

Nanaimo - Ladysmith Schools Foundation

"Helping our Students Reach for Tomorrow"



Music Has the Power to Open Doors

You are probably aware of the many studies that document the positive connection between music education for children and improved abilities in non-musical areas – language skills, math, etc. Involvement in the arts engages kids in a fun way to co-operate, explore different skills and become aware of new forms of expression. For some children, music may be the first area they can finally excel in and gain self-esteem.

Through giving to the Schools Foundation to purchase musical instruments, donors like you are giving a lot of joy to vulnerable kids and giving teachers the tools to make a difference.

One such teacher is Brechin Elementary music teacher Ms. Tanya Cairns, a huge music advocate at the elementary level. With tighter and tighter District budgets, there is no longer funding for musical instruments. A recent donation to her classroom of 27 guitars by donors to the Foundation is already helping engage the students.

When Ms. Cairns introduced the guitars into her classroom a few months ago the students were captivated. Her older students (11 and 12 years old) see the guitar as a "cool" instrument played by the musicians they like. With the guitars every student was trying to play and were all on the same page learning when learning the guitar.

Some of her classes have a larger group of students with learning and behavioural issues that make teaching challenging. However, in music class with the guitars the behavioural issues aren't a problem. The students treat the instruments with respect, taking care of them when they play and when they put them away after class. They know that their teacher is trusting them with an expensive instrument and they feel good about that.

"When you foster a love of music at an early age it can be pivotal moment for keeping students in school and eventually graduating", remarks Ms. Cairns

Without your generous donations to the Foundation opportunities for elementary music programs may not be available. Music opens doors for kids to the many different learning possibilities in their future. Students succeed in the future by sponsoring a financial award.



Smart, Feisty and Dedicated: Our Board for 2012

Continuing in our tradition of recruiting great board members we welcome Sharon Richmond, George Anderson, Rob Hutchins and Gord McNaughton as they join us with the important work of the Foundation. Thank you to our retiring board members: Roger Prior, Sharon Althouse, Greg Scott, Don Henderson, Patti Mitchell, Noreen Martin and Omar Siri.

Executive:

Fred Kolodrubsky, *President*, Steve Hancock, *Vice-President*, Meryl Chahley, *Treasurer*, Susan Muirhead, *Secretary*, Signy Madden, *Fundraising/Communications*, Dave Hammond, *Past President*

Directors:

George Anderson, Carol Baird-Krul, Joan Ethier, Rob Hutchins, Jim McIvor, Gord McNaughton, Susan Muirhead, Trevor Muise, Duck Paterson, Sharon Richmond

Dr. Patrick Ross

Ex-Officio Directors:

Dave Hutchinson, Superintendent - SD68, Sharon Welch, Board of Trustees - SD68

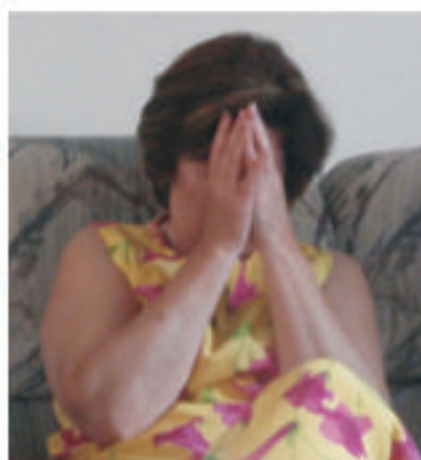


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Food or Shelter - A Tough Choice for Many Families



You can help fill in the gaps for families that have to make the tough choice between food and shelter. Your donations support students living in difficult family situations through breakfast and snack programs in many of the schools. School nutrition programs help to level the playing field for all children, giving them an equal chance to grow and flourish along with their peers.

In March 2012, the Dieticians of Canada released a report – *Cost of Eating in British Columbia* that brings to light the tough choices some families are forced to make. Nanaimo is a community that struggles with high unemployment and child poverty (BC has the highest rates in Canada for eight years running). Many families in BC face the decision of choosing between having a roof over their heads and eating nutritious food.

The report revealed that in 2011, the provincial average cost of the nutritious food basket for a family of four is \$868.43 per month. For many families living on social assistance or with minimum wage salaries there isn't enough left over after paying rent to provide nutritious food for their families.

Your donations help provide families the extra support they need during tough financial situations.

Thank You to Island Radio for Their Music Donation



Left to Right: Music Teacher Ms. Kathy Wilson and two grade six students.

Rob Bye, Holly Tribble and Darrell Major from Island Radio experienced firsthand the impact of their donation to elementary school music programs. The grade 4/5 class at Chase River Elementary wowed them with their amazing rhythm on the Djembe Drums in January.

