



École Doncaster Elementary

School Newsletter



September 30, 2010

Notes from the Principal...



While summer does seem long ago and far away, it still feels a bit unreal to be already at the end of September. It's hard to believe that we are through ten percent of the school year, although it's easy to see that students and teachers are hitting their stride. After a month of re-connecting with friends, learning new classroom routines and getting used to the speed of school again, the place is starting to hum.

Events will be coming pretty quickly in October. Next week, for example, we start with our foster-child assembly on Monday, have individual photo day on Tuesday, parent-teacher interviews on Wednesday and Thursday, and the PAC meeting on Thursday night. I expect that one of the things parents will be thankful for on the holiday the following Monday is that the next week won't be quite as full of events to juggle.

I have tremendously enjoyed the first few weeks here at Doncaster. The school and community only gets better the more I get to know it. I am fortunate to be able to watch students in all of our classrooms engage in their learning with a dedicated and talented staff. On the field and playgrounds you can feel the positive energy of the students.

Doncaster staff spent our first Pro-D day on September 20 discussing our educational direction for the future. We are looking for the best ways to work together to make the most of your children's learning. One thing that came up throughout the day is that teachers here believe in finding engaging ways to support all of our students, including the vulnerable learners, while maintaining Doncaster's high academic standards.

I am looking forward to a great year!

Quick Notes

- Sports:** Cross County is in full swing. Soccer and swimming are starting.
- Reminders:** Parent Teacher Interviews are next week. Remember to send back your forms. Individual Photo Day is on Tuesday, October 5.
- Attached:** Tape up the staff list and school calendar summary in an easy to find place.

Parent Teacher Interviews



Parent Teacher Interviews, October 6th and 7th: Our first parent teacher interviews take place next Wednesday and Thursday. While teachers are still getting to know your children, this is a good chance for you to ask questions, as well as provide the teacher with background information such as strengths, needs and areas of personal

interest. All of this can help us help your child learn. You should have received a form to fill out and send back to school with your preferred meeting times. Please send this form back as soon as you can. If you have not yet received a form, please contact your child's teacher or the office.

Individual Photo Day, Tuesday, October 5



When I was in grade 1, I begged my mom to let me wear an old t-shirt and jeans with the knees worn out, 'just for once'. My mom finally relented on what turned out to be photo day. I still have the picture of me at six years old wearing a t-shirt that says: "Stay Healthy, Eat Your Report Card." Thirty-some years later I think I have come to terms with it, but you may want to save your child the same fate and keep in mind that Tuesday, October 5th is picture day.



Drop Off

Please do not leave your car unattended in our drop off zone. This is a busy area where children are dropped off and picked up as cars flow through the area. It jams up VERY quickly if even one or two cars are left. We also appreciate your consideration for our neighbours. We know you are in a hurry, and your polite attitude makes a big difference in how they feel about Doncaster. Thank you for your cooperation.



Literacy: Home Connections

Research is quite clear when it comes to reading - the best way for children to improve is to spend more time reading things that interest them and are neither too hard nor too easy. (In educational journals this is often called "time on text at level", in an elementary classroom we are more likely to call it time with 'just-right' books.) Perhaps the most important piece of this at home is

to find things that your child likes to read. If your child likes stories or novels, then help them find more. If they like non-fiction books about ships or airplanes or magazines on science or how to build things, then look for more like that. As for the right level, if you notice your child getting frustrated you probably want to find something easier. Over time, look for texts that challenge them a little but maintain their interest.

Assemblies— Values *Demonstrated at Doncaster*

Our recognition assemblies this year will be built around strong values *Demonstrated at Doncaster* that support learning and young people who respect one another. Our first value is responsibility. Teachers will be discussing and watching for particularly strong examples of responsibility among the students for the recognition assembly on November 1.



Sports

Fall Cross Country



Cross Country began last week for boys and girls in grades 3, 4, and 5. Practices are held every Wednesday and Friday mornings at 8:00 a.m. The team meets by the library door. Children are expected to come to practices wearing appropriate running clothes (shorts/track

pants, sturdy runners). Meets begin at 3:45 for Grade 3's, slightly later for grade 4 and 5's. Students are asked to arrange rides with their parents to the cross country meets. If your child has not yet been to the meets but is still interested, or if you have difficulty getting to a meet, please contact Mr. Strickland or Mme Cairns.

