



## Press Release/Photo Opportunity

### **Nanaimo Blues Society Gives Elementary Students the Gift of Music**

For Immediate Release - **Nanaimo, BC – February 16, 2011** The [Nanaimo Blues Society](#) is committed to seeing more Nanaimo students enjoying and pursuing music. The group recently donated \$2,500 to the [Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation](#) in order for Park Avenue Community School to purchase instruments for its music program. Music teacher Lisa Rokeby purchased one bass xylophone; one bass metallophone; one alto metallophone; one alto xylophone; one soprano xylophone; one drum and extra mallets with the donation.

"Having a variety of different types of instruments helps the students learn both rhythm and pitch in a very active way," said Lisa Rokeby, Park Avenue music teacher. "With limited classroom resources, it has been a challenge to teach music with the children needing to share space and equipment. These instruments will make a huge difference to their creative learning process."

Donations from community groups to the Foundation help provide basic needs, but they also enable to students to pursue interests like music, sports, dance and art that are integral to their learning development.

"We chose to donate funds to purchase instruments for students in the elementary grade level because we believe the positive impact that music creates can affect the greatest number of children, said Eric McLean, Nanaimo Blues Society. "We hope to help build confidence and greater self-esteem in students, as well as create new enthusiasm and energy for the teachers involved."

In addition to this donation, the Nanaimo Blues Society is also donating an additional \$500 to Departure Bay School to purchase two guitars for students who cannot afford the rental fees.

The Nanaimo-Ladysmith School Foundation works with School District 68 to bring programs that better the lives of students, through support programs and scholarship programs. Supplies and programs that are not covered by the school board budget can be supplemented through the Foundation. To make a donation to the Nanaimo-Ladysmith Schools Foundation, please contact via [www.nlsf.ca](http://www.nlsf.ca) or (250) 753-4074.

#### **PHOTO OPPORTUNITY**

Students from Park Avenue Community School, located at 395 Eight Street, will be using their new instruments to explore sounds with their teacher Lisa Rokeby and Eric McLean from the Blues Society on **THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m.** If you are interested in attending to take a photo, please contact Erin O'Reilly.

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