



Ecole Doncaster Elementary School Newsletter

September 29, 2011



NOTES FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Another September, another series of big changes at Doncaster. Our physical changes are smaller than last year's new look, with one new classroom and two updated classrooms. An even more significant change is our first year of full day kindergarten with four classes. It is very exciting to begin to get to know these 82 energetic, keen students along with their families. Full Day K has required a number of adjustments to supervision and lunchtime. We appreciate your patience as we work this out, all without the benefit of staff meetings.

Another change is our growing number of students in grades 1 through 5. We are up to 387 full time students, compared with 304 at the same time last year. These are exciting times for Doncaster with so many students; the future of our school looks very bright. Of course, larger numbers bring other changes that take some getting used to. You have likely noticed extra traffic with so many people coming and going at the beginning and end of the day. We appreciate your patience.

We have also had some new staff changes. Mme Ashley MacDougall, who started our French Immersion grade 3/4 class moves to French Immersion Kindergarten, division 17. Mme. Tracey Walzcak is our new grade 3/4 French Immersion teacher, division 5, and Mme Candice Digeso will be continuing in our French Immersion grade 2/3 class, division 9, until Mme Gustafson returns. Ms. K. Liverton and Ms. R. Wilkerson are two new educational assistants. I am also pleased to re-introduce in this newsletter our staff who joined us in the summer, Ms. M. Margetts, Mrs. J. Child, Ms. M. Chapman, Mme B. Coons, Mme. J. Nahas, and Ms. C. Darling.

I would like to thank all of the staff, rookies and veterans, for working hard to start the year off. I would also like to thank parents for your support and patience. Things are running a little more slowly this year due to the job action, but the staff and families at Doncaster are still the reason we have such a great school.

Quick Notes

Sports: Cross County is in full swing
Reminders: Parent Teacher Interviews postponed
Attached: List of staff and School Calendar summary to tape up somewhere easy to find

AGENDAS

By now your children will have their yearly agenda. Many of our teachers use these as an important way of communicating with parents. We are asking for an optional \$10 to help offset the cost of the agendas, which can be brought to the office.

Thank you to many of you who have already sent in money for agendas. Please give us a call or an email at the office if you have any questions.

SPORTS



SOCCER

This year like last, Mr. Knoke will be leading our grade five students, preparing them for our annual Soccer Jambo-ree later on in October. Stay tuned for more information!



FALL CROSS COUNTRY

We have had a great turnout this year for our fall cross country. Practices are going strong every Wednesday and Friday morning. Our first meet is at Lambrick Park on Monday, October 3. Following meets will be on Oct. 11 at Cloverpoint and Oct. 17 at Lambrick Park. Have a look at the jersey collection on the wall outside the gym. Thanks to Mr. Strickland, Mrs. Child, and Ms. Margetts for all their hard work getting the team off and running!

Assemblies

We are postponing our recognition assemblies until further notice.

We have also postponed our Foster Child assembly.

TERRY FOX RUN FOR CANCER

On Friday, September 23, Doncaster students and staff from kindergarten all the way to grade five, got out and ran in support of Terry Fox. **Thank you very much for your support again this year!**

IWALK—Thursday, October 6

Join students from over 200 BC schools and millions of school-children from some 40 countries around the world, participating in this annual event to promote the many benefits of walking and biking.

Ecole Doncaster School is celebrating iwalk on Thursday morning, October 6th, at the front entrance with our traditional offering of fresh Mount Royal bagels and yummy toppings (peanut free) for all students, and great coffee compliments of Starbucks for parents. There'll be stickers and prizes too!

Arrive a few minutes early to enjoy the treats, visit with friends and discuss any traffic safety concerns you may have about your child(ren)'s route to school. For more information, have a look at the September PAC news or contact Lana Taves at ljtaves@shaw.ca.





VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR DONCASTER LIBRARY

*Shelving
Books

*Tidy the
shelves.

*Putting out
display books.

*Come in with
your child's
class and help
them find
books!



FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

Thank you to our teaching staff and supervisors for helping make a great start to Full Day Kindergarten. Thank you also to all the kindergarten parents for making the new program work so well. The classes are going swimmingly as our new kindergarten students quickly make the transition to school. Our teachers have noticed how much more quickly students have learned the ways of kindergarten with the extra time each day to learn. The curriculum is the same size as before, but now teachers find they have more time to really get deep into the learning in a supportive, play-based learning environment. Our kindergarten schedule is the same as the rest of the school with a few adjustments for recess. Kindergarten students go out for morning recess at a different time than the other students. At lunch, they play outside while the rest of the school eats lunch and then they go inside and eat when the other students come out. This has given them a chance to learn the playground rules and boundaries more easily. Next week, Kindergarten student will be trying the same lunch recess time as the rest of the school.

LINING UP AT THE MORNING BELL

This year, due in part to the larger number of students, students are lining up at the doorway nearest their classrooms at the beginning of the day and are led in to class by their teacher. This is helping to keep the hallways clearer at the beginning of the day and we appreciate your support. Please know that parents are still an important part of the school and you are still welcome to come in to talk to your children's teachers, to drop things off at the office, make appointments and the like. If you are meeting other parents, our big new entrance is a good place to do so on rainy or on sunny days!

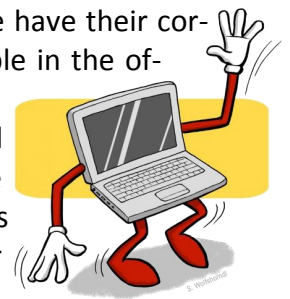


COMMUNICATIONS WITH PARENTS

As with last year, we will be using **e-mail** as our main method of communication with parents. If you have heard of someone who is having trouble getting school information, please remind them to contact us to make sure we have their correct information. Paper printouts of notices will still be available in the office.

Our parent calendar is updated regularly on our website. We will be working with PAC this year to see if we can make our website more effective. Also, please watch for weekly e-mail reminders of what is coming up each week ahead. I would appreciate your comments on the updates and the newsletter.

If you are NOT receiving school information, an email form has been added on page 8 of this newsletter for your convenience. Please fill it in and return it to the office as soon as possible. Thanks!



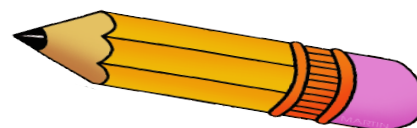
Doncaster Staff: 2011-2012

Classroom Teachers

Division 1	Mr. Thomas	Division 2	Mme Simpson
Division 3	Mme Coons	Division 4	Mr. Strickland
Division 5	Mme Walzac	Division 6	Mme Cohen
Division 7	Ms. Margetts, Ms. Child	Division 8	Mme Sanderson
Division 9	Mme Digeso, Mme Gustafson	Division 10	Mr. Masuch
Division 11	Mme Ewald	Division 12	Mme Prendergast
Division 13	Ms. Chapman	Division 14	Ms. Montgomery
Division 15	Mme. Dishaw	Division 16	Mme. Nahas
Division 17	Mme. MacDougall		

Supporting Teachers

Ms. J. Ashurst, Librarian
 Mr. Knoke, Music/Gifted
 Mme M. Segul and Ms. C. Darling, Special Education
 Mr. M. Fraser, School Counselor
 Ms. Mcknight and Ms. Horwood, Strings Teachers



Educational Assistants, Supervisors and Crossing Guards

Ms. Bonnie Barley, Educational Assistant	Ms. C. Carlson, Educational Assistant
Ms. N. Christensen, Educational Assistant	Ms. B. Kors, Educational Assistant
Ms. K. Liverton, Educational Assistant	Ms. S. McNytyre, Student Supervisor
Ms. R. Wilkerson, Educational Assistant	Ms. C. Purse, Crossing Guard
Mr. B Kamara, French Monitor	

School Administration

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

Other Support Specialists

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



PHOTO DAY

This year, photo day was Tuesday, September 27. The photographer, Edge Imaging, will be sending out proofs in about three weeks. You will be able to choose the pictures and layouts you like and order them. Thank you to Evelyn and Emma in Div. 1 for being such great student helpers!



Parent
Teacher
Interviews

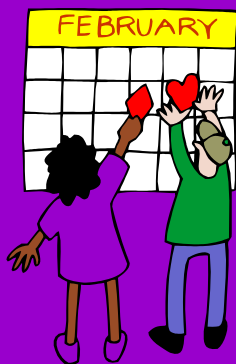
Please stay
tuned for
more
information
coming up
on Parent
teacher
interviews.

