

APRIL 2011 NEWSLETTER

DPAC NEWS

Doncaster's Parent Community Working To Enhance
Our Kid's School Experience.

Message from the President:

Happy Spring everyone! It's hard to believe that Spring is finally here. Well at least we can hear some of the signs of Spring with the birds waking us early in the morning and very recently the sun came out and we very nearly didn't require our jackets... Can you believe it! This month's newsletter is jam packed with a lot of information and you'll note that we are looking to our fabulous parent group for some key helpers. I know you may all think how am I going to fit anything else in? We all have a lot on our plates and juggling homework, sports, dance, music and etcetera can be a real task. Try to get involved in what ever way you can, whether that be delivering Pizza or Subway to the more than 300 students or helping to organize a fall school Folk dance we look forward to; what ever contributions you may bring.

We want to ensure that we are having a lot of fun in the things that we bring to the school so try co-ordinating with another mom or dad at the school, put on your Volunteer hat and let myself or Dawn know if you can help our School community out. Summer break is just around the corner.

Cheryl Rothnie- PAC President

Be a part of your child's future at Doncaster!

Doncaster PAC raises money to contribute to each child's learning at Ecole Doncaster. So come and help your child and their friends! PAC is currently looking for:

Lunch program co-ordinators (2): This is a vital role in the PAC, and there is plenty of mentorship regarding the duties. Plus – you're a big hero to parents and kids alike!!

Raffle basket organizers (2): This is a big fundraiser, and also cool. Liaise with businesses in town to make exciting prize baskets to raffle off. There are many parents willing to help you. Fun and creative!

Lice check Co-ordinators (2): We have averted outbreaks of lice in the past with these checks. There are many parents willing to help, and Anna will mentor.

If you are interested in helping and making a big impact on your child's education, please contact Cheryl Rothnie at ecrothnie@shaw.ca

Drop us a line at: dpac.doncaster@gmail.com

Cheques to: Doncaster School Auxiliary Society

Don't Miss....

April 26 – DPAC News

April 27 – Subway day

May 12 – DPAC meeting

7pm in library

May 11th - Smoothie /Pizza

May 11 – Smoothie/Pizza day

May 20 – Pro D

May 23-Victoria Day

May 24 – DPAC News –
submissions in by May 17



Lakehill Soccer Fall/Winter

Early registration discount for Doncaster School Players!

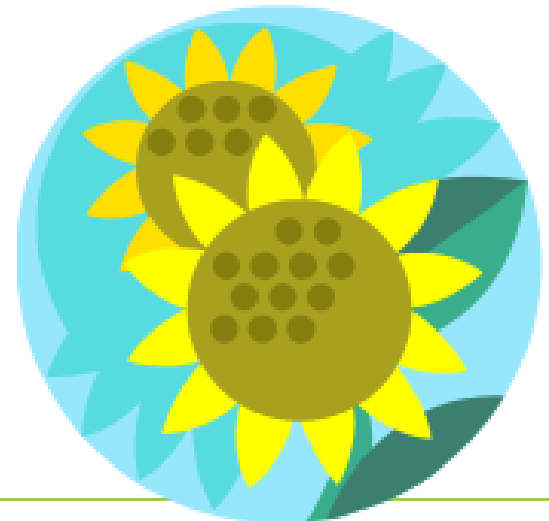
New Players Welcomed

Interested in playing soccer this fall? Lakehill Soccer offers soccer for girls and boys starting at age 4! Games are Saturday mornings at Braefoot or Beckwith Parks. Register before May 28th and receive a \$40/player early registration discount! Save \$30 for family members! On-site Credit Card payment will be accepted May 7th (only) . Details at <http://www.lakehillsoccer.com/registration.html>



DPAC Notice Board

There's a DPAC notice board outside the school office. Check it regularly for news of upcoming events.





Corner of Shelbourne and
Cedar Hill X Road. 1971

Valley or Corridor:

The Past, Present and Future of the Shelbourne/Cedar Hill X Road Community

Join Tom and Jean Newton, members of the Shelbourne Walkability Committee, on a Jane's Walk through the historic Shelbourne/Cedar Hill X Road valley to discuss the past, present and future of this evolving neighbourhood. Jane's Walks take place around the world each May to celebrate the work of Jane Jacobs, Canadian urbanist and activist whose writings championed a community-based approach to city building. On the walk you will meet others from your community, learn history of the area, and help assess the walkability of the neighbourhood.

