



# Doncaster Elementary School Newsletter

October 27, 2011

## QUICK NOTES:

- **SPORTS:**  
Watch for Basketball coming up
- **REMINDERS:**  
**Photo retake day,**  
Fri., October 28  
  
**Remembrance Day Assembly,**  
Thurs. Nov. 10 at 11:00 am  
  
**Remembrance Day,**  
Fri., Nov. 11—  
**NO school**  
  
**PRO-D DAY,**  
Mon. Nov. 21,  
**NO school** for students
- **ATTACHMENTS:**  
Monthly Calendar



## NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL...



Over the last year, Doncaster staff has been discussing how we can use technology to reach our students without giving up the quality of teaching students and families are used to. As we spent time working on what this might look like, we talked about what underlies our teaching here at Doncaster. One key piece is engaging students while they learn.

Engagement is crucial in teaching. Students who are engaged in their work, whether in math, reading, writing, art or phys ed, are more likely to remember what they have learned and are more able to apply their education in different places.

Exactly what it takes to engage students can change in different subjects and with different teachers. The common thread is that engaged students make connections between what they are learning and something else in their life. If we look just at one example, reading, it is easy to see that a student who is interested in what they read will spend more time and effort thinking about what they are reading.

This leads to an important educational role for you at home. Finding something at home that engages your child in reading, whether novels, magazines or non-fiction books, can make reading at school much richer and much easier. Let your child catch you reading, take a trip to the library and grab something to read for your child and yourself. If you are not sure what to look for, there are plenty of good websites to give you ideas, such as <http://www.redcedaraward.ca/>, <http://www.boysread.org/books>, <http://www.libraryreference.com/newbery.html>.

## Open House

Thank you to staff and parents for making our Wednesday, October 19 open house a success. We had over 200 parents visit for a brief assembly followed by a visit to their children's classrooms. Thank you also to Cheryl Rothnie and the rest of the PAC executive for hosting a coffee visit after school in the Library. It was wonderful to get to see the school bustling with visitors and to see the students' pride in showing off what they do.





## Cross Country

# Special Edition Newsletter

Look forward to our Special Edition Newsletter coming out on, November 12<sup>th</sup> which highlights and focuses on Doncaster's Safety Plan.



**Happy Halloween**

## Fall Cross Country

We finished the Cross Country season with an exciting meet at Beacon Hill Park on October 24<sup>th</sup>. The 40 members of the Doncaster Cross Country Team exhibited positive sportsmanship throughout the season. Many could be found at the finish line cheering on their team mates after their own race. A big thank-you to Mr. Strickland for giving of his time to coach these eager runners every Wednesday and Friday morning and for setting up a Wall of Fame near our gym with beautiful pictures of each of the runners. Also, we wish to thank Ms. Child and Ms. Margetts for their work in organizing our Cross Country team. Due to the support of the Doncaster families, the Cross Country season was a success – **Thank-you!**



## Soccer

Our grade 5 soccer team had a great day on Thursday, October 20 at the annual Reynolds Family Elementary Soccer Jamboree. Doncaster fielded 3 teams, the largest of any of the schools attending. Congratulations to all the grade 5 students who came out for the team and showed such impressive sportsmanship. Thank you to Mr. Knoke, Mr. Masuch and Ms. Margetts for their inspiration, coaching and organization.

## Dance Club

Our fantastic primary Dance Club, open for students in grades 1-3, started up again this week. We look forward to another great year of fun and look forward to a great performance. The club continues Tuesdays at lunch into December and then will restart in January. Thank you to Devon Hackett for leading the club again this year and for Charene Cranston for her work helping set up the club.



## Terry Fox Run

When Doncaster students went for their Terry Fox run on Friday, September 23, they raised \$762.10 for cancer research. A special thank you to Beverlea Shepherd, Karen Stevenson and Nikki Johnson for having counted the money. **Well done Doncaster community!**

## Upcoming Musical Performances

This year, job action has affected some of the happenings at Doncaster. Teachers are still working hard with your children and students are still learning, but some of the ways of demonstrating that look a bit different this year. In musical performances, for example, division 1, 2 and 3 will be performing at the Remembrance Day assembly on Thursday, November 10th starting at 11:00 am. We invite all parents to attend. Other upcoming events include divisions 4 and 5 performing at our December 5<sup>th</sup> 9:00 am assembly and divisions 6, 7 and 8 performing at the afternoon Winter Concert on December 14<sup>th</sup>.

## Fall Scholastic Book Fair

Our annual fall Scholastic book fair is coming soon! This pre-Christmas book buying opportunity begins on Thursday, November 24<sup>th</sup> and ends Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>. This year, the fair will even be open during the annual Doncaster craft fair on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Thank-you to Ms. McIntyre and our parent volunteer Karen Stevenson for putting in such an effort to help raise funds for the library.

## Halloween at Doncaster



Monday, October 31<sup>st</sup> is 'Black and Orange' Day at Doncaster. **No costumes, please!** Students are encouraged to keep it simple and come to school with any combination of Black and Orange\* they can think of with fall colors. We have organized a "Pumpkin Run" for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of this week. Students will earn tickets for a draw based on how many circuits they complete. Their name goes into the class bucket and winners of a pumpkin will be selected on Friday afternoon.

