

NEPEAN HIGH SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER #2

February 14, 2008

In this issue.....

Advanced Placement – 2

Co-operative Education - 4

Dates to Remember - 3

Graduating Students 2008 – 1

Languages – 2

Music - 3

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test – 1

Principal's Message - 2

Reach for the Top – 2

See Earth Trip to Costa Rica - 5

Student Services - 3

Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test - March 27, 2008

(S.Nancekivell)

The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) will be held on Thursday, March 27, 2008. In order for a student to graduate with an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, the student must have successfully completed this test.

All students who entered Grade 9 at Nepean in September, 2006 and have successfully completed a Grade 9 English credit will be eligible to write the test. Any students who have written the test previously and have been unsuccessful will retake the OSSLT. **It is important that all test candidates be present for the OSSLT for the entire day on March 27.** Students should avoid scheduling appointments on March 27 due to the test. There is not a rewrite date.

In order to prepare students for the OSSLT, the Nepean Literacy committee has organized after school tutoring sessions on Wednesdays in the library on the following dates: February 27, March 5, March 19 and March 26. All test candidates are welcome and will receive guidance and support from literacy committee members. There will also be a class practice session for the test for all Grade 10 students on Monday,

February 25 during Period 3. During this session, students will receive a resource booklet to practice for the test. Extra support materials are also available on the EQAO website: www.eqao.com under Educators' resources.

Final test instructions for the OSSLT will be given to all test candidates in an assembly on Thursday, March 20 during Period 4 from 1:20 to 1:55 p.m. Students are reminded to listen to the announcements for the posting of the names of OSSLT candidates and room allocations.

If you have any questions about the OSSLT, please contact Vice Principal Nancekivell at Nepean High School at 613-722-6551.

Nepean Graduates 2008

(S.Nancekivell)

The Nepean High School Graduation Ceremony will be held at Centerpointe Theatre on Wednesday, June 25 at 11:30 a.m. **All 2008 Graduates must complete the Graduation Ceremony Survey Form which is available in the Main Office by January 31, 2008.**

This form needs to be completed by the end of Semester I even if a student is not intending to attend the Graduation ceremony

Graduates who are planning to attend the graduation ceremony are reminded to order their cap and gown by the end of Semester I. The cost of the cap and gown is \$ 30.00.

Graduates will keep their cap and gown as a souvenir after the ceremony.

If you have any questions about the graduation ceremony, please contact Vice Principal Nancekivell at 613-722-6551.

Reach For The Top

(P.Gragg)

Nepean High School's newly formed "Reach For The Top" team will be competing in it's first ever competition this February the 21st. Reach For The Top is an inter-school quiz competition. Nepean's team will play in 7 matches against area schools in a full day competition.

Languages

(D.Chouinard)

The Languages Department will be participating in the OCDSB French Public Speaking Contest again this year. Students interested in participating should speak to Mme Pelletier as soon as possible. We hope to have candidates in every category. School candidates will be chosen on February 25. This year, the Board contest will be held at Canterbury on March 20. The provincial finals will be at Glendon College (York University), in Toronto, on May 10. Thank you to Mme Pelletier for taking on the organization of this very worthwhile competition.

We will also be preparing a team of senior students for the «Concours de français langue seconde d'Ottawa-Carleton 2008». This competition will be held at Ottawa University on May 1, 2008.

Students who have any questions regarding language course selection for next year are encouraged to speak to their teacher or visit the school web site where a list of available language courses and a course sequence has been posted.

Advanced Placement

(D.Chouinard)

From Semester 1 classes, 44 students have registered to write 66 exams. We congratulate them for going that extra mile. Semester 2 students will have to register for their AP exam before March 3rd. Please note that the AP exam will be written as follows:

French Language - Monday, May 5, 2008 (p.m.)
Calculus AB - Wednesday, May 7, 2008 (a.m.)
English Literature - Thursday, May 8, 2008 (a.m.)
European History - Friday, May 9, 2008 (p.m.)
Biology - Monday, May 12, 2008 (a.m.)
Chemistry - Tuesday, May 13, 2008 (a.m.)

Principal's Message

(R.Bibaud)

The New Year was jump started with our Grade 8 Night the first week back to classes. The event was very well attended and enjoyed by not only the visiting families, but also the staff and students involved in showcasing our school. Many thanks to the staff and students in preparing for this evening and making it such a huge success.

