



# LOCHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

The school year is going by quickly. It will be a busy two months with field trips, Science Venture, Bike Rodeo and many other year-end activities. With so many different activities, it can be a challenge to maintain students' focus on learning. We will do our best to keep students on track and we ask for your continued support at home. Please have your child arrive at school on time so that s/he does not miss any time from his/her class.

Sincerely,  
Joe Grewal, Principal

## SCHOOL ORGANIZATION & STUDENT PLACEMENT INFORMATION

In the next few weeks we will start our preliminary planning for the organization of classes for next year. Parent/Guardian input is appreciated and will be considered by our staff when assigning students to classes. Forms are now available from the office for parents wishing to provide us with input **prior** to student placement into classes.

Please note that this is not a request for a teacher. The information provided on the forms will be shared with the grade-appropriate teachers. If you have any concerns about your child's placement, please arrange a meeting directly with the Principal, Joe Grewal.

Our School-Based Team, including teachers, the Learning Assistance and Integration Support Teachers and the school administration, will develop tentative class lists at the end of June 2015. We will review these lists early in September 2015 before school opening. Sometimes due to an enrolment increase and/or decrease we have had to reorganize classes at the last minute. The lists will remain confidential until we are ready to move students to their new classes in the first week of school. Our goal is to create balanced classes with attention to:

- Intellectual/academic learning needs
- Gender balance
- Behavioral needs
- Social/Emotional strengths and needs
- Friendships
- Opportunities to make new friends
- Cultural diversity

Placement information from parent/guardians will be accepted up to and including **Friday, May 29<sup>th</sup>**. Please drop off completed forms at the school office.



Apr. 30 <sup>th</sup>	6:30 - 8:00 pm Folk Dancing Parent Evening
May 4 <sup>th</sup>	NID – Teacher Pro-D
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 – 11:30 am Grade 5s Visit ROMS 9:00 – 10:45 am New Kindergarten Orientation
May 7 <sup>th</sup>	8:45 – 11:30 am Bike Rodeo
May 11-14 <sup>th</sup>	Staff Appreciation Week
May 14 <sup>th</sup>	11:00-12:30 Staff Appreciation Luncheon 1:00 pm Whole School Photo
May 18 <sup>th</sup>	Victoria Day
May 20 <sup>th</sup>	ELL Potluck Luncheon
May 21 <sup>st</sup>	3:00 – 5:00 pm Home Alone Program for 9yr+ (Cost \$12)
May 22 <sup>nd</sup>	8:00 am Parent Appreciation – Lochside Parking Lot
May 27-29 <sup>th</sup>	Camp Thunderbird for Grade 5s
June 1-2 <sup>nd</sup>	Science Venture
June 11 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 – 2:30 pm District Elementary School Track Meet @ Uvic
June 18 <sup>th</sup>	9:00-11:00 am Lochside Fun Day 5:30 pm LEPAC Year End BBQ
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	10:00 am Service Assembly
June 24 <sup>th</sup>	11:00 - 12:00 am Grade Five Luncheon
June 25 <sup>th</sup>	9:00 am Final Assembly and Last Day of School

## **PARENT VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION**

We want to thank all the parents and guardians who volunteered at school during this year. Your support is greatly valued and much appreciated by all the staff and students at Lochside Elementary School. Please join us for a coffee, tea and a muffin on the morning of **Friday, May 22<sup>nd</sup>** in our school parking lot.

## **KNITTING CLUB**

Since December, many students have come to learn how to knit. By selling some of our creations, we have made \$290 to donate to the Cat's Cradle Animal Rescue. Countless others have donated items on the Cat's Cradle Animal Rescue Wishlist. Thank you for being kind to animals! Please show your support of the Knitting Club by donating yarn or knitting needles. Donations would be greatly appreciated! Thank you!

Mme Hillier



## **KINDERGARTEN ORIENTATION**

If you have a child entering kindergarten next year, then please join us on Wednesday morning, May 6<sup>th</sup> from 9:00-10:45 am for an orientation to our school. Your child will have an opportunity to visit our Kindergarten classrooms and familiarize him/herself with the learning environment in our school. We will also have a book bag with a children's book for your child. Thank you to Peninsula Connections for Early Childhood for the donation of these books.



## **BIKE ROADEO**

Saanich Police will be on hand on **May 7<sup>th</sup>** between **8:45 – 11:30 am** for the annual Bike Rodeo. Students will learn about bike safety and have an opportunity to ride through a practice bike course set-up on the hardtop area at the back of the school. Students who would like to participate will need to bring their bikes and a helmet to school. Primary students can park their bikes at the back of the school by a sign with their teacher's name on it. Grade 4/5 students can leave their bikes at front bike racks.

## **FRESH TO YOUR FUNDRAISER**

The fresh veggies will be delivered to the school on Wednesday, May 6<sup>th</sup>. Parents will be able to pick up their fresh veggie orders after school from 2:48 till 5:00 pm. We're going to be set-up in the parking lot weather permitting.

