



Deroche Elementary School

News letter



September 20, 2016

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www.deroche.mpsd.ca

Hello Bear Supporters,

Students Return and Our New Teachers

I am very happy to see our enthusiastic group of young people back enlivening our hallways again. The smiles of our students, and their curiosity, are energizing and makes coming back to work a privilege. Also, in the last few weeks, I, and our other returning staff have had the opportunity to get to know and work with several new teachers. Their dedication to our students is inspiring and their professionalism is impressive. I hope you get the opportunity to become acquainted with our new staff at our upcoming "Meet the Teacher" BBQ this Thursday.

Truth and Reconciliation at Deroche

One of my responsibilities as an educator and father is to sort out conflicts between young people. Over the years I have experienced a change in focus from "attempting to find out who needs what punishment" to "how can the hurt caused by the conflict be healed and the relationship be restored".

As my perspective has changed so has my appreciation of the importance of telling the truth. Recently I met with two of our students who were in a conflict. When both young people told the same story of what happened, did not blame each other for their mistakes, and then honestly expressed how each felt when hurt by the other, we could easily progress to exchanging sincere apologies and developing a plan of prevention of the conflict. Only, then did the issue of appropriate consequences come up. I saw clearly, once again, how reconciliation, restoration and healing are so dependent on truth.

Truth and Reconciliation in Canada

I recently attended a lecture by Wab Kinew, an Aboriginal author and university administrator from Manitoba who is also a member of the Truth and

Reconciliation Commission of Canada examining the impacts of residential schools. After explaining the devastating effects of his Ojibway father attending a residential school in Ontario, Wab went on to explain how important it was for his father, several years later, to go and meet with some Priests. At this meeting, Wab's father heard their apologies, wept with them and expressed that he, Wab's father, was determined to forgive, to attempt to break the cycle of bitterness. Similarly, Wab expressed how proud he was of all Canadian Aboriginal people for choosing to accept a smaller settlement in the residential school class action lawsuit, if the funds could be used to allow victims of residential schools to have the opportunity to tell their stories to the Reconciliation and Truth Commission hearings. Here again, we see how important it is for the truth to be expressed before seeds of healing and forgiveness can be planted and start growing.

September 30th March of Reconciliation

At the end of this month our grade 5 and 6's will be marching with numerous other students in Mission near the former site of St. Mary's Residential School in Heritage Park. In order to express their commitment to truth and reconciliation for those scarred by residential schools, each student will present a small piece of artwork to a group of Aboriginal elders meeting in the Park. All the pieces of art-work will be compiled into a gigantic turtle, the animal symbol of our Aboriginal Department this year signifying the value of "truth". Of course more teaching and learning about residential schools and Aboriginal history will occur prior to the field trip but, as we Bears go through the school year of 2016/17 we need to commit ourselves to truth, and allow our wonderful journey of discovery, learning, and healing, to occur in unity and harmony.

Mike Abercrombie
Deroche Principal



Deroche Elementary School Staff:
Welcome to all New and Returning Staff!

Principal:	Mr. Mike Abercrombie
Division 1 (Gr 5/6):	Ms. Jennifer Olson & Mr. Mike Abercrombie
Division 2 (Gr 3/4):	Ms. Jennifer Henshaw
Division 3 (Gr 2/3):	Mrs. Cheryl Denton
Division 4 (Gr K/1):	Mrs. Sarah MacKay & Ms. Jennifer Olson
Teacher Librarian:	Ms. Ann Titford
LST Teacher:	Ms. Alicia Reid
Education Assistant:	Mrs. Donna Keats & Ms. Inderjeet Braich
Youth Care Worker:	Ms. Jivan Rai
Aboriginal Support:	Mrs. Kristy Hackel
Strong Start Facilitator:	Mrs. Julie Gerbrand
Secretary:	Mrs. Debbie MacLean
Supervision Assistants:	Ms. Tamara Brandy Mrs. Brenda Herfort
Custodian:	Mr. Troy Bradley

Student Verification Forms:

Student Verification forms have been sent home today with students. This form contains important contact information for your child. It is important that we have accurate and up-to-date information on file in the event that your child is injured or becomes ill at school. Please review the form, make any necessary changes and return it to your child’s teacher. We also ask that you inform the office if there are any changes to addresses or phone numbers during the remainder of the school year.

Newsletters and School Assemblies:



The newsletter is generally published on the last Thursday of each month. We are striving to send newsletters home via email so please remember to include your email address on the student verification forms. If you do not have an email, we will continue to send a paper copy home to youngest and only children in our school. Please take time to read the newsletter as there are important notices, dates to remember, upcoming events and school policy information. You can also visit our website at www.deroche.mpsd.ca for news and notices.

Our **school assemblies** will take place the last Wednesday of each month at 1:30. Our Sept assembly however will be postponed until October 3rd at 8:30. Please join us as we recognize our ‘Students of the Month’.

The School Bell Schedule:

Please be advised that our start and dismissal times have changed from last year:

First Bell	8:15 a.m.
Morning session begins	8:20 a.m.
Recess	10:15 – 10:30
Lunch	11:45 – 12:00
Outside to Play	12:00 – 12:25
Warning Bell	12:25 p.m.
Afternoon sessions begins	12:30 p.m.
Dismissal	2:13 p.m.



