



Deroche Elementary School

Newsletter



November 24, 2016

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Dear Valued Deroche Bear Parents and Care-Givers:

Student-Led Conferences

As you receive this newsletter you are aware that our teachers are conducting Student-Led Conferences today. What do you think of this format? Personally, I like it both as a teacher and a parent. Having my child show me evidence of how they are doing is a process which involves them self-evaluating the quality of their work and coming to their own realization of any needs for improvement. In this sense, a student-led conference shifts the responsibility for learning a little more to the child rather than always being the challenge of the teacher and parent. I am delighted our teachers have chosen this format.

Outdoor Education Update

We found a Chum! As some of you know, we have formed a staff-parent outdoor education committee. This group has been meeting for two reasons:

1. *to help Deroche teachers develop lessons to be taught outdoors on the Deroche property,*
2. *to obtain Government and School District approval to explore and build trails in our forested area between the school and the big field.*

This week our proposal for outdoor classrooms is being considered by the School Board. Also this week, a representative from the Department of Fisheries came to advise us about building a bridge across the creek, and while exploring took a picture of a large Chum Salmon in our stream just below the parking lot. He was very excited, as are we, because this means we may be able to enhance our

stream to the point that we can do a fry release from our school property and watch for the fish to return to spawn! Can you imagine the learning opportunities for kids? Anyway, nothing is guaranteed in terms of official approvals but for sure Deroche Elementary is committed to using the rich ecosystems around our school grounds to help kids learn.

Swing Set

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our Bake Sale and Hot Lunch. We think we have a chance at a purchase and installation of 10 swings by Spring Break but will need our community to continue your generosity. We also are very grateful to parents who have taken initiative with their creative ideas.

Reading

Please continue to read with, or to, your child on a daily basis. Thanks to the dedication of your child's teachers, to our amazing 'Intensive Reading' volunteers and to your hard work supporting our monthly Home Reading Program, we are seeing improvement in almost all of our students. but... there is still more work to do so please keep up your efforts at home.

Christmas Concert December 15th

Remember, "One good concert can change the world" Jack Black, *School of Rock*

Have an awesome month of December!

Mike Abercrombie – Principal

Reminder: Friday November 25th is a Non-Instructional Day. There is no school for students.

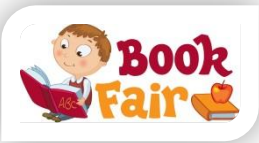


Remembrance Day /Assembly

On November 9th we had our Remembrance Day assembly. Three veterans from the Mission Legion joined us while we paid tribute to the many soldiers who sacrificed their lives for us. We are proud of our students for their respectful behavior during the assembly and their various contributions, including artwork, a poem recital and wreath presentation.

Our next regular school assembly will take place on November 30th at 1:30 where we will honour our November Students of the Month.

November Book Fair



Our Book Fair started on November 18th and will run until December 7th. Please plan to stop by the

the Book Fair during the Parent/Teacher Conferences. We will have several specialty items and books available for you and your child to purchase. Don't miss out on this opportunity to pick-up some great Christmas gifts! The Book Fair will continue to be open during lunch hours and after school (Mon/Wed) until the 7th. Thanks for inspiring your child to read and for supporting the library!

Parent/Teacher Conferences

We look forward to seeing you at tonight's student-led Parent/Teacher conferences. Teachers will be available from 2:30 to 7:00pm; the format is drop-in (no appointment time required). Please continue to ask questions, seek support and discuss your child's academic and social strengths and concerns as we continue throughout the school year. Communicating openly and in a positive manner is the best way to help our Deroche students succeed.

PAC Meeting: The next PAC meeting will be on December 9th at 9:00 am.

Basketball, Floor Hockey and Volleyball

Our school basketball team has finished their regular game days and are preparing for their play-off games on November 28. It has been great to see players improve their skills while having fun. Thank you to the parents who helped with driving and came out to support the team on game days. A special thank you to Justin Laslo and Cheryl McDonald for coaching the team. We really appreciate your dedication, time and support. Our next sports programs will be floorhockey then volleyball which we hope to start as soon as basketball is over. Get ready for another fun season and watch for more sports news coming home soon!

It's Getting Colder: Dress for the Weather

We are noticing the winter chill is now upon us. Please make sure your child is dressed for the weather. We recommend coats, hats and mittens. If you are in need of a jacket, please let the office know.

Inclement Weather



As we get closer to December, we are reminded that winter will soon be here as well as possible inclement weather conditions. In the event of an unscheduled school closure, information will be posted on the School District website at www.mpsd.ca. You can also register to be on the District's "Snow Closures" email list. It is a quick and easy way to be notified of school closures. There will also be a school closure message activated on the School Board Office phone line at 604-826-6286. You can also tune your radio to: CKNW 980 AM; Country 107.1 FM; CKNW News 1130 AM or Star 98.3 FM. Decisions about school schedules and bus route changes are almost always made in the early morning before school to allow for the most current weather information and conditions.