## **NEPAL EARTHQUAKE LOONIE/TOONIE DRIVE**

The 7.8 magnitude earthquake in Nepal has killed over 5000 people, injured many more and left thousands of people homeless. The latest figures cited in a UN press release say 70,000 homes were destroyed and 530,000 were damaged by the quakes and aftershocks. Besides food there is an immediate need of relief supplies, including medical teams, shelter, tents, water and sanitation.

As a school community we would like to do something positive to help victims of this massive earthquake. So we are asking our students to bring a loonie, a toonie or even \$5.00 to help raise funds for people affected by the earthquake. Thank you for your support in our efforts to support the victims of the recent earthquake in Nepal.



- To all of our staff for their hard work in the classroom and making sure that students are focused on their learning.
- Crossing Guard Adair Close for working with our student crossing guards and ensuring the safety of all our students crossing Royal Oak Drive.
- Fun Lunch Coordinator, Tin Kwan for her time and effort in organizing the Fun Lunches for our students.
- Popcorn Day volunteer parent Mary Brookes
- Morning Watch Co-ordinator, Carolyn Phillips and all of our Morning Watch volunteers who keep our students safe.
- Coaches Jenica Moore, Pieter Koopmans, Glenn Kachmar, Sherry Seabrooke and Joe Grewal, for organizing cross-country for our students at Lochside.
- Healthy Fruit and Veggie coordinator, Kelly Perry for distributing fruits and vegetables to each classroom.
- Kirsty Hooker for keeping our cupboards stocked for the Forgotten Lunch Program.

## **PARENT SURVEY**

Thank you to all 67 of the parents and guardians who responded to our school survey. I have shared the results with our School Planning Council as well as our staff and a group of parents during our School Planning Day on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup>.

The results were very positive and consistent with findings from the School Satisfaction Survey and the Tell Them From Me student surveys. One parent commented, "There exists a friendly and welcoming environment that invites parents to be involved. You have done a wonderful job creating a warm and collaborative atmosphere. Thank you, we are a fortunate family to be a part of such an optimum school."

Parents were satisfied with the academic progress of their child(ren) with above 76% reporting many or all of the time and 24% stating some of the time. Parents were satisfied with the communication from the school (92% many or all of the time) and social-emotional development of their child (81% many or all of the time). It was great to see the majority of our children (92%) happy about coming to Lochside Elementary. One area of concern was that almost 10% of our students had experienced significant anxiety or worrying during the school year.

Parents were supportive of our students doing more of their learning outdoors with comments such as, "There is excellent research around the benefits of outdoor education and Lochside is situated in a setting ideal for such learning. I would support this as well as continuing a play-based, inquiry-focused learning from K-5."

Most parents had positive comments about our school vision such as, "I believe this vision to be true. There seems to be a well-rounded and diverse program that challenges and encourages our children. I think it is a good vision (though wordy), and well adhered-to." There were also a couple of negative comments about our vision such as "it was an empty platitude" or "I don't see evidence of critical thinking." There were some suggestions about making our vision kid friendly so that students understood it better.

In answering our question about which skills will be important, parents responded by stating the importance of academic skills such as reading, writing and numeracy. There were also many responses about the importance of other skills such as communication, leadership, problem solving,

teamwork, adaptability, flexibility, collaboration and compassion.

The final two questions invited parents to comment on the strengths of our school. Our staff was seen as being a major area of strength with comments such as, "Kind, enthusiastic, passionate teachers, administrators, support staff, students and parent community. Strong academic and creative program, focus on fun and interesting ways to learn, shared learning experiences, student centered approach to teaching, play centered learning, accepting of individuals and their differences. . ."

Another strength noted was the school involvement of our parent community. There were many comments about our parent community, especially our LEPAC Executive, for organizing community building events such as the Halloween Party and the Year End BBQ. Parents, especially those who are new to the school, appreciated the opportunity to get to know other parents by attendance at these events. Other areas of strength listed were school administration, support staff, philosophy of inclusion and respect for diversity.

The last question focused on ways to improve our school. The number one issue for parents was the school parking lot. Some parents have concerns about student safety and parents being disrespectful toward each other. While there is no simple solution, we are continuing to work on this problem with our district maintenance department and the District of Saanich. The Healthy Schools Committee lead by Tina Lazaruk also has some ideas for reducing the amount of traffic in our parking lot. In the meantime we all need to be more patient and leave a little more time in the morning and afternoon for pick-up and drop-off.

Some other comments about school improvement centered around having an enrichment program and more music. These areas have been impacted by the on-going budget cuts during the last few years which has reduced our ability to add such programs. There were singular comments about the need for more environmental stewardship, indoor air quality, parent input into class placement, consistency in classroom communication and more project based learning.

I would like to thank all of the parents who responded to our survey. We appreciate your feedback and will take it into account in our discussions and future planning.

