This is the second year that Leo Burke Academy has been using the 'gotcha' program and the PBIS approach to school behavior and student discipline. Our experience during 2010-11 was positive and we anticipate another successful year with that approach. As part of the program each week we make a draw for prizes from the "gotchas" that are handed in each week. The recipients during the past two weeks were

November 17

Liam Healey - Junior High
Miranda Brace - Senior High

January 13

Trevour Burge - Junior High
Matthew Pittman - Senior High

December 9

Isabelle O'Dea - Junior High
Daniel Thorne - Senior High

February 3 (Next Draw)

Advance Notices

- Monday, January 30, 2012 – School Council Meeting 7:00 pm
- February 1st & 2nd Level III Cap & Gown Pictures
- Thursday, February 9th, 2012 – 2nd Parent – Teacher Conferences
- Tuesday, February 21st – Staff Meeting
- Tuesday, February 21st, 7:00 pm – Grade 9 Parent Information Session.
- Friday, February 24, 2012 – Winter Break – no classes
- Wednesday, February 29, 2012 – Pink Day
- March 6th & 7th – Junior & Senior High Marble Mountain Trips
- Tuesday, March 6th – PARTY Program, Level I
- Friday, March 9 - Knights of Columbus Regional Speak Off

Public Speaking



Public speaking season is upon us again. Each year students from **Leo Burke Academy** participate in various public speaking events organised by various groups such as the Lions Club, Knights of Columbus, Rotary, etc. We have a good record of student participation in these events and we hope to see even more participants involved this year. Public speaking is a great activity and provides benefits that will help students throughout life. I would encourage as many students as possible to become involved. The first scheduled event we are aware of at the point is the **Knights of Columbus Speak Off scheduled for Friday, March 9** at the Knights of Columbus Building in Bishop's Falls. All students interested in public speaking are asked to see **Ms. G. Fudge** asap. Give it a shot; you will be richer for the experience!!

Parent – Teacher Conferences

With the completion of midterm exams students will soon receive their 2nd progress reports. **Students are scheduled to receive those reports on Tuesday, February 7th and Parent – Teacher Conferences will be held on Thursday, February 9th.** The Conferences will take place from 1:30 – 4:40 pm and from 6:30 – 8:30 pm. These conferences will take place in teacher's classrooms as opposed to the gymnasium which was used for the 1st parent-Teacher Conferences. This report is especially important because it provides great feedback on student's progress at the mid-way point of the year. The good thing is that if students need to increase their effort they have 4.5 months to do so. All parents and students should carefully look at their midyear report and see where they stand. Good reports should mean maintaining the good habits they have. Reports that highlight concerns should result in increased effort and conversations with their teachers. **See you on Thursday, February 9th.**

Technology

This week **Leo Burke Academy** saw the installation of 8 Team Boards in the school



which brings our Smart Board/Team Board number to **12**. In addition we will be receiving 25 new computers and we have received 65 new flat screen monitors. Before the end of the year we anticipate 2 more Team Boards for the Art & Music rooms as well as additional music equipment. There has been a major infusion of money into technology for schools from the Provincial government and we are appreciative of that. Within the next month we hope to have all of the new equipment up and running and we will be progressing with the training of staff on the new technology. The face of education and the technology of instruction has certainly changed in the past 20 years and it is great to see our students and teachers have access to the latest technology.

Bus Fees

A reminder to all parents of students that use lunch hour bussing that fees are now past due. We have had a great response from parents in this regard and those that have not yet paid are asked to do so asap. We will in the next few weeks making contact with those we have not received payment from. **The fee is \$65 per student and families do not have to pay for more than 2 students in the Bishop's Falls system if a family has 3 or more students attending LBA or Helen Tulk.**

Math Help Center

Math Help is available at the school with **Mr. Penney** and **Mr. Goudie** each Monday after school.

Education is light, lack of it is darkness."

- Russian Proverb

Pink Day T-Shirts

Last week the school sent home an order form for students who wish to order a Pink Day T-Shirt. **Our Social Action Group is helping to organize this day on Wednesday, February 29th.** The cost for the shirt is quite reasonable and the message we hope to promote through various activities that day is quite important. **The deadline to order the T-Shirts at a cost of \$6 is Monday, January 30th** so we can access the lower price. Please give this some consideration and let us all send a visible message in respect to bullying, tolerance and understanding.

