



# LOCHSIDE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

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## DECEMBER 2013 SEASON'S GREETINGS!

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The first three months of school have passed by quickly and we are getting close to the Winter Break. November has been a busy month with conferencing, reporting and many curricular and extra-curricular activities in the school. Our staff continues to ensure that students are meeting the learning outcomes as prescribed in the provincial curriculum.



All of our teachers have now sent home your children's progress reports for the first term. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress, please contact your child's teacher. I would like to thank all of our Lochside staff members for all of their hard work in ensuring a successful first term for all students. The positive atmosphere, effort and attitude at Lochside make it a great place to learn.

On behalf of the Lochside staff, I would like to wish everyone a safe and peaceful holiday. Thank you for all of your support and involvement in our school. Thank you to the LEPAC Executive for their commitment and long hours to support all of the children at our school.

Respectfully,  
Joe Grewal, Principal

### HIP HOP PRESENTATION 1:30 pm Thursday, Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>

Students at our school have been learning basic Hip Hop dance steps from our Artist-In-Residence, Shaina Kelly from Dansko Studios. While it's difficult to go beyond the basics in such a short period of time, our students are still eager to show you what they have learned. There will be a Hip Hop presentation on Thursday, December 18<sup>th</sup> starting at 1:15 pm. We will also have a couple of presentations from the experienced dancers from Dansko Studios. A big thank you to LEPAC for providing the funding for our Artist-In-Residence.



### NEW CURRICULUM DIRECTIONS

The BC Ministry of Education has embarked on the task of renewing and revising the K-9 curriculum. The changes in the curriculum are currently in draft form and posted on their website (click on link below). The redesign of curriculum and assessment focuses on the competencies that are vital to personal and social success, life-long learning, and to the changing workplace. Core competencies are at the centre of the transformation efforts and are seen as central to the development of educated citizens. Core competencies are the sets of intellectual, personal, and social and emotional proficiencies that all students need to develop in order to engage in deeper learning.



The review of K-9 draft curriculum will take place during the 2013/14 school year. The review and feedback process is intended to be broadly based to gather feedback from many individuals, schools, districts, organizations, regions, networks and groups within the education sector.

The Ministry will gather feedback through a variety of processes and this input will continue to inform the redesign process. All feedback is appreciated. As available, draft curriculum documents will be posted online for review. For now, K-9 draft curriculum is available for Math, Science, Social Studies and English Language Arts. If you are interested please have a look at the following website. <https://curriculum.gov.bc.ca/>

### SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Special thank you's to Judy P. & Kelly P for coordinating the Scholastic Book Fair! And thank you to all the other parents for volunteering their time as well: Mary B., Don M., Natalie B., Amy V., Tamara P., Orla C., Scarlet Y., Tanna M., Vanessa T., Mark C., Carolyn P., Jill M., Christina L., Yvonne D., Melanie P., Lynn H., Allison S., Lorelei L., Tricia S. and Stephanie K. The Book Fair was a great success and met our fundraising targets as well as qualified the school for several hundreds of dollars of new books.

## HOLIDAY FOOD DRIVE

LEPAC is organizing a Food Drive from December 2<sup>nd</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>. Please help your child remember our responsibility to the less fortunate people in our community. We are asking students to "Help Fill the House" in the foyer! More information about this event will be contained in the Monday update.



### DATES TO NOTE:

- Dec. 2 – 13<sup>th</sup> Lochside Food Drive  
Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Holiday Book Shop – Sale of used books (Multi-Purpose Room)  
Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 3:15 - 5:30 Retirement Celebration for Ms. Keeb & Mrs. Hawley  
Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> 2:30-3:30 pm Lochside T-Shirt Sale  
Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> 2:30-3:30 pm Lochside T-Shirt Sale  
Dec. 13<sup>th</sup> 5:45 pm Movie Night "Polar Express"  
Dec. 18th 10:15 am Hip Hop Dress Rehearsal for students  
1:15 pm Hip Hop Performance for Parents  
Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> 10:15 am Final Assembly & Sing-A-Long – Goodbye to Mrs. Hawley & Ms. Keeb  
12:00-2:30 Grade 4/5 Swim at Commonwealth Place

### Retirement Celebration

The **Retirement Tea** for Mrs. Hawley and Ms Keeb is [this Thursday](#) at 3:15 pm; please review the email you received last week for all the important details! If you have any questions, or have some time to help with set-up (1:15 pm) or clean up, please contact Stephanie at [skalabric@shaw.ca](mailto:skalabric@shaw.ca). Big thanks to Stephanie for organizing.



