

# Banbury Independent News

## Taking Ownership

“I’m on top of it!” As both a teacher and a mother, these words, which were just recently spoken to me by one of my sons, are like music to my ears. There are many layers of meaning in these words for me. They say, “You don’t have to remind me anymore,” “I can handle this on my own, now,” “You can trust me,” and “I’m taking over the ownership of this responsibility.” It might only be a baby step, but, these words hint at growth and maturation, and maybe even a realization of how this particular achievement fits into the bigger picture of life. These words left me with a sense of admiration and pride for my son, although it’s likely that those were unanticipated responses. He probably just wanted me to stop nagging. LOL! (I’ll try.)

The indication that a change in ownership is happening is something we are always looking for in all of our students. It is the very nature of what we are striving for at Banbury. However, for many students, it doesn’t happen quickly, or all at once. Depending on the level of confidence and motivation, it might only happen in baby steps or in random chunks. The important thing is that this transition does happen and when it happens, that we, as parents and teachers, acknowledge it, celebrate it, and encourage more! It’s a true milestone.

As to the lasting impact of those words... So far, he really does seem to be on top of it!

Here’s hoping for music in all of your ears!

Karen Harrison

### Important Dates for April:

Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> – Mandatory Student Exhibitions. No Classes

Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Pizza Day Forms Due

Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> – Pizza Day



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## Director's Message – 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

This is an exciting time, indeed! We are celebrating 35 years of existence! When Banbury first opened its doors, there were very few private schools in Calgary. I could number them on one hand. Principals' Meetings through Alberta Education took place around one boardroom table, and there were no other women at it. We have grown from 2 students in that first year to an average of 65 per year. I was the only teacher for 8 years, and I needed to do all of the administrative work as well. I am extremely proud of the existence of Banbury Crossroads, and am happy that this type of schooling is available to provide self-directed learning for the children in Calgary. I am extremely grateful for the efforts of the teachers who have contributed to the way Banbury operates, for what way it is now is a direct result of their effort, input and inspiration. I am especially grateful for those who have remained true to our vision for many years, and especially for Karen Harrison, who has been here the longest, other than me. Anne Bransby-Williams, Cristina Atanasiu, Doan Tran, Tara Fry and Ann McKean are other long-term staff whom I appreciate just as dearly. All of the newer teachers are welcome to all of us, and we hope that some may stay long-term too!

In order to make our Anniversary celebration a memorable occasion, we need to prepare for it. **Tomorrow after school, on Thursday at 3:45, I am meeting with interested parents to discuss the Silent Auction preparation.** Any parents, including those on the PAC, are welcome to join us for this discussion. We will divide up some of the tasks that will occur on that evening, and plan for details regarding the Silent Auction. Please join us! We will enjoy the process with more hands to help!

If your children have brought home projects over their years of attendance that you think would be appropriate for a display of projects, please contact the office and let Anne or Jacquie know. As well, we will be having a display of art from the work done this year.

I also ask you to collect items for the Silent Auction, as well. It will only be interesting and exciting if there are items in it! You may bring them to the office now. We will be recording them and storing them until the event.

Thank you for the memories, for this school has been an enormous part of my life! I appreciate the relationships I have built with all of you!

Diane Swiatek

### Meet Erica – The New Jr/Sr Social Teacher

Greetings students, teachers, and parents of Banbury Crossroads! My name is Erica and I am grateful to be joining Banbury as the new Junior and Senior Social Studies teacher. Prior to becoming a member of the Banbury family I spent my time teaching French and Phys-ed, and working on my Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction. In my studies I focused on implementing Project and Problem based learning into High School classrooms.

Other than having a passion for teaching and learning, I am an athlete and avid reader. I have a background in wrestling, rugby, and Olympic style weight lifting (although you would never tell by my petite build!). I am also enthusiastic about running and hiking near-by in Bragg Creek and the Kananaskis. Finally, when I can find the time I love to read historical fictions, which is where much of my knowledge on Social Studies and World History stems from.

### Upcoming Student Exhibitions

Student Exhibitions will be held on Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> and Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup>. Afternoon and evening time slots are available on a first come, first serve basis. Evening time slots fill up fast, so sign up early to make sure you get the time you want. The sign-up sheet for exhibitions is available in the school office. A reminder that all students must do an exhibition, as it is part of the yearly evaluative process.

### Pizza Day Returns!

On Wednesday, April 29<sup>th</sup>, we will be having a Pizza Day. Students can pre-order 6 in personal pizzas and a drink. Order forms will be sent home shortly, and must be returned no later than Wednesday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>. As the order must be made in advance, there are no exceptions.

## Travel Opportunity for Next Year

In the spring of 2016, grade 9 to 12 students have the opportunity to participate in an 11 day trip to Italy and Germany. This trip will include stops in Rome, Florence, Munich, and Prague. For the full itinerary, check out this link:

<http://www.eftours.ca/eliterature/DBD/13/IGE.pdf>

To enrol in the trip, please use the following link:

<http://www.eftours.ca/tour-website/1710452KZ>

Early enrolment is encouraged, to take advantage of the payment plans offered.

Please note that grade 8 students can request permission to join the trip, provided there are enough chaperones.

### Knitting Circle

With a growing interest in knitting among students, an after school knitting circle is being considered for Mondays, 3:35 to 4:35. This will be a drop in group – no need to commit to every week, but if you are interested please speak with Tara so the first meeting can be planned. Parents and teachers are encouraged to come, too!

If anyone has any knitting needles, crochet hooks, or yarn they would like to donate, it would be greatly appreciated. Those participating in the knitting circle will be encouraged to use donated yarn to make at least one project to be donated to Inn From the Cold in the fall.

### Technology Famine Results

Thanks to everyone who participated in the technology famine, and especially everyone who sponsored someone in the technology famine, we were able to raise just over \$760, which means both the Sud Academy and the Boys and Girls Club of Calgary will be receiving \$381.

Well done, everyone!

### Community Education Opportunities

Note that there are seminars on youth gaming and on videogame use and abuse offered at this time.

**The Community Education Service is pleased to present the following sessions in April: (click on titles or url)**

[Teen Scene](#) (not available via Video Conference/Audioline)

[Conflict Between Separated Parents and Its Effect on Your Children](#)  
(not available via Video Conference/Audioline)

[Youth Gaming: How Much is Too Much?](#)(not available via Video Conference/Audioline)

[Videogame Use and Abuse](#) (not available via Video Conference/Audioline)

[Introduction to Infant Sign Language](#)(not available via Video Conference/Audioline)

[ONLINE LEARNING - NEW! Drugs, Trends and Teens](#)

**Click link below to register: (to register for VC/audioline, see directions on poster)**

**\*\*\*CES sessions are not intended to have children brought to them, they are for adult learning and for you to convey the tools and strategies learnt therein.\*\*\***

[http://frcr.albertahealthservices.ca/course\\_registration/public\\_course\\_list.php](http://frcr.albertahealthservices.ca/course_registration/public_course_list.php)

[April 2015 Newsletter](#)