

O C T O B E R 2 0 1 0

DPAC NEWS

DONCASTER'S PARENT COMMUNITY WORKING TO ENHANCE OUR KIDS' SCHOOL EXPERIENCE.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

We have had a busy start to the year and I'd like to thank you for participating in our events and fundraisers. Now, we're done our selling for the year...phew! Next up, some more fun events, including the Family Folk dance, and elections: for School Planning Council in November and our new Executive in December. See more information on page 4. If you haven't been to a Family Folk dance before, I really encourage you to come out on November 10th...you will have fun and your kids will love it! I wish you a happy Hallowe'en and a good November.

-Laura Kaiser, President

DID YOU KNOW?

DPAC pays for Doncaster to have a membership to Tumblebooks, an on-line collection of animated, talking books. Children can read the books themselves or have the books read to them in English, French or even other languages.

Check out the site at www.tumblebooks.com. Click on "e-books for e-kids".

Username: doncaster.

Password: books.



Newsletter Editor: Charene Cranston

Dates to Note

October 27th Pizza Day

November 4th DPAC meeting

November 10th Subway Day

November 10th Family Folk Dance

November 10th DPAC Newsletter Submissions Due

November 22nd DPAC News

November 24th Pizza Day

November 27th Doncaster Christmas Craft Fair

What's coming up around school?

✧ Craft club started on October 18th and will continue to run on Mondays at lunchtime, alternating between primary and intermediate grades. Remind your child to listen to the morning announcements so they know which week it is their turn to go.

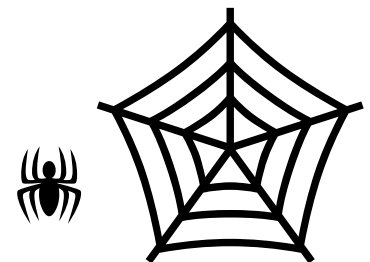
“Individual Education Plans: A Guide for Parents”

A collaborative project of the B.C. Council of Parent Advisory Committees (BCCPAC) and authors Catherine Abraham and Joyce Gram, this handbook was written in response to parent requests for information that would help guide them through IEP meetings. Find it at www.bccpac.bc.ca. The authors (info@bccpac.bc.ca) welcome any questions, comments or other feedback.

✧ Dance club started for boys and girls in grades 1 to 3 last week and will run every Wednesday at lunchtime until February. It's a fun way to get some exercise at lunchtime and learn some new moves. Encourage your child to give it a try if they haven't already done so.

✧ There will be a Family Folk Dance on November 10th at 6 pm in the gym featuring Les Cornouillers Dance Troupe. This is always a fun evening with the dance troupe leading us in easy-to-join-in dancing and offering their delicious sugar pie. Watch for more information to come home soon.

✧ Our Christmas Craft Fair will be held on Saturday, November 27th at the school. This event is a big hit in the community every year and it will be even better this year with our beautiful new gym holding even more crafters than before and the return of the children's craft room that was such a big hit in 2009. Mark your calendar, plan to come, and watch for notices coming home asking for volunteers and baking. Check out this month's Volunteer Spotlight about Alaine Polinsky, our fabulous Craft Fair organizer on page 6!



Thank you so much!

Last month, we were very heavy on the Please – now we have lots of Thanks!

☆ Thanks to Kathi Ma, Suzanne Sherman and Catherine du Bois for taking on the craft fair signage, concession and volunteer coordination jobs!

☆ Thanks to everybody who has been sending in Campbells & Island Farms labels, Canadian Tire dollars and Sports Traders bucks. Soon, we'll be purchasing some new playground/gym supplies at Canadian Tire \$ and will let you know what we bought. In the meantime, keep the bits of paper coming!

☆ Thanks to everybody for sending in those entertainment books and cheques! It seems to have been a more challenging year with cheques not getting to the PAC as smoothly as usual so thanks to Irene, parents and school staff for working together to sort out all the glitches.

☆ Thanks Class Reps! We have a rep in every class now and we really appreciate your help in passing information between DPAC and parents in your class! If you ever have a question you don't know how to answer from a parent, email dpac.doncaster@gmail.com and we'll help.

☆ Thanks Sheena and everybody who helped with Stream of Dreams from June until the end of September! It was a big job but the fish look great and the kids had fun and learned a lot.