Date of Walk: Saturday, May 7, 2011

Time: 1:30 p.m., duration 90 minutes

Cost: FREE

Start Location: St. Aidan's Church, 3703 St. Aidan's Street

End Location: St. Aidan's Church

Parking available in St. Aidan's parking lot

Public Transit Directions: Shelbourne Street north to Cedar Hill X Road. Turn left on St. Aidan's Street. The church parking lot is at the top of the hill. Bus #'s 27 Gordon Head and 28 Majestic both stop at the corner of Shelbourne and Cedar Hill X Road. From there, walk east along Cedar Hill X Road to St. Aidan's Street, turn left and walk to the top of the hill. Bus # 14 UVIC via Richmond stops at Richmond and Cedar Hill X Road. Cross Cedar Hill X Road and walk up St. Aidan's to the Church.

Accessible: Partially accessible – curbs, uneven terrain, busy sidewalks. Every effort will be made to accommodate anyone who wants to come on the walk.

Way to Go! Doncaster Spring Challenge 2011

Earth Day, April 22 – Clean Air Day June 8

Spring is here and the **Way to Go! Doncaster Spring Challenge** is back!

Spring Challenge is a great opportunity to get active, reduce traffic congestion and air pollution around the school – and have FUN!

During the previous two years, school travel trips by auto decreased from an average of 56% in April just before the start of Spring Challenge to 43% in June, a reduction of 13% ... and an increase in safe and active transportation to school. This decrease was largely achieved through increases in park & walk and rideshare. What is really impressive is that many students initially expressed concerns that they live too far from school to walk or bike, so making changes in how they come to school may have required some planning and extra effort.



Way to Go Doncaster!

Last year almost all classes participated in Spring Challenge, and students had many chances to win fantastic prizes: \$75 Frontrunners gift card for class participation; bike tune-up for the Bike to School Week raffle; bike tune-up for highest class participation; and several other great prizes including sunglasses, running socks, and cycling accessories. *Un Grand Merci* to our very generous sponsors: North Park Bicycle Shop, Shaun Bate Agencies, Frontrunners, and Performance Bicycles.

For 2011 the **Challenge is to reduce auto school travel trips to below 40%** by June. Take part by walking all or part of the way, biking, ridesharing, or taking the bus to school. Check out the Spring Challenge bulletin board at the front entrance for information and updates, and photos.

Way to Go! Doncaster Spring Challenge highlights:

Greening Tree – It starts as a bare tree with no leaves, but when the leaves appear you know Spring Challenge has started! Without advance notice, each student is given a leaf to put on the tree, its colour based on how they travelled to school that day. The leaves give a visual ‘snapshot in time’ of how students travel to school, and provides baseline data for future comparisons. The Greening Tree will be repeated on the last day of Spring Challenge to show how many brown leaves have changed colour.

All students are entered for a chance to win a prize during each Greening Tree event.

Greater participation earns more chances to win.

Drop us a line at: dpac_doncaster@gmail.com

Cheques payable to: Doncaster School

Way to Go! Class Challenge Weeks

Classes can sign up for a friendly competition among grades for the most active school travel trips during the week. You might earn a double-recess!

Trip Tracker - Each class will be provided with a colourful wall banner, clothes pegs, and a tracking sheet, for students and teachers to easily record how they travel to school each day during Spring Challenge.



Bike to School Week & Raffle, May 30 – June 3. Want to do Bike to Work Week? Bike the kids to school first! Students earn a raffle ticket each day they bike to school for a chance to win a prize. Check the brakes, pump up the tires, and remember your lock.

3rd Annual Principal's Walk to School, Wednesday June 8

Join Principal James Hansen at Wetherby Park to walk to school and celebrate **Clean Air Day** and our school's achievements during Spring Challenge. The distance is about 650 m with a sidewalk and a controlled intersection at Derby Rd. Visit the celebration station for light refreshments and stickers at the school near the primary playground. All are welcome!



Live too far away to walk or ride to school? Too busy? You can still participate in Spring Challenge. Try some of these options, even once a week will make a big difference to the congestion around the drop-off area in the morning:

Park and Walk Choose to park a couple of blocks from school and walk the rest of the way. The *Best Walking Routes to Doncaster* map on the bulletin board shows recommended alternate drop-off locations, or http://www.sd61.bc.ca/school/doncaster/pdf/best_walking_routes_all.pdf.

Walking buddies Arrange to drop off your child with a friend who lives closer to school.

Rideshare Hook up with another family going your way — yes, it's a carpool!

Walking School Bus Live near Playfair Park or King's Pond? Once a week catch a ride and join the fun. Route map on bulletin board. Contact Lana at ljtaves@shaw.ca

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