



Deroche Elementary School

News letter



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Dear Valued Partners:

The Power of Teamwork

Some recent events and news made me appreciate the value of team work in accomplishing important goals. Last week I attended two functions at Leq'a:mel Center and was made aware of reading and homework programs at both Leq'a:mel and Scowlitz band offices. On Wednesday, three area directors of the Fraser Valley Regional District, two local MLA's and the Mission School District partnered with Leq'a:mel Band to host a banquet appreciating the teachers and reading volunteers from Chehalis, Dewdney and Deroche schools. In addition to the excellent food, some great words from elders witnessing the event and some certificates, we heard an elder speak about how Aboriginal culture views education. The phrase, "our children are our most precious resource" was repeated more than once and it was humbling to realize the trusted role Deroche Elementary plays in the aspirations of the Scowlitz and Leq'a:mel bands, as well our other parent groups.

On Saturday, I attended another event, an Aboriginal science workshop, which included some cultural events like making "Indian Ice Cream" and eating "Indian Tacos" and combined it with some lectures on Aboriginal medicine. Here again, a local band office was working for the same goals of our school, to teach children valuable skills and knowledge for their futures and to help children appreciate their cultural backgrounds.

While the above events were powerful examples of team work, I am equally impressed with both Scowlitz and Leq'a:mel band offices hosting homework helping sessions after school and for

supporting reading. These programs, combined with the above mentioned seminars, represent significant reinforcement of the goals of our school.

As a person growing up on the prairies, I learned the value of buffalo to the Plains First Nation tribes. A buffalo literally provided almost everything for living; clothing, food, weapons for hunting, blankets, sinew for carpentry and numerous utensils and tools. I posted in my office an advertisement for an Aboriginal college in Manitoba which proclaimed in bold letters: **"EDUCATION IS THE NEW BUFFALO"**. I believe this expression has a lot of truth and I am very honored to be a partner with our local political and cultural leaders to be on a team which is promoting and supporting education. Your efforts as parents to initiate reading at home, communicate with, and support teachers, and to volunteer when able, are no less valuable examples of team work than the ones referred to above. Let's all keep working together to invest in children "our most precious resource".



Mike Abercrombie - Principal

2017-18 Kindergarten Registration

Kindergarten registration will begin Monday January 30th to February 3rd from 8:30 am to 2:30 pm. If you are unsure which school is in your catchment area, please go to the Mission Public School District website at www.mpsd.ca and click on School Locator or call the school office at 604-826-2360. Children born in 2012 are eligible for Kindergarten. Proof of age will be required at the time of registration, along with proof of residency. Please bring a birth certificate with you. Early registration helps our planning process for the 2017-18 school year.

Vancouver Aquarium – Aquavan Program

On December 6th students enjoyed an informative session with the Vancouver Aquarium. The Aquavan team set up various stations around the school gym including models of wild animals. Students were so engaged in making observations of what they saw that the session carried over into the lunchhour. They learned many interesting facts on animals and their aquatic environments. It was certainly a fun and great learning opportunity for our students!

Foundation Skills Assessment

We are in the process of administering this years FSA testing for our Grade 4 students. The Foundation Skills Assessment is administered annually to Grade 4 and 7 students province-wide and provides a snapshot of how well BC students are learning foundation skills in reading comprehension, writing and numeracy. We will be conducting FSA testing over the next few weeks and we're eager to see how our students are progressing.

New I-Pads from SET-BC

We are excited to announce that SET-BC has provided our school with 6 more I-Pads for student use. A consultant from SET-BC was here on January 5th to teach students helpful strategies for using the I-Pads to make presentations with text and pictures. They also learned how to use I-Pads for dictation and writing. We are thankful to have this technology as a helping tool for students.

Running Club

We challenge you to lace up your runners and get active! Senior students are invited to join Ms. Olson for afterschool running club every Tuesday and Thursday from 2:30 – 3:30. The late bus is available for bus students. Thank you Ms. Olson for running with the group!

Intermediate Volleyball

Our Intermediate students have been practicing for their upcoming volleyball matches. Players will have the opportunity to participate in three matches on February 1st, 9th, and 16th. We will advise once game locations have been confirmed. Practices will continue every Monday and Wednesday after school until 3:30. A special thank you to Ms. Olson, Mrs. McDonald and Mr. Laslo for coaching the team. We wish our athletes a fun and successful season!

Jump Rope for Heart



This month students will be learning the importance of physical activity, healthy eating and giving to others. We will be having our Jump Rope for Heart Kick-off on January 27th at 11:00. Pledge forms will be sent home with students and any money raised will go to the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Our Jump Rope Skipping Day is scheduled for February 24th. Please help support this worthy cause.

Pink Shirt Day – February 22th

Students are encouraged to wear pink shirts on February 22nd in support of anti-bullying day. Although this is a one day event, we want to remind our students to practice kindness all year round.

Grade 6 Students Entering Middle School

Letters were sent home at the beginning of January to parents/guardians of Grade 6 students that will be attending Middle School in September. Students living in the Deroche catchment area will be registered at Hatzic Middle School. If you wish to have your child attend Heritage Middle School you must complete a Cross Boundary Application form by March 31, 2017. Please contact the office for more information.