☆ Thanks to the crew who cleaned out the PAC cupboard and set up our new servery. It will be much easier to do events now that everything is in its proper place.

☆ Thanks to everybody who came to help out with the lice check. It was successful and we likely won't have another school-wide check until early January. Thanks also to all the parents who check their child's head regularly! (Reminder: go to www.healthlinkbc.ca/lice to find out what to look for and what to do if you find lice.)

☆ Thanks to Lana for organizing our iWalk celebration, all the bagel and coffee servers and everybody who participated by walking, cycling, carpooling & “park and walking” to school! Thanks also to Starbucks for providing the coffee for the grown-ups!

☆ Thanks to Tina and Karen for organizing a movie night last week and everybody who helped.

Canadian Parents for French is hosting a North African French Dinner and Movie Night on Nov. 19th and a Cinefete Film festival for teachers and Students Nov. 24-26. For more information, www.cpf.bc.ca/victoria or email audrev@panter.com

This Just In...We Need A New PAC Executive

On December 2nd at our monthly PAC meeting, all executive positions will be vacant and up for election: we need a Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Members at Large. Every parent/guardian of a Doncaster student is a member of the PAC, and any member can stand for election. If you are interested in becoming involved in the PAC Executive, please express your interest by email at dpac.doncaster@gmail.com or self-nominate at the December meeting. If you have any questions about what's involved, contact a current member (see page 7 for contact info).

In Other News...SPC Elections Will Be Held In November

School Planning Council is a collaboration between parents, teachers and school principals. SPCs develop school plans to develop and implement school goals over the course of the year and provide feedback to district plans for the year. Three parent volunteers can serve on the SPC every year and elections for this year will be held at the November 4th meeting. If you have any questions about SPC, contact dpac.doncaster@gmail.com or Doncaster Principal James Hansen.

From Victoria Council of Parent Advisory Committees (VCPAC)

JOHN F. NOONAN –CGA & Professional Registered Parliamentarian presents
“Conducting Effective Meetings with ROBERT’S RULES OF ORDER” for
 Community/Association Leaders (and those who aspire to Association leadership)
Monday November 15 9 am - 4 pm at Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney

PACs get 2 registrations for the price of 1

For information: http://www.bccpac.bc.ca/index/event_calendar/provregerevents.aspx

VCPAC is holding a PAC Congress at SJ Willis on Wednesday, November 3rd from 6:30 to 9:00 pm. A light dinner and refreshments will be served from 6:30-7:00, followed by opportunities for networking, dialogue and sharing best practices. It's open to all current executive members, those thinking of becoming an executive member and anyone else who is actively involved in our PAC. If you're interested, email dpac.doncaster@gmail.com

International Walk to School Day

By Lana Taves

On Thursday October 7th Doncaster was one of 275 schools with 95,000 students celebrating iwalk, an event to promote and celebrate the many benefits of walking. The new entrance worked so well with lots of room for people to mingle while enjoying bagels, and many parents visited over a cup of coffee.

Students and families walked and wheeled their way to school in great numbers on iwalk day! Christine, our crossing guard at Rowan and Cedar Hill, noted seeing many new faces, and indeed there was a steady stream of children pouring through the school yard gates, including the new stairs along Cedar Hill Rd, and the bike racks were FULL.

DASH BC (Directorate of Agencies for School Health) sponsored the event and supplied a box full of goodies (walking/cycling safety accessories, stickers, pencils, rulers), which were given out at iwalk and at the Playfair walking school bus on the Tuesday before. There was also a draw for 10 flashing lights, which students could enter if they indicated how they travelled to school that day. About half of the student population entered the draw (166) and the numbers reflect what we saw:

- walk – 79%
- park & walk – 11%
- bike (& small wheels) – 13%
- car – 45%
- carpool – 1%
- bus – 1%



Doncaster’s participation in iwalk also enters us into a draw to win 1 of 10, \$250 prizes to use towards getting our school healthier (i.e. sporting equipment, healthy food, etc.).

October Is International Walk to School Month, so let’s continue to keep up a healthy habit of safe and active transportation to school.

Congratulations to the lucky winners of the flashing lights:

Isabelle (div 6), Emily C. (div 3), Kathleen (div 5), Dylon (div 3), Keelin (div 10), Maddy (div 2), Mimi (div 2), Kusan (div 4), Hami (div 4), and Mackenzie (div 2).



