



LOCHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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JANUARY 2014

Welcome back and Happy New Year! I hope that you've had a restful and relaxing Winter Break. It looks like the weather will be cold, rainy and wet for the next couple of months. Please ensure that your child has a warm jacket and outdoor shoes as students will be going outside during lunch and recess.

Students and staff have been busy getting back into a regular routine for the second term. The grade four students will be writing the Foundation Skills Assessment (FSA) next week. We continue to require your support in teaching basic addition, subtraction, multiplication and division facts. Many students are finding success using the Reflex Math program for students in grades two to five. If you would like more information please talk to your child's teacher or Mr. Grewal. Every child in grades two to five has a login and password to allow access to this online program. Of course, there are many other ways to learn basic math facts including games, drill and practice, worksheets, etc.

We are also continuing to work on our school goal of improving student achievement in literacy. On Friday, January 24th, we are celebrating Family Literacy Day. Parents are welcome to come into the school and read with their child/ren. Please read below for more information.

Respectfully,
Joe Grewal, Principal

FAMILY LITERACY DAY **Friday, January 24th**



On Friday, January 24th we will be holding a Family Literacy Day event for students and staff. Parents and guardians, are invited into classrooms to read with their child/ren from 8:40 – 9:10 am.

ABC Life Literacy Canada is encouraging Canadian families to have "15 Minutes of Fun" learning together. Practicing literacy together for just 15 minutes a day has tremendous benefits for both children and parents. Please check out the following website for more ideas:

<http://abclifeliteracy.ca/flid/family-literacy-day>

MAPLE MAN



On Wednesday, Jan. 8th, the "Maple Man" visited Lochside Elementary and talked to students about French culture and the art of making maple syrup in Quebec. It was a wonderful presentation that was enjoyed by all of the students in our school. Each class had a forty-five minute session with the Maple Man.

Students had the opportunity to learn how maple syrup is made, dance, play musical instruments such as the spoons and taste the sweet taffy made from maple syrup. Please ask your child (ren) about what he/she had learned. This presentation was very well received by all of the students and staff. A big thank you to teacher Diane Hillier for organizing this event and to Joe Winkler for his assistance.

IMPORTANT DATES
SECOND TERM

Jan. 14 – 15th K Screening – Vision/Hearing
Jan. 15th 6:30 – 8:00 pm LEPAC Meeting
Jan. 17th LEPAC Fun Lunch
Jan. 22nd 3:15 – 6:00 pm Ready Set Learn
Jan. 24th Family Literacy Day
Jan. 29th 7:00-8:30 Kindergarten Information meeting @ Sidney Elementary
Feb. 3 – 7th Kindergarten Registration
Feb. 10th BC Day – Family Day Holiday
Feb. 14th Valentine’s Day – Wear Red
Feb. 21st Non-Instructional Day
Feb. 26th Pink Shirt Anti-Bullying Day
Feb. 27th 1:48 pm Early Dismissal
Mar. 5th District Swim Meet
Mar. 10 – 21st Spring Break

ROYAL OAK OPEN HOUSE
Thursday February 6th
6:00 pm

This is an opportunity for parents of grade five students to visit Royal Oak Middle School and learn a little bit more about the school. Administrators, educators and students will be on hand to give you a tour, answer questions and share their perspectives about ROMS.



READY SET LEARN

We are holding our annual Ready Set Learn afternoon on Wednesday, January 22nd from 3:15 - 6:00 pm. This is an opportunity for parents and preschoolers to visit Lochside Elementary and become familiar with our school. There will be an opportunity to have a school tour and participate in fun learning activities.

HOLIDAY BOOKSHOP

Congratulations to LEPAC for organizing a very successful Holiday Book shop. Over the two-day event, there were over \$400 worth of books which were exchanged. The students loved having the opportunity to purchase a gift from someone in their family for such a small amount of money. Thank you to parent volunteers for organizing, sorting, displaying the books and for being here to help with the wrapping of the gift books. Thank you to Carolyn P., Allison S., Alison K., Lyn W., Lynn H., and Cheryl H.



STUDENTS ARRIVING LATE

We are continuing to encourage parents to ensure students are arriving to school on time. When a student is late, he or she misses out on morning routines, instructions and the start of the morning lesson. Teachers start the morning routine by letting students know the agenda for the day, collecting forms and taking attendance. A student who is not on time is marked absent. We then have to track the students who are absent through Morning Watch and the school office. This creates a lot of extra work for our Morning Watch Volunteers and our office staff. Our expectation is that students are arriving at school between 8:25 and 8:35 am.



DIGITAL RECORDING
DEVICES AT SCHOOL

We are noticing that some students are bringing electronic items such as games, cell phones, digital cameras etc. to school. We would like to discourage students from bringing such items. We would like to encourage students to be actively engaged in physical activity during recess and lunch periods rather than playing electronic games. Occasionally we have found students taking photos on our school grounds. We cannot monitor what happens to these photos, movies, etc. once they are in the hands of other individuals. Additionally, the electronic items do tend to go missing from time to time and it is difficult for us track their whereabouts.

KINDERGARTEN
INFORMATION EVENING

Wednesday, January 29th
7:00 - 8:30 pm
Sidney Elementary School Gym
2281 Henry Ave.
Sidney, B.C.



