



## Deroche School Program Report 2011 - 2012

- **Classroom:** Our teaching team works collaboratively in providing excellent instruction and collective **resources** such as Reading Power, 6+1 Writing Traits, Nelson Language Series, Math to the Max, Trevor Calkins Math, Marilyn Burns, Problem Solving and Math Makes Sense. Our school supports students with ESD and Learning assistance utilizing much of Dawn Reithaug's material. We celebrated our learning by having an open house in the fall for parents to interact with their child and teachers in the classroom and view all the learning they are doing. In the spring, we are planning a **Socials/Science fair**. Our teachers use **feedback for learning** strategies and have been involved with the Network of Performance based schools for a number of years. The DART results indicated that reading continues to be a priority. At Deroche we have a variety of cooperative learning opportunities including **cooking, sewing puppets, and construction**. Our Thanksgiving Stew was delicious! **Outdoor education** is an integral part of our spring programming with wilderness survival, hiking safety, first aid, canoeing and water safety and swimming lessons planned for the last term. Our students are encouraged to use their **WITS** when encountering conflict situations. We have approached the Rotary Club to teach us the **4 way problem solving test** and Constable Jewell will be delivering our **DARE** program this year. Not only that, she will be "hanging out" with the students for lunch and getting to know them and the community.
- **Environmental Stewardship:** Deroche has recently been recognized by *Communities in Bloom* for their efforts in recycling, compost and educational powerpoints. Our fall **litter audit** kicked off the discussions about our environment and we will be visiting the Recycling Centre in Abbotsford to continue our education in the field as well as doing some community clean-up and a service project in partnership with the **Lion's Club**. We are continuing a focus on environmental stewardship through our early spring **salmonid project** and our late spring **gardening project**.
- **Technology:** Deroche has expanded and incorporated technology to teach, support and enrich student learning through the use of **listening centres, smart board, document cameras, computer learning** and **computer reading programs** such as **Raz-Kids, Reading a-z, Tumblebooks** (via the Mission Public library) and

**Starfall.** These computer-generated programs and links with FVRL have engaged our students and given them access to books and online tutoring they would never have otherwise been able to access easily. In addition, they have an assessment and oral reading recording component. The students love to hear themselves read!

- **Extra-curricular programming and events:** Deroche has a full contingent of extra-curricular activities and special events. We participate in all district **sporting events** (cross country, bball, vball, track and field, floor hockey) as well as providing a **school choir**. We were privileged to sing at the Rotary Carol Festival, on the Deroche Community Float and for the Elder's Christmas Lunch at the Le:qamel Band office in addition to our Christmas concert. Students enjoy a **games club** after school twice a month and we are heading into **cheerleading season**. Students who enjoy reading and talking about books are encouraged to join our **Reading Links Challenge Group** and read books selected by the **Mission Public Library**.

Our active **PAC** plans community movie nights, Christmas Breakfast, book fairs and pictures with Santa, and a Spring Fair in addition to supporting the school with various fundraisers and social service programs.

- **Student Leadership and Service:** This year, our Deroche students have been actively involved in **Me to We** projects in an effort to make a positive difference in our community and world. We have completed the Terry Fox Run, **the Shoebox Campaign**, organized clothes for our clothing drive, collected food for the Food Bank and prepared **Christmas hampers** for 7 families at Christmas. We enjoy partnering with HSS on the food hamper project and in volleyball where their students have shared their volleyball knowledge and skill with our students. Our students are busy in the **office** answering phones at lunch, on the playground helping students who are hurt (**peer counselling**), buddy reading, picking up garbage, **servicing breakfast**, raising money for **Jump Rope for Heart**, decorating the gym, setting up for assemblies, leading Sports Day or helping with the many jobs that appear during the regular course of a school year.
- **Early Learning:** Meeting parents and providing learning opportunities to their children is a big focus of our early learning programs. Our school boasts a thriving **Strong Start Program** with a registration of 31 students! Parents and their children meet 3x/week and often we have little ones walking down the hall to the gym or listening to the choir sing in the foyer in addition to their co-operative learning program. **Mother Bear** makes its way to the library every Tuesday while

families connect with literature through songs and nursery rhymes and stories. Facilitators are trained by the provincial Mother Goose program and are part of *Literacy in Motion*. We are making plans for our Valentine's brunch for the Elder's and parents where our students will have a chance to sing and demonstrate pow wow drumming. **Books for Bedtime** and **Ready, Set, Learn** are opportunities to introduce our up and coming students to the school, engage parents in their children's education and instill a passion for literacy in our families.

- **Aboriginal Education:** Our students are provided with many occasions to enrich their educational experience with aboriginal culture and traditions. This year, we have learned the art of **Metis finger weaving, soapstone carving, pow wow drumming, story-telling, beading, tuppies** and crafts. We hope some of you saw our "Bonhommes" with handmade Metis sashes hanging proudly on the Christmas tree at the Mission Springs. We are planning a Salmon Ceremony and our aboriginal Cultural Day is always a highlight. Students enjoy bannock at various times throughout the year and will be carving and drawing with Tom Patterson. Our **First Nations Parents Group** connects all our parents and gives them the opportunity to meet each other and build connections and relationships within our school and community.
- **Community Connections:** Deroche School is active in partnering with businesses, community organizations, service bodies, First Nations groups and faith-based organizations to service our families and greater community. In addition to our **parent-led Breakfast club, clothing give-away, free hot lunch and fruit and veggie program**, our school has been privileged to work with a team (Lacey Developments, Mennonite Church, Deroche Store, FVRD) to provide our **Blessings in a Backpack** program. This program offers backpacks of food to 27 students and their families each weekend that may need a little "extra" food between Friday and Monday. **North Fraser Fire Dept** provides fire safety education to our students and a special breakfast during their spring fundraising event. Our students participate in various community activities including submitting artwork to the Mission Times, decorating trees at the Mission Springs and singing at the Rotary Carol Festival. **Le:qamel youth group** and **Lake Errock Community Church** provide activities for our students and we actively publicize their events. Save-On graciously donated all the food for our kick off community **BBQ** and **Deroche store** provides bread, snacks and numerous items to our school to keep our students well-nourished so they can concentrate on learning. We are looking forward to our year-end community BBQ at Lake Errock. Wednesday nights at school is open to **Community Volleyball** and our students participated in the **Christmas Candlelight Parade** on the Deroche Float. **Fraser**

**House** continues to service our families from the access centre and offer an 8-week education program for our intermediate students. **UFV** and Deroche are beginning a relationship that will see **Student Nurses** come in and teach our students about dental hygiene, nutrition, germs and epilepsy. An initial introduction to the Science Department's "**Science Rocks**" program (Ora Steyn) will begin this spring and conversations are happening at UFV Chilliwack Campus to forge a collaborative, supportive relationship which can encourage students to lifelong learning and post-secondary education. We have just begun to explore the possibility of establishing a "**Triple P**" parenting program in the community. **Wendy Bales**, our "Area C Representative" for the FVRD is a constant source of ideas, funding, education, contacts and support for our school. We have established an ongoing relationship that connects our school community and the greater community.

***Deroche Elementary School is a busy and active school that services about 55 students and their families as well as a thriving Strong Start program. About 70% of our students are aboriginal. We are an integral part of the community and continue to strive to meet the needs of all learners and their families. Our motto is "Deroche School-where kids come first".***

*Sue McLeod*

Mrs. Sue McLeod  
School Principal