



October 2013

Newsletter

1145 ROYAL OAK DRIVE

VICTORIA, B.C. V8X 3T7

Telephone: (250) 658-5238

Fax: (250) 658-4982

Email: admin_1sd@sd63.bc.ca Website: Lochside.sd63.bc.ca

Dear Parents / Guardians:

It has been a productive month of school at Lochside Elementary. Students have settled into their classes and are working to meet the learning outcomes in each of the subject areas. During my classroom visits I have observed students who are engaged in their learning and making progress in all areas of the curriculum.

I would like to thank our teaching staff for hosting our Open House/Welcome Back BBQ on Thursday, September 19th. It was a huge success as we had a great attendance at this event. It was also an opportunity for parents to connect with their child's teacher (s). Just a reminder that if you have not had a chance to meet your child's teacher, then please make a point of connecting with him or her over the next few weeks.

Research shows the more parents are involved in their child's learning, the greater his or her level of achievement. Children will need your help in establishing and maintaining routines, completing homework and being responsible for their learning. Parents please check with your child on a daily basis to determine what is going on at school to stay connected with his or her learning. Instead of general questions like "How was school?" more specific questions like some of the samples below will generate greater conversation.

Sample Questions

1. Tell me about the best part of your day.
2. What was the hardest thing you had to do today?
3. Tell me about what you read in class today.
4. Who did you play with today? What did you play?
5. Do you think math [or any subject] is too easy or too hard?
6. What rules are different at school than our rules at home?
7. Who did you sit with at lunch?
8. Can you show me something you learned (or did) today?

Respectfully,

Joe Grewal, Principal

Thank you to . . .

- Cheryl Graham for organizing the Entertainment Book Sales
- Mark Creswick for coordinating the Morning Watch Program
- Lochside Elementary staff for organizing the Welcome Back BBQ for our school community
- Terry Wong for his help in organizing our Welcome Back BBQ
- Terry Wong, Mike Brooks and Eric Kristianson for their work last week in building the storage shed in our courtyard

Seaquarium at Lochside



Our new Seaquaria has been a big hit with the students, staff and parents in our school community. The Seaquaria is supported by funds provided by LEPAC, the World Fisheries Trust in partnership with SeaLab Supplies. The Seaquaria is a self-contained, chilled marine aquaria which provides a unique glimpse into underwater life. It is stocked with local marine animals such as a decorator crab, a sea star, a sea cucumber, chitons, hermit crabs, perch, etc.

On Friday, September 27th, our teaching staff participated in a workshop presented by Mary Vasey from the World Fisheries Trust. In the workshop we

learned about the habits of each sea creature and how to use the seaquaria as a teaching resource with our students. Students have been very enthusiastic and are beginning to learn the names and the habits of the sea creatures. Mrs. Kenny and Mrs. Smith's class are looking after the aquarium as this time. If you have a moment please drop by the school and have a look at the tank in the foyer. A big thank you to LEPAC for providing the funding so that we can have this great learning resource in our school.

Dogs on a Leash Please



I would like to remind parents who own dogs that your pet (s) needs to be on a leash when you are on the school grounds. Some of our younger students and maybe a few of the older ones are either allergic or afraid of dogs. We've

had a couple of incidents of a dog chasing after a young child who was very frightened by this event. Please keep your dogs on a leash during the school day.



INDOOR SOCCER

We have over 50 students signed up for indoor soccer. The students are divided into three teams and play

practice games during the noon hour. Our students will play after school games against Prospect Lake and Cordova Bay Elementary Schools in the months of October and November. We will conclude the indoor soccer season with a jamboree up at Claremont Secondary. Thank you to teachers Sherry Seabrooke, Bob Warrender, Shawn McKean and Helena Takhar for volunteering their time.