### Rowena Keeb

Ms Keeb began her teaching career in Montreal working for the English School Board. After raising her children she worked in many areas of the garment industry where she grew to love technology. After several years of being in business, learning more about photography, computers and how to sail both small and large sailboats she resumed her teaching career. Ms. Keeb moved to Victoria and continued to pursue her teaching profession by working as a Teacher-On-Call in all three districts in both official languages. She finally landed a temporary position with School District #63.

After 20 years in this wonderful district she is retiring from a most enjoyable teaching career. She has taught in almost all the elementary schools in the Saanich District, both as an itinerant Core French Teacher and Primary Teacher. It is with mixed feelings that she is retiring as she has enjoyed her dream position; teaching Kindergarten aged children in this wonderful community we call Lochside Elementary School.

Ms Keeb will miss Lochside and teaching the children of families that she has come to know over the years. She is thankful for working with a fabulous staff and administration, lovely parents and terrific children. She would like to thank everyone for making this former Montrealer feel so at home so far away from her family. We wish you the very best in your retirement, Ms Keeb!

### HELEN HAWLEY

Mrs. Hawley graduated from UVic in the summer of 1976. She was ready and eager to start teaching and had married her husband Phil in 1975. Mrs. Hawley recalls sitting with the phone book in her lap and calling every school in all three districts (Saanich, Sooke, and Victoria).



Out of all those many phone calls she received three interviews...with Janis Johnson, Gene Jacobson, and with Jim Chow at Brentwood Elementary. She was delighted when Jim Chow hired her for teaching a primary class at Brentwood Elementary. She taught a Grade Two class and thought that she was in heaven. She was at Brentwood teaching until her son was born. After that she took two years off for maternity leave and went back to teaching half-time with Dolores Carey. Then her daughter was born and she took two more years of maternity leave and returned to teaching in 1987 when Lynn Traunweiser hired her to teach half-time Kindergarten at Lochside Elementary.

Mrs. Hawley loved teaching half time. She was able to enjoy her children at home and be a part of their life at their school. She shared a room with Debbie Gaunt and they got along wonderfully. They had lots of laughs over the years and she missed her a great deal when Mrs. Gaunt retired last year. When Mrs. Gaunt went full time, Mrs. Hawley stayed half time and taught with Judy Bennett, Joyce Manning, and Susanne Martman.

Mrs. Hawley reveals that learned more from Susanne Martman than she learned in all her years at UVic. She was an inspirational partner who made her want to do more each year. Mrs. Hawley has had many different and wonderful EA's in her classroom. She has always said, "If our EA's all left the school at the same time we'd have to stop teaching. " When the Saanich School District went to full day Kindergarten, Mrs. Hawley also went to full day teaching Kindergarten and loved it.

Mrs. Hawley says being at Lochside has been a pleasure. She feels more connected to this community than to her own neighbourhood. The families of the children she has taught have become her friends. She has always said, "These children enter my classroom as my students and they leave as my friends. How lucky we kindergarten teachers are to teach a group of children for a year and then to watch them as they grow and develop over the next five years. You get to know them pretty well after six years."

Mrs. Hawley states, "I have worked for remarkable principals—Lynn Traunweiser, Daphne Macnaughton, Grant Franceschini, Don MacDonald and now Joe Grewal. I thought I would retire and leave school, never to return...but I have a feeling I'll pop in a few times for a visit as this 2013-2014 year proceeds. It has been a huge part of my life for a very long time. I'm so proud of our school. I think it is a happy place to learn and a wonderful place to work. I'll miss it and all the people, children, parents and staff, who make it such a wonderful place." Good luck in your retirement, Mrs. Hawley. We will miss you at Lochside!

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**APPRECIATIONS**

There are many people in and out of the school who help us provide opportunities for students to get involved in different activities.

- Kelly Perry & Judy Payne and their team of volunteers for organizing the recent Book Fair.
- Members of the LEPAC Executive and the Lochside community for their support of our school programs through their fundraising efforts. LEPAC has generously contributed money toward field trips, Science Venture, Artist-in-Residence and many other items/projects for our students.
- Indoor soccer coaches Shawn McKean, Helena Takhar, Sherry Seabrooke and Bob Warrender

taking our students to the Soccer Jamboree at Claremont.

- Tin Kwan for organizing the upcoming Fun Lunch.
- Mary Brookes for organizing the Popcorn Days.