ECOLE DONCASTER CALENDAR FOR 2011—2012 SCHOOL YEAR

The School Calendar for the 2011/2012 school year is as follows:

- 188 days in session
- 181 days of instruction

- Schools open on Tuesday, September 6, 2011
- Thanksgiving is Monday, October 10, 2011
- Remembrance Day is Friday, November 11, 2011
- Last day prior to Winter Break Friday, December 16, 2011
- Schools re-open on Tuesday, January 3, 2012
- Last day prior to Spring Vacation, Friday, March 9, 2012
- Schools re-open on Monday, March 26, 2012
- Good Friday is Friday, April 6, 2012
- Easter Monday is Monday, April 9, 2012
- Victoria Day is Monday, May 21, 2012
- Thursday, June 28, 2012 is the last day of school for students



Friday, June 29, 2012 is an Administrative Day, then schools close.

6 non-instructional days

- Monday, September 19, 2011 (district)
- Friday, October 21, 2011 (province wide)
- Monday, November 21, 2011(district)
- Friday, February 17, 2011 (district)
- Friday, May 18, 2012 (district)
- Friday, June 8, 2012 (school)

SCHOOL TIMETABLE

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	Dismiss
2:50 pm – 3:05 pm	Supervision of Grounds Ends

RENOVATIONS

Though not to the scale of last year’s major remodeling, we did undergo a number of changes over the summer. Room 2, the former PISP office, has been turned into a bright new classroom. We also have had some electrical, plumbing and carpentry in two other classrooms to get them ready for all of our new students. Thank you to our school district facilities staff for their hard work and great results.

Community News

Crossing Guard, Please Help!!



Once again, we are looking for a new Shelbourne-Cedar Road crossing guard. Mr. John Hayton, who has been doing a great job since last year is moving to be a crossing guard closer to his own home. This is a very busy crosswalk and having a guard to help make it safer is crucial to many of our students. We need a new guard **and we need someone soon!** This is a paid position. If you or someone you know is interested in this job, please e-mail Denisephillips3@shaw.ca or call the Doncaster office at (250) 595-3611. Our Students need your help!

Also, our crossing guard at the Rowan/Cedar Hill crossing, Mrs. Christine Purse is looking for a substitute when she is ill or away. Please call her at 250-598-9749 or contact the school office. Thanks!



1000X5

1000 Books by Age Five

Children's Book Recycling Project Greater Victoria

7000 books for babies and preschoolers! Last school year, that many books were donated by Victoria families to children attending Strong Start Centres. Recycling that makes a huge difference in the lives of many children! Please continue to donate picture books for babies and preschoolers – there is always a drop box in the office!



UNICEF

Parents, please be on the look-out for the Unicef newsletter the week of October 24th and let your classroom teacher know whether you want your child to participate in the Unicef campaign!




DRESSING FOR FALL

We were very fortunate to have almost three dry weeks as we started up the year. Nevertheless, it is Victoria in autumn and we have already faced a few wet and windy days. 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 . . .).

DROP OFF ZONE

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. We are extra busy this year with more students in the school and with the kindergarteners all leaving at the same time. It jams up VERY quickly with even one or two cars left. Thank you for your cooperation.

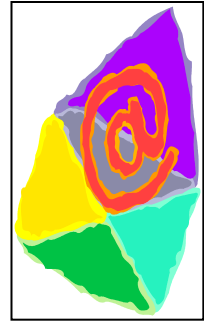
October 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
2	3 XCountry @ Lambrick 3:45 start	4	5	6 iWALK DPAC Meet 7:00 pm	7
9 	10 Thanksgiving No School	11 X Country @ Clo- verpoint, 3:45 start	12	13	14
16	17 X Country @ Lam- brick, 3:45 start	18	19	20 DPAC Movie Night (K-3) 	21 Pro D Day NO school for stu-
23	24 DPAC Newsletter Unicef week XCountry Final, 1 pm	25 DPAC lunch day	26	27 School Newsletter	28 <i>Photo retakes.</i>
30 	31 Assembly 9:00				

EMAIL ADDRESS FORM

New Families

Ecole Doncaster Elementary



To all new families to Doncaster:

In an attempt to reduce paper, Doncaster uses email to send home important information as well as for the monthly school newsletter, and the DPAC newsletter.