Marble Mountain Ski Outing

Mr. Richards is once again organizing a ski trip to Marble Mountain for students at the school on **Tuesday, March 6 (Junior High)** and **Wednesday, March 7 (Senior High)**. Cost is \$55 which includes the skiing as well as the bus trip. Students will be accepted on a first come, first served basis. This is a great activity that allows students to experience a type of recreation that is not available on a regular basis in this area. Most students thoroughly enjoy this day!

Stormy Weather

This is the time of the year when weather can delay or cause classes to be cancelled for a portion of a day or for the entire day. In such a case decisions are usually made by 7:30 am. With **Synrevoice** we also have a call made to all students' homes. **Announcements are also made on the local radio stations (VOCM, K-Rock and CBC).**

Next Newsletter - February 19th

Boys Volleyball



Congratulations to the **Junior Boys' Volleyball** team on their silver medal at an invitational tournament in Gander on January 21. The team consists of: **(Front L-R) Aiden Fancey, Kyle Canning, Riley Fancey (Back L-R) Mr. Richards – Teacher - Sponsor, Stephen Thomas, Michael Carter, Cody Giles, Carter Fancy, Joshua Robinson, Jill Snow – Coach.** The team played some good volleyball and represented the school and community very well. Way to go team!

TRX Pilot

Mr. Richards will be in St. John's this week participating in training for the **TRX Pilot** with the Department of Education. The TRX pilot refers to a new fitness program that originated with the U.S. Navy SEALs and is a revolutionary method of leveraged bodyweight exercise. The Pilot will help determine whether a system such as this has a place in the physical education curriculum. **Mr. Chad Richards** will be piloting the program with our students when he returns. One of the benefits of our participation is that we will get access to this new technology for our students. We look forward to the TRX program.



Canadian Blood Services

We have been asked to pass along a message from Canadian Blood Services to encourage blood donations during the month of February and on an ongoing basis. The gift of blood is one of the most special gifts that a person can give. As well **Leo Burke Academy** is involved in the **Partners for Life** program and your contribution can count towards the program. Many of our teachers give blood on a regular basis and I would encourage everyone to become a donor. Each donation can save 3 lives and in respect to leukemia if 20 people gave blood 2 people with leukemia could receive treatment. Give it some thought.



LBA Weather Station

Just a reminder that parents and the community can access up to the minute weather conditions through the **LBA Weather Station Link** which can be found on the school website. Just click the link found on the home page at www.lba.k12.nf.ca and you are there. You will find a wealth of information from the weather station and it certainly be of use as we entire the time of year where weather conditions can certainly dictate what we can or cannot do. I encourage you to make use of the resource.



Janeway Day in the Schools

Tuesday, February 14, 2012 will be **Janeway Day in the Schools**. It is tradition in Newfoundland on that day for students to make a contribution to the **Janeway Hospital**. Across the province there is a significant amount of money raised for the **Janeway**. Usually students contribute an amount equivalent to what they would spend on recess. The **Janeway Hospital** is certainly a place that has impacted all families in the province and at Leo Burke we are no different. Even this year we have had students who have needed the services of the **Janeway**. **I ask all students and families to keep this in mind and make a contribution on that day.**



Missing Calculator

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We currently have a **T1-84 Plus calculator** missing from calculators we provide to students during math classes. It is black with grey trim. Should any student have inadvertently taken the calculator from the school they are asked to please return asap. Thanks.

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Lateness

Recently we have become more concerned about the increasing incidence of lateness on the part of our students. This is an important issue for a number of reasons; foremost of which is that students are missing instructional time in the classroom. Secondly when students have to go to class late it interferes with the instruction taking place in the classroom. In addition being punctual is an important factor in establishing good teaching and learning routines in a school. We strive to provide the best possible educational instruction to students and having students come to school late unnecessarily interferes with that responsibility. We realize that on occasion students will be late for valid reasons and we all understand that; it is the unnecessary lateness that is an issue. Upon the completion of midterm exams we will be addressing lateness by students more closely. We hope that students who are regularly late, make getting to school 5 – 15 minutes earlier a greater priority. That would alleviate a lot of the concerns that exists. If you son/daughter falls into this category we ask that you discuss it with them and work with us to alleviate this as a concern that ultimately negatively impacts on their achievement. Thank you.

