



Deroche Elementary School

# News letter



May 25, 2017

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Dear Deroche Families:



## **Bears and Money:**

Another example of the "win-win" situation that we are seeking at Deroche Elementary happened recently in respect of a field trip. Last week, all of our students and staff, along with several parents and grandparents enjoyed an excellent live performance of Beauty and the Beast at Clarke Theatre in Mission.

Everyone who went raved about how well the young Abbotsford drama troupe performed the much loved play. For me, I too was inspired by the drama production however, I was also impressed with our school for charging a small amount to parents even though donations to our school made through PAC, could have covered the whole trip. On the surface this small admission allowed our school to raise over \$100.00 towards our much needed new playground equipment. But looking at this event from a deeper perspective, the admission also accomplished something of maybe even greater importance; it enhanced our dignity and sense of purpose as a community.

The expression "better is a hand up than a hand out" I think explains it. Don't get me wrong, I enjoy anything for "free" as much as anyone. However, I think that I enjoy a great bargain even better. Something that is free makes me feel that I am receiving a hand-out because I am not able to afford it, or, because what I am receiving is not valued highly by the giver. On the other hand, when I get a "good deal" on something I feel I am contributing to the positive situation, and perhaps, am partnering with the person or group giving me the good bargain. Moreover, the satisfaction I

feel when enjoying what I have paid for, motivates me to keep striving to earn funds to get more "good deals". In the case of Beauty and the Beast, we all enjoyed seeing live entertainment at a great price, and, I suspect, we enjoyed the fact that this experience was something we contributed to by paying the small admission, and will be helpful to our school.

I am happy to say that the Beauty and the Beast money situation is happening in other areas at Deroche Elementary like hot lunches and other field trips. We know that raising several thousand dollars for new playground equipment will be a formidable task, requiring much help from other organizations. Nevertheless, if we don't just rely on grants and gifts from others, but get busy fundraising ourselves, it will serve as an example to our students of what life is like. Yes, receiving help is normal, but it is essential that every individual do his or her part as well.

This Saturday, a bottle drive is scheduled to raise funds to lower the grade 6 field trip cost but most of the proceeds will go to our playground fund. If you can contribute by driving for 2 to 4 hours or sending your child to help collect, or by just dropping off some recyclables at the school, it would be really helpful. As a community, if we work hard and intelligently together, there is no limit what we can model and accomplish for our kids!

*Mike Abercrombie*  
Principal



## District Track and Field Meet

A small but mighty group of our Intermediate students participated in this year's District Track and Field meet held at Albert McMahon on May 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>. A special recognition goes out to our athletes for proudly and respectfully representing our school. Congratulations to our athletes: Cody, Dylan, William, Benny, Taylor, Athena, Jaida, Gavin and Tiana. Thank you also to Tammy Brandy and Janet McDonald for helping at the track event and to Ms. Olson and Mr. Abercrombie for coaching the track team. Well done everyone!

## "Salmon in the Classroom" Program

On May 12<sup>th</sup> our students released their fish into Silvermere Creek as part of the "Salmon in the Classroom Program". Students raised the salmon in a fish tank and watched as the tiny eggs hatched into alevins and then became free-swimming fry. It was an exciting hands-on experience for our classes as they learned about the life cycle of salmon. We hope the salmon will have a safe journey to the ocean and back! A special thank you to Johnny Williams for leading us at the release and to Ms. T for overseeing the program this year.

## Beauty and the Beast Performance

On May 17<sup>th</sup> students enjoyed an outstanding performance of Beauty and the Beast. The play was performed by younger students from Abbotsford and their hard work was an inspiration to us all. We were also proud of our Deroche Bears for their excellent behaviour during the performance and would like to thank PAC for covering the ticket costs.



### Be Bear Aware!

The school has received notice that a brown bear was spotted across from the Intermediate playing field last night. Please be bear aware.

## "Camp Central" Summer Camp

Registration forms were sent out this week to nominated students for their chance to attend a 2 week summer camp in July. The camp dates are from July 17 to 28, 2017 from 8:30-3 and takes place at Mission Central. Camp includes breakfast, lunch, swimming at the Mission Leisure Centre as well as several morning curriculum stations. There is no cost for the camp and bussing is provided from Deroche to Mission Central. Please return your registration form by Friday May 26<sup>th</sup> if you are interested. You will be notified if your child has been selected by the last week of June. Camp consideration is based on academic need.

## Bus Transportation Registration for 2017-18



Families are reminded that registration of students requiring bus transportation for the 2017-18 school year is happening now 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. This can be accessed at [www.mpsd.ca](http://www.mpsd.ca) by clicking the transportation link on the left hand side of the Home page. Please also read the letter posted on the District website regarding potential changes to bussing for the 2017-18 school year.

## May and June Reading Challenge

We are continuing to see an improvement with many of our students' reading skills and ask that you continue reading with your child on a daily basis. Please return your child's completed "May Reading Calendar" to the school by June 1<sup>st</sup>. Our reading challenge will continue for the month of June and new calendars will be sent home with your child next week. We will once again be offering prizes and house team points for our outstanding readers. Keep up the good work!

## Aboriginal Family of Schools Dinner

Last night, several of our families attended the Aboriginal Family of Schools Recognition Dinner at Hatzic Middle School. All of our K-6 students of Aboriginal ancestry were honoured for their educational journey and recognized for their accomplishments and unique talents. The dinner provided an opportunity to network with our families and celebrate the many strengths that our students have. A special thank you to Siwal Si'wes for hosting the event and to all the families and staff that came out to celebrate with our students.