December's Book Fair

Thank you to all the families who came out to the Book Fair in December. We hope you are enjoying your books and we encourage you to continue to support your child with their reading. We reached \$1,765.45 in sales so will earn commission (amount to be confirmed) towards additional resources for the library and classrooms. Thank you for your purchases and support. Also, congratulations to Taylor Shepherd who won the draw for \$25.00 worth of books for herself and \$25 for our Div 2 class.

Christmas Events

It's hard to believe that it has already been a month since Christmas! We hope you enjoyed the Christmas concert and events leading up to the holidays. Thank you to the parents and volunteers who helped with the PAC basket raffles, craft/bake sale and Santa Breakfast. The PAC made \$570 from raffles and \$460.70 on the craft/bake sale for a total of \$1,030.70!

Forest and Stream Learning Site

We are excited to announce that our "Outdoor Classroom" has been approved in Principle by the School Board. We have received encouraging words of support from various groups including our school Trustees, FVRD, FVWC, and DFO, and we hope to start working on the project as soon as we can. A special thank you to the Fraser Valley Regional District for providing funding for some of the start-up costs and to Lacey Development and Jason Barsanti for your expertise during the planning stages. We also want to thank Nick Turnbull again for donating carved benches to be used in the area. We encourage parents to come out to the next PAC meeting to hear more details about our plans and see how you can become involved with the project.

PAC Meeting: The next PAC meeting will take place on February 8th from 6:00-7:30 pm.

Thank You for your Donations 😊

As we start the New Year we wanted to take a moment to give thanks to the various individuals, organizations and businesses that have supported our school in 2016. Costco and Staples donated school supplies for students in September and Save-On and Safeway contributed to our Meet the Teacher BBQ. Superstore has been an ongoing supporter of our Breakfast Program and the Deroche Store has made several donations including weekly bread donations, hot lunch and food for the Santa Breakfast. We're also grateful to have received personal donations from Janet McDonald, Rick Bublitz, Beth Cummings and Bill Harris as well as group donations from FVRD, Hemlock Valley Homeowners and Fire Department, the Ladies of Harrison Mills and Tapadera Estates. In addition, Lesa Lacey continues to help run our Blessings in a Backpack Program. With these donations, we are able to help some of our vulnerable students and families in need. Donations have also helped with the purchase of our new swingset. It has been quite overwhelming to see the amount of support and generosity from our community and your willingness to lend a helping hand to the school to ensure our families are well cared for.

StongStart Program



Our Strong Start program for preschoolers (birth to age 5) is a great place to introduce your child to school. If you know of any parents who have children starting

Kindergarten in the fall, please encourage them to drop by for a visit. Participating in StrongStart before Kindergarten has a positive impact on the transition to commencing school. It is a free drop-in program with many activities such as story time, crafts and gym time. Strong Start runs every Mon/Wed/Fri morning from 8:30 to 11:30 in Room #140 at the school. Come by and say hi to Ms. Julie!

School Assembly – January 27th

A reminder that our next school assembly is this Friday at 11:00. We will be honouring our January ‘Students of the Month’ and also having our Jump Rope for Heart Kick-off.

Hot Lunch

Don’t forget: we will be having a pizza hot lunch this Friday January 27th. Order forms were sent home at the beginning of the week. For \$3.00 students will be served 2 slices of pizza, vege’s & dip and milk. All proceeds raised from the hot lunch will go towards playground equipment and our outdoor classroom. Thanks for your support!

Martial Arts Lessons

As we focus on Health & Wellness this month, we are trying to offer more ways for students to stay active. Mr. Brent Janzen from Excel Martial Arts will be coming to the school on February 6th and 20th for an interactive Martial Arts lesson. The training focuses on building positive relationships, promoting mental health, and physical growth. Students are looking forward to participating in the lessons and learning more about Martial Arts.

ArtStarts Performance

Students will be travelling to Dewdney Elementary on February 15th (am) to watch an ArtStarts Performance. Students will be transported by bus to and from the play. Watch for more info coming home next week.

Salmon in the Classroom

We are once again participating in the ‘Salmon in the Classroom’ program. We received our Chum Salmon eggs last week and have them in our fish tank. The eggs should become fry by March when we can release them back into the stream. We’re excited to watch them grow!

Winter ‘House-Team’ Reading Sprint

Congratulations to our winter readers who successfully participated in our January ‘Reading Sprint’. Don’t forget to hand in your reading calendars to the office for a prize and to earn “House Team” points. If you are unsure which House Team you are on, ask your teacher or take a look on the bulletin board by the gym. House team points will be posted each week. Be sure to listen to the daily announcements to see how you can earn points. Show your team spirit by participating in events. Let’s go Salmon, Coyotes & Eagles!

Home Reading Calendars

Watch for a new home reading calendar coming home this Monday. We will be having a “Love for Reading Valentine’s Challenge” from January 30th to February 20th. Please continue to read with your child for 15-20 minutes each day. It will make a huge difference in their learning outcomes!

Riot of Reading



Families are invited to the Riot of Reading Fair happening on January 28th from 11:00-3:00 at Mission Central Elementary. This is a free event with music, storytelling, entertainment, refreshments & prizes.

The 17th Optimist Talent Show

The Optimist Club in Mission is once again hosting a talent show for kids 5-18 years of age. If you have a special talent that you would like to showcase, sign up to be a part of the show. Applications must be in by February 5th. Contact Vivian at 604-820-6891 for details.

February Dates to Remember

Feb 13: STAT: Family Day

Feb 17: PRO-D: No School for Students

Feb 26: Half Day - Students dismissed at 11:00