**TRAFFIC ISSUES ON LOCHSIDE DRIVE**

I have received a letter from the Saanich Administrative Traffic Committee regarding the concerns around our back parking lot. Residents living near Lochside

Elementary continue to express their frustration with use of Lochside Drive for pick-up and drop off activity. Lochside Drive is narrow and easily blocked by cars turning around or backing out of our rear parking lot. Please do not park on the side of Lochside Drive and attempt a U-Turn in the middle of the road. This is endangering other drivers as well as cyclists who frequently use the Lochside Trail to get to and from work. Additionally it would be preferable if parents used the front parking lot when dropping off or picking up their child (ren) from school.

**REMEMBRANCE DAY ASSEMBLY**

On November 7<sup>th</sup>, Lochside students and staff honoured all of the men and women who have served Canada over the course of its history. This student led assembly was very moving and demonstrated a depth of understanding by our students about the importance of Remembrance Day. Thank you to the students, staff, parents and community members who attended and were part of this special assembly.



**EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES**

- The indoor soccer season finished off the year with a jamboree at Claremont on Friday, November 22<sup>nd</sup>.
- Our students are practicing with Hip Hop dance teacher, Shaina Kelly and getting ready for their performance on Wed. December 18<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 pm.
- Swim Club coached by Mrs. Gillingham and Ms. McLeay takes place on Wednesdays from 3:15 - 4:00 pm.
- Scottish Dance Club is taking place on Mondays at lunch organized by Gael Forster.

# Winter is Here!



1. SD63 Transportation phone-line is: 250-652-7343 (hours are 7:15am – 4:00pm). For school / bussing updates you can also go to the district webpage ([www.sd63.bc.ca](http://www.sd63.bc.ca)) or “twitter@sd63bus” and become a follower.

2. School buses may be late or may not even arrive. Students should wait for 20 minutes and if they have not been picked up then they should return home or follow the plan laid out by their parents/guardians. It is really important that parents/guardians have a plan for their children should the school bus does not arrive.

3. **IN THE EVENT OF BAD WEATHER**, by 6:15 am the Superintendent of Schools, Nancy Macdonald informs area radio stations (e.g CFX, The Q, CBC Radio, The Ocean, A Channel and CH News) that School District No. 63 schools are closed and/or school buses are cancelled.

**NO ANNOUNCEMENT *means* SCHOOLS AND BUSES *are* OPERATING AS USUAL.**

## **RULES:**

Never throw snowballs, ice or anything at the bus. Cold snow and warm windows do not mix and if windows shatter, glass fragments could cause injuries. Do not encourage or provoke others to throw snowballs.

## **SAFETY PRECAUTIONS**

1. Stay at least 2 meters from the bus. Due to road conditions buses can slide as they are stopping so please stay well out of the way. Cars may also fail to stop, slide or may lose control so be aware whenever you are around them.

***Look out for your own safety as well as for the safety of your friends.***

2. Be on your best behavior on the bus and at your bus stop. Poor weather requires all of the drivers attention to be able to drive safely.
3. Because of the slippery conditions be careful

as you get off the bus and then get well clear of the bus. For Information please call:

SD63 Board Office Recorded Message:  
250-652-7300 OR  
SD 63 Transportation Department:  
250-652-7343 OR  
Twitter@sd63bus

## **LOST AND FOUND**

Please remember to check out our Lost and Found. There are many items of clothing left outside by our students. Unclaimed items will be sent to a local charity during the Winter Break.



## **STUDENTS ARRIVING LATE TO SCHOOL**

Thank you for your help in getting students to school on time. We have seen a marked improvement over the last few weeks. It's important that all students are arriving on time in order to get started with the daily routines in their classrooms.



## **LIFE-THREATENING FOOD ALLERGIES & SPECIAL DAYS**

Special days like birthdays, Easter and end-of-the-year parties are times of celebration with friends, family and food. However, there are students in our school with life-threatening food allergies and these students are especially at risk during these times. You can help to keep allergic students safe by:

- ♦ Celebrating with stickers, games or prizes instead of food
- ♦ Not sending or bringing peanut and nut-containing products to the school or classroom

Refer to your school's policies and procedures around life-threatening food allergies for more information. For more information contact:

- ♦ Your local Health Unit
- ♦ HealthLinkBC at 8-1-1 and ask to speak to a Registered Dietitian or [www.healthlinkbc.ca/dietitian/](http://www.healthlinkbc.ca/dietitian/)