The process of getting ready for next year is already under way. Mr. Dan Refausse, (Head of Student Services) and his team of students have made a visit to our feeder schools and have begun the process of explaining the option sheets to our future Nepean Knights. As well, the guidance counselors will be visiting grades 9-11 classes outlining the courses available for 2008-2009. Please take the time to review the option sheet with your son/daughter to ensure an understanding of the courses and the academic pathway they are choosing.

We are happy to welcome back Ms. Ky Lim (Math department), Ms. Doran-Sugar (Art department) and Nadia Ghandi (French department) for the second semester. We also extend a warm welcome to Ms. Patricia Sipes (Science/Math department) and Mr. Keith MacDonald (English department) who will be joining us for this semester. Mrs. Donna McPhail has left us for a year on a teacher exchange to Australia. Both colleagues and students will miss her dearly, but we wish her a successful and exciting adventure. From "down under" we sincerely welcome Emma Turner who is replacing Donna McPhail for the forthcoming year. Emma Turner is truly getting a good old fashioned taste of winter in Canada! We are so looking forward to having Emma with us this coming year as she will be sharing her expertise in our art classes.

Enhancements continue to be made to the physical environment at Nepean H.S. A new classroom has been built beside the library to accommodate our increased enrolment; it has been furnished with thirty new desks. We have just received thirty-two new computers and purchased a SMART Board interactive whiteboard which is being used in the math department. In addition, two new flat screen monitors have been purchased to help improve communication in the school. Special thanks to our School Council for purchasing one of the TV monitors-

We appreciate your commitment to and involvement in our school community.

As always, many initiatives and events are being planned for the next two months, so please note the special dates section of this newsletter and please take the time to visit our website. Should you feel the need, please feel free to contact me here at school (613-722-6551) as I would be happy to meet with you to discuss any issues or concerns.

Dates to Remember

Feb. 18 – Family Day – no school
Feb. 19 – School Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 21 – Mini Timetable Night – 7:00 p.m.
Feb. 22 – Option Sheets Due
March 10-14 – March Break
March 21 – Good Friday
March 24 – Easter Monday
March 27 – Grade 10 Literacy Test
April 3 – Parent-Teacher Interviews
April 17 – Music Concert
April 18 – Report Card Day
April 25 – Deadline to drop course
May 20 – School Council Meeting – 7:00 p.m.
May 26 – O.S.A.I.D. Assembly
June 16-23 – Examinations
June 25 – Graduation Ceremony - Centrepointe
June 26 - Report Card Day

Student Services

(D.Refausse)

Hi everyone! In January, Mr. Refausse, Mr. Bibaud, and some grade nine students visited each of our feeder schools and gave information to the grade 8 students. We really enjoy going out and meeting our future students and we're looking forward to receiving all new grade 9s in September. It's been a very smooth beginning to second semester in Student Services. Our aim is to have students in their classes and settled as quickly as possible. This week guidance counsellors will be visiting classes to give information about next year's course selections. Forms and booklets will be distributed to all returning students. The due date for the Course Selection Forms to be returned to the main office is February 22. Next week counsellors will be visiting all of our grade 11 classes and administering the Jackson Vocational Interest Survey (JVIS). The results of this career interest survey will be discussed with each student and then sent home. Have a great semester Nepean!!

News from the Music Department

(L.Carter/J.F.Fauteux/R.Romeo)

The music department kept busy with a multitude of events serving our school and the community.

Last December, along with a very successful Music Night, various ensembles performed in feeder schools. Mr. Fauteux's Jr. Jazz band performed at Fisher Park while Mr. Romeo's Stage Band and Sr. Concert band and Mr. Carter's vocal class performed at Broadview on December 18. Mr. Fauteux's Intermediate concert band and Jr. Jazz band also performed at the First United/All Saints Church, raising funds for the local youth center.

Recently, the Junior Jazz band was invited to play at one Ottawa 67s game and, thanks to the initiative of Nick Roy, Adam Hassen and Tim Burton (grade 10), They also performed at the Carlingview manor in early February.

During January, over 130 students from grades 9 through 12 have been practicing hard for the upcoming Capital Region MusicFest. Four of Nepean High School's bands, including the Intermediate and Senior Concert Bands and Junior and Senior Stage Bands will be performing over the next few weeks with bands from all over the region.

The Capital Region MusicFest is a great opportunity for young musicians to showcase their considerable talents. Each band will play three songs selected from an established repertoire for the Festival. Adjudicators will evaluate the bands and provide comments and suggestions for the band leaders as well as providing a clinic for each band after their performance.

