

## **BROOKS UNPLUGGED**

### **February 14 – 28**

Students are bringing to school an increasing variety and number of electronic devices. Included on the list are cell phones, MP3 players, iPods, PSP's (game devices), CD players and digital cameras. The teaching staff at Brooks is concerned that when these devices are brought into classrooms they can interfere with teaching and learning. In addition, they can possibly cause a variety of other problems (see the 8 reasons).

At the start of Semester 2 we are going to try a new approach with electronic devices, **Brooks Unplugged**. During regular class time, including Flex Time, no electronic devices are to be used in classrooms. They must be kept in lockers, backpacks, pockets or purses. Electronic devices can be used before and after school, during class change time and lunch breaks and by Grade 12 students during their study blocks. Students and parents must note that the school is not responsible if any valuables, including electronic devices, are stolen while at Brooks Secondary. The safest place to keep electronic devices is at home.

If parents need to contact students they should leave messages at the school office or call their child's cell phone during a school break time. It is expected that cell phones will be shut off during class time.

### **8 Reasons why student's are not allowed to use electronics in class**

Electronics = cell phones, MP3 players, PSP (game devices), CD players, headphones, etc.

- 1) Students listening to these devices cannot hear directions.
- 2) Sound from these devices, even when headphones are used, can disrupt other students.
- 3) Lack of attention on what is happening around them can create a safety hazard.
- 4) Students have used these devices to cheat (eg. text message answers).
- 5) Students have used these devices to bully other students and to take pictures without permission.
- 6) The school does not want to be responsible when these devices are lost, damaged or stolen.
- 7) Overuse of these devices promotes social isolation which is associated with a wide range of problems.
- 8) Overuse of these devices can lead to hearing loss and can have an impact on brain development.

### **Core Classroom Rules**

At Brooks we are striving to have a business like, productive learning environment in our classrooms. A common set of classroom rules has been developed. Students should expect all teachers to enforce the core classroom rules that are listed below.

#### **Core Classroom Rules**

1. Students are to be in their seat with materials when the bell rings to start the class.
2. Only 1 student is allowed out of class at a time.
3. No food or drink (except water) is allowed in class unless the teacher gives permission.
4. No swearing.
5. No headphones, music or game devices, or cell phones are allowed to be used in class.
6. Students remain in their seats until the final bell rings.
7. If absent, a student must bring a note in his/her agenda signed by a parent giving a reason for the absence, to the next class.

## Exam schedule

The week of Monday, February 6 to Friday, February 10 is Exam Week at Brooks. Regular classes will not take place and students will only come to school when they have a scheduled exam to write. Please note the following:

- The students have been given a copy of the exam schedule. In addition, it is posted in various locations around the school.
- School buses will run on their regular schedule during Exam Week. Students may want to make alternate transportation arrangements in order to avoid long waits.
- Students who are required to write a final exam and fail to do so will be given a zero.
- In order to be admitted to an exam students must turn in their textbook(s) at the exam room door.

## UNIVERSITY LIAISON VISIT – FEBRUARY 21, 2006

On the morning of February 21<sup>st</sup>, representatives from several B.C. colleges and universities will be making presentations to grade 11 and 12 students at Brooks. This is an excellent opportunity to get current information about post secondary education. Students sign up for the information sessions at the Counselling Office. If all students cannot be accommodated at a particular session Grade 12's will be given preference. Parents, if your son or daughter is thinking of attending college or university after they graduate, encourage them to attend these presentations.

## WEAPONS ARE NOT PERMITTED AT SCHOOL

Recently there have been three incidents of 'guns' being brought to Brooks Secondary. The types of guns have included a toy gun that looks like a real gun, a 'potato gun' and an AirSoft gun that shoots plastic pellets. Students must be aware that weapons of any type, including any type of gun, are not permitted at school. Violation of this school rule may result in suspension.

## PROVINCIAL SATISFACTION SURVEY

Each year all parents of students in grades 10 and 12 are surveyed about how well B.C. secondary schools are meeting the needs of their children. The survey results provide useful information to schools, the local Board of School Trustees and the provincial government.

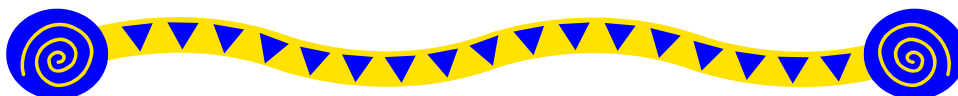
We would greatly appreciate parents taking a few minutes to complete this short survey.

1. A copy of the survey is attached to this newsletter. Once you have completed the survey seal it in the envelope provided and have your son or daughter return it to the Brooks office by February 10<sup>th</sup>.
2. If you have access to a computer you can complete the survey electronically. The instructions, are on the printed version of the survey.

Thank you for taking a few minutes to complete the Satisfaction Survey.

# Calendar Of Events -- February 2006

Friday,	3	Last day of classes in Semester 1
Monday to Friday,	6 to 10	Exam Week
Friday,	10	Final day for parents to return the Provincial Satisfaction Survey to Brooks Secondary.
Monday,	13	District Professional D Day – school is not in session
Monday,	20	7:00 p.m. Parent Advisory Council meeting
Thursday,	23	Students take home report cards



## **Grade 9 Parent Information Night - Wednesday, February 15 at 7:00 p.m.**

Beginning in mid February our school counselors will begin the process of working with Grade 9 students to prepare for their transition into Grade 10. The process will include providing information on the Graduation Program, information about courses and programs offered at Brooks and the actual selection of courses for next year.

The purpose of the Grade 9 Parent Information Night is to inform parents of the requirements of the provincial Graduation Program. Information about the mandatory Graduation Portfolio will also be presented.

All the parents of current Grade 9 students are encouraged to attend .