Me-To-We – “We-Day” Field Trip

Our Grade 6 students had a great experience attending this year’s ‘We Day’ event in Vancouver. Thank you to Ms. Olson and Ms. Brandy for accompanying the group while they listened to various speakers and performers. It was a very inspiring day for everyone.

Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival

We hope that families were able to get out and enjoy the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival this past weekend. Although it was a little rainy, it was still a spectacular day to enjoy our beautiful surroundings and learn more about the majestic Bald Eagle.

Books for Brunch Event

Please join us for our “Books for Brunch” event on Friday December 2nd from 9-11:00 am in the StrongStart room. Families with children 0-5 are invited to attend. Special guest, Miss Diana, will be here sharing stories and helping with crafts. Wear your pj’s and bring your favourite stuffie and be prepared to have fun! A pancake brunch will be served to our families. We hope you can join us!

Mission’s Candlelight Parade



The PAC is once again organizing a float for the Deroche school community to participate in this year’s Candlelight Parade in Mission. The parade takes place next Friday

December 2nd. A special thanks to Lacey Developments Ltd for providing the truck and trailer and to Chrystal for organizing things. More parade details will be sent home today by the PAC. Chrystal is looking for volunteers to help decorate the float and supervise on the night of the parade. Please let the office know if you would like to join in the fun!

Vancouver Aquarium – Aquavan Program

We are excited to have the Vancouver Aquarium’s Aquavan coming to Deroche! They will be here on December 6th from 8:30-1:45. Students will have a hands-on learning experience discovering how animals survive in different aquatic environments. The program is designed to inspire stewardship and encourage connections between animals, environment and ourselves..

School Christmas Concert



Plans are underway for this year’s Christmas concert. The concert will take place on December 15th at 6:00 pm in the gym. Everyone is welcome so come on out to see our students performing on stage.

Breakfast with Santa

The PAC will be serving up a special pancake breakfast on December 16th starting at 8:30 in the gym. Don’t forget to wear your PJs. Students will have a chance to eat with Santa and have their pictures taken. Parent volunteers will be needed to help prepare, serve and clean-up. If you are able to help please let the office know. Parents are welcome to join us for breakfast. Before breakfast is served, we will have our “Student of the Month” assembly to honour our December “Star Students”. We hope to see you there!

StrongStart Program

Our Strongstart program for preschoolers (birth to age 5) continues to operate at the school in Room 140. StrongStart is a free drop-in program and is a wonderful way for you and your child to meet new friends. Please join Ms. Julie for activities such as storytime, crafts, gym and more! Strongstart runs every Mon/Wed/Fri morning from 8:30 to 11:30.

School Enhancement Projects

In addition to the general curriculum, we have been working at ways to enhance and enrich the learning opportunities for our students. One of our main focuses is to develop outdoor learning areas around the school property. There is an abundance of literature outlining the educational benefits of outdoor classroom environments as it enables students to become more imaginative and improves their critical thinking skills. We are excited about our initial proposals and can't wait to share more information with you as things unfold. We also hope to share more information at the next PAC meeting on December 9th, so please plan to attend so you can hear our plans and provide your input.

In addition to our outdoor classroom proposal, other enhancements programs that we have been working on include literacy support programs, sports and wellness activities, place-based/experiential learning, stewardship programs, cultural connections and extra-curricular opportunities. We believe that Deroche is a great place already but we're working hard to make it even better!

School Donations and Fundraising

We are grateful to receive various donations from parents, community members and local businesses. Donations support special projects for our students, as well as resources, equipment and extra givings. Tax receipts can be issued for donations of \$20 or more. Please contact the office for more details. We are currently fundraising for a swingset for our playground. Please continue to share your fundraising ideas and thank you for supporting the various fundraisers that we've had so far.

Reminder: Christmas Break is from December 19th to January 2nd.

Grade 5/6 Leadership Group

Our Division 1 students have continued to impress us as they take on more leadership roles at the school. Since our last newsletter, they organized a Halloween Haunted House; had a bake sale (and raised \$122 towards our playground); put together Spirit Week activities; made daily morning announcements; organized recess and lunch hour activities; and have been great peer monitors for our younger students. It has been rewarding to watch our senior students grow and become responsible leaders for the school.

Report Card Envelopes

Please remember to return your child's report card envelope and colored card to the school. We use these again for Term 2 and 3 reporting.



Thank You To:

- Deroche Store for providing the chicken & mojo's for our Hot Lunch Fundraiser
- Janet McDonald for your generous donation towards playground equipment
- Our Outdoor Classroom Committee for contributing their time to research and work on our Forest & Stream and Outdoor Classroom proposal

District Student Leadership: Turkey Dinner

Mission School District's Leadership Group will be putting on their annual "Mission Students Have Heart" Christmas Dinner to assist those in need in the community. If you know of someone who is struggling this year, please let them know about this free Christmas event. The dinner will take place on Saturday December 10th at Mission Senior Secondary School. There will be a sitting at 12:30 & 2:30.