The School Office:



Please call the school if you have any questions or concerns. Our office hours are from 8:00 am to 2:45 pm Monday to Friday. Our answering machine is

always turned on so if we are temporarily unavailable you can leave a message. All messages are retrieved before dismissal.

Student Absences and Lates:

If your child will be absent from school or late to school, please contact the school’s office before 9:00 am at 604-826-2360 so their attendance can be recorded. A phone call home will be made if your child has an unexcused absence. If your child is late, please have them check in at the office before they go to their classroom.

School Visitors:

All visitors must sign in and report to the office for safety reasons. If you are dropping off forgotten homework, lunches or other items for your child, please leave them at the office and we will ensure they are delivered to the classroom. It is important to keep an uninterrupted learning environment for all students and teachers. Thank you for your support and assistance.

School Phone:



Students are permitted to use the school phone with permission to communicate illness or unavoidable changes in home transportation

arrangements. We encourage after-school plans to be communicated with your child before they leave for school in the morning.

Illness or Injury:

If a student becomes ill or injured at school, parents will be contacted. If a parent cannot be reached, the school will then contact your designated emergency contact.

Medical Alerts:

Please ensure that the office has been advised of any medical alerts for your child. If your child has a potentially life threatening or medical condition and requires medication to be administered, forms must be completed every year. This includes epi-pens, asthma inhalers, etc. Medication cannot be administered without the required documentation in place. Please refer to Board policy for more information (www.mpsd.ca).

School Photo's:



Vibrant Photography will be at Deroche for student photo's on Friday October 14th at 10:30 am.

BC Fruit & Vegetable and Milk Program:

Deroche is fortunate to participate in the BC Agriculture Classroom's Fruit & Vegetable Program/Milk Program. Twice a month, fresh fruit or vegetables will be delivered to your child's class for them to eat. The purpose of the program is to encourage students to try new fruits and vegetables and increase consumption of fresh produce. K to Grade 2 students will also receive milk. Please contact the office if you don't want your child to participate or if you need to notify the school if your child has food allergies or is lactose intolerant.



Parent Volunteers:

We value and encourage parent help in the school. All volunteers must complete a "Volunteer Application" as well as a "Volunteer Driver Form" if you will be transporting students. These forms must be completed each year and are available at the school office. A Criminal Record Check is also required. Please see the office for a CRC letter. You must personally go to the RCMP Mission detachment for the processing of the CRC. A CRC is valid for 5 years. We encourage that you complete all the required forms early in the school year as the CRC procedure can take a couple of weeks to process.

Breakfast Club:



We are pleased to announce that Breakfast Club will be offered again this year. Every morning at 7:55 students are invited to the PAC kitchen to enjoy something to eat with their friends. Menu items may include toast, fruit, yogurt, cereal, muffins and a drink. Breakfast Club is already up and running. If you can help with the program please return the volunteer form that is attached to the newsletter or contact the school at 826-2360.

Meet the Teacher Family BBQ:

We will be having our “Meet the Teacher Family BBQ” this Thursday September 22nd from 3:30-5:30 pm. We look forward to reconnecting with our returning families and getting better acquainted with our new ones. We are also excited for you to meet our new staff and to enjoy a bite to eat with us!

Strong Start Program:

Our StrongStart Program runs every Mon/Wed/Friday morning from 8:30 to 11:30 during school days in room 140 at the school. StrongStart is a free drop-in program for preschoolers and their parent/caregivers and is a wonderful way to introduce your child to school and meet new friends. If you know of anyone who might like to join us, please encourage them to do so!

Terry Fox – A True Canadian Hero:



Thirty six years ago Terry Fox started his run across Canada to raise awareness and funds for cancer research. Sadly he didn't make it all the way but his legacy has lived on. Schools across Canada and around the world hold Terry Fox runs each year at this time to remember Terry and to help raise money to support his dream. On October 7th from 1-2:00 pm our school will be having our Terry Fox run. We will be collecting donations over the next two weeks and encourage all students to donate a toonie towards our goal of raising \$200.00 for cancer research.

Grade 6 Immunizations:

Public Health will be at Deroche on October 6th for Grade 6 immunizations. Consent forms will be sent home soon.

Deroche PAC News:

We have a wonderful PAC which supports our students in so many ways but we would like to see our PAC members grow. PAC will be hosting a meet and greet at their first meeting (date to be determined). Watch for more information coming home soon.



This year PAC will be providing students with a hot lunch once a month beginning in October. Hot lunches are provided at no cost to families but donations are always appreciated. Notices will be sent home prior to hot lunch days so you know what PAC will be serving.

No School Day Reminders:

- Friday Sept 23rd is a Non-Instructional Day. Students will not be in attendance.
- School will be closed on Monday October 10th for Thanksgiving.
- October 21st is a PRO-D Day and October 24th is a Non-Instructional Day. Students will not be in attendance on these days.

Basketball and Cross Country Running:

Basketball and Cross Country Running will be the first of many sports offered at Deroche. Watch for information coming home soon about our school sports schedules.

Orange Shirt Day – September 30th:

September 30th has been declared Orange Shirt Day in recognition of the harm the residential school system did to children's sense of self-esteem and well-being. The story stems from a beautiful girl, Phyllis Webstad being stripped of her new orange shirt on the first day of school and left to feel insignificant and that no one cared. On September 30th we will provide each student with an orange shirt so we can all stand together to honour Phyllis in 'getting her orange shirt back' and ensuring that everyone around us matters!

