



## NANAIMO LADYSMITH PUBLIC SCHOOLS

### EDUCATION COMMITTEE PUBLIC MEETING

#### INFORMATION SHEET

DATE: October 4, 2023  
TO: Education Committee  
FROM: Don Balcombe, Assistant Superintendent and  
Jacquie Poulin, Assistant Superintendent  
SUBJECT: School Start-Up

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#### **Background**

This Information Sheet is intended to provide the Committee with an update on school start-up.

#### **Discussion**

The planning for school start-up began back in February with enrolment projections. Staffing was allocated in late April, and enrolment was tracked throughout the summer in anticipation of the new school year. In late August and early September, as registration was confirmed, the following schools had additional staffing assigned to address enrolment increases or class size and composition challenges:

Georgia Ave, Ladysmith Primary, and Ladysmith Intermediate each had a new division created since August while Forest Park Elementary had two new divisions created. Seaview Elementary was reduced by one division in August. Most schools throughout the district were organized into classrooms by Monday, September 11<sup>th</sup>. During the first week of school, a variety of instructional approaches were utilized, including cross-grade and whole-grade activities focused on welcoming students and building community.

Secondary schools welcomed returning and new students with a variety of activities and events in September to build community and help students and staff settle into the new school year. Additional portables are on site this year at NDSS and Wellington to address enrolment pressures. Learning Alternatives has experienced its first September with all of its programs consolidated at the Woodlands site.

Staff have returned to school with bright smiles and positive energy after coming off a summer of sunshine. It has been a pleasure to see and join in some of the regular September activities and events such as Open-house events and Terry Fox runs while also hearing of the start up extra-curricular sports and various clubs.

As a district we are continuing the growth and learning around the importance of justice, equity, diversity, and inclusion as focal points for our work to meet the needs of our learners, our staff, and our families.

All schools start the year off with an emphasis on building a safe, caring, and supportive community. Student learning survey data provides schools with information on the number of students who feel they have two or more adults that care about them. Schools use this data as they build layers of support for students with vulnerabilities.

Despite all the amazing efforts and structures in place, inevitably schools do experience peer conflict and bullying. We work with staff and students to clearly understand the difference between bullying and peer conflict and review the process on how issues are resolved. Schools do follow [AP 312](#) as a guide, with a focus on the work with students being 'educative, preventative, and restorative'.