



Deroche Elementary School

News letter



April 28, 2017

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Dear Parents: **"WIN-WIN"**

I hope your month of April has gone well and that you are looking forward to some sunnier days. The amount of rain in April has been a "win" for our newly planted flowers and vegetables but has also been a "win" for our students and staff because we have not let the rain cause us to miss a single recess or lunch outside. Way to go Bears!

In a recent staff meeting, our staff was confronted with a similar situation. The "rain" came to us in the form of some results on academic testing by our government. These results definitely were not bursts of warm sunshine. The results, combined with our own school based testing in math and language arts, indicated that our students on average are not achieving at the level they should be. Due to the superb efforts of our teachers, parents doing home reading, and all of our reading volunteers, our strongest subject was reading, but again there is room for improvement. This was of great concern to our teachers as I am sure it is to you! The question is what shall we do?

In my messages to you over the past year, I have constantly expressed my wonder at the positive aspects of our school community. We are amazingly supportive of one another and unified in our commitment to trying to care for our children. Over the past year, I have heard numerous visitors to Deroche marvel at the gentleness and politeness of our children. In our recent Easter hot lunch (thank you PAC) we saw again our whole school community, including staff, parents and kids, sitting together for several minutes, relaxed, laughing and respectfully enjoying each other's

company. It makes me so proud to be part of this community!

Nevertheless, despite our obvious winning ways with respect to the warmth and unity of our community, should we be satisfied? Do we want our kids to feel really good about themselves but not be equipped to meet the academic challenges of Middle School and beyond? Why can't we "win" at building kindness and respect into our children and also.... "win" at doing well academically? Of course, together, we can!

In the same meeting referred to above, our staff talked about how to achieve the "win/win", school; a school that is both warm and inviting while at the same time challenging and accountable. A vital ingredient that we identified was "work ethic". We concluded that a key goal for our school is for our children to believe that working hard and doing their very best no matter what the task, is super important for all of life.

On sunny, (hopefully), May and June Friday afternoons, you will be able to see our students outside enjoying some very "fun" learning activities. This will be their reward for being "Super Bears". A "Super Bear" is a student who has had a "win-win" week, being kind and respectful and....working really hard at all academic tasks! Please join us in reinforcing the importance of our children's "work ethic" and in celebrating the weeks your child has earned the right to be called a "Super Bear". Together we can succeed no matter what the weather!

Mike Abercrombie
Principal



Learning From Nature

While we've been working on our outdoor learning sites, we have also continued our research on outdoor curriculum/literature. Did you know that exposing children to more outdoor activities can have a positive impact on their social, psychological, academic and physical health? Being outside is more stimulating because it activates all of your senses and it encourages kids to be more imaginative and motivated. Interacting with nature also teaches children about responsibility and respect. We believe that the creation of our "Forest & Stream" learning grounds will be very beneficial to our students. We are just getting started and have already seen some improvements with attendance and in student engagement. Our aim is to have this level of enthusiasm continue with the goal of strengthening our student's confidence, work performance and academic achievements.

Math Specialist

Please join us in welcoming Rebekaah Stenner to our school. Rebekaah is a math specialist hired by our School District to assist with the new Jumpstart math program. Rebekaah will be working two days per week at Deroche to help students, teachers and parents learn strategies for improving math skills. We are excited to have Rebekaah here with us and the extra support that we can offer to our students.

April Reading Calendars

Although we have seen improvements in students reading skills, please keep reading with your child so they can advance further. Our reading calendars are a great way to keep reading on your "to-do" list. Please return your child's completed April calendar to the school by May 1st and watch for our "Royalty Reading Challenge" for May. We will have a special sundae treat for any student that has successfully completed their April reading.

April Board Meeting

On Tuesday April 25th we had our School Board Officials attend Deroche for their monthly Board meeting. The Trustees enjoyed a tour of the school's "Forest & Stream" learning grounds and were impressed with the work that we've started. We also showcased a sample of our student's work which was inspired from our outdoor classroom. Thank you to staff, parents and students for working hard on our school projects.

Outdoor Classroom Work Party

We are hoping to schedule another work party at the beginning of May. Please watch for a notice coming home with specifics details. If we have more helping hands we should be able to clear a larger section of the blackberries. We've made progress in the first section and it would be exciting if we could get further along. Please contact the office to see how you can help. Thank you to Nick Turnbull for donating some more wood for our projects.

Our Swingsets are Coming!



You may have noticed some excavating happening at the front of the school yesterday. Our facilities department has started the ground work for the installation of our new swingsets. The kids had fun watching the bobcat at work and will be even more excited when the swings are ready to use.

HSS Family of Schools Dinner

Please mark your calendar for May 24th to attend the Hatzic Family of Schools Aboriginal Recognition Dinner. All K-6 students of Aboriginal ancestry will be honoured and recognized for their strengths and unique talents. The event will take place at Hatzic Middle School; Dinner will be served at 4:30 and the ceremony will begin at 5:15.

