



Some Wellington Secondary 2015 graduates send special thanks to donors.

*Because of your generosity*

## Grads Receive \$474,500 towards Higher Education

Because of your generosity, graduating high school students received a total of \$474,500 in financial aid to help pay for the high cost of their post-secondary education. In June, 373 students were awarded scholarships and bursaries in amounts ranging from \$100 to \$5,000.

"Thanks to the generosity of our community partners, many graduating high school students have the opportunity to go to college or university to continue their education," says Crystal Dennison, Executive Director of Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation.

"Donors understand the importance of helping young people succeed, and they see their financial support as an investment in their community's future. Without help from donors, many students may not be able to pursue higher education."

Local service clubs, community organizations and private donors provided \$323,500, while the Ministry of Education funded 151 scholarships of \$1,000 each.

In 2014 the Foundation distributed \$462,000 to local graduates. The increase came from new donors, as well as the Ministry of Education who allocated an additional \$11,000.

Kenda Chang-Swanson received several scholarships when she graduated from NDSS in 2013. She is now in her third year of studies at the University of Victoria, completing a major in Sociology and minor in Social Justice Studies.

"I'm so thankful for the generosity of donors, who helped pay for my first year of university. Knowing that my home community saw potential in me to help with my goals and academic pursuits has been influential upon me," says Kenda.



Kenda Chang-Swanson

**"I'm so thankful for the generosity of donors, who helped pay for my first year of University."**



School District 68 Trustees donate to aid learning environments

## Trustees Establish ‘Enhanced Learning’ Grant

Trustees of School District 68 have established a grant to enhance learning environments for teachers and students. Amounts of up to \$500 may be requested to obtain supplies or conduct special student-focused learning projects.

Trustees are making personal contributions to the grant out of recognition that:

- Teachers often pay for supplies, furnishings and other items out of their own pockets;
- Teachers are the heart and soul of local schools;
- Trustees want to do more to help students succeed;
- Every \$1 invested in K-12 education reaps a far greater financial reward in the future;
- Small amounts of money can make a big impact in students’ learning experiences;
- Funding for special projects can be difficult to obtain through tight school budgets.

## Help for Students in Career Technical Trades Programs

Students in Career Technical Trades programs often require special supplies such as steel-toed boots, hardhats, hairdressing scissors, knife sets, tools, etc.

Many students can’t afford the extra costs, and the Schools Foundation has agreed to provide support for students who genuinely need help.

If you would like to help, please contact Executive Director Crystal Dennison at 250-753-4074 to discuss how you might best assist some students.

**When you make a donation to Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation, you’ll know in your heart that you helped a school child in need. And that makes all the difference.**

## Dear Community Donor,

Thank you very much for your continued donation of school supplies to the students of Nanaimo District Secondary and Learning Alternatives. Without your generous donation, many of our students would have difficulty obtaining the basic items needed to continue their education. Every week we have a teacher or student come to the office and go to our supply cupboard to get a pen, paper, binder or back pack. They know there is someone in the community that cares, and it makes a difference in their lives.

Anne Stacey  
Business and Operations Secretary  
NDSS, CTC and Learning Alternatives

## Thank You!

*“The Gabriola Lions-Joe Brake Memorial Award allowed me to decrease my part-time employment during my first year and focus on my studies. This award was extremely helpful, financially and emotionally, as moving away from my family was a huge change. I’m thankful to the donors, as the award allowed me to focus my energy and time on activities that brought me to where I am today.”*



Francesca Bell Peters

Francesca Bell Peters (2011 NDSS grad) is completing her final year of a Bachelor of Science, Biochemistry honours degree at the University of Victoria and conducting neuroscience research on traumatic brain injuries. She volunteers with Global Medical & Dental Brigades that host mobile medical clinics in rural, poverty stricken communities in Central America.

*Donors like you help build healthy and strong communities*

## **Many Students Receive Breakfast – Many More Remain Unfed**

Imagine coming to school hungry and trying to learn to read and write, absorb math and science, remember historical facts while your stomach is growling. That's the reality for many students at Nanaimo Ladysmith Public Schools. But thanks to generous donors many students can start their day with a meal.

At Forest Park Elementary school, 40 to 45 students receive breakfast every day through a partnership between the Schools Foundation and Breakfast Club of Canada that supports seven other schools in the district.



Monica Dumont serves hard boiled eggs.

Monica Dumont, Breakfast Coordinator and Education Assistant at Forest Park, has created a 'homey' atmosphere in the general purpose room where students sit 'family style', are able to socialize, and get a calm start to their day. "We emphasize table manners, teach them to say 'please' and 'thank you' and expect them to clean up after themselves," says Mrs. Dumont.

Healthy food options are a priority and vary daily; all adhere to Canada's Food Guide. Today's menu features hard boiled eggs, toast, fruit, milk and juice. Big jars of peanut butter and jam are on the table, and students always have access to yogurt.

Forest Park Principal Jacquie Poulin says that brown bag lunches are provided daily to 30 to 35 students whose families are in difficult financial situations. She is thankful for all the support her school receives from donors.

"I want to say a huge 'thank you' to all the generous donors,"



Mern Pinneo, School Meals Coordinator, is excited about the donation of a new fridge for Bayview Elementary school's breakfast program.

she says. "Please know you're making a difference with your donations. It's getting directly to the kids in our district who need help."

Executive Director Crystal Dennison says that the Schools Foundation supports close to 300 students a day with breakfast but there are many more who arrive at school hungry. "We'll continue to fundraise to help students get a good start to their school day," she says.

### **Cost to nourish 1 school child**

\$2.50: Breakfast or Lunch for 1 day

\$12.50: Breakfast or Lunch for 1 week

\$25: Breakfast & Lunch for 1 week

\$50: Breakfast or Lunch for 1 month

\$100: Breakfast & Lunch for 1 month

Will you join other caring people to help nourish more students in need? You can set up secure online monthly donations at [www.NLSF.ca](http://www.NLSF.ca), click 'Donate Now'.



*You are making a difference*

## Thank You, Generous Donors!

At Pleasant Valley, we are very appreciative for our school supplies. We do not have resources to assist our vulnerable learners, and your generosity is amazing.

One Grade 5 student's face lit up when I was able to give her a backpack with new pencils, pencil crayons, pens, a ruler, paper, and other supplies. The student entered her class prepared and knowing that these were now her supplies. She was beaming.

Kathy Bergman, Principal  
Pleasant Valley Elementary



### Seaview Elementary School

School District #68 – Nanaimo-Ladysmith  
<http://schoolsweb.sd68.bc.ca/seaview/>

January 25, 2016

To Crystal Dennison

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your organization's contributions to Seaview School. Recently an additional \$750 was added to our account to help support our food program. This program does not receive official funding which means that these additional funds are very welcomed.

Our school is a diverse population that has a variety of needs. Each day we have at least 12 students that require a lunch. Some of these are individuals and some are families that are unable to provide a healthy lunch. This funding allows us to purchase the necessary supplies to provide these students with a lunch.

The parents of these children really appreciate the support from the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation. There was a time when some of these students stayed home instead of coming to school without a lunch. Your support has allowed us to maintain this lunch program, which has helped get these students to school on a regular basis. There is also a benefit to them as they are well nourished and this helps them focus on their learning.

We appreciate all of your efforts to provide the support to provide lunches for Seaview students.

Sincerely,

David Cooper  
Principal

**Stock the Lockers**  
**Save the Dates: August 18 - September 8**  
Help raise \$50,000 for school supplies and other practical needs of vulnerable students at School District 68

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