PARKING LOT REMINDERS

We've had some reports of drivers running the red light at the intersection of Lochside and Royal Oak Drive. Please talk to your children about safety around this busy intersection. For drop-off and pick-up please remember to:

- Come early for drop-off and pick-up
- Avoid peak times – 8:40 am and 2:48 pm
- Not leave vehicle parked in the Drop-Off Lane
- Keep moving if possible and not block access to our parking lot right at the front entrance

SKIP-A-THON

Our Skip-A-Thon was a huge success as all of the classes participated during their PE time in the gym. Thank you for all of your support in our fundraising efforts to collect funds for the Tour de Rock Team. We've had a great response from our school community to help us raise funds for the Canadian Cancer Society. We will be making a donation to Cops for Cancer: Tour de Rock on Friday, October 4th at 12:15 pm.



Thank you to all of the parents who volunteered their time to help with our Skip-A-Thon fundraiser on Thursday September 26th. Thank you to Mary B., Heather C., Wayne H., Cheryl G., Moira F., Mitra H., Judy P., Natalie B., Jill M., Tessa L., and Marlena C. and everyone else who helped out. It was a great day as students had fun skipping and helping to raise funds for cancer research.

DATES TO NOTE

- | | |
|----------------------------|--|
| Fri. Oct. 4 th | 12:15 pm Tour de Rock Team Visit Lochside |
| Oct. 7 – 11 th | iWalk to Work Week |
| Oct. 6 - 11 th | Fire Safety Week |
| Mon. Oct. 14 th | Thanksgiving Holiday |
| Wed. Oct. 16 th | LEPAC Meeting 6:30 - 8:00 pm |
| Thu. Oct. 17 th | Great BC ShakeOut |
| Thu. Oct. 24 th | Haunted Circus Lochside Fall Dance |
| Fri. Oct. 25 th | NID – Provincial Day |
| Tue. Oct. 29 th | Student Photo Re-Takes |
| Wed. Oct. 30 th | Halloween Safety Assemblies |
| Thu. Oct 31 st | Wacky Hair Day |
| Nov. 5, 6 & 7 | 1:48 pm Early Dismissal |
| Thu. Nov. 7 th | 10:00 Remembrance Day Assembly |
| Fri. Nov. 8 th | Non-Instructional Day – No School for students |
| Mon. Nov. 11 th | Remembrance Day – No School |



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

In the event of an earthquake Lochside staff members have been preparing and revising our school's

Emergency Plan. We have reviewed different roles that staff will assume in the event of an earthquake. On Thursday, October 17th we will be participating in the Great Shakeout! BC province-wide earthquake drill. This will give us an opportunity to practice our emergency procedures.

BUSY HALLWAYS

Please do your best to leave a clear path for students to move from one end of the hallway to another. In case of an emergency and with the large number of people in our hallway, we have to be able to evacuate the building as quickly as needed. Here are some suggestions to help ease the congestion:

- Please do not block any of the hallways
- Leave a clear path for student traffic.
- Arrange to meet your child outside of the school.
- If possible, leave baby strollers outside.

iWALK TO SCHOOL WEEK

October 7th – 11th

Hosted in BC by DASH BC and HASTe BC, iWalk is a week long event that happens every October that gives children, parents, school teachers and community leaders an opportunity to be part of a global event to celebrate the many benefits of walking to school. We would like to encourage students and parents to support iWalk to School Week by walking or riding to school next week.



FIRE SAFETY WEEK

The week of October 7 to 13th is Fire Prevention Week. Students in Grades K, 1 & 2 will be coming home with materials from the Saanich Fire Department. Most fatal fires occur in residential settings

where people feel the safest. Having a Fire Escape Plan showing two different ways of getting out of every room is important. Please spend some time with your child talking about fire safety and reviewing some of the materials that are being sent home.

MORNING WATCH/SAFE ARRIVAL

If your child is registered for Morning Watch and will be late or absent from school, then please email: lochsidesafearrival@sd63.bc.ca If you are not registered for Morning Watch, then please email your child's teacher or call the school office. Please note that if your child is a bus student, then he or she is automatically registered for Morning Watch.

