

At Lochside we promote creativity, curiosity, critical thinking and compassion so that students can become socially responsible and resilient life-long learners.



Welcome to LOCHSIDE 2020-2021

Tom Vickers - Principal
Joan O'Leary – Vice Principal

Newsletter for June 29 2020

Dear Lochside Families,

It is amazing to think of saying good-bye to you this school year - a year that could be described as “un”... unprecedented, uncertain and unpredictable. One big idea to take away is that Learning is Everywhere: home, the beach, school, the supermarket...no matter where kids are, curiosity is alive and inquiring minds look for answers to questions. We encourage you to embrace that big idea. Many of us became dedicated book-worms during the long and lazy days of summers, when we could get lost in a book and come back to it without time pressures. Many of us learned new skills when visiting grandparents or by tinkering and building with friends. Enjoy learning in place and in the moment, wherever you are.

We would like to thank Lochside’s team of teachers and support staff for their boundless enthusiasm and passion for our students. Equally, we send our thanks to parent volunteers and the Lochside PAC, who helped fill this school year with connections, care for others and thoughtful stewardship of projects. One such project was the installation of a new projector and screen in the gym - which represents a significant upgrade for us.

Thank-you also to parents for courageously navigating the uncharted waters of remote learning! We appreciate your efforts and support. The “un’s” will stay with us for a while...uncertain about how school will look and what phase we will be in. What is certain is that when the Public Health Officer gives direction on our return to school, we will be able to play and learn together safely as a caring community once again.

Wishing you well,
Tom and Joan

Information Items:

First Day of School & District Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The first day of school is scheduled for Tuesday, Sept. 8 2020. Kids will be in session from 8:40-10:30. Busses will be running.• New Kindergarten students attend according to schedules privately mailed out families• Updates on the plan for return to school will be posted on our district website: Saanich Schools
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please subscribe to our forum posts and the PAC news feed to receive Lochside's updates
What We Know About Our Next Steps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of June there will be a preliminary announcement from the Minister of Education • Mid August there will be details announced about September. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Remote Learning/ In-class learning 2. Teacher Support Materials 3. Updated H&S Guidelines 4. Student Attendance Expectations • Late August we will be refining plans for September
What We Don't Know	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What stage we will be in come September • Percent of in-class instruction • Specifics around hybrid learning model
Welcome to Kindergarten for September 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Due to school closure we were not able to have an in-person Kindergarten orientation day as is our tradition. • Supporting a smooth transition to school for our Kindergarten students remains important to us and we have a few plans in place to help with that. We want to ensure all our new Lochside students have a wonderful start at our school. • We will be sending a Kindergarten Welcome Package along with a short introductory slideshow home via email to every registered Kindergarten student. This package will include details about the first two weeks of school and gradual entry schedules for each family.
Caring Community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Each year LEPAC does an amazing staff appreciation celebration including a luncheon and many treats. This year LEPAC and the Lochside Staff combined forces to instead make a cash donation in support of our community. Combined, we were able to donate \$1600 to Saanich Neighbourhood Place. This agency supports young families and school-aged children in a variety of ways.

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Time Together and Time Apart: Community Resources for Mental Wellness	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The need to keep our social bubble small during this pandemic has made for lots of family together time. You may have noticed that there have been times you've been quite happy to be around your family and other times that you've felt a strong need for some time away from other people.• All of us have a rhythm of needing connection until the need is fulfilled, followed by needing to pull away for some space to be alone. This is known as the closeness/distance cycle and may be challenging during this time.• For more information and tips on what you can do when you need time away, please consult this collection of community resources. Near the bottom are two resources that particularly focus on parental strength and well-being: HeartMindOnline and CASEL• ThoughtBusters Daily Journal for Kids - a nice resource from GoZen for kids on reframing thoughts and managing worries. We will make this available on our website as well.
School Supplies for 2020-2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Parents can order school supplies through Monk Office Supply, up until July XX. Orders will be accepted online and will be delivered to Lochside for Pick up the week of Sep. 2nd. This is a valuable fundraiser for our school PAC.• To order:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Visit https://bts.monk.ca/ and enter our PAC Code: 33770C on the SHOP page○ Add your child's grade-level kit (and optional items, if desired) to your cart○ During checkout, pay with Visa or Mastercard and choose free school delivery• Parents can also choose to shop for the items needed using our school supply lists. Grade-level lists are posted on our website.