Upcoming meets are on Oct. 4 at Gyro Park and Oct. 12 at Lambrick Park,. The final race is at Beacon Hill Park, Monday, October 18, at 1:00 p.m.

Congratulations to all participants and many thanks to Mr. Strickland and Mme Cairns for volunteering their time.



Light the Night—Terry Fox Run



Way to go, Doncaster! Our run last Friday was a very enjoyable community activity. It was rewarding to see such a high level of enthusiasm and participation. We are still short of our goal of \$2500. Please keep those pledges coming and watch the thermometer in our front entrance rise! Our deadline is Monday, October 4.

Soccer



The fields have been lined and the enthusiasm is growing. Mr. Knoke and Mr. Masuch will be working with our grade five students in preparing them for our annual Reynolds' Family Soccer Jamboree later on in October. Stay tuned!



IWALK Week— October 4–8, 2010

École Doncaster School is again participating in iwalk week, culminating with a celebration on Thursday morning, October 7 (including bagels and stickers!). For more information, have a look at the September DPAC news or contact Lana Taves at ljtaves@shaw.ca.



Swim Club News



Doncaster Swim Club is scheduled to begin on Tuesday, October 5. The program will take place at Crystal Pool every Tuesday from 3:30—4:15 p.m. Swimmers will be evaluated on their first day and placed into the Junior Wavemakers, Wavemakers, Swim Skills or Swim Club group. Forms are available at the office. Please note that sign-up has started slowly. We will need more swimmers if the club is to go ahead as planned.

Renovation Up-Date



After much hard work, Doncaster opened this September with the renovation project winding down. The list of changes is pretty big – an entirely new gym, a stunning entrance, a servery for PAC functions, new offices, medical room, counseling room and staff room, an enhanced courtyard along with new and enhanced storage rooms, multi-purpose room and wash-rooms.

The new structure got an unexpected test with the first indoor ‘Meet the Teacher’ Barbecue in

memory. Despite the crowds, there was space for everyone!

Thank you to the staff for their hard work and patience during the process and thank you to the community as well. We would also like to thank UNITECH and, in particular, our on-site construction manager Adam MacIver.

A few outstanding items, such as the landscaping around the recently paved basketball court, should finish up in the next few weeks.

Dressing for Fall

Victoria in autumn can be very wet. While our light monsoon rain might be better than a prairie blizzard at -18°C, we can’t deny that it can be REALLY soggy here.



Please ensure that your children have appropriate rain coats, hats and boots that can last them through a damp lunch or recess. (Students stay inside for hard rains but they still need to be ready, for mists, fogs, showers, short squalls . . .)



Washing Hands!



Last year we were all very careful to wash our hands, sneeze and cough into our elbows or sleeves, and stay home if we felt sick, in order to prevent H1N1. H1N1 did not hit as badly as it could have, but fewer people were

absent across the school district for all kinds of common illnesses, likely because of this emphasis on prevention. At school, we will continue to emphasize hand washing and other precautions. If your children are sick, we ask that you keep them at home to help reduce illness through the school.

E-mailing the Doncaster Newsletter

Most of you already receive this newsletter via e-mail. We are sending this first issue home in paper in case you are new to the school or your information has changed. Subsequent newsletters will only be sent out via e-mail unless you would like to come and pick a paper copy up at the office. This will save quite a bit of paper and waste.



Doncaster Staff 2010–2011

Classroom Teachers

Division 1	Mr. Thomas	Division 2	Mme Simpson
Division 3	Mme Manon Levesque	Division 4	Mr. Strickland
Division 5	Mme Cairns, M Bucher	Division 6	Mme Cohen, Teacher
Division 7	Mr. Masuch	Division 8	Mme Sanderson
Division 9	Mme Gustafson	Division 10	Ms. Montgomery
Division 11	Mme Ewald	Division 12	Mme Prendergast
Division 13	Ms. Marshall	Division 14/15	Mme Dishaw



Supporting Teachers

Ms. J. Ashurst, Librarian	Mr. Knoke, Music/Gifted
Mme Segul, Special Education	Ms. Horwood, Strings Teacher
Mr. Fraser, School Counselor	