## **Learning Commons**

The Library Learning Commons has been a busy place! Students across the grades attended a variety of presentations during Earth Week to learn more about our Indigenous culture. It was fascinating for students to witness a carving demonstration by Mr. Doug Lafortune, a well-known carver in Saanich. The Welcome Figure carving that he shared will be hung in our district office. Students also attended other sessions on drumming/singing, lacrosse, plants used in the indigenous culture and storytelling.

The Saanich Reading Club (SRC) is well under way. A few of the Teacher Librarians decided to create a club that had similar elements to the Red Cedar program but was more tailored to the needs of our students. We selected 10 fiction and 10 non-fiction books written by local authors for students to read. A number of intermediate students helped to launch the club by creating "Animoto" book trailers about the books that they read. These are posted under student projects on the Lochside Learning Commons page. The participating intermediate students have enjoyed being able to talk with other participating elementary schools in our district about the books they are reading using ELGG, a closed social media site. Students are learning appropriate etiquette and the importance of developing a positive digital footprint.

Inquiry based learning is another focus in the library learning commons. Several classes have been working on units that build on questions that are student led. Using valuable resources like our seaquarium tank, students are learning how to ask powerful questions and to develop important skills like convergent and divergent thinking and metacognition, an ability to think about our thinking. Inquiry based learning focuses on teaching students transferable skills that will be important in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Please be sure to take a look at the new books that are in the Library Learning Commons. A list of these books can be found on our learning commons website or if you are at the school you can preview them by scanning the QR code located on wall just outside our library. The list is updated each time the books are catalogued.

## **LEPAC AGM MAY 20<sup>th</sup>**

The LEPAC AGM is coming up in May on the 20<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 pm in the library. All families are welcome to attend and child minding will be provided. Come out and vote for next year's LEPAC Executive. There are many roles that need to be filled each year. Thank you to those parents who have already stepped forward for nomination:

<b>Co-Presidents:</b>	Stephanie Kalabric Kelly Perry
<b>Vice President:</b>	Judy Payne
<b>Treasurer:</b>	Don Mellings
<b>Volunteer Coordinator:</b>	Mary Brookes
<b>Secretary:</b>	Tiffany Voorberg
<b>Healthy Schools:</b>	Kerry Walsh & Jodi Holland
<b>COPACS:</b>	
<b>Past President:</b>	M. Brooks & R. Calder

If you would like to forward a nomination please email the nomination committee at [lochsidepac@sd63.bc.ca](mailto:lochsidepac@sd63.bc.ca)

## **Natural Pod Contest** **Please Vote for Lochside**

We have submitted an entry into a contest put on by Natural Pod, a company in Vancouver that sells natural toys and classroom furniture. We are hoping that, if we win, we can put the \$5000 in products from Natural Pod towards Lochside's communal Outdoor Learning Centre.

The contest entailed creating an "Invitation to Play." We created an invitation on the rocks in front of Lochside, photographed it, and posted it on the website. In order to win, we have to gather votes. If we have one of the entries with the top five votes we will then be entered into the next stage, where the Natural Pod staff will vote and chose a winner. Just on the side, the children LOVED the invitation, and the imagination, collaboration and cooperation that occurred was incredible to see. We are hoping that you will go to this link, <http://bit.ly/1OIwIBY> and vote for our entry. Thanks in advance for your help!

Helena Takhar and Jenni Erickson

## **MOVING?**

If you are planning to move to another school for next year, or have a change of address/phone number, please contact the office so we have the most up-to-date info. Call: 250-658-5238



## Unplug and Play Sundays!

Starting on **Sunday, May 31st**, and every **Sunday** continuing through the summer, come and meet your friends and neighbors for an afternoon of

play!

**Where:** Lochside Elementary School Playground

**Time:** 1 -3 pm

**What:** Bring your favorite sporting equipment or just come to play with your friends, and chat with your neighbors!

Please attend as a family as this is not a drop off event and organized supervision will not be provided. Please note that washroom facilities will not be available. We hope to see there!

LEPAC's Healthy School Committee

## Mental Health

The SPEAC (Sooke Parents Education Advisory Council ), Healthy Schools Committee along with The Force Society for Kid's Mental Health is hosting an event May 7th at Spencer Middle School. This Event is for Parents and Caregivers, Community Members and anyone else involved with kids.

- Will include a panel of Mental Health Professionals, School based Professionals, a Parent and a Youth.
- Fundamentals to support children's mental health
- Find out what is available to support Families

Join us to learn more about what you can do. RSVP for Event & Free Child minding: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/national-child-and-youth-mental-health-day-community-forum-tickets-16531343694>

# GIRLS!!



## SAANICH BRAVES WANT YOU!!

Saanich Minor Hockey Association is developing a Recreational ("C") Female Hockey Program. If you were born in 2003, 2004, 2005 or 2006 you can receive one season free registration\* and a free team jersey!!

*You will also be eligible for discounted registration for our female introductory hockey skills program this summer.*

Contact [ian.g.fleetwood@gmail.com](mailto:ian.g.fleetwood@gmail.com) or [jnmoniz@telus.net](mailto:jnmoniz@telus.net) for more information.

\*Free season = second season free or two consecutive seasons at half price