



2125 Keating X Rd.
Saanichton BC
V8M 2A5
December 2008

Confederation of Parent Advisory Councils Saanich Around the District

School District 63 - Technology Plan

Saanich District has developed a new Comprehensive Technology Plan under the guidance of their new Director of Information Technology, Gregg Ferrie. This 5 year plan is being shared with staff, students, parents, partners and community members to elicit feedback. As expected, there are high costs associated with implementation of this plan. Highlights include:

- Ø Use of low cost "Thin Client" LINUX technology
- Ø Access to school resources from home
- Ø Provision for more laptops in schools
- Ø Moodle websites for teaching and learning
- Ø Incorporating BCeSIS student information system
- Ø Teacher supports for Smartboard, Moodle and accessing online district resources
- Ø Email, Calendar, Contact Lists and Collaborative work spaces all within the same system
- Ø District website with dynamic links
- Ø Upgrade of Server and Network Infrastructure

Full details can be found on the district website by clicking on the link <http://sd63.bc.ca/Techplan2.htm>

Feedback is invited throughout December and January at the conclusion of which a report will be given to the Education Directions Committee in February. Formal adoption of new technology plan is expected at the May 2009 Board meeting. Please direct any feedback to the Director of Information Technology, Gregg Ferrie at gregg_ferrie@sd63.bc.ca no later than January 19, 2009.

"Moodle" – a word that rhymes with Noodle but is so much more!

If you haven't heard of "Moodle" yet you will very soon. Moodle is an acronym for 'Modular Object Oriented Dynamic Learning Environment'. It is a content management system and computer application used to create, edit, manage and publish content in a consistently organized fashion – built especially for the education environment. It includes a learning management system for teachers, parents and students. It delivers, tracks and manages learning and allows users to build capacity through the transfer of knowledge. Many schools are using Moodle already.

In Saanich, Kelset Elementary School is piloting the use of this technology along with Open Source software and it is being launched in many of our schools over the next while. COPACS has their new website on this system thanks to the assistance of Gregg Ferrie and the hard work of Barb Lund and Pam Irvine. Check us out at <http://copacs.sd63.bc.ca>. Ask your school administration about how they are using Moodle.

Around the Province

Congratulations to Dr. Keven Elder
New President of BC School Superintendent's Association (BCSSA)

Our very own Saanich Superintendent Dr. Keven Elder will serve as President of the BCSSA for 2008-09 term. BCSSA members are the province's educational leaders, uniquely qualified to ensure the success of students and school district operations. We wish Keven Elder all the best in his new role !

Vancouver Island Parent Conference 2009 Saturday, February 7th, 2009

All is in place now for the VI Parent Conference to be a very informative and engaging day! From our keynote speakers, Dr. Gabor Mate and Steve Dotto, to the various workshops being offered, to the networking with other parents and exhibitors, to the great food to be enjoyed, you won't want to miss this.

"Caring Communities – Engaged in Our Children's Future"
Saturday February 7, 2009
8:00 am – 4:00 pm
Spectrum Community School – 957 Burnside Road VIC BC

Registration is Required by January 28, 2009 - \$60 per person
Early Bird Discount if received by Jan 9, 2009 - \$50 per person

Full details are available on the attached brochure and on the COPACS website at <http://copacs.dsd63.bc.ca>

Steve Dotto – Cyber Safe

This keynote portion of the Conference is FREE to anyone who wants to attend, thanks to the sponsorship of The Virtual Schools Society and support from London Drugs. We still need your name and phone number to reserve a seat for this popular speaker even if this is the only portion of the program you will be attending. See details on the brochure.

Book your Seat Now for this Popular Conference !

**COPACS will reimburse the first 40 parents who submit their Early Bird receipts (\$50) after the Conference. Register early to get this deal!!