Educational Assistants, Supervisors and Crossing Guards

Ms. C. Carlson, Educational Assistant	Ms. N. Christensen, Educational Assistant
Ms. B. Kors, Educational Assistant	Ms. S. McInytre, Student Supervisor
Ms. M. Price, Crossing Guard	Ms. C. Purse, Crossing Guard

School Administration

Mr. J. Hansen, Principal	Mme L. Cairns, Vice Principal
Ms. M. Bendall, School Secretary	Ms. H. McEachen, Office/ Library Clerk

Other Support Specialists

Ms. M. Martins, District Psychologist	Ms. J. Wardill, Occupational Therapist
Ms. A. Bullock, Speech and Language Pathologist	Ms. E. Sloan, Physiotherapist

Provincial Integration Support Team

Ms. T. Wendorf, Co-coordinator	Ms. C. Luzupone, Clerk Typist
Mr. C. Jenkins, Teacher	

School Timetable: Adjusted



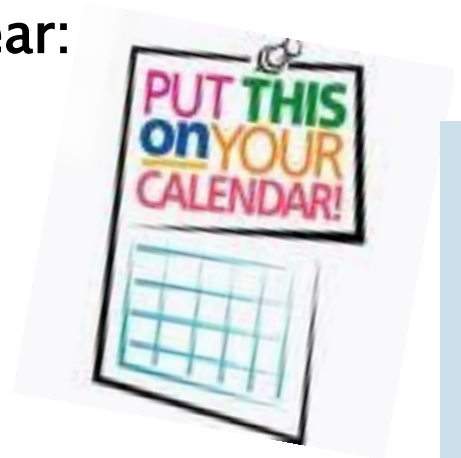
8:28 am – 8:42am	Supervision of Grounds
8:42 am	Entry Buzzer
10:14 – 10:34 am	Recess Break
11:53 – 12:48	Lunch Break (lunch starts at 11:51 on Mondays)
2:50 pm	Dismissal
2:50 pm – 3:05 pm	Supervision of Grounds Ends

Kindergarten:

8:42 am – 12:05 am	English AM (Mon. – Thurs.)
8:42 am – 11:28 am	French AM (Mon. – Fri.)
12:24 pm – 2:50 pm	French PM (Mon. – Fri.)

École Doncaster Calendar School Year: for 2010–2011

187 days in session
180 days of instruction
6 non-instructional days
1 administrative day (Thursday, June 30, 2011)







School Opened on Tuesday, September 7, 2009
Thanksgiving Day Monday, Oct. 11, 2009
Remembrance Day is Thursday, Nov. 11, 2009
Last day school is in session for Winter Break is Friday, December 17, 2010
Schools re-open on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2011
Last day of school prior to Spring Break is Friday, March 11, 2010
School Re-opens on Monday, March 28, 2011
Good Friday is Friday, April 22, 2011
Easter Monday is Monday, April 25, 2011
Victoria Day is Monday, May 23, 2011
Last Day of School classes is Wednesday, June 29, 2011
Thursday, June 30, 2010 is an Administrative Day and then school closes

The Board of Trustees has approved the following Professional Development Days for 2010-2011

Monday, September 20, 2009 (district)
Friday, October 22, 2009 (province wide)
Friday, November 26, 2010 (district)
Friday, February 18, 2010 (district)
Friday, May 20, 2010 (district)
Friday, June 10, 2010 (school)



October 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1	2
3	4 Foster Child Assembly 9:00 Fall XCcountry- Gyro Park 3:45	5 Individual Photo Day 	6 Parent/Teacher Interviews 2:50	7 Parent/Teacher 11:53 Dismissal DPAC Meeting	8	9 Foster Child Work Week-end
10	11 Thanksgiving Day holiday 	12 Fall X Country- Lambrick 3:45	13 DPAC SUBWAY	14	15	16
17	18 Fall X Country, Beacon Hill 1:00 pm start	19	20	21 DPAC Movie Night (K-3) 	22 Pro D day No school for students	23
24	25	26 STAR SEARCH 	27 DPAC PIZZA	28 Newsletter	29	30
31	Halloween Night 