District Track and Field Meet

Students have been practicing the past few weeks for this year's District Track and Field meet which will take place at Albert McMahon next week. Grade 5/6 events are scheduled for Thursday May 4th and Grade 4 events will be on Friday May 5th. Track participants will receive a detailed permission slip indicating their event and times. Please ensure that forms are returned by next Tuesday.

Intramural Floor Hockey

Students have been playing intramural floor hockey during the lunch hour in the gym. We've been having "house team" matches and so far the Salmon is in the lead! We encourage students to stay involved with our sports offerings and to continue to come out and play with their house team.



Middle School Transition Day

On May 17th our Grade 6 students will be spending a fun and informative day at Hatzic Middle School as part of their transition from elementary school. Students will be given a tour and will be able to participate in many activities with other students. Students will be transported by bus leaving Deroche at 8:50 and returning by 2:00. Lunch will also be provided.

Beauty and the Beast Performance

All classes will be going to the Clarke Theatre on May 18th to watch the Beauty and the Beast Performance. We have approximately 10 extra tickets that will be available to parents on a first come first served basis for \$2 each. Students will travel by school bus to watch the performance scheduled for 12:30. Parents wishing to join us will have to find their own transportation to and from the theatre though.

First Salmon Ceremony

Please join us for our "First Salmon Ceremony" on Friday May 26th at 11:45. You are invited for a ceremony and to enjoy a salmon luncheon. We look forward to seeing you there!

Garden Club Program

We finally had a few sunny breaks to work on our school garden areas! Our Garden Club members have been working very hard these past 2 weeks. We've planted strawberries by the primary playground and some vegetables too and we are almost finished on our fern garden which will be used to supply plants for our stream area. Garden Club runs every Wednesday after school from 2:30-3:30 and also over the lunch hour as much as we can. A special thank you to the Lion's Club & Jones Bros Cartage Ltd. for donating 6 yards of topsoil for our garden projects. We really appreciate the support from our community and their investment in our students.

Grade 6 Year-End Celebrations

Parents were invited to attend a meeting last Wednesday to discuss ideas for a Grade 6 Year-End Field Trip. We have decided to go camping and have tentatively set a date for June 26-27th. Watch for more information coming home soon.



Bottle Drive Fundraiser

We are planning a bottle drive for Saturday May 27th from 9:00-5:00 as a school wide fundraiser. Please start collecting bottles between now and May and spread the word about our bottle drive. You can drop your cans /bottles off at the school or plan to have them picked up on the day of the bottle drive. We are counting on volunteers to make this a successful fundraiser so please help if you can. Proceeds raised will go towards our Gr 6 year-end celebrations and playground equipment.

Moving In or Moving Out?

If you are planning on moving out of the area before September 2017 or if you know of a family that is moving into our catchment for the next school year, please inform the office. We have begun our projected enrolment process for classroom planning and any changes in enrolment can affect our school plans.

Bus Transportation Registration for 2017-18



Families are advised that registration of students for bus transportation for the 2017-18 school year will run from May 1st through June 30, 2017. In order to ride a district school bus, all new and returning riders must register. Registration can be initiated by using the online bus registration form or in person at the Transportation Department located at 33919 Dewdney Trunk Road during the business hours of 9-4pm. If you are using the online form, you will be contacted directly by the Transportation office regarding assigned bus routes.

Bus Communication Reminder

In order to ensure the safe delivery of our bussed students, it is important that our bus driver know where each student is expected to get off the bus. Accordingly, please phone our school office prior to the end of the school day or send a note with your child if they are to get off the bus at a different scheduled stop than normal. Please note that only registered riders are permitted to take the bus unless prior approval has been granted.

May School Assembly and Hot Lunch

Our May Student of the Month assembly will take place on May 31st at 11:30 in the gym. Following the assembly, PAC will be serving hot lunch to all students. Watch for a hot lunch notice coming home towards the end of May.

PAC News

PAC will advise shortly when their next meeting will be. Also watch for info coming home about their PACs Mother's Day Raffle. PAC elections will be happening in June with some positions to fill. We encourage your involvement, so if you are interested in being part of the school's PAC executive please let Mr. Abercrombie and Chrystal know.

Cedar Bark Harvesting

Chrystal and Johnny will be doing cedar bark harvesting on May 19th and would like to invite anyone that is interested to join them. This would be a great learning opportunity too. If interested, call Chrystal at 604-826-2804 or email her at orange_evil@hotmail.com

Friendship Fruit Salad

On the last Friday of every month, Miss Kristy will be making a "Friendship Fruit Salad" with each of the classes. Students are to contribute 1 piece of fruit to add to the salad for the class to enjoy together as a snack. Today was our first Friendship Fruit Salad day which was enjoyed by all! Thanks Miss Kristy!!

Lions Club – Beverage & Burger Night

The Sasquatch Lions Club is having a Beverage and Burger Fundraising Night on Saturday May 13th at the Deroche Community Hall. Tickets are \$15 and include a drink, burger and the chance of winning a great door prize. Tickets are available at the Deroche Store or call Lion Greg at 604-826-4583. Please come out for some fun and support all the wonderful things the Lions Club does for our community.



Non-School Days in May:
May 19: Non-instructional Day
May 22: STAT: Victoria Day