DISTRICT POLICY

The Board recognizes that from time to time students or parents (or guardians) may have concerns regarding the operation of the School District. All complaints concerning schools, personnel, programs or procedures will be dealt with in a fair, respectful and timely way. The procedures that the Board has enacted to deal with concerns are described in the following policies: Policy 1360 (Complaints regarding Personnel, Programs or Procedures) and Policy 1110 (Parent/Student Appeals Bylaw)



PCEC "1000 X 5" Children's Book Recycling Project

If you can donate gently used children's picture books, please bring them to the school. Drop box located in main foyer. The books will be forwarded to volunteers at the Saanichton Individual Learning Centre where they will be processed for distribution to young children and families living on the Peninsula. For further information, please contact: Daphne Macnaughton, PCEC "1000 X 5" Project Leader: dlmvictoria@shaw.ca



If Your Child Was in Grade 3 Last Year

He/she received an alder seedling to care for over the summer. We hope that you will return the tree and join Peninsula Streams Society in October to plant it at a local green space! **Please return your child's tree to:**

**Lochside Elementary by:
Thursday, October 17th, 2013**

Students and parents are invited to a community planting activity on: **Sat. Oct. 19th - 2:30-3:30 pm**
At: **Swan Lake-Christmas Hill Nature Sanctuary**

**5th Tsartlip Scouts
Cordova Bay – Broadmead**

Beavers Boys & Girls aged 5 to 7
Cubs Boys and Girls aged 8 to 10
Scouts Boys and Girls aged 11 to 14

Accepting Registrations Now
Contact: Beth Sangara: 250 – 658-2566
Or email: Sangaras.CB@shaw.ca



**Keeping Your Child Safe -
HAVE A HAPPY
HALLOWEEN**

With Halloween fast approaching, we want to think of ways to keep our children safe while trick or treating. Up to about 9 years of age, children do not have the skills to be safe in traffic. Many children have difficulty judging speed and distance and concentrate for only short periods of time. This will be especially true with the added excitement of Halloween. In addition, there will be many strangers on the street on Halloween night.

Here are some tips to help keep your child safe:

- Teach your child road safety rules and to look, listen and think about traffic
- Know where they are!
- Know what they are doing!
- Know who they are with!
- Teach your child about personal safety and the danger of talking to strangers.
- Teach them never to go with or accept anything from someone they do not know.
- When children understand how to be safe, parents can be more relaxed about their children being out for Halloween

Trick Or Teeth!

When it comes to Halloween candy and tooth health, the "all or nothing" approach is best. Giving children their Halloween candy over days or weeks is not the best choice. The risk of tooth decay increases with the amount of sugar and the number of times teeth are exposed to it.

Tooth safe suggestions for enjoying Halloween treats are:

- Serve a healthy dinner (or snack) before trick-or-treating. This will leave less room for sugary snacking. You will know your child has eaten **something** nutritious on this exciting night.
- Limit the number of times teeth are exposed to sugar by encouraging children to enjoy some candy at one sitting. Then, be sure to brush their teeth

afterwards.

- Cut down on the number of sugary treats children receive by handing out "tooth- friendly" options like stickers, temporary tattoos, fancy pens and pencils, or toothbrushes!

And of course, remember to floss and brush with fluoride toothpaste before going to bed, or there could be some very *scary* results.



**Greater Victoria Public Library
Fall 2013**

Reading Buddies: Little Buddies

Does your child need a little help with reading? Reading Buddies provides reading practice and fun literacy-based activities with volunteer teen Big Buddies. For children in Grades 1 to 4. Please notify us in advance if your child is unable to attend a session. Register online by October 19th.

Reading Buddies runs on Saturdays from October 26th - December 14th for 8 weeks at 2:00-3:00pm or 3:30-4:30pm.

Bruce Hutchison Branch – 250-727-0104

Nellie McClung Branch – 250-477-7111

Oak Bay Branch – 250-592-2489

Home is a Beautiful Word: Kids and Teen Art Contest

What does home mean to you? What would it be like to live without a home? Let your creativity fly free, create and submit an original piece of art between November 1-30, 2013 and be entered into a prize draw. For details and to enter the prize draw see www.gvpl.ca/programs-and-events/contests-and-games/.

All programs are free. For a full listing of all library programs, visit gvpl.ca and register online.

Would you or a colleague like to receive this information directly? Email children@gvpl.ca to be added to our distribution list.