## Grade 6 Graduation and Year-End Events

Our graduating Grade 6 students will be going camping as part of their Year-End graduation celebrations. Students will be going to Manning Park in Hope on June 26<sup>th</sup> and returning to the school the following afternoon. Trip details were sent home with your child this week. In addition to the camping trip, students will be honoured at a special Graduation Ceremony and BBQ at the school from 2:30-4 pm on June 27<sup>th</sup>. Families are invited to attend as we recognize our student achievements and congratulate them on their new adventure to middle school.



Our Grade 6 graduation class for 2017 is: Gavin Brandy, Mikael Brezina, Kiana Miller, Tiana Esson, Jaida Laslo, William McDonald, Grace Chambers, Shayla Seymour, Dorian Thompson, Jacob Trowel and Zach Turnbull. Congratulations to our graduates and best wishes as you start your journey onto Middle School!

## Grade 6 Grads – Group/Leadership Photos

A reminder that Grade 6 Grad and Leadership photo orders must be in by May 26<sup>th</sup>. You can purchase a 5x7 photo for \$6 or 8x10 for \$12.

## Next PAC Meeting

The next PAC meeting date will be announced shortly. We'd like to continue to see our PAC grow and encourage parents to come out to our monthly PAC meetings or join in with fundraising and other activities happening at the school. Let's embrace our school together!

## Jump Rope for Heart

Students raised \$586.00 for this year's Jump Rope for Heart fundraiser – Well Done!! Jump Rope prizes should be arriving shortly.

## School Assembly and Hot Lunch

Our Student of the Month assembly will take place on May 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:30 in the gym. Following the assembly, PAC will be serving a shepherd's pie and macaroni hot lunch to all students. Hot lunch order forms will be sent home tomorrow. We are asking that you contribute \$1.00 towards the hot lunch as a fundraiser. All proceeds will go towards our new playground.

## Math Fun Fair for Students & Parents

On June 6<sup>th</sup> (am) students will participate in a math "fun fair" led by our math specialist Rebekah Stenner. Parents are welcome to volunteer or watch and learn some great math games to play with their children. In addition to the student math fair, parents will be invited to attend a math themed event (date to be confirmed) to learn more game based teaching strategies for math. Watch for more details coming home soon.

## Communities in Bloom – Pizza Party

On June 7<sup>th</sup> our Garden Club participants have been invited to a special pizza party at the Leisure Centre in recognition of their hard work at the school. You've done a great job on the garden areas & caring for our school. Thanks Ms. McDonald for working with our students.

## Welcome to Kindergarten and RSL Event

On Friday June 9<sup>th</sup> we would like to welcome our new Kindergarten families to a special orientation event starting at 9:00 am. We are delighted to have Ms. Diana McCall joining us to run several stations for our new K's and their families. Our Ready Set Learn and StrongStart group will join in the fun at 10:30 for some more activities and we will be serving a special brunch around 11:00. We hope you can make it! We look forward to spending the morning with you and getting to know you better.

## First Salmon Ceremony

Please note that our Salmon Ceremony, previously scheduled for May 26<sup>th</sup> has been cancelled and incorporated into our June 21<sup>st</sup> events as noted below ....

## Aboriginal Day & Stream Site Celebration

We will be celebrating National Aboriginal Day on June 21<sup>st</sup> with some special events planned. Throughout the day, students will participate in stations to learn more about Aboriginal sports, art and games. We will have a stream-side ceremony to acknowledge and celebrate the beginning of our school's "Forest & Stream" Program. Our 'Students of the Month' will be honoured at the ceremony followed by lunch. We are looking forward to this special day.

## Work Party and Bottle Drive Reminder

We have a small group of volunteers staying after school this Friday (3-5) to do some work on our "Forest & Stream" site and invite you to join us. We also plan to do some more work on Saturday if we have a big enough turn-out for the bottle drive. We thought for those that will be at the school sorting bottles, can also help work on our classroom areas in between bottle runs. We hope you can help out in some way. The bottle drive is scheduled from 9-4 and PAC will be serving a BBQ lunch at noon.

## Parent and Volunteer Appreciation Tea

Staff and students will be hosting an Appreciation Tea on Thursday June 15<sup>th</sup> from 1-2:00. We would like to acknowledge our many parent volunteers and community members who have given up their time and made contributions to the school throughout the year. We hope you will be able to join us so we can share our appreciation!

## School Textbooks and Library Books



Please check for any textbooks or library books that your child may have forgotten to return. Please help us save valuable dollars so we can purchase new resources instead of having to repurchase lost items.

## Sports Day

Make sure you mark your calendar for Sports Day on June 23<sup>rd</sup>. We will start at Deroche with some morning events and then head to Scowlitz for lunch and more afternoon activities. A notice will be sent home with more details once we get closer to the date.

## Year-End Field Trip

We are excited to announce our plans for a Year-End Field trip to White Rock beach on Wed June 28<sup>th</sup>. Parents are welcome to attend but will have to meet us there due to limited space on the bus. It's going to be a fun way to end the year so we hope you can join us!

## Year-End Assembly

Our Year-End assembly will take place on Thursday June 29<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:00. Several students will be recognized and we will be saying our final farewells to our graduating students. Everyone is welcome to attend. This is also the last day for students and when final report cards will be handed out.