Volunteer Spotlight: Alaine Polinsky

By Kathy Alexander

A conversation with Alaine Polinsky is like a shot in the arm of positive energy. You can't help but feel uplifted after spending time with someone who genuinely sees the 'bright side' of things.

Furthermore, you can't help but feel admiration for a mom who has recently taken up *dirt-biking* in order to connect more with her kids!

In her third year as Doncaster's Christmas Craft Fair organizer, Alaine Polinsky is someone who believes in helping her community. Aside from her involvement with Doncaster School, she is also president of the National Little League, a volunteer bartender for The Kinsmen Club of Victoria, and drives on as many field trips as possible for her four children. Up until 7 months ago, she did all this *and* worked full-time as a bookkeeper for WSI, a property management firm.

Alaine's decision to quit her job took a lot of prioritizing and budgeting. With only one income, "you have to really change your way of thinking." She now works casual hours as a nail technician, which has allowed her to have more energy at the end of the day to put into her family. For starters, her sons all have their own baseball teams, which means Alaine, formerly an avid baseball player herself, drives to four different baseball practices and four different baseball games every week!

Alaine, whose hobbies include card-making and painting, is happy to help out at Doncaster's

Christmas Craft Fair. "It's inspiring to watch rows of blank tables transform into colourful displays of art and creativity as the crafters set up their works." Alaine organizes over 65 local



crafters, including some of our own parents and students. Last year's fair raised about \$2500 for DPAC. What are some of the challenges of such a big leadership task? "It can be hard to please everyone, but I just do my best to listen to and alleviate their concerns. Usually, you can turn a negative into a positive, and you can always improve on it the next time round." There's that positive attitude again.

Her commitment to helping in her community comes, in part, from a desire to teach her kids by example. "I want my kids to know that we don't just get everything we want on a platter. We have to work for what we have, and be grateful, because there are people in our community whose kids can't each have their own bedroom; there are people who don't even have a place to live." Alaine tries to teach her kids that it's not all about 'me'; it's what you do for others that counts.

Do you recognize Alaine but can't place her? Probably from baseball or the Doncaster Craft Fair, a party where she was tending bar or somewhere with your kids...her 4 range from 4-12 years.

On summer vacations Alaine has found herself left alone at the campsite when dad takes the boys out on their motor bikes. Recently, she thought to herself, "if you can't beat 'em, join 'em!" and decided to take up dirt biking. "My first time out on my bike, I wiped out, and all of a sudden there was this role reversal where my sons were asking me if I was ok, and wanting to help me." Well, Alaine, it looks like your dedication to helping others has rubbed off on your kids after all!

Cheques to: Doncaster School Auxiliary Society

Email: dpac.doncaster@gmail.com

Ms. Ashurst Would Love Some Help Shelving Books

Whenever you have a few minutes in the school, please pop into the library and shelve some books from the carts that are always full of returns...that way the kids will have access to the most popular books when they're looking for them. Even better, set a regular time to go help. It will be greatly appreciated!

Ms. Marshall Needs Some Replacement Supplies For Her Kindie Classroom

- a parking garage for cars
- Playmobile figures
- Brio train set (especially the tracks)
- books on tape for listening centre
- dollhouse furniture

If you have any of these items, please drop them off at Ms. Marshall's classroom or at the office.

Contact Your Executive




Laura Kaiser, President	389-2292	laura.kaiser@shaw.ca
Charene Cranston, Vice-President	380-0371	dcranston@shaw.ca
Cheryl Rothnie, Treasurer	920-9013	ecrothnie@shaw.ca
Kate O'Regan, Secretary	298-1207	dkoregan@googlemail.com
Members at Large		
Kathy Alexander	480-0138	kathy@the5alexanders.com
Tina Barnswell	382-0909	barnswell@shaw.ca
Sheena Dumitrescu	721-4142	sheenad@shaw.ca
Kathy Logan	388-6376	kathy_logan@telus.net
Tammy MacKenzie	370-0520	mackenzies@shaw.ca
Audrey Panter	475-6977	audrey@panter.com
Suzanne Sherman	592-1913	shermies@telus.net
Karen Stevenson	475-6999	karen.stevenson@telus.net