\*(As a 'fall colour' myself, I understand that wearing black and orange can really wash us out. Oh well!!)



## Emailing the Doncaster Newsletter:

Just a reminder that Doncaster newsletters are sent out via e-mail to save paper and waste. If you would like a paper copy, they are available from the office.



**HALLOWEEN—  
NO COSTUMES  
PLEASE!!**



## School Timetable:

8:28 am – 8:42 am

Supervision of Grounds

8:42 am Entry Buzzer

10:14 – 10:34 am Recess  
Break

11:53 – 12:48 Lunch Break  
(lunch starts at 11:51 on Mondays)

2:50 pm Dismissal

2:50 pm – 3:05 pm

Supervision of Grounds Ends



## Dogs

If you walk to school with your dog and enter the school grounds, please make sure your dog is calm, centered and under control of an adult by being on a leash or chain.



## 1000 X 5 1000 Books by Age Five

Keep the gently used picture books for babies and pre-schoolers coming into the drop box outside the office. We are hearing wonderful stories of thanks from families attending Strong Start and other programs. As relayed by an educator at a Strong Start Centre, a four year old burst into the room, went right to the box where gift bags of books are kept and announced " I had a new baby sister last night and I need a "baby" bag of books for her". You are making a difference and you are so appreciated.

## Scent Free School




Last year, Doncaster became a scent free school. There are several staff and students who have allergies and asthma that are badly affected by strong perfumes and scents. We appreciate everyone's help in avoiding using heavy scents when they come into the school.

## Numeracy: Home Connections

Math is a part of our lives at school and more importantly, at home and in every life experience. A place to begin to make math meaningful is by playing games at home with your child. A familiar game, such as Monopoly, in which the child has the opportunity to be the banker, provides a variety of teachable moments. You can stop and talk about groups of ten, numbers that add up to ten, half of ten and so on. Even games that promote literacy such as Scrabble have a math component as well. At a young age, a child can begin to add up their own scores. Hand out blank paper to each player and compare ways to find their scores. Most children will add horizontally so you may end up learning something new as well! Sharing math strategies out loud empowers the learner and the brain to seek out a variety of ways to solve math problems. Soon your child will perceive math as a part of the real world and not just school.

\*Teachable moments are unplanned and authentic moments of discovery and inquiry. Focus on these moments in games and not the speed of the game. Conversations encompassing the power of ten and focusing on groups of ten and how numbers relate to ten will develop familiar landmarks for your child – just like reading!

# November 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3 DPAC Meet 7:00	4	5
6	7	8	9	10 Remembrance Assembly 11:00	11 <b>Remembrance Day</b> NO School 	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 
20	21 <b>Pro D day</b> NO school for students	22	23 Scholastic Book Fair 23-30th	24 School Newsletter	25 DPAC Bakesale items needed	26 Christmas Craft Fair 10-3:00 pm DPAC Bakesale
27	28 DPAC Newsletter Christmas Hampers	29 DPAC lunch day 	30			



# Calling all November Elves! Doncaster Christmas Craft Fair Sat. Nov. 26th 10 am - 3 pm

The Christmas Craft Fair is a fun way to launch the Christmas season and a great fundraiser for the Doncaster Parents Advisory Council every year. It's a community effort, and families who help out have a great time, so please plan to join us either leading up to the event or on the day. **Please fill in the form below and return it to the office as soon as you can, no later than Friday Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>.** Thanks in advance!

**Please note:**

**BAKING-** DPAC would like donations of baked goods to be dropped off at the staff lounge on Friday Nov. 25th. We would greatly appreciate if donations were labelled, packaged for sale and attractively presented. Thank You!

**CONTACT:** Alaine Polinsky 250 383-9378 or Polinsky@telus.net

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**Christmas Craft Fair Volunteer Form  
Please return to the office by Friday Nov. 11th**

\_\_\_\_\_ *Need someone to organize the concession/training avail this year*

\_\_\_\_\_ *Need someone to create and display signage for craft fair/more details avail*

\_\_\_\_\_ I will help in the craft club room making gingerbread men

\_\_\_\_\_ I will help on Friday 3 – 4:30 PM with setup and baking pricing

\_\_\_\_\_ I will help on Saturday 8:15 – 10:00 AM with setup/arranging raffle baskets

\_\_\_\_\_ I will work at the concession/DPAC bake table/raffle table on Saturday (please mark available time(s) below—if you can give me a choice of times, that's great!)

\_\_\_\_\_ I will help on Saturday from 3:00 – 4:00 PM with cleanup

\_\_\_\_\_ I will donate baked goods, cookies/things for sale to DPAC table and/or I will encourage my friends and family to donate to the DPAC table

**Availability on Sat. Nov. 26th**

\_\_\_\_\_ 8:15-11:00 a.m.    \_\_\_\_\_ 10:00 a.m.-noon    \_\_\_\_\_ 11:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m.  
\_\_\_\_\_ noon-2:00 p.m.    \_\_\_\_\_ 1:00-3:00 p.m.    \_\_\_\_\_ 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone# \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Child's name \_\_\_\_\_ Div. # \_\_\_\_\_