Esteemed adjudicators last year included local musician Mark Ferguson (pianist, trombonist, composer, arranger, producer, and educator), Christine Jansen (Montreal-based alto and soprano saxophonist and composer; described as one of the most important Canadian composers of her generation) and Master Gunnery Sergeant Matthew Farquhar (awesome, but considered by students to be a little on the scary side for his intensity; he teaches at Navy School of Music in Virginia, as the Conducting Instructor for Advanced Academics).

Last year, Nepean's bands did fabulously well, with both the Junior Jazz and the Intermediate Concert Band winning Golds. This year will see the return of some of last year's performers, along with newly-minted Grade 9 band members, many of whom will be competing for the first time. With extra rehearsals crowding February

calendars in the run up to Capital Region MusicFest, Nepean Band directors and music teachers, Messrs. Romeo and Fauteux anticipate that their students will do as well this year.

On February 19 we will be hosting the Brookline High School Camerata Choir from Boston, Massachusetts, under the direction of Michael Driscoll. They are one of three choirs at Brookline High School and are touring Ottawa and Montreal. They will be performing for the grade 9s and 10s of Nepean High School and Broadview Public School's grade 8s. The NHS Choir is also embarking upon a partnership with the Severn Public School Choir to work with their students on developing a love of music.

Rehearsals for the musical, Chicago, are now going in full gear. The Arts Department (Music, Drama and Art) is joining forces to achieve this enormous project. Our pit band is working hard learning this professional standard music; a true test for the most advanced musicians in our department. The musical will be presented on May 14, 15 and 16. More details will follow after March Break.

Don't forget our Spring Music Night happening on Thursday, April 17!

Good luck to all our musicians!

News from the Co-op Office

(C.Stidwill/C.Hatton)

Once again the students in Co-operative Education are heading out to their jobs in the "real world" of work. Their work choices are as varied as their reasons for taking co-op. This time around we have students gaining skills and knowledge in programming software, repairing and assembling hardware, working with young children, "operating" in the medical field, preparing food delicacies and motivating others to exercise, to name a few.

As has happened every semester, many of them will be offered part-time or summer jobs because of their winning attitudes and excellence at work. After all, they are Nepean students!

Students at Nepean take co-op for several reasons:

- experience that will provide them with new skills
- a chance to try out a job to see if they like it
- the advantage of being mentored in the workplace
- the prospect of making contacts and networking

- the opportunity to earn school credits while out of the school

Nepean High School is fortunate in being part of a community that supports its students by providing them with a variety of co-operative education opportunities. With employers who are willing to nurture our students along, we are able to easily place our students in enriching environments.

We are always looking for more employers, though, and would welcome other offers to accept students. We are presently looking for placements for students who are interested in international affairs and politics and would appreciate offers in these areas. Please call the school at 613-722-6551 to speak to either Cathy Stidwill or Caroline Hatton in our Co-op Department if you have any questions about the program or offers of placements.

Nepean Alumni Evening

On Friday, June 6, the past will meet the future! An Alumni Evening will be held at the school for all former students of who attended Nepean High School since its opening in 1923!

This special event will run from 7:00 p.m. until 11:00 p.m. and will feature a light dinner (beef on a bun) and entertainment, (an art display and band concert), will be provided by present students of the school.

All this, and more, for only \$25.00. Although we're operating on a break-even basis, any additional money will accrue to the School Council for school projects. A cash bar will be open during the evening

There will be a gathering of specific groups such as the Senior Boys' Basketball team which won the city and Eastern Ontario Championship in 1957. The team of 1959, which also won the city championship, will gather to reminisce. We hope other groups will also meet and greet.

Should you wish to become involved in the planning of the event, please contact Barb Mitchell, co-chair of the Parent Council at nhspe@ncf.ca

We look forward to this event as a spectacular gathering of all those who once called Nepean their home school.

See Earth Trip To Costa Rica

Mr. Drummond will be leaving March 3, 2008 for a ten day trip to Costa Rica as part of Algonquin College's See Earth program. This program is a joint initiative between the College and participating schools in the Ottawa area. Teachers participating in the See-Earth program will travel to and through the Rainforest regions of Costa Rica, learning about the region's ecology, sustainable agriculture industry, and culture.

Participating teachers will then impart their new-found knowledge in a five day ecology-based residential program for grade 9 students in the summer of 2008