BCCPAC By-Elections Completed

With the by-elections completed, BCCPAC now has a full Board of Directors including the new First Vice-President Ann Whiteaker, Secretary Fiona Delcourt and Director Ida Middleton. Vancouver Island parents are well represented with Ann Whiteaker from Victoria DPAC, Stephanie Longstaff from Sooke DPAC and Ron Broda from Saanich District. Full Board listed at www.bccpac.bc.ca

COPACS Clips – December 2008

Highlights of December Meeting

Assistant Superintendent Nancy MacDonald shared the draft SD63 Comprehensive Technology Plan with parents in attendance at the general COPACS meeting in December. She also updated us on the status of the new District Teams below:

French Programs Task Force – has 5 sub committees working on this project including:

- Ø Visioning Sub Committee
- Ø French Immersion and Enrolment
- Ø Teacher Recruitment & Support
- Ø Core French
- Ø Committee for Student Success

Graduation Rate Improvement Team (GRIT) – this district team is meeting to discuss strategies for improving our overall graduation completion rate with specific attention to our First Nations students.

Green Team – is focusing on developing policy for environmental sustainability in our school communities.

Healthy Schools Steering Committee – along with strategies around implementing healthy nutritional choices and daily physical activity, this team is working with our District Comprehensive School Health Instructional Support Teacher, Tina Peryk, on mental health issues.

These committees all include parent representation along with educators and administrators. We will continue to report on their ongoing work.

Nacny MacDonald also shared that the WDYDST survey is beginning to circulate in our schools. This survey asks students what the conditions were for them to become fully engaged in their learning. This initiative, 'What Did You Do In School Today' (WDYDST), will give the District valuable information for developing learning strategies that will engage all students for optimum learning opportunities.

A MOTION was passed by members in attendance to support up to 40 parents at the Vancouver Island Parent Conference in February by reimbursing their Early Bird registration fee of \$50. All parents and education partners are welcome to register for this Conference. All three districts (Saanich, Victoria and Sooke) have worked hard to make this educational opportunity a day that will be valuable for everyone in our community.

COPACS Network Contact List

COPACS Secretary Cathy Fountas has been hard at work compiling a full network contact list for use by PAC executives. The intention is for PACs to be able to network with peers in similar positions to share best practices and help each other. Treasurers helping Treasurers, etc. The list is being shared with PAC Executives and we ask that the integrity of this list be protected. It should only be used for connecting with other PACS and no other purpose. It is NOT to be used for email distribution lists. If you have any questions or require clarification, please contact COPACS Chair Barb Lund at 250-658-6795 or balund@shaw.ca. Thank you to Cathy for her hard work putting this together!

PAC Action Items

- Ø Share VIPC Flyer and Registration details with your school community via newsletters, bulletin boards and email distribution lists – consider organizing a group of parents to attend together.
- Ø Check your school and PAC websites and update to ensure any links to COPACS are updated <http://copacs.sd63.bc.ca>
- Ø Need 2 more COPACS members to sit on Constitutional Review Committee. Cathy Barber, Pam Irvine and Barb Lund will be working on changes to Constitution but we need your help to review changes, likely in January sometime.
- Ø Share Education Funding brief prepared by BCTF that was handed out at December meeting for future discussions at upcoming COPACS meetings.
- Ø Healthy Schools Coordinators and Hot Lunch Coordinators – please send your contact information to Barb Lund at balund@shaw.ca so you can be included on shared resource lists.

Stelly's Presents 'A Disney Revue' January 12th and 13th, 2009 @ 7:30 pm

This performance by the Stelly's Musical Theatre Dept features excerpts from such Disney classics as: The Lion King, Mary Poppins, The Jungle Book, Cinderella and many more!

Tickets are available from Stelly's front office beginning December 1st and the cost is \$8 for children, Students and Seniors/ \$10 for Adults.



We wish you all a very Merry Christmas with family and friends!

COPACS Exec

Dates to Remember – Special Events

- Jan 8 COPACS General Meeting @ DRC 7:00 pm
- Jan 12 Stelly's Secondary 'A Disney Revue'
- Jan 14 Board of Education Meeting @ 8:00 pm
- Jan 19 District SPC Session @ Bayside 3-5 pm
- Feb 7 Vanc Island Parent Conference @ Spectrum 8 am–4 pm

COPACS Executive 2008-2009

- President Barb Lund 658-6795 balund@shaw.ca
- Past President: Cathy Barber 656-9123 fbarber@shaw.ca
- Ed Directions: Shauna Benson baysidepac2006.2007@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Pam Irvine 881-8152 pam.irvine@shaw.ca
- Secretary: Cathy Fountas cfountas@shaw.ca