If you could please provide your current email address, we would be glad to add you to our list. If you are not able to provide an email, hard copies are always available for you to pick up in the school office throughout the year.

Date: _____

Student Name: _____ Gr. _____

Parent/s Name: _____

Email address: _____

Teacher: _____ Div. _____

(Will be filled in by the office)

Note: Our most current newsletter is available on our webpage at:

www.sd61.bc.ca/school/doncaster/pdf/current_news/currentnewsletter.pdf.

Also, our previous monthly newsletter's are also on our web page. Just go to:

www.sd61.bc.ca, click on schools, elementary, doncaster, web page and then click on Links.

Canadian Physical Activity Guidelines

FOR CHILDREN - 5 - 11 YEARS

Guidelines



For health benefits, children aged 5-11 years should accumulate at least 60 minutes of moderate- to vigorous-intensity physical activity daily. This should include:



Vigorous-intensity activities at least 3 days per week.



Activities that strengthen muscle and bone at least 3 days per week.



More daily physical activity provides greater health benefits.

Let's Talk Intensity!

Moderate-intensity physical activities will cause children to sweat a little and to breathe harder. Activities like:

- Bike riding
- Playground activities

Vigorous-intensity physical activities will cause children to sweat and be 'out of breath'. Activities like:

- Running
- Swimming

Being active for at least 60 minutes daily can help children:

- Improve their health
- Do better in school
- Improve their fitness
- Grow stronger
- Have fun playing with friends
- Feel happier
- Maintain a healthy body weight
- Improve their self-confidence
- Learn new skills

Parents and caregivers can help to plan their child's daily activity. Kids can:

- Play tag – or freeze-tag!
- Go to the playground after school.
- Walk, bike, rollerblade or skateboard to school.
- Play an active game at recess.
- Go sledding in the park on the weekend.
- Go "puddle hopping" on a rainy day.

60 minutes a day. You can help your child get there!



QSP MAGAZINE FUNDRAISER

**Please support our school and
promote reading at the same time.**

Every single order counts.

Safety First! No Door-to-Door Selling!

Orders are due on or before October 15
What makes the Magazine Program Great?

Thank you for your support.

Customer Satisfaction Is Guaranteed! If you have questions, call QSP at 1-800-667-2536

Please use the online ordering due to the teacher strike. If you are unable to and need to send in your order please call Sheena at 250-721-4142 so that she can pick it up from your child's classroom. Also please recycle all catalogues and envelopes at home. It takes a lot of time to go through envelopes that have been returned without orders.

- Over 600 magazines are available with savings of up to 80% off newsstand prices.
- **NEW!** Kids Helping Kids program allows you to purchase a subscription for a student in need in Toronto.
- **NEW!** \$20 and \$30 gift cards are available and recipients go on-line to redeem their card for the magazine they want to read! See Page 50 in the catalogue to learn more about these 2 new programs. Better yet the school receives 37% of the gift card back.
- Top sellers include People, Canadian Living, Sports Illustrated, Owl, Chickadee and more.
- Magazine readership in Canada has grown over the last 5 years.
- You can renew any existing subscriptions without overlap.
- Magazines make great gifts – free gift card service is offered by QSP.
- ♦ Great awards are available for all participants! Take a look at the student package for details.

Check out the catalogue!

Fill in the order form neatly & completely.

Keep the pink copy as your receipt.

Lower price coupons will be honoured – just attach the coupon and pay the lower price! (be sure to read the coupon fine print first)

Cheques are payable to: Doncaster School Auxilliary

Shop Online – Go to www.QSP.ca Our Group #3375

Receive your magazines FASTER! Save up to 4-6 weeks delivery time.

Online ordering is easier for our school & our volunteers and you save the \$1 processing fee!

Parents - Alert your friends about our campaign using the Facebook feature.

Email 12 friends and family via the email feature and receive a "Running Shoe Keychain" and a chance at 1 of 6 MacBook Air Computers!