The \$2000 donation meant enthusiastic music teacher Ms. Kathy Wilson could purchase 22 Djembe Drums and four sets of bells. "The drums give every student no matter their ability a way to participate in my class which is very important to the learning process," says Ms. Wilson.

This is the fifth year that Island Radio has supported elementary music programs through the Foundation.

"Many of us know of the enjoyment that learning and playing music brings so we're very pleased once again to make this donation to the Foundation to support school music programs," says Rob Bye, General Manager, Island Radio Group.

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Independent Order of Odd Fellows Donates \$50,000 to Awards and Scholarship Program

You and I care about kids getting the chance to follow their post-secondary dreams. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows put their money where it counts – giving opportunities for more students to attend university and college. Black Diamond Lodge Number Five and Miriam Rebekah Lodge Number Three recently donated \$50,000 to sustain a regular \$1,500 a year scholarship for students pursuing studies in science, engineering or medicine.

The Independent Order of Odd Fellows has been providing money for awards to SD 68 students since 1968 and this further confirms their commitment to education and youth in our community. This supports one of the group's three areas of interest: education, healthcare/taking care of the sick and community.

There are many more qualified students that need awards than the Foundation can support. If YOU want to help a young person get an education contact Erin van Steen at the Foundation office about these opportunities.



Left to Right: Signy Madden, NLSF Board Fundraising/Communications, Steve Hancock, NLSF Board Vice President, Kevin Smith, Oddfellows Secretary, Victor Osborne, Oddfellows, Dave Munn, Oddfellows, Sheldon Smith, Grand Nable Oddfellows and Fred Kolodrubsky, NLSF Board President.

Thank You Roger Prior



This year we say goodbye to one of the founding members of the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation, Roger Prior. Roger has been an integral part of forming the Foundation, creating our governance and operating policies and being an advocate for local students. He served as secretary on the executive for five years. **Thank you Roger for helping make a difference in local students lives.** We are glad you are going to continue with the Awards selection this year!

BE THE DIFFERENCE...
Support our kids

Coastal Community Credit Union - A Community Leader for Supporting Youth for Over 40 Years

The Coastal Community Credit Union (CCCU) has been a supporter of the Foundation since 1972, when they first started to sponsor an award for graduating students. Since then their involvement has grown.

In 2006, the Foundation was the recipient of \$5,000 from the (CCCU) Spirit Fund. In 2011, CCCU jumped on board with Stock the Lockers campaign to help purchase school supplies for kids in need, raising over \$1,500 in their four branches in Nanaimo in August.

This year, CCCU has donated \$5000 through their Spirit Fund to purchase two salad bars for two high-need elementary schools in the district. Coastal Community Credit Union Insurance has also donated \$2500 to support the Mini-O track and field meet in the spring.

"We are passionate about the work done by the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation, and are pleased to support their initiative to provide healthy food in our local schools." Allyson Prescesk, Manager, Community Experience and Communications, CCCU.

The Foundation is so fortunate to have an Island-based and community-minded employer supporting our programs. **Thank you to the Coastal Community Credit Union on behalf of the students in Nanaimo and Ladysmith who you have helped in so many different ways.** You walk the talk about being a caring community supporter.



In the Photo:

Erin van Steen, NLSF Executive Director, Melanie Emmerson, CCCU Community Experience Specialist and Misty Duifnius, Georgia Avenue School Community School Coordinator at the most recent salad bar day. The funds from CCCU helped to fund the purchase of two new salad bars.

Kool and Child Family Fun Day Helps Kids

Local independent retailer Kool & Child held a family fun day on Saturday, November 12 at their Bowen Road store to celebrate the first-ever Neighbourhood Toy Store Day, a day that aims to promote local toy shopping for families. Kool & Child generously donated a portion of the proceeds from each sale to the Foundation and the busy day of family fun raised \$750.

Do you own a business and can donate a portion of sales of an item to the Foundation? Does your child or niece or nephew want to help someone by collecting donations instead of presents at their next party? Third party events are a great way you can collect donations to help kids in our district.

If you are interested in hosting your own fundraiser through your workplace or organization please contact Erin van Steen at the Foundation office.

There are many ways you can continue to support NLSF's programs. Renew your gift online at www.nlsf.ca or make an additional gift to the Student Support Fund or new breakfast programs.



Become the Foundation's Fan on Facebook!

Please become a fan of the NLSF on Facebook to receive real-time updates on news stories, relevant information and photos. Search for us under the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation.