Come and learn about Kindergarten in the Saanich School District. On this evening you will get more information about Kindergarten, the importance of play, what a day in Kindergarten may look like, etc. You will also find out more about the option of French Immersion for your child. You will also meet teachers and administrators from your neighbourhood school.



KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION **February 3rd – 7th**

Kindergarten registration in the Saanich School District will take place during February 3rd to 7th.

All children born in 2009 are eligible to begin Full Day Kindergarten in September 2014. If your child is “In-Catchment” then please bring your child’s original Birth Certificate and Care Card to Lochside Elementary. Parents are asked to provide proof of residency as well (e.g. driver’s license, rental agreement, utility bill). **Out of District** registrations will take place beginning the week of February 10th at the School Board Office at 2125 Keating Cross Road.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Basketball will be starting up soon for students in Grades 4 and 5.

Students are encouraged to sign-up to play during the noon hour. Games against Prospect Lake and Cordova Bay will be organized. Swim Club is continuing to take place at the Saanich Commonwealth Place Pool. We’ve had open gym for students in different grades and played a variety of games including floor hockey, indoor soccer, games with hula hoops, scooter boards, skipping, etc.

BIRTHDAY TREATS

Just a quick reminder that we are encouraging parents/guardians to send healthy treats for birthdays and other celebrations in the classrooms. This is consistent with our school philosophy of promoting healthy nutrition and leading an active lifestyle.



PARKING LOT SAFETY

It is very important that parents and guardians take **extra time** and **drive carefully** when dropping off & picking up students at school. It is vital to pay close attention to the Drive-Thru and Drop-off Lanes and ensure that students are crossing the parking lot in a safe manner. Please do not **STOP** right at the front of the Drop-Off Lane just as you enter the parking lot. Doing so will cause traffic to backup onto Royal Oak Drive. Please **DO NOT** leave your vehicle unattended in the Drop-Off lane while dropping/ off/picking up their child.



HELPING CHILDREN MAKE HEALTHY CHOICES

How do we teach children to make decisions, to choose responsibly? Start early and reinforce often. Children make decisions every day about what to wear, what to eat, what to do and who to play with. Success with simple decisions such as these, can lead to success with the hard decisions that come with adolescence. You can help by reinforcing the decision-making process with your child.

- Define the problem to be solved – list facts and feelings.
- Think of at least three options for the problem.
- List the ‘good’ and ‘bad’ of each option.
- Think about how options will affect others.
- Choose the best option.
- Evaluate the decision.

For more information contact:

- your local Health Unit
- BC Nurse Line 1-866-215-4700

BOYS’ & GIRLS’ CLUB PARENTING PROGRAMS

Boys & Girls Club Services of Greater Victoria, Parenting Programs, are pleased to offer programs and workshops in January to support parents / caregivers of preteens and teens.

Programs:

Parents Together - ongoing sessional program begins **Tue, Jan 07**; 6:30-8:45pm; Boys & Girls Club, 1240 Yates Street, Victoria; for parents / caregivers of youth age 13-19; for information regarding registration, please contact Jan Townsend. Parents may inquire about registration process up to **Thu, Jan 23**.

Connect Parent Group - 9 week program - **Wed, Jan 08**, 4:30-6:30pm; **Wed, Jan 15-Feb 26**, 5:00-6:00pm; **Wed, Mar 05**, 4:30-6:30pm; James Bay Community Project, 547 Michigan Street, Victoria; for parents / caregivers of youth age 13-19; register with Jan Townsend or Janessa Bate (flyer)

Evening Community Workshops:
Parental and Personal Wellness: Honouring Self-Care & Balance - **Mon, Jan 13**; 6:30-

8:30pm; Bayside Middle School, 1101 Newton Place, Brentwood Bay; for parents / caregivers of preteens age 8-14; register with Jan Townsend.

Are They Talking? Are You Listening? - 'Connecting Through Communication' -

Thu, Jan 23; 6:30-8:30pm; Bayside Middle School, 1101 Newton Place, Brentwood Bay; for parents / caregivers of children / youth age 8-18; register with Panorama Recreation Centre.



BALL HOCKEY

NEW PLAYERS: Come out and try Ball Hockey for **FREE**
Saturday, January 25, 2014
Ages 5-10 from 2:00pm – 3:30pm

Ages 11-15 from 3:30pm – 5:00pm
Eagle Ridge Community Centre in Langford
(Located at 1089 Langford Parkway – City Centre Park – dry floor arena)

**GORDON HEAD AT
LAMBRICK PARK
BASEBALL ASSOCIATION**

**BASEBALL REGISTRATION
is now open!**



Online registration for ages 5 and up is now open for the spring baseball season..

Please visit the following link to register online or for more information:
http://www.gordonheadbaseball.org/registration_info/index.php

The deadline for registration is February 28th and assessments will start as early as February for some divisions. Late registrations are accepted but not guaranteed. We look forward to seeing you on the field this spring!

If you have any questions please contact Byron Postle at [250.475.6651](tel:250.475.6651) or byronpostle@shaw.ca.

**SAANICH TIGERS
LACROSSE
REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**



Registration for the 2014 season is now open for players born in 2009 and older. Please register online at saanichlacrosse.com Register prior to February 1st for early bird pricing.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the registrar at:
registrar@saanichlacrosse.com